

A Study of the Unsung Women Freedom Fighter K.P. Janaki Ammal

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Abstract

Women must be given equal opportunities in every field, irrespective of gender. The sacrifice made by the women of India will occupy the foremost place. They fought with true spirit and faced various tortures, exploitation and hardship to earn us freedom. When men were in prison the women came forward and took charge of the struggle. The women dedicate and devote themselves to the struggle. Women's participation in India's freedom struggle began as early as in the eighteenth century many women participated in the freedom struggle. K.P. Janaki Ammal the unsung heroine of the Tamil Nadu freedom fighters. In this context, K.P. Janaki Ammal has been chosen for study.

Keywords; India, Freedom Struggle, K. P. Janaki Ammal.

Introduction

Janki Ammal was born to Padmanabhan and Lakshmi, Janaki Ammal in 1917 in Madurai, was raised by her grandmother after losing her mother when she was eight years old. After quitting the eighth grade to pursue her musical career, she joined the Palaniappa Pillai Boys Company, where she married a harmonium player named Gurusamy Naidu and rose to the position of lead actress. She began inspiring the liberation fight at the age of twelve by singing patriotic songs. In 1930, she was one of the first South Indian women to be arrested by the British and spent a year in prison. She joined the Congress in 1936 and the Communist Party in 1940 as a result of her strong political beliefs. She spent her money on charitable causes and advocated for workers' rights after winning a seat in the State Legislative Assembly in 1967. This article highlights the contributions made by Janki Ammal for the welfare of people.

K.P. Janaki Ammal

Tamil Nadu was one of the major states that contributed enormously to India's war for independence. Many unidentified Tamil Nadu freedom fighters sacrificed their lives for the nation's freedom. Individuals in a high profession also played a vital role in the noble battle, this motivated the people of Tamil Nadu to join hands and support the liberation cause. K.P. Janaki Ammal was one of the forgotten independence fighters. She was courageous and never hesitated to speak out against the British. She is a courageous freedom warrior, who raised her voice in opposition to the British. Her emotive and inspiring tone drew the crowd. She sacrificed a huge sum of money for the welfare of society while dedicating her entire life to the Indian freedom fight. The independence revolution was inspired by her well-known Tamil composition "Vetkam Ketta Vellai Kokkukalai, viratta vaarigalaa...." She was the first female to be detained in 1930 and spent an entire year in prison.

Janaki Ammal with Political

As she started to devote more of her resources and time to helping others, her acting career became constrained by her growing involvement in politics and the independence struggle. Women at the time didn't dare to take the lead in any kind of societal or political action but she was the first in the theatre, to sing her rebellious song in accusing the authoritarian rule of westerners and in praising the sovereignty of India on stage this aroused a revolutionary shift. She frequently performed various freedom-related subjects. Janaki Ammal decided to perform in the theatre with S. Viswanathadass, a prominent Congress activist who was additionally a well-known singer, during the period when discrimination predominated in the Tamil community. No one stepped up to support Viswanathadass because he came from the Maruthuvar (Barber) society which was regarded as an underprivileged caste at the time. K.P. Janaki Ammal volunteered to act with him. In the meanwhile, she wedded harmonium musician Gurusamy Naidu of the same group. She used her theatrical income for the betterment of the community. Due to her active political activity, she ascended considerable acclaim in Tamil Nadu.

Introduction of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

Jananaki Ammal attended the event when the Congress members of Madurai chose to offer Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose a resounding welcome in Madurai. At Batlagundu, she subsequently encountered the Communist leaders P. Ramamurthy and P. Jeevanandam taking them as a motivation she became part of the Communist Party in 1940 and remained a member until her demise. As a Communist Party member, K.P. Janaki Ammal engaged in countless battles on behalf of the labourers and farmers. The feudal system had become prevalent in the state before the legislative assembly passed a property limitation. She was detained for engaging in anti-war campaign operations in violation of Defense Indian Laws. A protest against the battle was conducted in Ponmalai, near Trichy, amid World War II. She emphasized at this gathering that this conflict was a form of imperialism, nobody ought to enlist in the British Forces, the war shouldn't receive any funding, beyond people's consent, and the Europeans were involving them in this conflict. The conflict was also fiercely denounced by K.P. Janaki Ammal. The K.P. Janaki Ammal was taken into custody by the British authorities the following day for anti-war activity.

Janaki Ammal with II World War

During World War II, the English administration enlisted Indians against their will. The Communist Party protested this with several anti-war demonstrations. Janaki Ammal spoke at the event and said that the Europeans are engaging Indians in war simply because they hold the power and treat Indians as captives. She was detained according to the Treason Act, commonly referred to as the National Security Act. She was the first lady from the southern part of India to be subjected to an act of imprisonment. When the Madurai Thuvaraman fought for restitution of land because the rich property owners repressed tenant farmers, unrest arose. Although police officers showed up, a number of the male and female protesters were threatened for the safety of the police by threats and gunshots. By the moment, she plunged out of the crowd and bravely raised her voice for the peasants this changed the scenario; her bravery shook the police who were taken aback by this sudden change. It demonstrated Janaki Ammal's courage. She contested in the 1967 general elections from the Madurai East Assembly Constituency and won, becoming an elected official of the Legislative Assembly. After that, she predominantly discussed the condition of the farmers and the equality of women throughout the legislative discussions and conducted several campaigns to regularize salaries for farmers, labourers, and industrial workers.

Conclusion

K.P. Janaki Ammal was a courageous social reformer and freedom fighter who sacrificed her life to promote social justice and India's independence. She motivated many youngsters to join the liberation movement with her political activism, revolutionary songs, and support of workers' rights. She broke down caste and societal boundaries by promoting equality and justice through her political and theatrical platforms. Janaki Ammal is a great but much-underappreciated character in India's struggle for independence. Her bravery, selflessness, and unshakable dedication to the country will be ever remembered by true patriots and citizens.

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