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A study of the changing trend of social movements in Bihar (1800-1947 and beyond)

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Abstract : *Social movement primarily takes the form of non-institutionalized collective political action which strives for political and social change. While Bihar has witnessed many such movements over the centuries, it is only recently that scholars have begun to study them in depth.*

This study is categorized into three kinds of movements i.e., tribal, peasant and women's movements. The present study has been undertaken to understand the changing trend of the social movements. The study of these movements is based on primary sources like interviews, online surveys, and random individual questionnaire surveys and colonial reports. Secondary sources like books and websites have been used.

In the tribal section, findings shed light on the tribal movement, issues, leadership, organization of colonial and post colonial period.

In the peasant section, findings shed light on the movements, issues, ideologies and leadership of colonial and post-colonial period.

In the women's section, findings shed light on movements, issues, and reforms of colonial and post colonial period.

Keywords : *Social movement, tribal, peasant, women, colonial period, post-colonial period.*

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Introduction :

Social movements are an integral part of India's history and emphatically that of Bihar's. Due to the shifting focus of historians from the history of the elite to that of the subaltern, social movement of the different classes has taken on a new importance. In the words of Sumit Sarkar, it is a 'history from below'. Modern Bihar is shaped by the social movements of the masses which took place during the colonial period. These social movements were largely mass movements of the downtrodden, particularly those of peasants, tribal communities and women. These movements though functioned differently from one another.

Our study is limited to Bihar from the period 1800 to 1947. In this context, the expression 'Bihar' includes