

CHAPTER - 3.

CHAPTER-3KARMAVEER BHAURAO PATIL- A SOCIAL REFORMER.

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3-1 INTRODUCTION

Bhaurao Paigounda Patil is usually known as ^a Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil. Karmaveer means hero in action. This title is not given by the Government. Just as Gandhiji is known as Mahatma. Bal Gangadhar Tilak is known as Lokmanya. Chittaranjan Das is known as Deshbandhu. In the same way Bhaurao Patil is known as Karmaveer. This title is given by his admirers.

Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil is known as braker of traditions and customs. His services ^e has been his contribution ~~in~~ the field of education. He ^{English} has proved that it is possible that free education through self help, from primary stage to the stage of higher education.

Mr. B.G.Kher as chief minister of Bombay State (in those days called Bombay provience) said that "Shri. Bhaurao Patil is wellknown figure in the fields of education and Backward Service in Maharashtra, especially Satara and rural area of Satara District.

Karmaveer Bhauroao Patil was a great educationist and national intigrator. He was also honoured with President's award "PADMA BHUSHAN" and D.Litt. by Poona University.

Bhauroao always laid great stress on the dignity of Labour. He expected his students to do hard manual work.

In the educational development of Maharashtra State the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha has played very important role during the last seventy years. and put a very great ideal before many other educational institutes. It is perhaps the first educational experiment ever practised in the whole of India. Hence it can be proudly said that Karmaveer Bhauroao Patil is one of the few architects of Modern Maharashtra. His work and devotion will inspire educationists, Social reformers and even politicians in their respective undertakings.

3-2 CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOLDAYS OF KARMAVEER BHURAO PATIL.

Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil was born on 22nd September, 1886 at Kumbhoj, ^hHis mother's native place. His father was a Government Servant. And his service was transferable. Hence Bhaurao got his primary education in those villages in which his father was transferred. He spent his childhood years in Tasgaon, Dhaiwadi and Vita all in the Satara District.

Bhaurao got his high school education in Rajaram High School, Kolhapur. In Kolhapur he lived in a Jain Boarding. In school life Bhaurao was not well in his studies. Anyhow with difficulties he went upto pre-matriculation class. But Bhaurao had good physique and he was fond of gymnastics. And he liked to do hard physical labour. In future, Bhaurao as an educationist he laid great stress on the dignity of labour. He always expects his students to do hard manual work.

Bhaurao Patil has three brothers and two sisters. The brother immediately younger to him was a lawyer at Jaisingpur. And his youngest brother was Jamadar in the police Department.

Parents of Bhaurao Patil

Bhaurao's mother's name was Shrimati Gangubai and his Father's name was Paigounda Patil.

Paigounda Patil, when he was about twenty years old entered into Government Service as a Clerk. It was his great ambition that his children be educated and at least one of them should become a University graduated. But he was disappointed because non could get the University degree. But he lived long enough to see his eldest son, Bhaurao made it possible for Thousands of young men to get University degree.

Paigounda Patil was a very hard worker and a man of great self respect.

Paigounda Patil was always satisfied with simple living. He belonged to a leading family among the Chaturth Jains.

After getting retirement from Government Service, Paigounda Patil bought a plot of ground at Jaisingpur.

School days of Bhaurao Patil

Bhaurao got his primary education in a small village-Vita. in Satara District. For Highschool study he was admitted to Rajaram High School in Kolhapur.

Bhaurao spent nearly Seven years at Kolhapur. But he did not pass the matriculation examination. In his school days Bhaurao was never an intelligent or studious boy. Even he did not have the necessary school books with him. But Bhaurao had good physique and was fond of gymnasium, Single bars and Malkhamb.

In spite of his poor progress with books, Bhaurao took keen interest in doing hard physical work. He always said that foundation of his philosophy of education was laid in the Jain Hostel at Kolhapur, by its Superintendent Mr. A. B. Latthe. In hostel life Bhaurao Patil was a good worker.

In India there are numerous castes and sub-castes. The members of these castes and sub-castes do not dine with another. Boys who freely learn in the class-rooms did not eat together.

Bhaurao was often scolded and punished by his parents for not doing well in studies and for not attending to his school. He always used to spend his time in playing games. Bhaurao left of schooling when he was in Standard VI of the high school. (Pre-matriculation class.)

3-3 HIS SCHEMES OF EDUCATION

1) Education through self help/Earn while you learn scheme.

