Research Paper



ROLE OF TIPU SULTAN IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT =

Tipu wanted to develop the economy of Mysore State in a different way and make his citizens economically self-reliant and politically sovereign republics. Tipu's skillful diplomacy paid rich dividends economically and politically. His bold and patriotic initiatives reflected clear global vision and developmental missionary zeal. Tipu had adopted healthy measures to increase the production and productivity in the fields of agriculture and industry. The wars and conquests had filled the State Treasury with immense wealth. This helped to a large extent in establishing a sound economy in Mysore. Tipu was a great champion of state capitalism which benefited the state and people. Tipu Sultan rigidly enforced socio-moral reforms to promote the economic welfare of his subjects. The abundant historical documents provide authentic details and justifications on the significant contributions of Tipu Sultan for the integrated development of the nation.

KEYWORDS: production, productivity, Tipu Sultan, economic interest

PREAMBLE

Tipu had analyzed the reasons for the political decline of the Muslims, the most important being their indifference to trade, commerce and industry. The Europeans had also elbowed the Muslims out of commerce and dominated the Indian states. Therefore, Tipu Sultan sent embassies abroad to win over the support of the Gulf countries and contain British imperialism and capitalism. His constant diplomatic activities were primarily intended to enhance political, military and economic interest in his State. Tipu's schemes of cooperation in political and economic spheres are appreciated even today by the historians. The role of Tipu Sultan in national development with reference to 18th century is delineated in this article on the basis of qualitative research methodology.

DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE OF TIPU

The rationalization of his authority could only be through the exercise of legal and military roles, based not just upon the tenets of Islam but also on the codes he had evolved

suited to the need to guarantee the material welfare of his people. With such a formidable array of information on virtually all aspects of revenue collection, agriculture, warfare and the crafts, it was quite natural for Tipu to intervene in the functions of all his top officials in the form of personal inspections as well as orders and regulations which he issued quite frequently. Tipu was less worried about form and more about the substance of governance (Khan, 1797). Tipu's orders to revenue collectors revealed that Tipu had broken the old paradigm of development and laid emphasis on the development of the poor and needy.

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

"Agriculture is the life blood of the nation. This land, rich and fertile, will reward those who work on it. Famine and want are either the result of sloth and ignorance or of corruption. The 127 Regulations of this Revenue Code are intended for your immediate implementation. In particular, your urgent attention is drawn to the provisions which relate to cash advances to needy peasants for buying ploughs, steps

for taking over derelict land and protection to the cultivator and his descendants. The Code is illustrative and not exhaustive. For instance, one Amildar has decided that where peasants are convicted of certain minor offences as are only punishable by fines, such fines can be commuted if the person charged with the fine agrees to plant two mango and two almond trees in front of the village, and water and tend them till they are the height of three feet. We approve of such measures. Thus, Amildars must rely on their ingenuity consistent with local conditions (but without ignoring the rights of the people) to stimulate agricultural growth. Any measures so introduced should be reported so that consideration can be given to their incorporation in the Code as also to reward the Amildars concerned" – from Tipu Sultan's circular to all Amildars, 1788.

"Anyone who brings under cultivation any uncultivated land and grows crops, vegetables or fruits by irrigating it with water from this dam will be given all encouragement and concessions by the Khudadad Government the newly cultivated land shall belong to the cultivator and his descendants and no one shall dispossess him" – from Inscription on the foundation stone laid by Tipu Sultan for the dam on the river Cauvery, 1790 (Kaur and Udayan, 2008).

William Kirkpatrick's voluminous Select Letters of Tippoo Sultan (1811), Official Documents relating to the Negotiations carried on by Tippoo Sultan with the French Nation, Waqa'i' iManazil-I Rum, Correspondence of the French during the Reign of Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan (1998), Hukmnamas of Tipu Sultan (1785, Nikhiles Guha's Pre-British State System in South India: Mysore 1761-99, William Kirkpatrick Tipu Sultan's Calendars, Select Letters of Tippoo Sultan and other documents provide authentic details and justifications on the historic contributions of Tipu Sultan for the development of economic bonds between South India and the Persian Gulf. Several historians have rightly opined that Tipu Sultan's concept of political economy was almost similar to the contemporary European thought with particular reference to Cameralism and mercantilism.

The record of instructions and negotiations with several rulers clearly reveal the historic motives and contributions of Tipu to attain of economic prosperity of in his State through various diplomatic initiatives. Thus, with all his originality of will and purpose, Tipu Sultan achieved considerable success in setting forth mutually beneficial trade relations between South India and the Persian Gulf in Eighteenth Century. He could not achieve tremendous success in this regard since he became a victim of circumstances in 1799.

