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SIDDHI SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE IN KARNATAKA

(Area studie in(Ankola and Yallpura Taluk) Uttar Kannada District.Karanataka)

Today's life of Siddhi's is influence by their surrounding nature, environment .The influence of the landowners and other races is also enormous on their lives . Although it is true great grand fathers and their great grandfather's natives were from Zambesi region of Africa .But they could not see the dream of that country and even did not know that they were Africans. These innocents who only found this land of kannada Thus their life depends on the happenings of this earth.

Kali, Bedti,Aghanashni and Sharavati river which is responsible for the flow of life of Uttar Kannada district and also it has beautiful land of hills ,valleys, rivers evergreen forest which have trees like Teak, Beet, Hone, Matti, Nandi ,Ook ,sandalwood etc. and also famous for honey bee from and also for honey .

In the deep forest of Uttar Kannada in between we can find abundant plantations. Apart from this we find spice crops like pepper ,cardamom, Cocoa ,Figs and also economic crops like mango , Banana, Cashew nuts , Jackfruit, Guava ,Orange, Lemon ,Watermelon etc are more here .The gardens of Uttar Kannada are the Botanists laboratory.

Such a unique land is definitely a rich land no less than the territory of the Zambesi river bank of Africa where the 'shidma 'race lived. But in this tragic journey of five centuries although these Siddhis saw the happiness of reaching from forest to forest .But they did not get their own land nor they got right to cultivate their own in the Zambesi region. Not only that they had gone through many stages of forgetting their original culture also.

In Uttar Kannada where the siddhi live today in Ramanagulli,Arabilu,Kalleshwar ,Halavalli of Ankola taluk Manchikeri, mavinakatte ,Ganeshgudi, Malagam, Shevakar ,Angami of Yallapur taluk,Kakkalli,Neenahalli, Mattighatta,, Menasi of shirashi taluk Dandeli, Ambhikanagar, Bhagavathy, Alur, Sambrani of Haliyal taluk: Malagi, Chipageri,Pala of Mundagoda taluk;Amaga and Shimoga of supa taluk i.e not only in the places mentioned above or only in the towns just named ,These are the names of the area around where they live. These areas were identified by locating the location of four families. These are scatter families in all the taluks of the Ghats. Their number said to be 7,000 in Haliyal Taluk alone and their total number of rest of the taluks is not yet known for sure. But they say that their number in Yallapur taluk is more than other taluks.

The physique of the Siddhis of Uttar Kannada is entirely different even after coming to India for so many years, there is no such changes in the body. There are a couple of exceptions to this .A strong body with shiny black color. Coarse hair that cannot grow and is curled in a clump. White teeth blooming like Jasmine in a black face , thick lips, blunt nose this is how the look.

A Folk collector of Uttar Kannada district writes about there nature of "Shiddhis ,who started life in this country from slavery ,have a very strong body but when they fell under the oppersion of the ruling class, they have lost

the essence of protest and become weak when they see the civilized world that has achieved intellectual superiority they are afraid . But in the wild world , they are like a fearless Vanaraja . They walk in the forest and roam like animals without worrying about tomorrow . Today they don't even have to go to work.If they want to be active they are tigers, but they are not robbers.

One peculiarity and the social life of the siddhis is that these people, originally a tribe ,are divided into three religions they follow Hindu ,Muslim and Christian religions, but in a way they lead peculiarly harmonious life , but the surprising is that three religions can be found in the same family : like india.Is these possible in the country? But this is not possible in the case of the Arabs brought from Africa In the case of the foes of Portuguese's ,the forest of Hindus in the case of resale, it becomes necessary to accept or convert to their own religion . They took advantage of the opportunity and stood on one side, but the tragedy is they belong to any religion. Neither the local Hindus nor the Christians ,nor the Muslim kept them close . In such a crisis situation they could not maintain their religion in the small branches that they had in martial situations . but their natives would not accept this race belonging to a completely difference species as family. Because of this Muslim siddhis are hindu siddhis and Christians.

Siddhis had to intermarry with hindu ,muslim .In a way the necessity become a good things for this small society . There is no quarrel in the name of religion . And togetherness become the rest of it . This religion had also influenced the religious life of sankara siddhis. There are many more races in this land of Uttar kannada .Apart from a few upper class people who are landowners there are dozens of ethnic groups . Apart from Halakki okkaligars and other okkaligars hasalaru mukriyas etc.who are considered as the original

inhabitants of Uttar Kannada there are also some other groups who come from outside ,the Gauligas ,Kunibis ,kummi , marathis Konkani speaking. Many of these races are not in good economic condtion .But all of them have the self belief that they belong to the same country and the same land . Even a very backward scheduler like Mukti is confident that he belongs to this land . Siddhis do not have this confidence . Nor has any other races ever walked with them to give them such confidence. On the whole, siddhis are shunned due to the feeling that they do not belong to us, So they are still socially inferior. Thus this siddhi is the last person in the classification system that exist in Uttar Kannada today . Perphaps all thi inferiority has done is to make their entire mental life dependent on the upper class.

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