

PREFACE

The last quarter of nineteenth century and first of this is a very significant period in the history of this country in general and a princely state - Kolhapur - in particular. It is in this period that social reform movement aimed at upliftment of weak and backward sections of Hindu society, with natural emphasis on spread of education picked up momentum as the Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur, in particular Shahu Maharaj, fully identified themselves with the social and educational masses. The princely state of Kolhapur became conspicuous for rapid strides in the field of education. A number of primary schools and high schools mushroomed up at length and breadth of this state. Similarly, a need for college education was felt and thus "Rajaram College" was established in 1880. This college catered to the higher academic needs of Kolhapur and surrounding regions and soon blossomed into a pioneering institution.

This educational development forms a very positive and significant aspect of princely state of Kolhapur in this century. And from time to time the scholars have worked on various aspects, including educational one, of the last the Researchers have worked on educational aspect in general, including primary and higher education.

remains largely neglected.

In order to remove this lacuna partially, this Researcher has attempted a research on Rajaram College. There are partial and indirect references to it in various works which depict the educational progress of this region in general.

Not many works are available on the history of Rajaram College. Mostly they make indirect references to Rajaram College. Among these works is, Dr. B.D. Khane's 'Shri Shahu. A Study of Socio-Political Reforms'. It throws light on Rajaram College under Rajaram II only. Another work 'Female Education in Jain Community in Kolhapur District (1901-1949)' by Mrs Rujuta Khot makes out reference to Rajaram College in connection with higher education among female. Similarly, Mr V.K. Pawar and Mr V.S. Pawar deal with general conditions of education in Kolhapur, but not specifically in college education in their work, "Kolhapur State under Chhatrapati Rajaram, A Study of Educational Progress" and "A Critical Study of the Contribution of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj to the Field of Education in Kolhapur State" respectively.

While working on this scheme a marked paucity of sources was frequently felt, the bulk of this Dissertation is based on original sources, such as Administrative

Records, Census Reports, Kolhapur Gazetteer, Karvæer Gazetteer, Maharashtra State Gazetteer, Bombay Gazetteer, College registers comprising library records, accession registers etc.

However, the Administrative Reports are not available for the following years: 1881, 1883, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1907 and 1945-50. Although the Administrative Records provide very useful information, they do not maintain uniformity in terms of castewise record of students, financial details and other related matters. Similarly, the available secondary sources are also fully utilized like College magazines, centenary volume and some biographical works.

On the basis of the above mentioned original and secondary sources, an attempt is made to trace the history of Rajaram College from its inception (1880) till the merger of the state (1949-50).

Rajaram College is one of the pioneering institutions the Princely State of Kolhapur has produced. Founded in 1880, it is rightly named after Rajaram, Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, in recognition of his contribution to education in general. In fact, he was the moving spirit behind the foundation of a school in 1870, which was later converted into a college, Rajaram College.

Under successful stewardship of efficient principals such as Prof. C.H. Candy (1880-1890), Principal Balkrishna (1922-40), Principal Balasaheb Khardekar (1941-45), Rajaram College registered rapid expansion and growth so as to occupy a prestigious place in the whole of Bombay Presidency. As an instrument for the spread of enlightenment among the people, it not only fulfilled the need and demand of higher education in this region, but also produced great men, leaders, artists, sportsmen and scientists. The princely state of Kolhapur was also the seat of non-Brahminical movement and its pioneering institute, Rajaram College did justify by putting higher education within the reach of unprivileged masses. In order to study these aspects, the said theme is divided into six chapters.

Chapter I: Nineteenth Century Princely State of Kolhapur: Political, Social and Educational Condition

This chapter deals with, besides a brief survey of history of Kolhapur, the social and particularly the educational developments towards the end of nineteenth century, circumstances culminating into establishment of Rajaram College etc. For these aspects, Dr. B.D. Khane's work "Shri Shahu, A Study of Socio-Political Reforms" is found very useful. Besides this "A Student

History of India" by Narulla and Naik, the Census Reports and the Kolhapur and Maharashtra Gazetteers are also found useful.

Chapter II: Growth and Expansion of Rajaram College

This chapter surveys vivid development activities concerning this college. It discusses the factors favourable to its developments, the factors adversely affecting it. Besides the physical and material development of the college, it traces its progress through the enrollment of students, their subsequent performance at various examinations etc.. While studying these aspects substantial use is made of the Administrative Reports, the college magazines like Rajaramian, Golden Jubilee Volume and Centenary Volume.

Chapter III : Rajaram College: Financial Aspects

This chapter deals with various aspects of Rajaram College. The Records available do not throw much light on this. However, with available records the various sources of income and the possible heads of expenditure were worked out and dealt extensively with thereby establishing emerging trend. While studying this aspect the following sources were used: The Administrative Reports, Rajaramian and the Development Plan for the Kolhapur State. Unfortunately, the most important source, the

Administrative Reports have not maintained the uniformity throughout the period. However, from the available record certain trends are quite visible.

Chapter IV: Promotion and Encouragement to Higher Education

This chapter deals with the various means and methods, the college management tried to promote education. This acquires significance in a sense that the very purpose of the college was to take higher education to the very doors of poor and backward sections of the society, to whom the education was shun for centuries together. Rajaram College had, besides academic aim of spreading higher education in the region, had equally significant aim of fulfilling the social obligations. The spirit that characterised the history of Kolhapur state in the century. The Administrative Reports, Karveer Gazetteer, centenary volume were most useful in writing this chapter.

Chapter V: Principals and Their Contributions:

This chapter underlines the rule of Principal and their contributions to the development of the college into a pioneering institution. Fortunately Rajaram College had distinguished persons as Principals, famous for the knowledge and academic achievements. Of the various Principals, Prof. Candy (1880-1899) and Dr.

Balkrishna (1922-1940) in particular, are dealt with, as they together account for the 40 years out of 70 years of history of college dealt in this Dissertation. Once again in their evaluation the Administrative Reports and the centenary volume were found useful.

Chapter IV: Conclusion

In this sixth and last chapter the various aspects governing the development of the college, its performance as a leading institution, its contribution to changing social positions in the state are duly emphasized.

I received timely help and co-operation from many persons while preparing this Dissertation. First of all I would like to express my sincere thanks to my Guide, DR. M.P. Patil, who helped me and guided me in every stage of this Research. I am thankful to Prof. B.R. Kamble, Head of the Department of History, for his encouragement. I am also thankful to Shri Madhukar Golwalkar and the library staff of Rajaram College for providing me the library facilities. I also thank the Director of Kolhapur Record Office, for his timely help in providing me the necessary records. I also extend my sincere thanks to my good friend Shri Rajendra Rajeshirke, for extending me valuable help. Let me also

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(B.B. Bhosale)

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