



## ROLE OF E.V.R. PERIYAR IN THE SOCIAL REFORM ACTIVITIES OF DRAVIDAR KAZHAGAM

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### **ABSTRACT**

The political party Dravidar Kazhagam was floated in the year 1944, with the aim of casteless socialism. It worked to create casteless society, a society free from the shackles of superstitious beliefs based on religion and God. The other aims were to provide equality of opportunity among the masses, fight for the liberation of women and to provide them equal chances and rights in the matter of education, property and in all spheres of public activities as men. To achieve this goal, the Dravida Kazhagam advocated the necessity of social reform or social revolution. According to the Movement, the problem facing the nationalists, self-respecters and socialists was not mere social reform but really what may be called destructive work to be undertaken with courage and resolution. The Movement came to this conclusion only after deep introspection and practical experience. From the beginning, the Dravida Kazhagam professed to be for social reform and its philosophy consisted of rationalism and social emancipation. Rationalism implied the liberation of mind from superstition, which required the abandonment of the beliefs in God and destruction of scriptures. In Medieval Times, the Siddhas made references to the need for rationalism but it was E.V R. who made it a philosophy of his life. Social Emancipation, according to E.V.R, required the destruction of caste system and inequality between men and women. The social organizations founded in the Nineteenth Century, touched upon social evils but E.V.R. took a bold stand for the emancipation of the oppressed communities and women from all forms of iniquities. This was possible only when the Dravidians were liberated from the Brahminical influences, associated with the Aryans. These concepts appeared revolutionary and to a large extent not pragmatic, yet he made them live issues so as to create an awareness among the people.

**Keywords** : Shackles, superstitious, destructive, introspection, emancipation, abandonment, scriptures, iniquities, pragmatic.