

**B.N. SHASTRY – A BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY****Mr. N. Mallesham**

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**Introduction****B.N.Shastry - A Biographical Study ( 1932-2002 )**

History is a continuous dialogue between past and present . Historical research always enrich History. The present study " B.N.Shastry – A Biographical Study " is part and parcel of history. Binnuri Narsimha Shastry ( B.N.Shastry) is famous historian, scholar , epigraphist, author, freedom fighter and founder of literary, cultural and historical monthly journal Moosi.

In recent years Biographical studies on regional leaders, scholars has received special attention in different universities. In the case of Telangana region, Biographical Studies were carried out in history on Political Personalities like. Burugula Rama Krishna Rao & Madapati Hanumantha Rao. But so far no attempt is made on the contribution of B.N.Shastry in the last one century. The Primary objective of the present research is to highlight and estimate the significance of B.N.Shastry historical works and epigraphs. This work is essential today in order to understand and re-write the history of Andhras in general and the history and culture of Telangana people in particular.

Objectives of the study :

Examine the B.N.Shastry's writings on Indian History & their importance.

Examine the B.N.Shastry's writings on History & culture of Andhradesa.

Examine the B.N.Shastry's Contribution to epigraphy & reflection of Socio, Cultural Aspects

Examine the B.N.Shastry's Contribution to Telugu literature.

Examine the B.N.Shastry's Contribution to regional history.

**Hypothesis :** Did B.N.Shastry's historical writings enrich the history . If it so, what are major historical findings, limits of B.N.Shastry writings.

**Methodology :** This study mainly confined to biography of B.N.Shastry in historical context. This is historical study and will based on B.N.Shastry's historical writings. i.e.Indian History vol-I-XXI, History & culture of Andhradesa vol-I-III, Shasana samputalu vol-I-XII & Social history of Andhradesa are main literary sources. The research will be done at Andhrapradesh,

State Achieves Telangana State Archives , Hyderabad. This study also approach the contemporaries of B.N.Shasty's and personal Interview with his family members.

The present study a biography of B.N.Shasty tentatively divided into 6 chapters. The First Chapter is introduction. In this chapter definition of biography, autobiography and importance of biography may be discussed. Autobiography is a life history written by him/her self. Example Babar's Tujak-e-Babari, Mahatma Gandhi's " My Experiment with Truth." Biography is life history written by others. Example Gulbadan Begam's Humayan-Nama, B.Vijaya Bharath's ,Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Jeevitha Charitra.

This Chapter study geographical picture of Nizam State, B.N.Shastry family genealogy & conditions in Nizam State. Binnuri Narsimha Shastry (B.N.Shastry) was born on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1932 at 'Thummalagudem' village in erstwhile Nalgonda district. His parents were Saraswathamma, Ramakrishnaiah. He studied up to VII standard at valigonda, Bhuvanagiri. During this time there was communist movement against Nizam rule. B.N.Shastry participate anti-razakar, anti-nizam rule. His parents thought of Shastry spoiling his life by participating in movements and shift to Guntur for further education. B.N.Shastry completed VIII standard there. Later he went to Hyderabad to pursue education. Shastry complete IX,X,XI standards and got primary school teacher job at Narayanaguda. He served at Goshamahal middle school, Chakanwadi primary school, Darul-Ul-Um High school, Sultan Bazar High School, City middle School as a teacher.

While in teaching profession B.N.Shastry written play-lets, novels like Rendu naatikalu, Neerajanam, Keraadar, Parivarthana,Nirbandavidya, Thapobangam, Papaie Pathakam, Radha, Jeevanapatham, Thirina Korika, Jeevitham-Gamanam and Sandyaraagam. He studied F.A.with Sociology , Economics and Telugu. Shasty did his M.A. Telugu in 1959 at Osmania University , Hyderabad. He registered Ph.D with entitle "Development of Telugu Language through Inscription". Unfortunate he given up Ph.D due to the attitude of Telugu Professor Venkatavadhani.