"Education through self help" is a motto of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha. In the hostels of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha special emphasis was laid on admission to the untouchables. In the same way every student of his hostels was bound to do manual work.

Education based on manual labour was the part of Karmaveer's philosophy of education. No student was denied of ^{the right} getting education on account of his poverty. A Novel system in this regard was introduced by Karmaveer which is known as "Education through self help". It helped to bridge the gulf of white ^{coloured} coloured educated and working class society.

"You come, You earn and You learn" was the nature of this Scheme.

The poor students coming for education were expected to do manual labour. The manual labour was in agriculture, gardening, building construction, road repairs, Sweeping, cleaning in schools and colleges and hostels.

This scheme proved to be a boon to the "have nots".

Students used to come to Rayat Shikshan Sangtha with empty pockets but with sound mind and two strong arms and leave with University Degrees.

Bhaurao laid great stress on the dignity of labour. He expected his students to do hard manual work. Bhaurao's expectation was his students should be ready to help themselves by the sweat of their brow.

Education through self help was his slogan. It is perhaps the first educational experiment ever practised in the whole of India. Karmaveer has shown to all coming from poor families that one can be educated by one's own sweat of brow and that poverty can not come in the way of their education. Just a strong will power and readiness to hard work is required.

Give me waste land and I will turn it into the best land.

It was a ^{an} appeal by the Karmaveer to the Government that "Give me waste land and I will turn it into the best land".

Bhaurao always try to acquire plots of land near his schools and colleges. And on these piece of lands his students use to work and earn their lively hood.

The Bombay Government had donated about 100 acres of land in Devapur in Man Taluka of Satara District. On this land the students of Shivaji College, Satara worked in the vacation period and grew foodgrains.

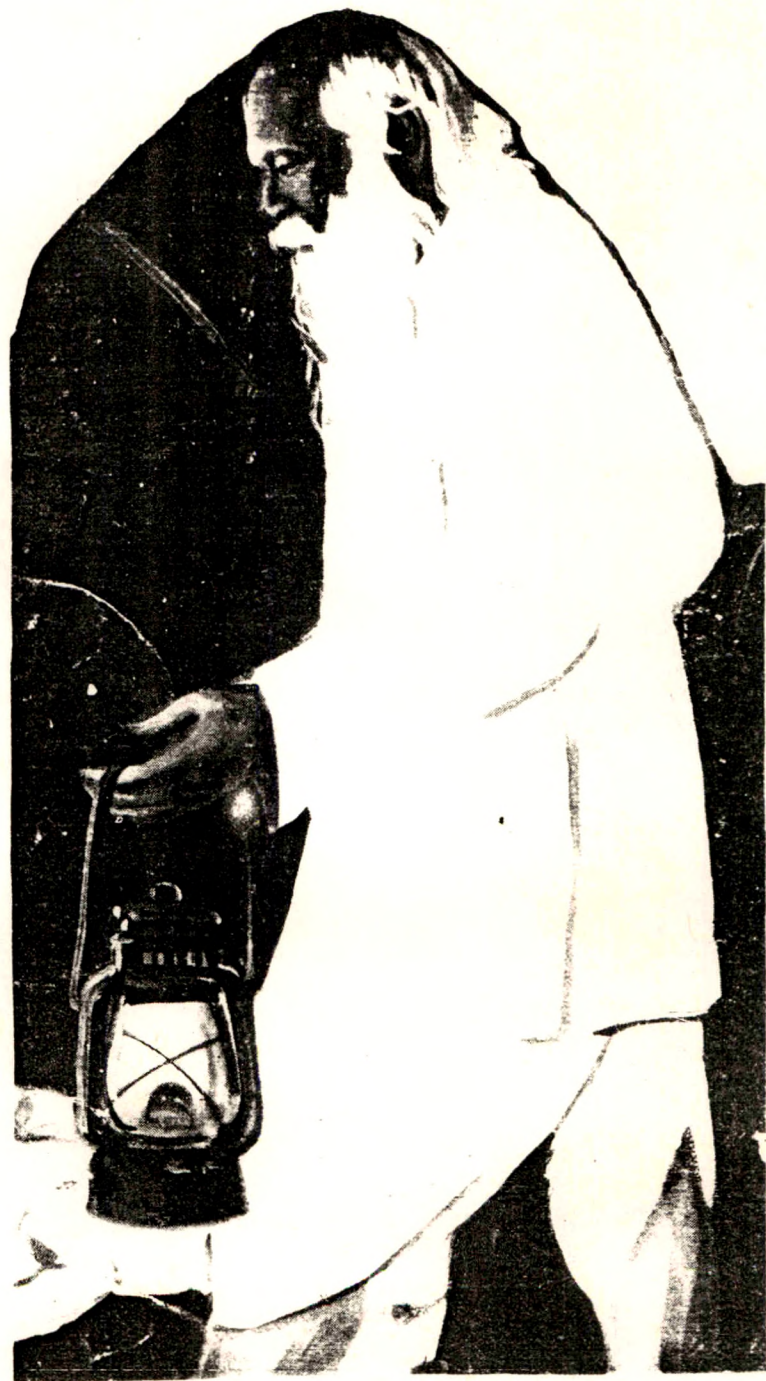
With the co-operation of Tate Board of Reconstruction, Bhaurao built up schools, wells, wind mills, a mobile dispensary, animal husbandry etc. This useful work is still continued in the Sanstha.

