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Background of Odisha Literature Press and Journals

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Abstract: ***The first such association was the mutual improvement society founded in 1859. Some other Prominent association of Cuttack were the Utkal Bhasa Uddipani Sabha, Cuttack club, Cuttack Reading Club and Orissa Graduate Association with Madhusudan Das as its Presidents. Similar associations were formed on other parts of Orissa like national society of Balasore & Hitobodhini Sabha of Ganjam. These associations provided a good platform to discuss their problem & made the people conscious of their land and language.***
Keywords: Mutual improvement, Hitobodhini Sabha, Utkal Bhasa Uddipani Sabha, Platform, Language

I. INTRODUCTION

The Tear 1936 opened a memorable chapter in the history of Orissa. On the 1st April of that year, the divided Orissa was united and Orissa became a separate province. The Far spreading orissian empire was divided into pieces during the Brittish rule. In the year 1765. Lord Clive secured the eliwari right of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa. At that time Orissa meant Midanpur and some areas covering south of the river Subarnarekha. But the remaining parts of Orissa were under the control of Marathas. Finally inn 1803, the Briuttishers defeated the Marathas and occupy Orissa. As a result the area beyond Subarnarekha river in the Midanpur area remained under Bengal presidency. Ganjam, Jaypore, Paralakhemundi and certain other parts of south Orissa were control from the fort St. George under Madras presidency. In the west areas located upstream of the river Mahanadi like Sambalpur, Raigarh of Chattisgarh, Paddampur and certain other areas were controlled by the commissioner of central provinces. Singhbhum and some parts of Orissa remained with Bihar. There were Twenty-six Gadjat states located on the hilly areas in the North west and enjoyed the status of tributary states not under the direct rule of Brittish. The Districts like Cuttack, Puri and Balasore were directly ruled by the Brittish commissioner with its headquarters at Cuttack is known as Moghualbandi region. As a result, Orissa lost its previous glory came under the control of Bengal. Madas and central provinces. In order to unite all oriya speak tracts, a movement was lunch. This was called oriya movement with main objective to form a separate Orissa province. The growth of nationalism helped the oriya movement to proceed in full swong.

The second cause was the establishment of printing presses, publication of Newspapers and Periodicals in the Ninteenth Century. In 1866, Utkal Dipika was published from Cuttack with Gourisankar Ray as its editor. The Names of a few other Newspaper are worth mentioning. Those were the Sambada Bahika, Bodha Daini with Fakir Mohan Senapati as editor, Sambalpur Hitaishini printed on Sudhal Press with Nilamani Vidya Ratna as editor and Utkal Hitaishini Samaja published with the patronage of Padmanava Narayan Deo of Paralakhemundi.

Another cause for the growth of Oriya Nationaism was the impact of some cultural and political organizations established at that time. The first such association was the mutual improvement society founded in 1859. Some other Prominent association of Cuttack were the Utkal Bhasa Uddipani Sabha, Cuttack club, Cuttack Reading Club and Orissa Graduate Association with Madhusudan Das as its Presidents. Similar associations were formed on other parts of Orissa like national society of Balasore & Hitobodhini Sabha of Ganjam. These associations provided a good platform to discuss their problem & made the people conscious of their land and language.

II. ROLE OF UTKAL SABHA

The Utkal Sabha, a most remarkable association, played a significant role in the growth of oriya nationalism. It was started with an objective to organize political activities in the urban area of Orissa. The promotion of oriya language and literature was another prime objective of Utkal Sabha. Many educationists and intellectuals attended this Utkal Sabha and discussed current political and social issues.

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A. Nihar Ranjan Pattanaik, social History of 19th c Orissa Page – 73 -77.

In the year 1882, Utkal Sabha as a political Association was organised at Cuttack under the leadership of two great leaders such as Gourisankar Ray and Madhusudan Das. A meeting was held on 16 Aug 1882 at the Cuttack printing company which was presided over by Chaudhary Kasinath Das. From that meeting, a permanent institution was existed, name Utkal Sabha, Latter on, Utkal Sabha helped to prepare Orissa for local self government and other public welfare works. Chaudhary Kasinath Das was elected as the president of Utkal Sabha and Haji Abdul Raheman Musa and Nabakishore Das became its two Vice Presidents. The editor of the Utkal Dipika, Gourisankar Ray was made the secretary of Utkal Sabha.

B. Utkal Dipika, 19 August 1882, H.K. Mahatab (Ed) History of freedom movement in Orissa, Vol. II, P.118.

Radhanath Roy, Fakir Mohan Senapati and Pyari Mohan Acharya were some notable members of Utkal Sabha. Utkal Sabha discussed so many important issue like election process of local bodies and the most important ilbert bill controversy Utkal Sabha passed a resolution on 21st May 1883 experessing its opinion to empower Indian Judges to try European offenders of law.