In his letter to the 'Darogha' at Muscat dated January 12, 1786, he wanted the dispatch of expert shipbuilders to the Mysore territory. Maldvie Islands continued to be an important naval dockyard during his time. Mangalore, Bhatkal, Coondapur and Tadadi became important naval centers of his times. Tipu also invited experts from Turkey, China, France and Iran and set up industries in Channapatna, Bidnur, Chitradurga, Bangalore and Srirangapatna. He had invited Chinese experts for improving sugar manufacturing in his territory. Pearl fisheries were encouraged by him in the Malabar coast.

Tipu Sultan, goes the credit of introducing sericulture in Mysore on a large scale. Tipu was aware of the economic benefits of sericulture. He organized sericulture development in his state and benefitted the farmers. He had maintained

records about the cultivation of sericulture. He had encouraged the farmers to cultivate commercial crops to overcome poverty and unemployment problems. He had also established widely distributed centers for government-regulated silkworm breeding and rearing in Mysore state. He had several commercial depots in foreign countries such as Pegu, Muscot, Turkey and Istanbul for selling sandalwood. He forbade the selling of salt from Madras, because he suspected the British merchants for spying activities.

In a letter (No.2) addressed to Meer Kazim, Chief of the factory at Muscat Tipu had requested the Imam to send Dingies, a small vessel employed in the trade between Malabar Coast and Persian Gulf in return of rice produced in India. It was a move which intended to promote trade between Mysore State and Persian Gulf.

When a person travelling through a strange country finds it well cultivated, populous with industrious inhabitants; cities newly founded, commerce extending, towns increasing and everything flourishing so as to indicate happiness, he will naturally conclude it to be under a form of Government congenial to the minds to the people. This is a picture of Tippoo's country and this is our conclusion respecting its Government". Buchanan had high regards for Tipu's economic vision which had made Mysore State very prosperous through the development of strategic relations between South India and the Persian Gulf. It reads: they had a more extensive trade than at present (Buchanan, 1807).

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tipu sultan was highly committed to the development of the economy of Mysore State. He took several measures which brought about economic prosperity to his state and well-being to his people. This is duly reflected in the writing of Sir Thomas Moonro. Tipu had persuaded the ruler of Turkey to send a Turkish expeditionary force to India to contain the English who had seized large territories of Hindustan and were oppressing the Muslims.

Tipu had established industrial centers in Channapatna, Bidnur, Chitradurga, Bangalore and Srirangapattana by soliciting the support of experts from Turkey, China, France and Iran. Historians have examined the innovative administrative measures, commercial ventures, overseas enterprises, economic policies and other measures of Tipu Sultan (Hasan, 1951). Tipu had adopted progressive industrial policy and facilitated industrial development in Mysore state. He had procured craftsmen, technicians and other experts from Europe and West Asia. He had established industrial centers in the state and contributed for the development of trade and commerce.

The credit goes to Tipu Sultan for introducing sericulture in Mysore on a large scale. He wanted to have artisans from Turkey who could make clocks, glass, chinaware and mirrors which had great demand in Indian market. He sent a mission to France to import skilled workers and arsenals in 1785. The pioneering efforts of Tipu in the modernization of Mysore state remain notable in the country.

Tipu wanted to develop the economy of Mysore State in a different way and make his citizens economically self-reliant and politically sovereign republics. He did not want Mysore State to become a tributary of European colonialism. He brought glory to the history of India by initiating series of progressive economic measures during his regime. Tipu's conception of the nation-state, the responsibilities of the government to the people, the

elimination of feudalistic intermediaries, his attempt to build up a standard system of laws and his creation of a civil service, were modern ideas, out of tune with his times and therefore unacceptable to those around him. The greatest tribute his conquerors, the British, could pay to him was the progressive adoption of these ideas in their future governance of India (Fernandes, 1969).⁵

Tipu Sultan had persuaded the Sultan of Turkey to promote economic transactions between Mysore State and Ottoman Turkey to check the growth of British imperialism. He had also requested the Sultan to send thousands of skilled workforces to establish industrial and business organizations in his state. He successfully brought thousands of skilled workers and developed state trade in a novel way. The skilled workers not only brought their technical skills but by their interaction with locals a new vision of modern world was projected. Tipu has been widely appreciated by historians has the sovereign authority who gave an impetus to industrial production with foreign collaboration in Indian history.