The students use to put in manual labour for a couple of hours everyday. Jowar, Bajra, Groundnuts etc. were grown here and it was used for school kitchen.

Bhaurao was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's Wardha Scheme of education. But he started manual labour scheme in his Shahu Boarding house in April, 1933.

Rayat Shikshan Sanstha acquired Wadala farm about 160 acres in the Nagar Dist. students from neighbouring highschools and colleges used to work on this farm and earned for their education.

A Horticultural project was operated on the campus of Annasaheb Awate college at Manchar in Poona District. Fruit-trees are planted on the mountain side area of about 50 acres donated by Maharashtra Government to this college. The experiment was conducted under the kind supervision of the principal P.A. Panwal with the co-operation of college students.



The late Madhavrao Scindia of Gwalior has also donated 1300 acres of land at Jangaon and Shrigonda in the Ahmadnagar District. The students also put in manual labour here too.

Karmaveer wanted to develop sence among the students that work of any kind, low or dirty has a dignity of its own. It teaches a sence of equality.

3-4 The uneducated educationalist.

Karmaveer did not do well in his school studies. Anyhow he could reach pre-matriculation class with difficulty.

There is an interesting story about Karmaveer Bhauro Patil. That Bhau failed in one class. And that time The Shahu Maharaja, the maratha ruler of the Kolhapur State, tried to intervene for Bhau's promotion to the higher class. But an humble but very strong-willed Brahmin School teacher Mr. Bhargavrao Kulkarni refused to do it. And politely he said, I would rather promote the wooden benches in my class than this boy who has secured seven out of two hundred marks. Realy it shows the courage of a simple primary teacher.

We being

Bhaurao's school career, far from successful so far as his academic qualifications are concern. But three out of four Vice-Chancellors simultaneously taking charge as Vice-Chancellors were the products of the Rayat Shikshan Sangtha which was established by Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil.

3-5 Views of Karmaveer Bhaurao regarding intercaste-marriages.

Bhaurao Patil settled many marriages. He advocated and propagated the need of intercaste marriages. It was his firm faith that intercaste marriage would bring about speedy social harmony.

In our society there is a great difference between men and women. Hindu widowers can marry but widows can not.

In the hostels of Rayat Shikshan Sangtha court committed boys and girls are also admitted. Orphans are also given shelter in these hostels. These boys and girls are neglected by their own families and even by the society. They come from broken families.

3-5 Education of Girls.

Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil was highly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and Jotiba Fule.

Mahatma Jotiba Fule was the true source of inspiration for Karmaveer's social and educational cause.

The first school which was founded by Jotiba Fule was one for girls.

Bhaurao Patil believed that there are two kinds of backward communities. One is non-Brahmins i.e. depressed classes of the society and other is womenfolk of all communities.

In those days starting a girl school was regarded as a kind of interference with the existing order of social life. And hence such attempts were bitterly opposed.

Girls were often married before they reach their tenth year. Child-marriage was not a new thing. woman, befor marriage in their parents home and oafter marriage in their husband's house were expected to look after the comforts of the family members only.

Time and energy spent on girl's education was supposed to be waste. It also creates disputes and troubles in the homes.

But Mahatma Jotiba Fule and Karmaveer Bhauroo Patil has strong belief that only literate woman and woman can change the economic & Social life.

There is a great difference in social status as well as inequality between men & woman, because in our traditions a widower can marry again but a widow can not. Therefore Mahatma Jotiba Fule as well as Karmaveer Bhauroo Patil advocated the remarriage of widows.

