



“HUMAN NATURE AND KUSHAL KONWAR; A FAMOUS FREEDOM FIGHTER OF ASSAM”

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Abstract: This paper is an attempt to find out the real nature of an individual freedom fighter of Assam the Kushal Konwar who actually not involved directly in an incident of derailment which was taken place during Quit India Movement of 1942-43 but he sacrifices his life being a true Satyagrahi. Kushal Konwar was one of the strongest freedom fighter against British Raj. He is a symbol of patriotism and a man of courage in fact he is a man who can accept his death with a smiling face for his own country. He was an Indian Freedom Fighter who happened to be the only martyr in India who has been hanged by the Britishers during last phase of the Quit India Movement of 1942-43. This paper is an attempt to analyze Kushal Konwar as a man of different kind in Nature who knows the art of living and dying. That is why the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi said, “He alone can be a true Satyagrahi who knows the art of living and dying”

Keywords: Patriotism, Mrtyr, Satyagrahi, Quit, Movement.

Introduction: Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsov is going on and we are celebrating 76th of independent day but still there are so many Freedom Fighter like Kushal Konwar the great Myrter of Assam has been not recognized properly as a human being. This paper is an attempt to analyze Kushal Konwar as a man of different kind of character or personality in fact he was a man who has not been recognized yet as human nature. Kushal Konwar was Freedom fighter who wholeheartedly taken his responsibility as a freedom fighter and a worker of congress he never back footed himself for his duty. Though he was not directly involved in the incident of derail yet he sacrificed his life as a true Satyagrahi. Though he was not involved directly for the train sabotage case against British Government he was charged of conspiracy and train sabotage against the British Government. He was a man who sacrificed his life for the sake of his own country that was an example that needs to study in more repeatedly that his human behaviour and attitude towards country is why so important. In this present world that is not found in human nature if it is found that is very less in number. This paper also tries to find out his true nature as a man of truth that is very important to reassess through which the new generation will get benefited of it.

Research question:

- a. Why as a human being Kushal Konwar is different with other?
- b. What are the key qualities that Kushal Konwar has?
- c. Why did he sacrifice his life?
- d. What was the family background?

Objectives:

1. To find out human nature of freedom fighter Kushal Konwar.
2. To suggest some measures for new generation how to adopt or improve good human qualities.

Data Source and Methodology:

This paper based on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data collected from the respondents (family members presently alive at Sarupathar, Golaghat, Assam) the secondary data are collected from experts, books, journals, news papers and internet etc.

Brief History of Kushal Konwar and his life:

Kushal Konwar was a freedom fighter who was born on 21st March, 1905, at Chaodang Chariali, Ghiladhari Mouza, Golaghat District Assam, India.¹ Chaodang Chariali the Place was in under the District of Sivsagar, Assam at his time. His family belongs to noble family from Ahom Empire and from that he used the family name Konwar. Bezboruah Middle English School at Golaghat District of Assam where he was attended in 1921.² From the school life he was motivated by the Mahatma Gandhi's strategy of non-cooperation movement. Kushal Konwar was very much influenced by the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi and that is why he was a dynamic challenger of non-cooperation movement in Assam. Mahatma Gandhi was a man of truth and his Ideology was so powerful that touched each and every human being and that was not exception to Kushal Konwar. The philosophy of Ahimsa, Swaraj, and Truth was an instrument of freedom movement that was adopted by Mahatma Gandhi was so influential to Konwar that he set up a Primary school at Rengmai and he served there as a honorary Teacher in that school. Later he worked as a clerk in a Balijan Tea Estate for few days. Though he was working in Tea Estate his ideology could not stop him for the spirit of independence Movement that was led by Mahatma Gandhi at that time. Mahatma Gandhi influenced him to dedicate himself wholeheartedly in the freedom movement. Kushal Konwar organized the Congress Party and lead the people of Sarupathar to Satyagraha and non-cooperation movement. He was elected the president of Sarupathar Congress Committee. He worked for the country from the small place like Sarupathar and contribution towards freedom movement was not less that can be ignored by an Indian. In the year 1943, 15th June, at 4:30 am he was hanged in Jorhat jail.³

Kushal Konwar and his personality:

Kushal Konwar a man of different in personality from the time of his childhood, he was a man of honest and kind.