Nathan Crow in his secret communication addressed to Bombay Council in 1797, reports that Tipu Sultan had an understanding with the French Directory to strengthen the alliance against the British. It was also found that the French had factories in the Persian Gulf and Tipu Sultan too had established an economic bond with the Persian Gulf nations to further his political and economic fortunes (Secret and Political Diary, 1797).6

Setin in his secret communication made in 1797 warns the British authorities and friendly states, that the friendly undertaking between Tipoo Sultan and Zamanshah would adversely affect British interest on Indian soil. It also identifies the factories established by Tippoo Sultan in the Persian Gulf and the related economic transactions which were guided by political motives (Secret and Political Diary, 1797).

Spencer Smith in his secret communication addressed to S. Monesty in 1798 states that the British East India Company should be persuaded to instruct the Shariff of Mecca, Governor of Medina, and Governor of Jedda to stop any diplomatic relations with Tipu and stop all his vessels which were proceeding from the Indian ocean towards Jedda, since it would adversely affect the interest of the Persian Gulf nations. The communicates clearly establishes the truth that Tipu had already established fruitful political and economic bonds between South India and the Persian Gulf to check British influence in India (Secret and Political Diary, 1798).8

Monsieur Arcangelo in his secret communication addressed to Regoo, a French in 1798 reveals that the French man in India were trying to develop a strong alliance against the British in association with Sindhias, Sikhs, Cabulistan, Candaharesi, Rohillas, Callestancic, Zomansha, Tipoo and Patans to defeat the British in India. This communication clearly states that Tipu had a vision of defeating the British by aligning with the French who were their powerful European adversaries (Secret and Political Diary, 1798).9

The diary written by Wellesly way back in 1800 clearly reveals the diplomatic and religious motives of Tipu Sultan who persuaded the Muslims in Persian Gulf to join hands with him and crush British imperialism which was adversely harming the interest of Muslims. Wellesly also observed that Muslims in India depended on the trade in the Persian Gulf since they shared common culture and interests.

The document also states that Tipu tried to motivate the Muslims in South India against the British culture and manipulations himself which harmed national interest in general and religious interest in particular (Secret and Political Diary, 1800).¹⁰

Tipu's skillful diplomacy paid rich dividends economically and politically. His bold and patriotic initiatives reflected clear global vision and developmental missionary zeal. He was able to survive several wars and rule the State for quite a long time mainly due to shrewd diplomatic and developmental moves. He had many innovative plans in his mind which did not come fruition owing to his martyrdom by the English in 1799.

Tipu Sultan of Mysore was one of the most implacable enemies of the British power in India during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Tipu strived to evolve and administer the political economy by developing a system of statecraft. Further, we know on Wilk's testimony of Tipu's understanding that English power rested on commercial prosperity and the Sultan designed an extensive plan for a similar increase of power. Tipu Sultan was distinguished however in his zeal and determination to use state power for social reform, welfare and economic progress. While the scope of our present argument is mainly concerned with Tipu's economic policies, his measures to administer social reforms give us some idea of the admixture of benevolence, religiosity and puritanical bias in the Sultan's system of values and attitudes. Such measures related to the ban on the use of liquor and all intoxicants, the ban on prostitution and the employment of female slaves in domestic service, the abolition of the Nayar practice of polyandry in Malabar and Coorg, the decree that Malabar women must cover themselves above the waist, the repeal of the custom of human sacrifice in the temple of Kali near Mysore town and restrictions on lavish extravagance for marriages, festivals and charities.

From the day Tipu occupied the seat of royalty, during the seventeen years following, to the end of the century he was constantly engaged in an exhausting external war and often harassed by the mischief of malcontents within. It is highly creditable that in spite of such ceaseless and ruthless struggles for the survival and maintenance of his authority against the implacable foes. Tipu found time for the business of politics, trade and commerce, industry, religion and all other matters relating to the people and his approach and the regulations he issued on all matters were always egalitarian. Its cardinal features were a strong and well-organized central government, a well-knit district and provincial administration directly under the control of the centre, well-trained and disciplined civil, military and diplomatic services, uniform set of laws and the direct contact between the subjects and the state by the removal of intermediaries. In the economic and social fields also, Tipu showed his egalitarianism by taking steps for fair and efficient land management, a just settlement of the land revenue and protection of the Ryot (Farmer) from exploitation and also for reforming the social and moral life of the people. Tipu also envisaged a number of measures for promoting agriculture. Tipu's revenue regulations gave equal attention to trade and commerce and production as he was both the royal merchant and the entrepreneur (Rajamani, 1989). 11 The progressive and constructive measures adopted by Tipu Sultan for agricultural development are enumerated in the District Gazetteers of South India.

