CHAPTER I

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India witnessed a strong social reform movement in the second half of nineteenth century. As the cause of social backwardness among Hindus was traced to mass illiteracy. The same period also witnessed the strong movements for spread of education in the country. The history of princely state of Kolhapur for the said period is strongly dominated by both social reform movements and spread of education.

Kolhapur, also known as 'Karveer'[1] and famous for 'Lotus Flower'[2] boasts of social, religious and educational significance. Its long history speaks of its glorious traditions. The six rivers viz., Krishna, Warana, Hiranyakeshi, Panchganga, Dudhganga, and Vedganga and their tributaries watered the territory of Karveer enriching its soil.[3] This has turned out to be a blessing for the cultivators who reap good harvest.

This region passed through the rule of a number of dynasties. The references to it in the ancient period are vague. However, Panhala sprang into prominence under Silhara dynasty.[4] (1050-1120 A.D.)

The Silharas of Kolhapur were the third branch of Silhara dynasty, ruling over the territory constituting southern part of the Satara District, the western part of Belgaum District and mostly the then Kolhapur State.[5] The most renowned and popular prince of the Silhara family was King Raja Bhoj II. It was he who had made Panhala (as) his capital.[6]

In the medieval time, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj captured it in 1659[7] and brought this territory within the fold of Hindavi Swaraj. The credit for establishing independent throne of Kolhapur goes to his daughter-in-law, Tarabai, widow of Chhatrapati Rajaram who had successfully led the Marathas in course of war of Kolhapur for seven years, from 1700 onwards. However, the death of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1708 and subsequent release of Shahu Maharaj, grandson of Chhatrapati Shivaji and son of Sambhaji, pushed the Marathas into civil war, which ended subsequently with the establishment of two seats of Maratha power with capital Satara under Shahu and with capital Panhala under Tarabai's son Shivaji I in 1708.[8]

The rivalry between these two princely states was brought to an end by the treaty of Warana on April 13, 1731, which fixed river Warana to be the boundary between

the states.[9] Thus, the said treaty truly laid the found-ation of an independent princely state of Kolhapur. Chhatrapati Sambhaji had one of the longest spells of rule, lasting for forty-six years. It was in the reign of his successor, Shivaji II (1760-1813) that the capital was shifted to Kolhapur.[10] However, he signed two treaties with British in 1765 and 1792 A.D., which reduced Kolhapur to semi-independent state.[11] Thus, the princely state of Kolhapur lost its sovereignty. The Maharajas of Kolhapur were forced to acquire the subordinate status. It weakened the position of Chhatrapati which in turn encouraged the feudatories of Kolhapur to try to re-assert their independence.

The feudatories of Bawda, Arjunwad, Ichalkaranji expressed the sovereignty of the British Company, and asked claim to it. Their desires to be under Company Rule were not fulfilled, since Elphinston, the Governor of Bombay refused their claims.[12]

The East India Company went on strengthening its grip over the state. Shahaji alias Bawasaheb (1882-1938) had to sign two more treaties with it, which further restricted Kolhapur army by stationing permanent British Garrison in the state.[13] The old administrators were replaced by the new ones. Chhatrapati lost the area

worth Rs. 50,000 in terms of revenue.[14]

The reign of Shivaji III alias Babasaheb (1838-1856) witnessed interventions in the administration on a larger scale, so much so that the company decided to appoint chief minister to supervise administration of the state.[15] Daji Krishna Pandit was the first chief minister of the state in 1844.

The British intervention gave rise to rebellion in Kolhapur in 1844, which was suppressed and the company assumed direct control of the state in 1844.[16] A political superintendent was appointed in the state. As Kolhapur state happened to have minor rulers the power was transferred to political superintendent, thereby reducing the Chhatrapatis to a status of de jure rulers, and elevating political agent to the status of de facto rulers.[17]

However, Babasaheb, alias Shivaji III (1838-1856) was invested with full powers in 1863.[18] This step taken by the British must have been the result of non-involvement of Shivaji III in the Mutiny of 1857. However, he laid the foundation for the Modernization of Kolhapur State.

