

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MATH'S IN KOLAR DISTRICT, SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SRI PADARAJA MATH OF MULABAGILU

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Abstract:

Sri Padaraja who Started Dasa literature, lived in Mulbagal, Here Sri Padaraja leads his life from 1402 to 1502 AD, in his life time, he spent so much of his time beside the Yoga Narasimha Temple and Narasimha Theertha Pushkarani. So the place can be called as Sri Padaraja Brundavana Kshethra and Narasimha Theertha. This place is located 2 KMS east from Mulbagal. Here Sri Padaraja was founded Sanskrit Education Institution. In that Institution more than 10,000 students were studied and it was called as "Nalanda University of South". Vyasaraaja one of the students of Sri Padaraja Math. The types of Dasa literature, Ugabhoga, Vruthanama, Suladi and Keerthanas were started by Sri Padaraja. Sri Padaraja spread Dwaitha Philosophy. He wrote many books in Kannada and Sanskrit; such works are Gopi Geetha, Venugeetha, Bramarageetha, and Sri Lakshminarasimha Padurbhava Dandaka. This study explores Cultural and Social Contributions of Math in Kolar District, Special Reference to Sri Padaraja Math of Mulabagilu.

Keywords: Religious centers, Sri Padaraja Math, Mulabagilu.

INTRODUCTION

Mulabagilu one of the Taluk of Kolar District of Karnataka. It spreads its boundaries up to Andhra Pradesh in the east. It is the first door to Thirumala which is called "Bhuvaikunta". Mulabagilu can be called as Mudalabagilu. It was a provincial capital city of Vijaynagara Empire. Muddappa, a

brother of Harihara, who was the king of Sangam Dynasty, is a provincial officer of Mudalabagilu or Mulavai State. At the time of Bukkaraya, Bhaskara was the king of Mudalabagilu or Mulavai State. At the rule of Veera Kampana, son of Bukkaraya, the Mulavai State was at the Peak of Political dominance which highlighted in inscriptions. Religious

Please cite this article as: Mohan Reddy G (2023). Cultural and social contributions of math's in Kolar district, special reference to Sri Padaraja math of Mulabagilu. *SRUJANI: Indian Journal of Innovative Research and Development*. 2(5), 12-18.

victory was spread throughout the Vijayanagara Empire because of Sri Padaraja.¹ Sri Padaraja influenced much on Salva Narasimha. Not only religious victory, even in the field of Kannada Dasa Literature. He was the main person for who introduced the Dasa literature and Bhagavatha literature. In 1502 Sri Padaraja was buried alive at Narasimha Theertha of Mulabagilu. After his alive burial, this center became very famous and it was called Sri Padaraja Kshetra.² Since then number of sage served as Peetadhipathis in this Math. At present Sri Sujayanidhi Theertha is the pontiff of this Math.

SOCIAL SERVICES OF SRI PADARAJA MATH

Sri Lakshmipathi Theertha became pontiff of Sri Padaraja Math in 1700 AD. He was a genius scholar and medical scholar. Many people have been cured of chronic diseases by taking medicine from him. He ruled the ashram only for 15 years. Even after Brindavanasta, he was received many devotees. If you pay obeisance to his Brindavan once, not only all diseases will be cured but also all blessings will be fulfilled. He used to give "Tondekai Gourd" [ivy gourd] in the form of medicine to cure diseases. Therefore he is famous as "Tondekai Swamy". As a remainder of this, the tradition of using Tondekai as heat is still prevalent in Sri Math. The old people tell a legend that when Sri Lakshmi Pathi Theertha was born in Brindavana, there was a gorse tree growing there. It is believed that if one of

the gourds falls down as a boon to the devotees who serve, they will get rid of the disease if they eat it. When the sculptor was ordered to prepare Brindavan 10 days before he was to become Brindavan, his son was bitten by a snake and died just as he was starting his work.⁴ Sri Lakshmipathi Theertha revived the boy with Garuda Mantra and the work of Brindavan went on without interruption and the Brindavan was prepared on time.

