



Journal Homepage: -www.journalijar.com
**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
 ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)**

Article DOI:10.21474/IJAR01/8966
 DOI URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/8966>



RESEARCH ARTICLE

INTRIGUES IN HISTORY; THE FORMIDABLE LEGACY OF SIR C. PRAMASWAMY IYER.

Shambu.RMA.

Department Of History university Of Kerala.

Manuscript Info

Manuscript History

Received: 22 February 2019

Final Accepted: 24 March 2019

Published: April 2019

Abstract

A model for the mathematical description of diffusion process is presented through this work and an attempt is also made for the applicability of Green's function method for solving the one dimensional diffusion equation within the desired limits. From this process the required solution to this diffusion equation by considering the initial condition $t = 0$ will be obtained. This equation describes the rate of change of concentrations of substances to its own lattice or may be in different substances with a constant diffusion coefficient. At last a computational approach will also be used for getting the numerical solutions. While solving the equation we throughout consider $t = 0$, so that the result may also be applicable in an isothermal diffusion.

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Introduction:-

C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer was a rare intellectual and a great personality not only in Travancore but also in Indian History. He bestrode the political, intellectual and culture Arena of India in its pre independence and post independence. His life is being studied for decades long after his death. C.P's life has that much importance in the history of Travancore along with the rulers of Travancore State. He was praised and accursed at the same time because his life was truthful and delusive simultaneously. He was criticized for opposing to join the Indian Union after declaring independence and referred as a dictator for trying to suppress the communist movement in Travancore. But at the same time he was a well wisher who has done so many developments and implemented long term projects in Travancore State. He is considered as the father of industrialization in Travancore and Tamil Nadu. During the ruling time of Sri Chithirathirunal, Sir C.P served as the Diwan from 1936 to 1947 and his ruling and administration was the State's landmark of development. Before that he was the legal constitutional advisor for the Maharaja from 1931-1936. Because of his good administration and faith towards the royal family he was honored by giving Sachivothama position.

Before he came to Travancore he was selected as the General secretary of INC along with Sri Jawaharlal Nehru in 1917. In 1923 he was offered a seat in the executive council of Governor of Madras by lord Willingdon. This helped him to achieve a good relationship with the British and the top Nationalist. Even though Sir C.P was a gentleman like this most of the historians considered him as a controversial figure. They give all credits to the Maharaja and responsibilities of all the failures gave to the Diwan. But we can forget the role Sir C.P for bringing Travancore in front of princely State in India. The paper attempts to delineate myths from fact using the help of reliable sources.

Corresponding Author:-Shambu.RMA.

Address:-Department Of History university Of Kerala.

Reforms Of Sir C.P Ramaswamy Iyer

Social welfare reforms

Temple entry proclamation was the first important social reform after C.P. Since he became the Diwan of Travancore. Prior to, 1936 only upper class communities of Hindus were allowed inside temples. On 12th November 1936 the Maharaja of Travancore Sri Chithrathirunal Balarama Varma proclaimed that all the temples in his country are opened to all Hindus regardless of their caste. This incident created an 'echo' even in the national level so that it even grabbed the attention of Mahatma Gandhi when he précised him as The Second Ashokan.

At the time, when Mahatma Gandhi visited Travancore in 1924 he also paid a visit to 12 years old prince as well. When Mahatma Gandhi inquired the young prince about his first order as a king, he replied that he would throw open all temples in Travancore to all Hindus. Sri Chithrathirunal became the King in the year 1931 however it took 5 years for the temple entry proclamation to materialize. An obscurity persists as of why he couldn't do that in the first 5 years of his reign. The reason can be described to the lack of support needed for temple entry proclamations during that time period. The three Diwans Thomas Austin, Muhammad Habibullah and V.S. Subrahmanya Iyer couldn't gave the necessary support and they didn't have the courage to implement the same. However from this point onwards 'the reality began to differ very much from the myth'

Sir.C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer became the Diwan on 8th October 1936. The temple entry proclamation happened on 12th November 1936, 34 days after he became the Diwan. Whose achievement was that? All the credits went to the Maharaja for his monumental event in history. It was his courage that implemented temple entry. Not only has this but also the past of Diwan Sir C.P. proved that he was an idealist.