Tipu secured the services of French artisans and workmen. He established various types of factories in the state. He developed textile industry, silk industry, iron industry, glass industry, sugar and jaggery and handicrafts. The Mysore kingdom was self sufficient in industries. Tipu took all conceivable measures to promote craft production and industrial development in his state (Nanjundappa, 1989). 12

Tipu rightly grasped the threat posed by British East India Company for the Indian rulers but strived his best to prevent Europeanization of his regime through the implementation of a sort of state mercantilism. Tipu had tremendous foresight and he desired to teach his people faster than they could learn. Tipu was indeed far ahead of his times and his economic experiments, his efforts at state trading, his great industrial plans, his efforts to build up a strong navy, his imaginative flight to construct a dam across the river Cauvery, his far-sighted vision to establish at Seringapatnam a University which he Christened as Jamia-al-Umar, his first Urdu newspaper, Fauji Akhbar, his interest in pearl fishery, his interest in rockets and so on reveal his economic vision (Khan, 1993).¹³

Tipu Sultan also set up depots at Cutch, Muscat, Beharain and Jeddah for the expansion of trade in the Persian Gulf region. He made earnest efforts to expand sea trade in coastal Karnataka and concluded treaties with Arab countries. Tipu instituted monopolies on spices and other products, enabling the state to muster increased financial resources.

Tipu had emphasized the need for agriculture development in a circular to all the Amildar in 1788. It reads: "Agriculture is the life-blood of the nation. This land, rich and fertile, will reward those that work on it. Famine and want are either the result of sloth and ignorance or of corruption". Tipu was fully aware of the role of agriculture in the development of the economy of Mysore state. He took special interest to expand irrigation facilities in Bellary and Srirangapatna belts. He was primarily responsible for the construction of well laid out roads and communication facilities.

Tipu had adopted healthy measures to increase the production and productivity in the field of agriculture and ensured absolute food sufficiency and security. He had given loan and subsidies to the farmers and provided the benefit of land revenue exemption. Tipu also promoted animal husbandry, horticulture, sericulture, social forestry and other branches of agriculture. Tipu was also a pioneer of organic farming and persuaded the farmers to adopt organic farming and lead healthy lives. He had developed plenty of water bodies and undertaken afforestation programme to protect the environment and people.

COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS OF TIPU

The Commercial Regulations of Tipu Sultan are enumerated in different publications such as *Ahmedy* (March 1793) and *Rasikh* (April 1794). The regulations describe the general duties of revenue officers and other officials for the protection of public interest. The land revenue regulations were also formulated by Tipu to protect the interest of the farmers against the vested interest who had controlled the land. The officials were directed to maintain the records and ensure the compliance of regulations by the people. The historical documents reveal that the practical rules of Tippoo Sultan are the most accurate delineation of the modern *Mohameden* government (Faulder, 1795). ¹⁴ Tipu had

guaranteed the ownership of land to the landless tillers who were both socially and economically downtrodden because of the system failures.

Tipu had encouraged the native industries remarkably. His grandiose schemes and plans and his great anxiety to implement them show that had he been left undisturbed by his enemies, he would have created an industrial revolution in Mysore. When a person travelling through a strange country finds it well cultivated, populous with industrious inhabitants, cites newly founded, commerce extending, towns increasing and everything flourishing so as to indicate happiness, he will naturally conclude to be under a form of government congenial to the minds of the people. This is a picture of Tipu's country, and this is our conclusion in respect of its government (Ali, 1999).¹⁵

The wars and conquests had filled the State Treasury with immense wealth. This helped to a large extent in establishing a sound economy in Mysore. Along with the plundered resources, the Sultan was also receiving tributes from the conquered territories and rent from those areas where the traditional chieftains had not compromised. State capitalism under Tipu had to be managed by a bureaucracy which was still feudal in character. The trade within the dominion of Tipu was thoroughly organized and was under the strict control of the Sultan just as in the case of foreign trade. Tipu wanted the State to be the ultimate benefactor. It is clear that in the Eighteenth Century itself a state of South India, namely, Mysore under the aegis of Tipu Sultan strove to develop trade and industry under strict state ownership, control and guidance (Sebastian, 1989). 16

CHAMPION OF STATE CAPITALISM

Tipu was a great champion of state capitalism which benefited the state and people. He never wanted to promote the tycoons who were the enemies of welfare state. He had adopted a progressive commercial policy which prevented the intervention of foreign forces in the commerce sector. He had overhauled the trade system to make his government 'the chief merchant of his dominions'. He ensured effective elimination of the colonial forces and prosperity of his people through these progressive measures.