The abbot of Sri Padaraja Math, Sri Sudhinidhi Theertha (1881-1905) was popularly known as Sri Hariappachari Swami, His scholarly talents were extraordinary. He handled the administration of Sri Math with skill as much as he was clever in learning. He developed a tradition of honoring the all religious. Dr. D.V Gundappa, a talented writer of Mulbagal, has described him in his book "Mulabagilina Madhva Mahaniyaru". As follows "Sri Hariyappachari was a very generous man who had tolerance and friendship with other castes. He did not forbid sharing food with smarthas. He was revered by all for his manners, honesty and selflessness. Sri Srinivasacharya who was son in law of Sri Hariyappa chari was the Devan of the math, became pontiff of the Math in 1905 in the name of Sri Medhanidhi theertha. He conducted all the transactions and worked hard for the upliftment of the Math. He continuously took charge of Sri Math and developed the immovable property of the Math. He traveled in many provinces of Mysore

region and acquired Property. He had great experience in the secular and Vedic worlds and prepared many disciples with great knowledge in the Shastras, and himself was an Ayurveda scholar. During his time, 'Panaka poojas' and Annasantarpana were held continuously during sunny days and Chaitra Vaishaka months.³

Sri Dayanidhi Theertha, Sri Padarajas abbot (1926-1962), used to teach stories as a lesson in peace. They are as follows

- Spend According To Income,
- Mrithashaucha Is 10 Days; Runasuthaka can't be settled even after birth.
- Money obtained from the torture of others is sinful.
- Comply with the times or perish.
- Eat to live or live to eat etc.

At the age of 82, he was teaching hard mathematics like trigonometry and logarithms.⁴

Sri Hebbani Krishnamurtha Charya became the abbot of Sri Padaraja Math in 1955 under the name Sri Sathyamidhi Theertha. He took over the administration of the Math in purvashrama and became a part of the glory of bringing the Sri Math at all round development. Moreover he accepted power as a member of Mysore Representative Assembly for the development of his taluk. He also did public service by being appointed as a consultant in many government committees.

Sri Vijayanidhi Theertha was became the pontiff of Sri Padaraja Math in 1980. He was highly respected in the villages around Mulbagal taluk. It was customary to call him and ask for justice if any dispute occurred in any place of that part. They used to go there and do justice. He was not accepting fines paid by the people as compensation. He was used to throw that money in the air. Then everyone would come running and pick it, they would stop laughing and watching the scene. He would never touch unjust money.⁵ Sri Vijayanidhi Theertha had a medical instinct right from purvashram. He used to give medicine only to those who were extremely poor and had the temperament to accept the medicine given by him with great faith. He cured many of the people from breast cancer. Once a woman came crying with chest pain and bowed to him. Then one of her places was rotten. Then Sri Vijayanidhi Theertha gave her medicine and sent her away. After two weeks, the women recovered and was able to breastfeed her baby. Once when his guru son was suffering from severe cold fever for 90 days and was on the verge of death, Sri was gave him only a medicine mixed in honey and he became healthy the next day. Sri mad Uttaradi Math's Sri Sathya Pramoda had been completely cured of long standing strange unbearable headache by the influence of his medicine. Once chief engineer named Gangadharaiah was seriously ill and sent to Sri several times. They never left when he was forcibly

taken away, he took the medicine with him but as soon as he saw the patient, he simply returned without giving the medicine. When asked the reason, he calmly replied that the patient had already died. Then he went there and saw that he had passed away. Sri had done so many such miracles. Once a rich man begged for medicine and said that he would give him any amount of money. In response, he said that he didn't have medicine and went to a doctor who would take money. That patient also died within a short time. Thus, giving medicine without accepting a single penny and curing diseases is the wonderful power of Sri Vijayanidi Theertha.⁶

Sri Bhimasena charya in the name of Sri Vignananidhi Theertha became the abbot of Sri Padaraja Math in 1987. Sriyuth has done many social programmes. The people of Mulbagal, who saw the authorial power of Bhimasenacharya, who were active in social service by working in the social organizations of Mulbagal, elected him as a municipal Councillor served as president of Taluk Board, Co-Operative societies, College, Educational Institutions. He made arrangements to keep the current Government First Grade College at Mulbagal safe and running permanently. He earned a good reputation as the Chairman of municipality and chief architect of the comprehensive development of Mulbagal Taluk. In his 40 years of political, social and cultural life, the entire Mulbagal

yielded to his love and trust achievement.⁷

It was his life's mission to give education to the poor children, the children of the downtrodden dalits and those who were deprived of the opportunity of education with his irrepressible Enthusiasm and leadership ability; he started a First Grade College in 1970 at Mulbagal. He established a Diploma College at Mulbagal in 1984 and made education available to the poor at very low fees. He started Sri Maruthi Vidyalaya at Mulbagal in 1980 and provided education from 1st to 10th standard there. Established a Gurukula at Sri Padaraja Math of Mulbagal. He also started Gurukulas in Bangalore branch Math and erode branch math in Tamil Nadu. Established National Institute of Vedic Science in Bangalore in 2005. He has mastered the art of co-existence and community life respecting all religions. He wanted to realize the wonderful idea of a world family. He was a great guru who understood the spirit of new age to admire everyone without envy, impatience and mistrust while practicing their respective religions. Sri Vivignananidhi, who believes that harmony among people of different religions is essential for health and happiness. He had a wonderful combination of vedantha knowledge of Sanathana Dharma, medieval piety and scientific perspectives of the modern age.⁸