In 1917 when Annie Besant was the president of INC, the Calcutta session passed a resolution eradicating untouchability. C.P was the senior General Secretary then. During his practice in Madras, when no Brahmin lawyer was ready to have Dalit as his apprentice Sir C.P. took N.Sivaraj as his junior lawyer¹. This act was one of the solid proofs that the resolution in Calcutta has made an impression on C.P. even when he was a Brahmin. When he accepted the Diwanship, one of the conditions laid down by him was that he should be permitted to implement temple entry proclamation as the first step of his administration. The evidence of this can be seen in the talks between Sir C.P. and G.D.Birla in Delhi on July 27, 1936 and the record of talk shows that Birla had expected the big forward move at the time of Maharaja's birthday in November². It was destined to Sir C.P. to give him the right advice and support on issuing the belated temple entry proclamation. It was not a coincidence that the day selected for the proclamation was the birth date of both Maharaja and Sir C.P. Meanwhile all the credit went to the Maharaja. The boldness and style of the language and the structure of it mirrored Sir C.P. Brilliance in this field.

Even after the temple entry proclamation, the implementation was challenging. Oppositions arouse even from neighboring state like Kochi. He visited the Azvanacheri Thamprakkal, Brahmin chief of Edappaly and Thiruvrapu Swamiyar for support. Famous personalities like C.Achyutha Menon and Mannath Padmanabhan praised C.P's role in temple entry proclamation even when they have disagreed on many other things. Mannath Padmanabhan describes the provisions are like upanishaths and those were made by Sir C.P in his biography "Ente Jeevitha Smaranakal". From all these aspects it is clear that Sir C.P played an important role in Temple Entry Proclamation, but most of the historians disliked his effort and gave all the credits to the Maharaja. The abolition of death penalty was another important measure by Sir C.P. He also wrote to the Maharaja about the inequality of the law in existence. The law relating to capital punishment involved judicial discrimination based on caste and gender considerations. Travancore has always been ahead of the rest of the country in respect of legislation relating to the law of Marriage. In June 1939, the Sri Mulam assembly passed the child restraint bill which fixed 14 as minimum age for marriage of girls and 18 in the case of boys. Several social welfare measures were initiated during the period in the initiative of Sir C.P. The mid day meal scheme for students in Govt. primary schools get the pride of palace among these schemes. The scheme was implemented with the inauguration of the Vanchi poor fund in 1941. Beggar relief centers, poor homes etc. are setup in the state for elimination of beggary. Homes for children, the aged and infirm and work centers for the able-bodied were setup as part of the beggar relief measures. When the hospitals in Thiruvananthapuram have lacked lot of amenities, he started a hospital amenities fund to rectify this lack. An important step taken in the interest of public health was the prohibition of opium smoking.

Economic Reforms

With Sir C.P's rich experience as a member in charge of Electricity in the Madras Government, he took the initiative in formulating schemes for power generation in Travancore. In 1944 Palliwasal hydroelectric generation was

initiated by Sir C.P. In 1940 he established a ceramic factory in Kundrara in Quilon now Kollam. He established a rubber factory in Travancore named Travancore Rubber works. Another important industry started during the period was the plywood industries in Punalur. In 1943 it was shifted to Mukkadavur on the banks of Kallada river. In 1943 Sir C.P. established Travancore Chemical and Manufacturing co. Ltd. Another important venture in the field was the setting up of FACT Ltd. Travancore minerals started for processing of mineral sands were established in Travancore by his supervision. Glass industry, Aluminium Industry, Rayon Industry, Sugar Industry, Forest Industries, Lime shell & Cement Industry, Salt industry, Cotton textiles, Coir industry etc. were the industries set up by his supervision during the short period of his Diwanship.