His death on August 4, 1866, pushed Kolhapur once again into instability on account of minor age of the Chhatrapatis. The said phase of instability and

uncertainty ended only with the coming of Shahu as Chhatra-
pati. And it is his rule of about two decades that changed
the very face of Kolhapur. He was the supreme head of
the Kolhapur state, free from all interventions. He
was given free hand, subject to sound administration.
"The limitations and restrictions as well as scope and
benefit of power in a princely state were to depend
upon the prudence that a native prince was to avail".[19] Chh-
atrapati Shahu proved to be very prudent, wise and far-
sighted ruler. His strong personality, convictions,
sense of justice and resourcefulness supported by the
positive British impact on educational life of this
century elevated the state of Kolhapur.

The growth and development of Indian education
was largely influenced by the Company's rule from 1765
and the rule of British Government from 1858 onwards.

It was but natural for the Company to show least
concern and interest in the education of Indians. However,
it did have the Directors such as, Charles Grant who
helped to educate Indians, to be truly in the best interest
of England as it would bring about a high degree of
understanding between the ruler and the ruled, which
in turn would considerably increase volume of trade
in India.[20]

The Company's transformation from trading concern into political power in 1765 introduced marked change in its educational policy.[21] Until 1765 the company imparted education to a selected group comprising European and Anglo Indian children, as their narrow perception of 'duty' involved only the education of the Christian children and in particular, the welfare of the company's soldiers and their Indian wives.[22]

After 1765 the base of education imparted by the company widened enough to include traditional, oriental learning in Sanskrit and Arabic.[23]

The Charter Act of 1813 proved to be a turning point in the history of education in India. It made imparting of education to Indians, one of the fundamental duties of the company. Thus, the foundation of English or modern education was laid in India. As a result a network of missionary schools was set up in India. Kolhapur was not an exception. Their main business was to popularize Christianity and convert people to Christian faith.[24]

For the purpose of educating people, the first Governor of Bombay Presidency, Mount Stuart Elphinston established the Bombay Native Education Society in 1818.[25] Thus, giving official encouragement to the Society in

rendering useful services in the cause of education. It conducted four English schools, called District Schools, each at Bombay, Thana, Poona and Panvel. They were placed under the management of European Masters.[26]

During the period of (1822-1840) the society attached more importance to district primary schools since they were the agencies of spreading western thought and science.[27] They were taught subjects like, Arithmetic, History of England and India, Geography, Astronomy, Natural philosophy, Algebra and Trigonometry.[28] These schools were described as primary schools imparting knowledge through the use of mothertongue.[29]

The progress of this Society was slow due to lack of funds and teachers. However, in 1840 it had as many as 115 schools. Apart from these schools Government also conducted two colleges in the Presidency called, Sanskrit College of Poona 1821 and Elphinston College Bombay, established in 1834.[30]

In April 1840, the Government of Bombay decided to constitute an agency for the Management of all the institutions imparting knowledge to the Indians.[31] It was called the Board of Education, consisting of seven members, of which three were nominated by the Bombay Native Education

Society. This act proved to be the last act of the Society.[32]

The Board divided the province into three educat-ional divisions and placed an European Inspector with an Indian Assistant in charge of each division.[33]

However, the Board showed no interest in improving the conditions of the indigenous schools, since they did not fulfil their cherished ideals of spreading the western knowledge, western thought and western sciences. The board acted as 'DAMPER' on indigenous schools and for next 30 years (1840-1870) no efforts were made to encourage the indigenous schools in India.[34]

The Woods Despatch constitutes the most important document in the educational history of India. It heralded a new era by treating the education of the Indian people as fundamental duty of the state. The court of Directors laid down the guiding principles for the Indian Government in performance of this great task.

As a result, education department was formed in each province of British India, headed by Director of Public Instruction.[35] The four provinces were Bengal, Madras, Bombay, and North West Province and Punjab. Thus the education of Kolhapur state came under the control of the Director of Public Instruction, Bombay.

Thus, in 1848 the direct educational activities began in the state.[36]

With the despatch of 1854, the first phase in the history of education in India came to an end.[37] The East India Company ceased to be a political power and the Government of India came directly under the administration of the Crown in 1858.[38] The period under Company's rule was called the period of controversies, rather than achievements.[39] The progress of schools under the Company was slow.

