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THE FREEDOM OF NEWSPAPER DURING EMERGENCY PERIOD OF INDIA: 1975**Mr. Dhananjay R. Jawalekar**

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ABSTRACT

On the midnight of 25th June, 1975, the emergency was declared by the Government of India. This Emergency had directly attacked the Fundamental Right of Indian Citizen. Under the MISA act, anyone can be arrested at any time without declaring any reasons. This case was worst anxiety in each and every individual's mind during this emergency period of India. It was found that during the emergency, there was a huge attack on Medias such as Newspapers, radios, televisions, even two newspaper agencies had to shut down their publication houses. Yet there were many newspapers that fought for freedom of expression. There were times when they had to shut down the newspaper publication due to government orders but they fought bravely for freedom of expression and they succeeded and their efforts were notable in the history. The current paper deals with the detailed study of the freedom fight during the emergency of 1975.

Keywords: Emergency, Newspaper Publication House, fundamental rights etc.

INTRODUCTION

During the times of emergency, Government of India tried to take complete control of Media. The Hindi and English Newspapers entitled as 'Press Trust of India', 'United News of India', and etc. united and introduced as 'Samachar'. With this way, the Government controlled media trial effort was taken by the Ruling Government, but the editorial of Newspapers criticized Government. They accepted the arrest warrant of Government and kept the freedom Newspaper Agony.

AIM OF THE STUDY

1. To analyze critically the fight of newspaper against government during emergency.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Descriptive historical research method is used for the current study. The written and printed material is used as the secondary source of study.

There were many conflicts during the year 1975, the period of emergency applied by Indira Gandhi Government. The Newspaper publication houses were kept away from electricity supply whole night of 25th June, 1975 to avoid the news of the implication of Emergency in India.

Yet, few newspapers were published and the News of Arresting Jaiprakash Narayan came out and reached the every common man. 'Indian Express' run by Ramnath Goyank openly accepted challenge to display the News of 'Anti corruption strike by Jaiprakash Narayan' and supported him. Indira Gandhi was ready to take action against Mr. Goyank and Indian Express. As a part of it 'Indian Express' suffered a lot as the discontinuity of electricity supply, Non-tax paid offence, the intentionally time delay to chock the matter of Newspaper by Sensor Board etc. Even, they were pressurized to sale the Newspaper to the Government of India. But Mr. Goyank was firm with his work and Principles of professions. The editorial Mr. Kuldeep Ayyar was arrested of Indian Express but Government had to release him due lack of offences done by him¹.

The same thing was experienced by local newspaper of Maharashtra. The Editorial of 'Dainik Marathwada', Mr. Anantrao Bhalerao was also arrested under the crime of not following rules and regulations of Government². Yet the critical statements against the Government were continued by the Newspaper 'Dainik Marathwada' sensor was keeping eagle eyes on the Newspaper, so very few Newspapers dared to criticize the Government and their policy of Emergency³.

'The Stateman' published from Delhi-Kolkata, 'Tughlaq' (Weekly) from Madras, 'Marathwada' from Aurangabad, 'Sadhana' from Pune, 'Janwani' from Mumbai, 'Samanata' from Ratnagiri, 'Vaintey' from Sawantwadi, etc. Newspapers were working on the basis of Truth and they all had shows their faith for the democracy and Nation.

The periodical entitle 'Mainstream' by Ramesh Thapar preferred to close to publish rather than giving for the Analysis to the sensors.

The famous murder case occurred during the emergency at turkaman gate. There were many innocent who had to migrate from their place; through they were not guilty or criminal. "There were 1,50,000 humans, huts, shops,

houses and construction were destroyed by the Government⁴ it was released in the news with detailed information by 'The Times of India'.

The Government tried to reapply 'The Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Act' which was applied by the British Rules in India. They tried to ban the publication of Newspaper at any cost with updating and adding few points. Sanjay requested Indira Gandhi to prepare the list of Newspaper. Then, either that all newspaper should be banned or maximum matter should be removed.⁵

Up to December 1975, the strike ban was published on the assembly work- even as a part of restriction, the sensor asked blank pages for the editorial page. Few senior clerks from sensor strictly banned to publish the speech statements of Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, etc.

'Therefore, few newspapers closed their publication as a part of Strike⁶'.

On 25th August, 1975, the editor Narshinhan wrote his title article in 'Financial Express' and requested them to sit together for the compromising between the Ruling party and Opposition party and solve the matter as early as possible.

Due to emergency law, in India the value of Indian currency is decreasing, at initial steps of emergency the price of values were decreased and now it was increased again back- this information was given by 'Hindustan Times' and 'Financial Express'⁷.

Those newspaper whose copies selling numbers are more than 15K, should be equally distributed between news-reporters and employees working the newspaper publication house. But the voting rights to all of them should be only 50%. The remaining 50% voters should submit their voting rights to Government via their public publication house. This rule directly could control the newspaper publication.

Mr. B.G. Vargis, the Editor of 'Hindustan Times' opposed it with his editorial writing with high intensity. He stated that the above state policy means to control the newspaper via backdoor by the Ruling Government.⁸

There was very high risk to oppose Government and their policy through Newspapers, so many started to write their view by their own but kept opposing it. Many bulletins were distributed secretly- few names are Satyagrah, Samachar, Janwani, Resistance, Satyabharat, Mini-motherland, Krantidut, etc. challenged people to join as Krantidut.⁹

The editorial board faced financial crises but didn't give rights to Government to control newspaper. Those who were writing in favor of Government received advertisement from the Government and those who were writing on the fact and truth were not able to get any advertisement from the government. Such newsletter requested common people for the financial support but 'Freedom to Write' was not a part of compromise with the Government. The name of 'Sadhana', from Maharashtra is one of those notable fortnight. The crises between Government and 'Himmat' newspaper from Mumbai was on high fight rate with sensor. But unfortunately, it was closed because of Government demanded huge amount as the par of surety.¹⁰

The newspaper writer started to use many tools and techniques for giving information to public, through they could not do it via newspaper due to government policies under emergency. The published the news of Foreign Newspaper is their newspaper under the title 'News Digest' or 'What our Present friends say?'

CONCLUSION

Thus, though the government tried to control newspapers and their fundamental rights, the newspaper agencies fought bravely against government but spoke for truth. For some newspaper, government might succeed in their aim but maximum dared to speak on truth and provided the news to all common people.

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