A significant reform introduced on the initiative of Sir C.P. was the State Transport Service and the establishment of State Transport Department in 1937. Along with the organization of road transport services, coastal transport was also given special attention. Also Air Transport was first introduced in to Travancore in October 29, 1935. The telephone system was introduced into Travancore in the year 1931. State Bank of Travancore was established on 12th September 1945. The board of directors of the bank was constituted with some of the best known financial magnets in India³. Tourism that has developed into a flourishing industry in Kerala had its beginning in the days of Sir C.P.'s administration. The economy of the state being basically agricultural, the Govt. adopted suitable measures to promote agricultural production. The agriculturists were provided with financial existence by way of loans to carry on filling operations. We can see that all the Social Welfare Reforms happened under the supervision of Sir C.P. but all the credits went to the Maharaja.

Education and Culture Reforms

The first important decision taken by Sir C.P. after he became the Diwan about Education was the establishment of the University of Travancore. He appointed a special officer and extracted the permission from the British Government. Ever since the establishment Travancore University he became the first Vice-chancellor. He also gives enrollments to the university even after it started functioning properly. Those enrollments were for starting a lectureship in south Indian history and for starting space studies. He also gave 1000 rupees for agricultural studies every month from his salary⁴. As a Vice-chancellor C.P. acquired publishing right of Journal of Indian history from Madras University. Dr. S. Krishnaswami Ayyankar a famous historian in South India was the Editor. Later it started from Kerala University and still it is being published under the name "The journal of Indian History". From the same place Sir C.P. even tried to bring Albert Einstein as a professor in Travancore University for 6000 'kashu'. (Currency then)⁵. The Oriental manuscript library in the University campus started by Sir C.P. in 1938. He chose 'Karmani Vyagyatheprajya' (Wisdom manifest itself in action) as the motto of the university. It is noted that he established free and compulsory primary education in Travancore. Swathi Thirunal Music Academy was his contribution to promote music. The radio station in Travancore & Sree Chithira Art Gallery was established under the supervision of Sir C.P. Its clear that apart from C.P.'s efforts all credits went to Maharaja.

Administrative reforms:

In 1938 C.P. took initiatives to start Travancore Civil service. The main aim was to improve the quality of the Civil Service in Travancore by having resource to direct recruitment as for the Indian civil service in British India. Several measures intended to eliminate corruption in the public service were introduced under the auspicious initiatives of Sir C.P. The State administration under Sir C.P. was called upon to tackle certain contentious issue arising from the utilization of the Periyar waters by the neighboring state of Cochin and the Madras presidency. In 1937 Sir C.P. on behalf of Travancore argued about the hydro power project on Periyar River by the Madras presidency. The controversial case was about the Mullaperiyar dam. C.P. won the case and it restrained Madras's plan for the project. The verdict was not merely a victory of Travancore but personal triumph for Sir C.P. Even now there are some disputes between Kerala and Tamil Nadu about Mullaperiyar.

Controversial Issues

Travancore National and Quilon bank

The Travancore and Quilon National Bank was started in 1912 by K.C. Mammen Mappilai and the Quilon bank in 1919 by C.P. The Amalgamation took place in 1937 led to the birth of Travancore National and Quilon Bank. It was registered in Travancore and become famous in less time. However, some of the essential requirements of sound banking referred by him like avoidance of politics and nepotism or lending money on securities of dubious value had not been fully satisfied. The Directors of the Bank had political connections and the leaders of the earlier abstention and the later State Congress movements were not only closely associated with it but some like T.M.

Varghese who held the post of Legal Advisor were on its payroll. The Directors and their relatives were also given loans liberally.

The run on the Bank began on April 8, 1938. Rumors spread in Travancore and outside that the Bank was about to collapse and the deposits made by the customers were not safe. Consequently, all the branches of the Bank faced the run. It held its own for over three months, but a stage came when it was not possible to manage the situation. The Bank had to approach the State Government and the Reserve Bank of India for help to ward off the contingency of liquidation, but it failed to muster enough support from these quarters. The Diwan was evidently unsympathetic to the Bank and he did play a role in making things difficult for the directors. K.C. Mammen Mappilai refers to Sir C.P.'s activities in this regard as 'Operation sabotage'⁶. A study of the letters written by Sir C.P. to the Maharaja and of the notes and minutes of the interviews between the two functionaries during those crucial months shows that Sir C.P. was not acting on his own but as the agent of the Palace in every sense. And right from the beginning to the end of the operation, true to his style of functioning, Sir C.P. kept the Maharaja and his mother above all controversy. It is necessary, in this context, to bear in mind that the support given by the Christian community to the Regent Maharani had incurred the displeasure or wrath of the Junior Maharani with the result that with the accession of Sri ChithiraThirunal to the throne there was a backlash against the Christian community⁷. It is self-evident that the decision to crush the Travancore and Quilon National Bank was taken in the Palace itself and the Diwan was only devising ways and means of carrying out the decision.