Now in Rayat Shikshan Sangtha in rural and urban areas thousands of girls attend the schools and colleges. Before independence Bhauroo Patil has established a cosmopolitan hostel for girls as well as Jijamata Training college for primary lady teachers. Female education was given a proper stress in Rayat Shikshan Sangtha.

3-6 Karmaveer's living -

Karmaveer's living was very simple. He ate the same food which his students etc. His dress was very simple. When he first saw Mahatma Gandhi in Bombay, in 1921 calling on people to make a bonfire of their foreign clothes, Bhauroo threw his foreign clothes in fire. From that time, he went about everywhere clad in rough khadi clothes.

He never put any headdress or footwear. The 'ghongadi' he wore on his shoulders was his raincoat in the monsoon.

In the same dress he attended a Darbar of His Highness Sahajirao Gaikwad's court at Baroda and he also attended a reception given to the Russian Prime Minister on Pune in 1956 in the same dress.

Whenever he used to travel to collect donations for his institutions, many times he had to sleep in the open on the bank of river and on the foot paths of Bombay city or he preferred to stay with ^{the} working class people.

He always preferred ^{to} live the life of ordinary life. Bhauroo had no property of his own. Throughout his life time he refused to accept any salary or honorarium for his service rendered to the sangtha. He kept this simplicity right to the end of his life. In the whole of his childhood he never had a hot bath. Bhauroo was a good swimmer, so he used to go into a well for bath.

Whenever Bhauroo used to see his father. His father paigounda Patil has paid the Railway fare of his son, saying that, "You have come to see me, And I must pay for your travel. You should not pay the money of your sangtha on a visit to your father.

Bhauroo was not rich by money. He was rich by heart. He had great faith in the willingness of other

Clad in Khadi dhoti and Shrit this barefooted and bare headed Karmaveer moved from village to village and from Dist. to Dist. giving his message of the need of education and education through self-help.

3-7 Administrative set up of Rayat Shikshan Sangtha.

The democratic administrative set up of the Rayat Shikshan Sangtha is a outstanding feature. For smooth administration and working of the Sangtha as well as proper supervision of the day to day working carrying out inspections of Schools and colleges, inspections and audits of the branches, the Rayat Shikshan Sangtha has established five regional offices at

- 1) Satara
- 2) Sangli
- 3) Ahmadnagar.
- 4) Pune and
- 5) Raigad.

The central office is situated at satara. It is a Head quarter of the entire Rayat Shikshan Sangtha.

The general body, the managing council, the Board of the life members, Higher education committee (For college education) and co-ordination committee (For high School & Primary education) are established.

Periodically meetings are held on democratic lines. Policy forming for smooth day to day working as well as many issues from the administrative point of view are formed in these meetings, for the execution of the policies formed, decisions are taken in the above meetings. The key posts of the organisor, the secretary, the Joint Secretary, Auditor and five respective regional Inspectors are established.

The working of the Sanstha is guided by eminent dignataries of National and State level. as the president and chairman.

At present following are the personnel working in the different capacities.

- 1) President - Shri. Sharadrao Gotindrao Pawar.
Defence Minister of India.
- 2) Chairman - Prin. Shri. N. D. Patil
- 3) Organisor - Shri. Appasaheb Patil
- 4) Secretary - Prin. Shri. M. M. Swamy
- 5) Jt. Secretary - Prin. Suryavanshi (Higher educati
- 6) Jt. Secretary - Shri. M. K. Bhosale
(Secondary school)

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Divisional Inspectors

- 1) Central Region : Shri. H.Y.Patil
(Satara)
- 2) South Region : Shri. B.A.Hore.
(Sangli)
- 3) North Region : Shri.H.G.Vavahare
(Ahmadnagar)
- 4) Western Region : Shri. S.A.Mane
(Pune)
Panwel
- 5) Panwel : Shri.B.A.Mane
(Raigad)
Region

The most remarkable thing in this administrative set up is this that karmaveer Bhaurao Patil who has formed this administrative set up had never been a member of any administrative body.

Another worth-nothing Principle of the Rayat Shiksha Sanstha is this that every educational institutio (Branch) is managed and financed by its own sources.

No financial help is given by the sanstha to any individual institution for constructing Buildings or for any capital expenditure or for day to day expenses.

From time to time the huge army of devoted workers of the sangtha. The rayat (general Public) and the central and State Govts. have helped the Sangths. ' A banayab tree' is a symbol of Rayat Shikshan Sangtha.

