



Aluru Venkata Rao

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Citation: Ravi S Rathod, (2023), AluruVenkataRao, *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 29(3), 995 -996
Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v29i3.7698

Aluru Venkata Rao

Aluru Venkata Raya(12 July 1880 – 25 February 1964) was an Indian historian, writer and journalist. He is revered as Karnataka Kulapurohita(High priest of the Kannada family) in the Karnataka region for his contribution towards the cause of a separate Karnataka state.

He became famous for undertaking a Karnataka Ekikarana movement in support of the formation of a state for the Kannada-speaking population of Mysore, Bombay Presidency and the Nizam's Hyderabad.

Early life

• Venkata Rao was born on 12 July 1880 to Bhima

Rao, a sheristadar in the revenue department. The family lived in Bijapur, Karnataka. He studied for a B.A and L.L.B at Fergusson College, where he came in contact with Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Senapati Bapat and Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Rao was a close friend of Tilak and translated his Gita Rahasya into Kannada.

Role of Unification Movement in Karnataka

• Although resentment and protest had started as early as in 1856 and the Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha had been established in 1890, the movement took a dramatic turn with the arrival of Aluru Venkata Rao on the scene.

Speaking at a meeting of the Sangha in 1903, Aluru Venkata Rao made a case for integrating all Kannada regions of Madras Province and north Karnataka with Mysore kingdom. Aluru himself was inspired by the protests that followed the British partitioning of Bengal.

In 1907 and again in 1908, Rao organised the All-Karnataka Writers' Conference in Dharwad. Inspired by the Vidyavardhaka Sangha and the efforts of Deshpande, Aluru helped found the Kannada Sahitya Parishat in Bangalore in 1915. This Parishat found a patron in the ruler of Mysore. The Parishat began holding annual literary conferences

(that continue today) in different parts of the state. Intellectuals from across the Kannada speaking regions attended these conferences. During the Home Rule Movement, Aluru floated the idea of a Karnataka 'Provincial' unit of the Indian National Congress. This soon took shape and the Karnataka Pradesh Congress committee was formed.

Enthralled by the past splendor of Kannada Nadu, the Alurs toured Karnataka and visited places like Badami ,Pattadakallu, Aihole ,Lakkundi ,Belur, Halebidu,Hampe. He wrote a book called Karnataka before the eyes of Kannadigas .Also ,he created the works titled Sutras of Karnataka ,Evolution of Karnataka ,Heroes of Karnataka and created Kannada love .

Starting with the letter K ,they are indicative of his Kannada love .Apart from this ,sri Vidayaranya Charitra ,Gita Parim,Gita Prakasha ,Madhav Siddhanta entry ,Madhvacarara Mula Siddhanta have created works. Tilak translated Gita Rahasya into kannada .

Alur not only organized a conference of kannada writers at Dharwad ,but also founded the Karnataka Granth Publication Board in1908 ,he punlished that work in Dharwad in 1917 with 100 Ruppes from his lectures on Karnataka's past glory at Deccan College ,Pune .In1914 ,he established the Karnataka History Research Council at Dharwad to assist research and publication of Karnataka history and became its president. collected funds for it.

Alura ,a patriot ,gave up his profession as a lawyer and joined the freedom movement .He loved his country

more than his career .participated in the swadeshi movement and burned foreign objects .Tilak was called to Gadag and made as a speech. Alur was the Vice President of Dharwad District Congress .He opened a national school in Dharwad to inculcate patriotism among the youth .After Tilak's death he moved away from the freedom movement.

Akara Gratha:

- **KNA-** Comprehensive History of Karnataka.