Responsible Government

The struggle for responsible government started in 1938. But the call for responsible government happened in 1921 by students in Travancore at the time of Diwan Raghavaiah. Their demands include the ruling of Diwan to end and to form a government under the Maharaja by electing representatives. But the Diwan suppressed the movement for responsible government. The police and agitators faced each other vigorously in many parts of Travancore. These incidents made the world to see C.P. as a dictator. But that not the all of it. C.P. discussed all things with the palace. We cant neglect the fact that all his doings were backed by the Palace & Maharaja. We can say the period for C.P. as Diwan was extended by the palace as the proof for this.

Sir C.P. and Press

Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iiyar was a communicator par excellence and he maintained good relation with journalists and news agencies at state and national levels. But the Punnapra-Vayalar and responsible government movement has shown a different relation between C.P. and the press. Apart from his earlier approach to press he took actions against some of the newspapers. Kerala Kaumudy, The Hindu, Cochin Papers & Malayala Manorama had to face actions. But the important one was with Malayala Manorama. The Malaya Manorama of Kottayam edited by K.C. Mammen Mappilai was a staunch supporter of responsible government movement. In September 1938 Diwan Sir C.P. cancelled the license and sealed the newspaper.

American Model Constitution

Sir C.P. had suggested even as early as 1928 that the American model of irremovable executive was best suited to Indian conditions. The American system of Government, which provided for an irremovable Executive, through democratic, did not have any place in the imagination of the people. However this Idea gave the power of U.S. President to the Diwan. Even if the idea of American Model constitution was C.P.'s, but he discussed it with the palace. We cant think that without the palace's permission he introduced the model. But only C.P. was criticized for this.

Punnapra – Vayalar

The Punnapra-Vayalar uprising, one of the tragic events in the history of Modern Travancore occurred during the Diwanship of Sir. C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar. It began essentially as a revolt of the peasantry and working class in the Ambalappuzha –Cherthala area under the leadership of the Communist party of India, but soon acquired the dimensions of a popular local uprising aimed at the overthrow of the existing political order as well. But most of the leaders who goaded them to fight it out of left the seen and lend themselves to the charge of having deliberately made fatal victims of their gullible followers in order to serve the narrow interest of the party.⁸

Diwan Sir C.P. had his own responsibility for the bloody carnage at Punnapra-Vayalar is an undisputed fact. The possibility cannot, however, be discounted of the local officials having given him an exaggerated picture of the situation prevailing in the area and influenced the Diwan's decision to resort to excessive use of force by calling in

the military equipped with such sophisticated weapons as machine guns to quell the rebellion. Most probably, the situation could have been tackled by the State Police and Para-military forces by resorting to the normal methods.⁹

In the autobiographical essay written in the illustrated weekly of India on November 1, 1959, Sir C.P confessed that bound by his loyalty to the Royalty Dynasty; he took 'strong action against some Communist groups and others and thereby an extreme political position which subsequent events have proved to be unwarranted and which doubtless produced needless hostility'. Evidently, Punnapra-Vayalar have been in his mind when he made this belated confession.

It should be noted that both Temple Entry and Martial Law were enforced by Royal proclamations. The credit for the former is often given almost exclusively to the Maharaja while the blame for the latter is assigned exclusively to the Diwan, as though in the eyes of the writers concerned the King could do no wrong and the minister could do no right. Above all, the Maharaja himself appointed the Diwan as Lieutenant General and entrusted him with the Supreme Command of the military operations with full powers to take any action he deemed fit for suppressing the insurrection. In the circumstances, the attempt to absolve the Maharaja of all responsibility for the happening in Punnapra-Vayalar is to do injustice to history. Being the Ruler with Sovereign Powers his responsibility for the action was definite and undeniable. If he really did not approve of the Diwan's action, he could have dispensed with his services at least after the event and expressed his displeasure and thus made amends. Far from doing so what happened was that he persuaded the Diwan who resigned his office and left the State on December to withdraw his resignation and resume duties within a fortnight. This should be taken as virtual endorsement by the Ruler of the policies pursued by the Diwan.