Tipu Sultan sought the expertise of foreign artisans because he wanted to modernize his army and economy. Tipu Sultan's agrarian and economic policies, his keenness to develop commercial ventures, foreign trade, indigenous factories and so on have been attested by the material included in the present volume. On the whole, the memoirs and documents in this volume will certainly help the scholars in putting the history of Mysore under Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in a proper perspective and immensely contribute to correct many historiographic inaccuracies and distortions (Islam, 2004).¹⁷

Tipu Sultan rigidly enforced socio-moral reforms to promote the economic welfare of his subjects. He acquired great knowledge and vast experience of agronomy. He realized that agriculture was the life line of economy and the most important for the welfare of the people. His agrarian measures were an integral part of a well thought out scheme for the economic development of his people. Tipu Sultan not only built dams and restored tanks for irrigation but also supervised their maintenance. He felt that it was his bounden duty to set right irrigation sources for the benefit of farmers. He promoted the well being of his people through trade, commerce, industry and agriculture and the revenues collected from various sources (Venkataraman, 2010). 18

Tipu undertook keen interest in revamping and also modernizing administration of the state although he was preoccupied with waging wars against the British (Jagannath, 2010). The Sultan's own regulations clearly indicate that great care was taken to foster irrigation works since irrigation was a major input contributing to the advance of agriculture. Networks of series of tanks and extension of river based irrigation works found priority in Tipu's mission on irrigation works (Nagaraja, 2010). Description works (Nagaraja, 2010).

Despite the hectic political and military involvements of his regime, he never ignored the main task of improving the life and conditions of his people. His encouragement of agriculture and industry, promotion of trade and commerce novel system of administering justice, building up of a strong navy, opening of factories in near and far off places, dispatch of embassies to different and distant lands to link Mysore with the outer word, innovative measures in almost every department of the state and more than all his efforts to integrate all his people into one homogeneous whole, would all indicate his exhaustive energy and fertility of mind. Tipu had accorded high priority for defence, governance and development of Mysore state and contributed immensely for the modernization and development of Mysore state. Tipu had adopted innovative measures and enriched the process of development in Mysore state. He also followed the western techniques and utilized success stories to make Mysore a model state from development point of view.

Tipu was also careful to lay down rules for the task of surveying his kingdom to ascertain the annual increase or decrease of agriculture and population. Tipu also envisaged a number of measures for the promotion of agriculture in his kingdom. Lands which had been fallow for ten years were to be delivered to Ryots for cultivation under *cowl*. Tipu had to be concerned not only with the development of agriculture in his domains, but also prepare for a state of war (Guha, 1985).²¹

It was due to Tipu's efforts that Mysore which is now called Karnataka has become India's leading silk producing state. Tipu Sultan gave all the incentives to grow sandalwood and saw to it that the wood and oil were exported to foreign countries especially to Oman where there was large demand. Tipu's foreign economic diplomacy, which primarily aimed at increasing My sore's exports through state trading even though fell short of his hopes, but was largely successful in trade with Muscat due to his pragmatic plans.

TRANSFORMATION OF ECONOMY

Tipu remains as the Mysore's transitional character. He firmly believed that a transformation of state and society was the most promising means to resist colonization and remain independent (Yazdani, 2016).22 Tipu's shrewd diplomatic initiatives in the Gulf region especially his ties with Oman were bold, imaginative and he was largely successful. After defeating Tipu, the British with the help of Indian soldiers and resources took over much of the Arab world. In the ultimate analysis, all of Tipu Sultan's intricate, complex international maneuvering, risks, initiatives, friendships and negotiations were primarily aimed at upliftment, prosperity, providing security and improving the life of the people, and making Mysore a truly developed state like Britain or France was at that time (Pasha, 2003).²³ The scholar pays rich tribute to Tipu's economic reforms and initiatives which were mainly responsible for making Mysore State a model state in Indian sub-continent.

CONCLUSION

Tipu Sultan ruled the Mysore kingdom from 1782-1799 succeeding his father Haider Ali. Tipu Sultan's contribution to the development of Mysuru state was immense. He was responsible for ending feudalism and giving a fillip to agriculture. He had great vision and missionary zeal as an administrator and catalyst of development. Tipu Sultan's regime facilitated State monopoly of trade which ultimately made his state highly prosperous. Several historians have rightly opined that Tipu Sultan's concept of political economy was almost similar to the contemporary European thought with particular reference to cameralism and mercantilism. The abundant historical documents provide authentic details and justifications on the significant contributions of Tipu Sultan for the integrated development of Mysore State.

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