3-9 Life Oriented courses at Solapur.

A great donor Mr. Vilas chandra Motichand Mehta from Bombay has donated a land at Solapur. In near future short term course for those students who could not complete their secoundy education, are likely to be started. Hostel facility will be provided to these students.

Shri. Jaikumar Patil, Member of Managing council of Rayat Shikshan Sangtha in his interview told this thing to the researcher.

3-10 Concluding Remarks

The work of Karmaveer Bhauroao Patil regarding education of girls, court committed boys and girls, His simple living and high thinking, his schemes of education shows that he was a great social reformer.

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Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil

Glimpses of a Great Life

Educational Work

1. Participated actively since 1909 in the work of 'Shikshan Prasarak Mandal', Dudhgaon.
2. Established in 1919 the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha at Kale, Tal. Karad, Dist. Satara for imparting education to the children of the villagers.
3. Opened in 1921 a hostel at Nerle, Tal. Walwa.
4. Established in 1924 the first Students' Hostel at Satara which was meant for the students coming from all communities, castes and creeds. He named it, after the name of the great Social Reformer viz., Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, at the auspicious hands of Mahatma Gandhi in 1927. Since then, Mahatma Gandhi used to give annual donation of Rs. 500/- from the Harijan Sevak Fund which was founded by him.
5. Established in 1932 a cosmopolitan 'Union Boarding House' which was a hostel meant for students coming from rural areas for taking higher education in Poona.
6. In 1935, he got the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha registered under the Societies' Registration Act. In the same year he established a Training College for training Primary teachers.
7. In 1936, he established the first primary school at Satara and named it after the social worker from Satara viz., Rao Bahadur R. R. Kale.
8. Established in 1938, the first—Voluntary Primary School of the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha at Yewateshwar, a village which is situated on a hill. In the succeeding years he started as many as 578 similar voluntary primary schools in the hilly, mountainous and famine-stricken areas.
9. In 1940, he established a free and residential secondary school at Satara and named it after Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad. The School was meant for students coming from all classes and communities. Afterwards he founded 101 secondary schools during his life-time.
10. In 1942, he started a cosmopolitan hostel for girls and established Jijamata Training College meant for training the Primary school lady-teachers.
11. In 1947, he established at Satara the first College on behalf of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha imparting higher education to students in the rural areas of the then Bombay State and named it after the National Hero viz., Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. For some early years it was conducted as a free and residential college.
12. The second College for imparting University Education was started at a Taluka Place, Karad (Dist. Satara) in 1954. It was named after the great saint of Maharashtra viz., Sant Gadage Maharaj.
13. In 1955, he established a B.Ed. College at Satara which was meant for training the secondary school teachers and he named it after the great National Leader, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Allied Educational Work

1. Participated actively in solving the problems and difficulties regarding services of the primary teachers and guided their State Level Organisation.
2. Worked as a Member nominated by the Chancellor on the Court of the Poona University.
3. Worked as a Member of the Advisory Body of the Mahatma Gandhi Vidyamandir, Malegaon, Dist. Nasik.
4. Worked as a Member of the Latthe Education Society at Sangli.
5. Worked as a Member of the Provincial Board for Education of the Bombay State.

6. Set an ideal example before the whole nation through Rayat Shikshan Sanstha by various innovative educational experiments in 'Education through Self-help', 'Dignity of labour', 'Earn and Learn' and chatusutri—i.e. 'Swavalamban— Swabhiman—Swadhyay—Samata'.

Social Work

1. Worked as frontline worker in the Satyashodhak Movement started by Mahatma Phule.
2. Played a leading role in the Movement for Eradication of Untouchability.
3. Participated and worked actively in the Harijan Sevak Sangh established by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.
4. Worked as a Member of the Mission established by one of the great saints of Maharashtra, viz., Sant Gadge Maharaj for purposes of social unity, justice, brotherhood and uplift of the Harijans.
5. Worked as a Trustee of the Depressed Class Mission which was founded by a great Social Reformer, viz., the late Vitthal Ramji Shinde.
6. Worked for many years as a Member of the Backward Class Welfare Board of the then Bombay Presidency.
7. Executed effectively a Scheme of all sided development of the nine villages started by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust Rural Development Board at Devapur, Dist. Satara in famine stricken area.
8. Worked as a Trustee of the Sant Chokha Mela Dharmashala which was founded for the welfare of the Harijans.
9. Worked as a Trustee of the Shashikala Sanitorium (T.B. Hospital) at Jaisingpur, Dist. Kolhapur.
10. Actively participated in the Social Conference held in Pune for Social Unity and Social Justice.
11. Worked for many years as a member of the Satara District Development Board.
12. Worked for many years as a Member of the Rural Development Board, Satara and of the Provincial Board, Bombay.
13. Worked as a Member of the Satara District Board which was established for the welfare of the Harijans.
14. Made untiring efforts to safeguard the interests of the workers from different industries by forming their organisations and looking after the education of their wards.