C. Utkal Dipika, 26 May 1883.

During the visit of Richard Thompson the Lt. Governor of Bengal in 1885, and the visit of S.C. Bayley lt. Governer of Bengal in 1888 to Orissa the Utkal Sabha demanded the unification of oriya speaking territories.

D. Utkal Dipika, 24 Nov 1888.

On behalf of Utkal Sabha, four delegates like Madhusudan Das, Golak Chandra Bose, Hariballav Ghose and Kalipad Banerjee attended second session of Indian national congress.

E. Utkal Dipika, 25 Dec 1886.

Latter on Utkal Sabha played significant Role for the growth of oriya nationalism.

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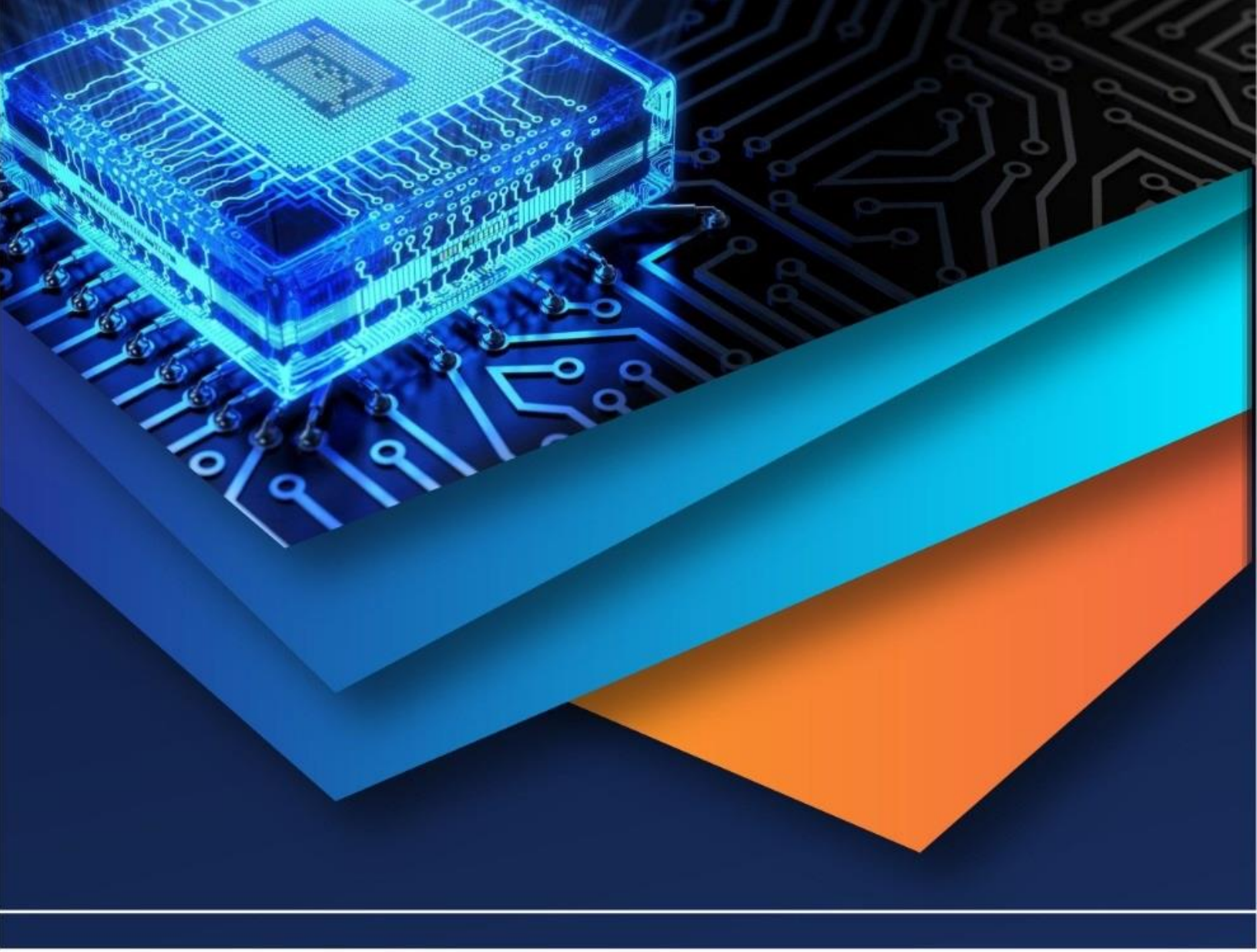

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