Kushal Konwar and human Nature: the study is to find out the real personality or human nature of Kushal Konwar the great freedom fighter of Assam. This historical study is very significant because at present there is very less number of people who sacrifices their life for the sake of their own country. Kushal Konwar was a man of genuineness and committed worker of his time and if we try to come across such human being than we will get the reverse result because by using money power most of the cases some innocent people are victimized. In India there were daily news broadcast can be seen in such cases. We can find moral degradation and no humanity in our society therefore the present study is so important that each and every citizen should know about the real history of Kushal Konwar as a human being and his character. Kushal Konwar as a man of different kind in fact he was a man who has not been documented yet as his human nature. Kushal Konwar was Freedom fighter who

¹ Bora, Sonowar. Happy journey-the difficult path: From the Great Man Mahatma Gandhi to Dayang. B.Sc. S.S. Publication, zoo- Narangi Road, Guwahati-21, 2008 1 March, p 102

² https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/kushal_konwar

³ Ibid

unconditionally taken his accountability as a freedom fighter and a member of congress he never back footed himself for his duty. Though he was not directly involved in the incident of derail yet he sacrificed his life as a true Satyagrahi.

Kushal Konwar came under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi from 1925 and from that his life has altered and since then Kushal Konwar pledged to continue as a vegetarian and accepted the Srimad Bhagawad Gita as his one and only companion.⁴ He also stopped to taking salt and he observed these pledges till the last of his life. On 8th August, 1942 the Congress Working Committee in its meeting in Bombay passed the resolution “Quit India” and that resolution meaning was complete withdrawal of British from Indian soil. When the Quit India movement was going on Kushal Konwar was in the side of Mahatma Gandhi he was not in favour of violent activities as a true follower of Mahatma Gandhi he was always in the pledge of non- violence. Mahatma Gandhi calls for “Do Or Die” and as a congress worker he followed that till the last part of his life.

On 10th October, 1942, early in the morning some Indian freedom movement activists had removed the railway lines near Sarupathar, Golaghat District of Assam. At that time there was a military train passing and due to remove the sleeper from the railway line that accident was occurred in the early in the morning on that day. Thousands of allied soldiers were killed and at that time Kushal Konwar was ignorant of that case but the police immediately started the operation and the district Magistrate of Jorhat, C.M. Humphery issued a arrest warrants to all Indian National Congress members in that immediate area.⁵ Police arrested Kushal Konwar as a chief conspirator of the train sabotage. As a true worker of non- violence he was in his principle and told the real case that he was not aware of this action and plan. But the police charged him as the mastermind of the plan and action that had taken place in that Sarupathar area. He was lodged in the Jorhat jail on 5th November 1942.

Even though there was single proof found against Kushal Konwar the court of C. M. Humphery declared that Kushal Konwar was the foremost offender and responsible. The man who acknowledged the verdict with dignity. Family member expressed that when his wife visited the jail to meet Kushal Konwar than Kushal told to his wife that he is happy and proud that God has selected him to be the only one among the thousands of prisoners to give the supreme sacrifice for the country. Kushal Konwar was sentenced to death by hanging. When he was in jail he was reading Gita and praying to God each and day after day of his remaining life. At dawn on 15th June 1943 at 4:30 am, he was hanged in Jorhat jail.⁶

Suggestion:

1. New generation must study Kushal Konwar and his life history.
2. We must try to explore this type of study for the children.
3. Every citizen must develop their moral and ethical values.
4. This type of life story must include in the course of the school children.

Conclusion: Form this study it is found that the Kushal Konwar was a great man and his character is unique in terms of present society. If we look at our society it is very few human beings that sacrifice their life for the country. That is why such personality needs to be analyzed and discuss and explore for the new generation in our society. That is why the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi said, “He alone can be a true Satyagrahi who knows the art of living and dying”. Kushal Konwar was one of the strongest freedom fighter against British Raj. He is a symbol of patriotism and a man of courage in fact he is a man who can accept his death with a smiling face for his own country. He was an Indian Freedom Fighter who happened to be the only martyr in India who has been hanged

⁴ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/kushal_konwar

⁵ Bhattacharjee, Dr Bishwajit. “ Train Derailment Activities of Assam in 1942”

⁶ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/kushal_konwar

by the Britishers during last phase of the quit India Movement of 1942-43. That is why the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi said, "He alone can be a true Satyagrahi who knows the art of living and dying"⁷

Acknowledgement:

I thank all the individuals for their expertise and assistance throughout all aspects that I referred in the study and help me to write the article.

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⁷ Ibid