

## P R E F A C E

Kolhapur has been an important educational centre in Western India, since the beginning of the present century. Credit for establishing this kind of reputation should go to two great rulers of Kolhapur State viz. Chh. Shahu Maharaj and Chh. Rajaram Maharaj. Of the two Chh. Shahu Maharaj made outstanding contribution in the field of socio-educational reforms. There is a good deal of literature and vast source material available for those who desire to study Chh. Shahu Maharaj and his career. But that is not the case with Chh. Rajaram. There is only one rudimentary Marathi biography of Chh. Rajaram Maharaj written by Prof. Shreedhar Herwade. Shri Dadasaheb Malharao Shirke a contemporary of Chh. Rajaram Maharaj wrote a book on the administration of Kolhapur State entitled "Kolhapurche Rajyakarbh" in 1934. Nobody has so far edited and published the speeches of Chh. Rajaram Maharaj. No memoirs of this Chhatrapati have been written very few of his close associates are now surviving. Under such circumstances it becomes difficult to study the history of Kolhapur state under Chh. Rajaram Maharaj.

In the present dissertation an attempt has been made to review the educational progress in Kolhapur State under Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj. This, therefore, is a study of only one important aspect of Chh. Rajaram Maharaja's reign. For the purpose of this study annual reports of Kolhapur State

on The General Administration for the years from 1921-22 to 1940-41, Karveer State Gazettes issued between the years 1922 and 1940, the Barnishis of the same period, old files of 'Satyavadi' a local Marathi daily etc. original sources have been utilized. Besides, I contacted such persons in Kolhapur who are now pretly senior and who had been closely associated with Chh. Rajaram Maharaj, for gathering information which has not been recorded any where.

I have great pleasure in expressing my deep sense of gratitude to my research guide Dr. Arun Bhosale, Reader in History, for his able guidance, constant encouragement, valuable advise and co-operation to me throughout the course of my present work. I must admit the fact that without his untiring efforts and great pains that he took in going through my entire manuscript this dissertation would not have seen the light of the day.

Raoasheb V.T. Patil, Ex M.P., the founder of Tarasani Vidyapeeth is now about 85 years old. He was closely associated with Chh. Rajaram Maharaj since 1930 and had been are of Maharaja's advisers. His memory is quite in fact. As he is a well informed person and an important witness to the significant developments in Kolhapur State during the Chh. Rajaram Maharaja's times my interview with him proved quite useful. I am really very much thankful to him for sparing time for me and also for his word of encouragement. Another veteran in Kolhapur is Shri Kurhade the Chief of Shivaji Vedic School, Kolhapur. He is also about 86 years old and

fortunately his memory is also good. He had the opportunity to deserve from close quarters Chh. Rajaram and his rule. He also gave me valuable information on my topic and for that I thank him profisely. Satyevadiker Pelmashree Balasheb Patil is on of such few persons who very well know the important developments in the public life of Kolhapur since 1930. He gave me all his information about Chh. Rajaram Maharaja's reign and made the files of 'Satyevadi' from 1930 to 1940 readily available to me for my study. I am grateful to him for his co-operation and kindness. His son Rajkumar Patil, who looks after the management of Satyevadi also proved to be of immense use to me. He extended to me his hearty co-operation, gave me some rare books useful for my work and also gave to me the prints of Chh. Rajaram Maharaja's photograph free of charge. I am much indebted to him for his valuable co-operation. I have also to thank Shri Shinde S.D. now an old man, the retired Head Master of Harihar Vidyalaya and Shri Mane K.D. member of Vedic Shala, Kolhapur for telling me his reminiscences about Chh. Rajaram Maharaja's outlook towards schools and education.

All the important state papers such as annual administration reports, state gazettes, barnishis etc, which proved very useful for my study are available in Kolhapur Record Office. I am indebted to Late Shri S.S. Patil, then Superintendent of Records, Kolhapur Archives, Kolhapur, Shri H.S. Toraskar, Record Keeper and Office staff for providing me with necessary records and books absolutely essential for this work. I am also indebted to Shri Yashavantao Gaste, Private

Secretary to the present Maharaj with whom I have had some useful discussion regarding the topic of my study.

I would like to express with pleasure my sense of gratitude to Prin. A.H. Garud, Rajarshi Chh. Shahu College, Kolhapur for giving me encouragement and valuable co-operation in my work. My esteemed senior colleagues Prof. Shreedhar Herwade, Dr. Vasantrao More, Prof. Shyam Yedekar, Prof. S.M. Jagtap, Prof. M.B. Jagtap, Prof. N.D. Patil, Prof. V.B. Patil extended their valuable co-operation and help to me in my study and always encouraged me. I sincerely thank them all.

Lastly I thank my friend Mr. Chandrakant D. Pawar for typing this dissertation neatly and in time.

KOLHAPUR

DECEMBER 21, 1987.

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