B.N.Shastry spent most his time in writing Indian History on various themes in XXI Volumes, History and culture of Andhradesha 3 Volumes,12 Shasana samputalu, He compiled Nalgonda mandala sarvaswam, Adilabad Zilla sarvaswam, Mahaboobnagar Zilla sarvaswam. He took pain to wrote Brahmana Rajya Sarvaswam, Reddy Rajya Sarvaswam. He also wrote historical novels like Tukka Devi, Vaakataka Mahadevi and Viplavajwala. B.N.Shasty passed away 4<sup>th</sup> April 2002. The writings of B.N.Shastry are primary source. The primary and secondary sources may be review in this chapter.

The second chapter concentrated on B.N.Shastry works & their importance. The construction of Indian history by imperialist, Nationalist historians may be discuss. B.N.Shastry written Indian History 21 volumes. The content of B.N.Shastry's Indian History Volumes may be examine at length. B.N.Shastry predecessors historical writings may be examine and how Shastry works carry forward Indian history a step forward, backward and limits of his writings.

The third chapter dealt with History & culture of Andradesa. B.N.Shastry written History and Culture of Andhradesa 3 Volumes from 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC - 1990. The vol-I-deals from 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC- 1323, the vol-II studies form 1323 AD to 1518, the vol- III deals from 1518 AD-1990.The content of Shastry's writings may be discussed . Suravaram Prathapa Reddy written Social History of Andradesa. This work dealt with food, dress, festivals of Andras from 11<sup>th</sup> Century to 1907 CE. This works is carryout on the basis of literary sources. B.N.Shastry written Social History of Andradesa. This text written purely on the basis of epigraphy. This work study social history of Andradesa 4<sup>th</sup> BC to 11<sup>th</sup> Century AD. The comparative of study these two may be discuss.

The thrust of B.N.Shastry contribution is to the history of Telangana Region. The history of Telangana Region may be examine in the fourth chapter. B.N.Shastry collected around 1000 inscriptions and edited in Shasana Samputalu. Vol-I-XII. All these samputalu study the history of Telangana region. The Shasana samputalu dealt with Visnukundinulu, Konduru Chodulu, Kalingas, Kalyani Chalukyas, Golakonda nawabs, Cheraku Reddies, Recharla Reddies, Kayasthas, Vemulavada Chalukyas, Recharla Padmanayakas and Malyalas may be discuss.

One of the most important contributions of B.N.Shastry is History of Visnukundinas . It was believed that Visnukundina Kingdom confined to Andra region and a small feudatory. Their capitals were Amaravathi, Vijayawada, Denduluru & Vengi . B.N.Shastry disclosed that the Visnukundinas ruled Telangana region around 3 ½ centuries with capital of Indrapalanagaram with help of Govindavarma Indrapalanagaram copper inscription, Vikramedra Bhattaraka Varma Indrapalanagara copper inscriptions. They were foundatories of Ikshwakas. Visnakundinas were Buddist at first, later adopted vedic religion. This is the major historical shift in historical writings. These findings may be examined.

B.N.Shastry was very much influenced by Kommaraju Venkat Laxmana Rao's works Andra Vignana Sarvaswam, Khandavally Laxmiranjanam's works Sangraha Andra Vignana Kosham, Andradesha charithra- Bhugolam to write mandala sarvaswalu. Suravaram Pratapa Reddy, Burgula Ramakrishana Rao used to conduct Andhra Mahasabhalu to inculcate political, social & cultural consciousness among the Andras. B.N.Shastry felt that Andras will be fully consciousness if the district sarvaswalu available to the people. In this context B.N.Shastry's Nalgonda Mandala sarvaswam, Adilabad Zilla sarvaswam, Mahaboob Nagar Zilla sarvaswam examined in the fifth chapter. Apart from this, Reddy Rajya sarvaswam, Brahmana Rajya Sarvaswam may be discussed.

Sixth chapter dealt with B.N.Shastry's publications & his achievements. Shastry run Nagarjuna Book Depo from 1963-1970. He established Kakatiya publication & its published works may be examined. This publication established in 1975 . B.N.Shastry also started Moosi Publication in 1985.With the help of Moosi publications B.N.Shastry published most of his works may be discussed.

B.N.Shastry started literary, cultural, historical monthly journal Moosi in 1980. The contribution of Shastri manasaputrika Moosi may be study. This chapter also examines the religious belief of shastry, his uncharished dream Trishakti Temple at Valigonda.

On the basis of B.N.Shastry's works, the conclusion may be drawn. His contribution to history, epigraphy, literature may be assessed.

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