

PREFACE

The Jains form one of the important communities of this region of Kolhapur. They have contributed to various aspects of life in this region - to social reform movement, to trade and commerce, to growth of press, etc.

Many works are available on the Jain community in general, and of Kolhapur in particular. The most prominent among these works is Prof. Sangve's history of Dakshin Maharashtra Jain Sabha, titled as 'Dakshin Bharat Jain Sabhecha Itihas'. It brings up and deals with various aspects in detail. In his another work titled 'The Jain Community - A Social Survey', he deals with the Jain community in general. Similarly, S.S. Chougule also wrote a book on the Jain community titled 'Jain Samajache Kartabgar Divangat Nete'. It is a biographical work that deals with some of the important personalities of the Jain community.

However, these works make only scanty references to the educational aspects of the Jain community, particularly of this region. The Jain woman was a victim of deep rooted social evils but she benefited from socio-educational development in the State and emerged as a totally different woman in the first half of this century. As this aspect has so far remained more or less untouched, I selected it for my M.Phil. Dissertation.

However, while collecting the sources, a near total paucity of them was felt, particularly on the aspect of primary

education in this region. Administrative Reports available in the archives provide the relevant data on primary education only from 1930 onwards and that too for entire Kolhapur State. In order to remove this lacunae partially, the researcher resorted to empirical method. A questionnaire was prepared covering various aspects involved in Jain education, the questions such as her family background, the educational facilities she had, the problems she encountered while taking education. More importantly, through the questionnaire, researcher also tried to know if the education proved useful to her, whether she found the change in the educational condition of her time to the same conditions of today and what could be the motives of female education today and it could be promoted in any better way. More than 150 women responded to this questionnaire. On the basis of financial, and rural, urban background of their family, sixty of them were selected so as to reflect those aspects which directly and indirectly influenced education of female. And this is taken as representative data for the Jain population in Kolhapur district in particular and Kolhapur State at large to make certain relevant assumptions on various aspects involved in female education.

The theme of Jain women education is divided into five Chapters:

1. Socio-religious and educational conditions of the Jain community in the State of Kolhapur by the end of the 19th century;
2. General awakening among the Jain community;

3. Promotion of female education;
4. Spread of female education;
5. Conclusions.

First Chapter studies the socio-religious and educational aspects of the Jain community against the background of the region in the last decades of the 19th century. For these aspects, Prof.V.A.Sangve's work 'Jain Community - A Social Survey' is found very useful and also the Imperial Gazetteer of India (Bombay Presidency) and Maharashtra State Gazetteers are useful.

Second Chapter deals with the general awakening in the Jain community. It unfolds the thoughts and attitudes of the Jain social workers and intellectuals, both men and women who worked for creating the awakening. The sources used for this Chapter are the biographical works on A.B.Lathe, Manikchand Javeri, Pandita Maganbai, etc., besides the periodicals like 'Satyavadi', 'Pragati Ani Jinvijay', 'Mahiladarsh', etc.

In the Third Chapter, the efforts of the persons and the institutions belonging to Jain and other communities for the promotion of Jain women's education are traced. This Chapter is based on the administrative-reports, proceeding books of the Dakshin Maharashtra Jain Sabha as well as biographical works.

Fourth Chapter is about the actual spread of Jain women education. An effort is made here to trace the literacy-growth in Jain women and the degree of its spread within the community, against the male literacy and against the overall growth of

female literacy in Kolhapur State. For this Chapter, various administrative-reports, general-registers maintained at various schools and the data collected through the questionnaire mentioned above are used extensively.

Epilogue, the last Chapter studies the progress of the female education in the Jain community in the light of the favourable and unfavourable factors and forces, influencing positively and negatively. On the basis of empirical data in the form of questionnaire, the researcher has tried to trace the changes brought about by education in Jain women.

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