Between 1858 and 1882 the policy of Education Department was marked by two distinct points:[40]

1. A rapid multiplication of Government educational institutions.[40]

2. Unsympathetic attitude towards mission schools.[42]

The establishment of the British Control over the administration of Kolhapur State marked a major step in the history of education. Major D.C. Graham the first political superintendent of Kolhapur took keen interest in the educational affairs of the State with a view to enlarging and improving the prospects

of education.[43]

For the first time in 1848, Government opened four schools in Kolhapur State, at Kolhapur, Alte, Shirol and Panhala.[44] From 1848 to 1854 the number of schools rose to ten and the students to 405.[45] The only English high school in the State was in the city of Kolhapur. The first Government English Highschool was established in 1867 at Kolhapur.[46] In 1871, it was named 'Rajaram High School' in memory of Chhatrapati Rajaram II (1366-1870)[47]

Growth of Schools and Pupils[48]

Period	Schools increased	Pupils studying
1848-1854	4-10	405
1866-1867	10-25	1,146

This means from 1848-54 the number of schools rose to 10 with 405 pupils studying.[49] Whereas in 1867 the number rose to 25 schools with a strength of 1,147 pupils.[50] No doubt, it was good progress registered by the state.

In 1871 night schools were established for the labourers, artisans and farmers.[51] The training class for Preparing trained teachers for vernacular schools was started in the year 1861[52] and training for vernacular

girls schools in 1882.[53]

All these schools had particular objectives to attain, like training of the teachers, providing opportunities to the working class or for preparing technical experts.

In the year 1866, the Jaysingrao Ghatge Technical School was established for imparting education in carpentry, brass, iron etc.[54]

In order to understand better educational scererio in the state, the literacy rate of the state is taken into consideration. The schools and students grew in volumes between 1850-1880. There was-wide spread education, but in terms of overall literacy, the said spread was very limited. This aspect stands well emphasized from the fact that by the turn of the century, the literacy rate for the state of Kolhapur stood hardly at 4 per cent[55] whereas amongst the Hindu literates, the Brahmins constituted about 80 per cent or so.[56] Thus, the spread of education amongst the Hindus was imbalanced and one-sided.

The Brahmins who constituted hardly three per cent of overall population thus accounted for about 80 per cent literates,[57] whereas Marathas and Kunbis

accounts for 8.6 and 1.5 per cent literates respectively.[58]
The said imbalance was due to denial of education to
the non-Brahmins.

Thus, by 1880 the state of Kolhapur had registered
a very moderate growth in educational field, but the
educational picture was totally one-sided from the social
point of view. It fell on the enlightened Chhatrapatis,
such as Chhatrapati Shahu and his successor, Rajaram,
to alter the educational scales in favour of backward
castes and thereby creating some balance, foundation
of Rajaram College.

By the beginning of 1880s there were 190 schools,
one training school, one female training class, six
second grade Anglo-Vernacular schools, 154 vernacular
schools, 19 night schools and eight girls schools.[59] However
the English education in princely state of Kolhapur
commences with the foundation of English school in the
capital called 'Rajaram High School' or 'Anglo-Vernacular
School' in early eighteen-sixties.[60]

It was located in a building near the Western
Gate of the old palace, known as 'Khanvilkar's Wada'.[61] The
growth of this school into a full fledged institution
marked the important stage in the educational progress

of the state. The credit of building this institution goes to the great scholar, an orator and a great teacher Shri M.M. Kunte.[62]

Although there were good number of schools in the state, many were deprived of higher education, since there was no college in the State. Those who could afford by themselves, joined Poona or Bombay colleges for their further education but, a large section of students remained with no alternative. Primarily, out of this necessity in the year 1880 under the guidance and initiative of Mr. Vakharkar, the then Head Master of Rajaram High School, a new Department in the form of previous or first year class, affiliated to Bombay University was introduced, which marked the beginning of Rajaram College.[63] Thus, a new chapter in the history of education in Kolhapur State was written.

Establishment of Rajaram College constituted a mile-stone in the educational history of the Princely State of Kolhapur. For the first time it opened the gates of higher education to the students of this region and around.

This college belongs to the rare group of colleges which were started in the nineteenth century, viz.,

Elphinston College, Bombay 1834, Deccan College, Poona, 1860, Wilson College, Bombay, 1861, St. Xavier's College, Bombay, 1869 and Gujrat College in 1879.

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