The Independent Travancore

When the negotiations for transfer of power took place in Delhi between the British Government and the Indian leaders in 1947, Travancore openly declared its intention to set itself up as sovereign and independent State without acceding to the new Indian Union. The decision taken by the ruling family of Travancore found in Diwan Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer its able advocate and ardent protagonist. The move caused much concern to the central leaders and having realized the futility of the talks in this regard in the face of the strong stand taken by the central leadership. Travancore was at last forced to give up its claim to independence and Join the Union.

There has been a lot of discussion on the question of the genesis of the idea of Travancore as a sovereign and independent country outside the Indian Union. It has been the fashion to blame Sir C.P Ramaswamy Iyer as the person exclusively responsible for this imbroglio and to exonerate the Maharaja of all responsibility in this matter. This is nothing but distortion of history. It is undeniable that Sir C.P as the spokesman of the Indian States had a decisive hand in making the British Government commit themselves to the doctrine of the lapse of Paramountry leading to the independence of these States under the law, but it has to be bear in mind that only the Rulers of the respective States could have taken the final decision on the practical question of independence of each State. This is what actually happened in Travancore.

It may be noted that the decision to keep Hyderabad, Junagadh and Jammu and Kashmir outside the Indian Union was taken by the Rulers of the respective States and not by the Diwan's or Chief Ministers. In Travancore too the decision being taken by the Maharaja or the Royal Family after having weighed the pros and cons of the step, it was only natural that a loyal Diwan like Sir C.P espoused the cause with the characteristic fervor of an able lawyer presenting the case of his client: In fact, it is extremely doubtful whether the Travancore Royal family would have ever dreamt of an independent State, if it did not have at its disposal the services of a stages man of the caliber and stature of Sir C P Ramaswamy Iyer as its staunch advocate.

It is worth mentioning here that a member of the Royal family, Gouri Lakshmi Bai, stated in an address which she delivered to the IAS Probationers at the Institute of Management in Government in Thiruvananthapuram in October 1997, that the decision on Independent Travancore was taken by the Royal Family itself in order to ward off the possibility of North Indian domination. In addition, the accredited spokesman of the Kowdiar Palace, a retired IAS Officer, in an article contributed by him to the 'Kalakaumudi Weekly (Issue 1230 dated April 4, 1999), at the instance of the Palace, also made a similar statement.

Conclusion:-

Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer was the Diwan of Travancore Princely state for 11 years from 1936 to 1947. Before he was appointed as the Diwan he worked as the legal constitutional advisor of Maharaja of Travancore. He proved his excellence as a politician, a statesman, administrator of Travancore politics. He was praised and appraised at the same time. In pages of history he is being depicted as an oppressor and tyrant especially due to the strong action taken by him against Travancore State Congress and Punnappra Vayalar insurrection organized by the communist party. The negative aspects of his administration have won more attention than the positive aspects he made. C.P. has been criticized as an authoritarian and anti communist. He was also criticized for liquidating the Travancore National & Quilon Bank and deliberately sealing the office of Malayala Manorama. Communist hatred over C.P.'s policies finally culminated in an assassination attempt to Diwan. But despite of his antagonism against Communist, he opposed the dismissal of the Communist Government of Kerala headed by EMS in 1959 by the Jawaharlal Nehru as unconstitutional. C.P. was also labeled as Secessionist due to his independent Travancore declaration.

The credits of the all significant achievements of the reign goes to Maharaja and responsibilities of lapse and failures on the Diwan but this has to change. When we criticize C.P the Royal Family also has to be criticized. And the achievements also be equally distributed. By doing this paper attempts I came to the conclusion that C.P. was a good administrator and great personality but somehow he was a dictator. We can't forgot his contribution to bring Travancore as the number one princely state in British India. He kept good relation with both the British and Travancore. He believed only in himself. If he was not there, the history of Travancore would be different. His life was a 'historical enigma'.

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