Swami should never be mentally, verbally or physically abused. He advised

that should not lie, should not be unclean, should keep the mind under control, should control the senses, should be giving charity, should have mercy, kindness, forgiveness in all animals, should never insult Shastra ideas, clan religions, fall in to temptation. Don't be fooled by Paradharm. Ardhangi (wife) should be seen as Grihalakshmi, Guru and seniors should be respected, should be giving something daily, should not sleep too much and not eat too much. Food should be taken comfortably, moderately and seasonally. He said many ideas like drinking water and food should never be abused. The women speaking in the women's conferences conducted by Sri Vignananidhi were giving high quality expressions. Rukmini Girimaji, Jai Lakshmi Mangalamurthy, Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy, Sri Rangam Saraswathi and many others were active participants in these concerts.⁹ Sri Vignananidhi has said in many of his lectures that women played a very important role in nurturing, using and developing Dasa literature. Apart from that, if there is a civilized atmosphere in the houses today, it is because of the rites given by the women to their children.

Today, girls have retained all these songs, Bhajanas, and poetry. Today those who have preserved Hari Dasa literature diligently by singing daily songs said in many concerts that they are our women. Women are skilled in creating good gamaka and poetry. One of them is Manjula Subbarao. The achievements of

Sri Vignananidhi Theertha, the perfects of Sri Padaraja Math are immense. If anyone saw him, people from all sections of the society have special respect and devotion. Many dignitaries and scholars have expressed their inner feelings about Sri Vignananidhi Theertha.

Sri Vignananidhi Theertha responded whole heartedly to the people of all sections of the society. He was a secular man in true sense'. **Justice M.N.Venkatachalaiah.**¹⁰

'Sri Vignananidhi Theertha, who went to village to village and created religious awareness. Gentleman who always responded to the common man. Blessed the people who have Darshan, foot service and obeisance to such Yathivaris. I am blessed to have his blessings'- **Justice R. Gururajan.**

'I was elected an M L A twice. The main reason for this is the blessings of Sri Vignananidhi Theertha in full and not exaggeration'- **Alangoor Srinivas. Ex M L A, Mulbagal.**¹¹

'Always seeking the welfare of the society, humanity, spirituality and secularism were inherent in him. Those who have conducted food donation and education. Conciliators who created rapport between monasteries. Sri Vignananidhi Theertha was the one who started Dasa literary campaign'- **Hanumantha Tasgaonkar, writer, Bagalkot.**¹²

'Even when he was a politician, he had no desire for power. He gave us water to

drink, built a school for the children, donated the land of the monastery for the bus stand, that was Sri Vignana nidhi Theertha'-**Sri Shekdar Senappa, Mulabagilu**.¹³

He always says that 'a politician, if he is honest and dedicated, will not think of next election, as a statesman he always thinks about next generation'.

CONCLUSION

Sri Padaraja was a very successful social reformer in the 15th century. Sri Padaraja created awareness in the society through Dasa Sahithya, Suladhi, Ugabhoga, names of God, devotional songs in Kannada, the language of the people here. Sri Padaraja was on the one hand the Rajaguru of Vijayanagar Empire and on the other hand the guide of the society. He established a Vidhya Peetha at Narasimha Theertha and provided education to many people. Sri Vyasaraaja was one of the prominent one who learned here. The Sanskrit Vidyapeetha established by him at Narasimha Theertha in Mulbagal was known as the "Kalinga University of the South". Worshipping Lord Yoga Narasimha at Narasimha Theertha Math, he composed many Haridasa Keerthanas under the pen name "Rangavittala". He was famous for guiding the devotees arriving here and the people around Mulbagal. In 1502 Sri Padaraja passed away here. His original Brindavan can be found at Narasimha Theertha of Mulbagal. The legacy left by him is still being continued by the abbots

here. With a history of almost 600 years, this monastery is flourishing today. Many branches have been established in different parts of the country. Established and running many Educational Institutions, Annadasoha, free food for school children, scholarships for the poor and meritorial students is held regularly in the Math. The Math, running Goshala and Library. The Math is publishing a monthly magazine called "Rangavittala" for the development of Dasa literature. The "Indian Institute of Vedic Science" was established for the advancement of Vedic literature and Science. Through that many conferences, seminars and research works are going on. It can be seen that Sri Padaraja Math, a role model for people of all classes without discrimination of any caste, has been providing social harmony, helping hand and guidance. An attempt of my research paper is to shed light on the social activities of Sri Padaraja Math, which is striving for the all-round prosperity of the society.

Endnotes

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