

PROPOSAL FOR MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT

PART –A

1. Broad Subject: *Aftermath of the Mahad Chavdar Tank Satyagraha-1937 - 1956*

2. Area of Specialization: Modern Indian History

3. Duration: Two years

4. Principal Investigator

i. **Name:** Dr. Suvarna Sandeep Jadhav

ii. **Sex:** Female

iii. **Date of Birth:** 30th October 1973

iv. **Category:** SC

v. **Qualification:** M.A., Ph.D.

vi. **Designation:** Assistant Professor

vii. **Address: Office:** Birla College of Arts, Science and Commerce

Birla College Road,

Kalyan (W) – 421 304

Residence: A-508, Anant Regency,

Phase II, Rambaug – 4,

Near Suresh Cable,

Kalyan (W)- 421 301

5. Name of the Institution where the project will be undertaken:

a) **Department:** History

b) **College:** Birla College of Arts, Science and Commerce

c) **Affiliating University:** University of Mumbai

d) **Whether the institute is located in rural/backward area:** No

6. Whether the College is approved under section 2(f) and 12 B of the UGC Act?: Yes

7. Teaching and Research Experience of Principal Investigator:

a) Teaching experience: UG 13 Years PG 05 Years

b) Research experience: Awarded Ph.D. in 2014

c) Publication:

- **Papers Published:** TRILOKYA MAHASANGHA IN INDIA AND ITS CONTRIBUTION AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, at the International Seminar on “International Economic and Cultural Relations of India” on 30th -31st March 2012 at K. M. Agrawal College of Arts, Commerce and Science, with ISBN : 978-93-81394-20-5
- RELEVANCE OF BUDDHISM TO THE CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY, in a journal by Mahatma Gandhi National Institute of Research and Social Action, Hyderabad, titled ‘Ambedkar And Buddhism: A Real Way to Life’ on 20th and 21st February 2009.

Accepted: Nil

Communicated: Nil

Books Published: Nil

Accepted: Nil

Communicated: Nil

PART – B

Proposed Research Work

8. (i) **Project Title:** *Aftermath of the Mahad Chavdar Tank Satyagraha-1937 - 1956*

(ii) **Introduction:**

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar most commonly known as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar led the Mahad Chavdar Tank Satyagraha in 1927. The Satyagraha was fought for the right to drink water at the common water resources by the untouchables in Maharashtra. This Satyagraha was fought for one decade i.e. till 1937. However the Satyagraha was the first struggle of the Untouchables in Maharashtra. All over India the downtrodden people belonging to lower caste were not allowed to drink water even from common water resources. They either had water resources in their own localities where they lived which most of the times remained dry or had little water in particular seasons. The other source was to drink filthy water or depend on the kindness of the upper caste people. The then leaders and social reformers tried to solve the problems of untouchables. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule had kept his own well open for the untouchables. But these efforts were at the personal level. However the Act was passed that could protect the rights of the untouchables to drink water from the common water resources. The Municipal act passed in 1923 due to the efforts of Mr. S. K. Bole which asked every ward of Municipality all over Maharashtra to keep open the water resources that came under their authority for the untouchables. However, this Act remained only on paper. It was not brought into practice by the upper caste people as they did not accepted it and nor did the untouchables made an attempt to draw water from the common water resources because they were either unaware or those who were aware were afraid of doing it because if the untouchable was caught of drinking water from these water resources they were bitten black and blue.

The present research proposal intends to study the aftermath of the Mahad Chavdar Tank Satyagraha, i.e. between 1937 – 1956. However no research has been done emphasizing

the aftermath of the Mahad Satyagraha and its impact after 1937 i.e. after the victory of the untouchables in the court till the mahanimirvana of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

(iii) Objectives:

1. Untouchability was practiced in India since ancient times. Large group of people suffered socially, politically and economically. This large group was denied basic human rights. The proposed work attempts to enquire whether denial of access to water from public tanks continued or discontinued after the result of the Satyagraha by the Bombay High Court.

2. Even before the Mahad Satyagrah, there were small attempts made to address the problem of access to drinking water for the untouchables. Evidences show that social reformers like Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and others fought this problem in their own manner. Mahatma Phule had kept his own well open for the untouchables in his village to draw water. His gesture was so revolutionary for that period that his entire family was isolated. Hence was there any attempt of similar kind was done by any of the political leader or the social reformer during the above mentioned period.

3. The present work is also an attempt to understand the efforts taken by Dr. Ambedkar who led this Satyagrah after its victory in the court. Whether he continued to fight for this question in some way or the other or focused on other issues of the Untouchables.

4. Mahad Chavdar Tank Satyagrah is the unique Satyagraha in the world history for nowhere in the world people had to struggle in this manner for access to public water facilities. However, was there any other Satyagraha that took place in Maharashtra for the same question of water?

4. The work focuses not only on the role of Dr. Ambedkar but also on the other leaders who played a prominent role after the Satyagrah of Mahad Chavdar Tank.

5. Mahad Choudar Tank Satyagrah being one of the most important events in the history of Dalit movement has been studied by many scholars of modern Indian History.

However, the proposed work is an attempt to study in depth, the Aftermath of the Satyagraha till 1956.

6. Lastly the work is an attempt to learn the consequences of the proposed period and understand why even today in many of the villages in India the Dalits have separate water resources, and to understand its impact on the main stream of the political and social aspect of Indian Society.

(iv) Methodology:

The researcher has followed the process of collecting the primary sources from the Maharashtra State Archives, Mumbai along with the secondary sources available on the given theme from various libraries of Maharashtra State. Recourse has also been taken to oral history as the topic belongs to the modern period of History and the relatives of the people who participated in the Satyagraha are still living in Mahad Interviewing them and collecting oral data by visiting their homes will help the researcher to gather invaluable information. Some original documents regarding the Aftermath of the Satyagraha have also been found at Mahad and nearby villages, during field visits to Mahad. All the above data has been codified, collated and analyzed.

(v) Year-wise Plan of work and targets to be achieved:

Sr. No.	Year	Month	Nature of Work
1	2015	Aug- Nov	Collection of Original sources from Mumbai Archives
2	2015	Oct& Dec.	Collection of Data from families and oral data from interviews.
3	2016	Jan –Aug	Completion of Proposed work

9. Financial Assistance required:

Sr. No.	Item	Estimated Expenditure
1.	Books and Journals	50,000
2.	Equipment- Camera	30,000
3.	Field Work and Travel	1.00,000
4.	Contingency- Stationary, Internet Charges, Printing, Postage etc.	1,00,000
5.	Hiring Services	50,000
	Total	3,30,000

10. Whether the teacher has received support for the research project from the UGC under Major, Minor or from any other agency? No

11. (a) Details of the UGC project/scheme completed or ongoing: NIL

12. Any other information which the teacher may like to give in support of this:

Present proposal has been thoughtfully taken by the researcher as this was the area where the researcher has completed her Ph.D. work. The researcher further had the scope to study,

however the topic taken for the research proposal will help to do so. Beyond this it will also help us to understand the impact of such an unique Satyagraha after it was fought for such a long period of one decade.