Work in Cooperation Movement

- ✓ 1. Started in 1911 and effectively implemented the Cooperative Farming Scheme at Koregaon, Satara District. The Scheme was meant for the welfare of the peasants.
2. Established in 1940 a Cooperative Society for the sake of workers in the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha. The Society was later converted into a Cooperative Bank.
3. Established in 1942 a Cooperative Store for the sake of the workers in the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha.
4. Established "Sou Laxmibai Patil Fund" for giving financial assistance or interest free loan to the poor and deserving students. (It was later converted into *Patpedhi*)
- ✓ 5. Helped to raise the standard of life of the peasants having small holdings by developing their farms through the establishment of many cooperative societies at and around Devapur in Satara District.

KARMAVEER BHAURAO PATIL

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1887 : **September, 22 :**
Born at Kumbhoj, Tal. Hatkanangale, District Kolhapur.
- 1902 : Joined 'Rajaram High-School' and 'Jain Boarding' Kolhapur.
- 1909 : Active Participation in the work of 'Shikshan Prasarak-Mandal', Dudhgaon.
- 1912 : Married to 'Adakka' (Laxmibai), the daughter of Shri Anna Patil, Kumbhoj.
- 1914 : King Edward's Statue—
'Tar Episode' (Kolhapur).
Sales Representative—Ogale Glass Works, Ogalewadi.
- 1916 : Sales Representative—Kirloskar Brothers Limited, Kirloskarwadi.
- 1919 : **October, 4 :**
Established the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha and opening a hostel at Kale, Tal. Karad, District Satara.
- 1920 : Pledges to wear Khaddar for life time.
- 1921 : Resigns services of Kirloskar Brothers Ltd., Kirloskarwadi.
Opens a hostel at Nerle, Tal. Walwa.
- 1924 : Shifts the headquarters of the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha from Kale to Satara and opens a cosmopolitan hostel.
- 1927 : **February, 25 :**
Naming ceremony of the hostel at Satara as 'Chhatrapati Shahu Boarding House' at the auspicious hands of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.
- 1932 : Opens a cosmopolitan hostel : 'Union Boarding House' in Poona, for college students.
- 1935 : Registration of the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha.
Opens a Training College for Primary teachers.
- 1936 : Opens 'Rao Bahadur Kale Practising School', Satara.
- 1938 : Forms 'Primary Education Committee' and opens the first voluntary Primary School at Yevateshwar, Tal. Satara.
- 1940 : Opens the first free and residential Secondary School : Maharaja Sayajirao High-School Satara.
- 1945 : Felicitations and presentation of a purse of Rs. 25,000/- by Merchants of Kolhapur.
- 1947 : Opens the first free and residential college : 'Chhatrapati Shivaji College', Satara.
- 1948 : Felicitations and presentation of a purse of Rs. 1,00,000/- by 'The Satara District Students' Congress', at the auspicious hands of Sant Gadge Maharaj.
: Felicitations and presentation of a Chevrolet car by his students.
- 1952 : Felicitations and presentation of a purse of Rs. 25,000/- by the workers of Kirloskar Brothers Ltd., Kirloskarwadi, at the auspicious hands of Hon'ble D.P. Karmarkar, ~~Union Minister~~.
- 1954 : Opens the first college in rural areas :
'Sadguru Gadage Maharaj College', Karad
- 1955 : Opens a college of education at Satara.
Subsequently named in memory of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as 'Azad College of Education'.
- 1959 : **January, 26 :**
"Padma-Bhushan" awarded by the President of India.
: **April, 4 :**
"D. Litt." conferred by the University of Poona.
: **May, 6 :**
Felicitations and presentation of a purse of Rs. 1,00,000/- by the people from Ahmednagar District.
: **May, 9 :**
Breathed his last in Sassoon Hospital, Poona.
: **May, 10 :**
Cremation ceremony at Char-Bhinti (Gandhi Tekadi), Satara.