

CHAPTER - III

GROWTH OF PRIMARY EDUCATION

In order to comprehend the development of primary education during the reign of Chhatrapati Rajaram, a look at the condition of primary education in Kolhapur State when he succeeded to the throne will be quite useful.

TABLE - I

DESCRIPTION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS IN 1921-22

| No. of Schools | Type of Schools | No. of Pupils |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 599 | Free and Compulsory Primary Schools | 31,096 |
| 11 | Aided Indigenous Schools | 494 |
| 6 | Night Schools | 104 |
| 33 | Girls Schools | 1,918 |
| 5 | Urdu Schools | 275 |
| 614 | Total | 33,887 |

In 1922, there were 33,887 pupils studying in 614 Primary Schools.

Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj like his illustrious father realized the importance and understood the value of primary education. He in his own way strove to bring about growth of primary education in his state as an essential

basis for an allround development of his subject people.

We shall now see the growth of primary Education between the years 1922 and 1927 the period during which there was no change in educational administration.

Table N II

GROWTH OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND PUPILS DURING
THE PERIOD FROM 1922 TO 1927

| Year | Type of Schools | | | | | | No. of Schools | No. of Pupils |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Boys Schools | Aided indigenous schools | Night Schools | Girls Schools | Un-aided schools | Urdu Schools | | |
| 1921-22 | 559 | 11 | 6 | 33 | - | 5 | 614 | 33,887 |
| 1922-23 | 528 | 60 | 6 | 35 | - | 5 | 634 | 37,408 |
| 1923-24 | 555 | 67 | 6 | 35 | - | 6 | 669 | 38,422 |
| 1924-25 | 575 | 83 | 6 | 35 | - | 5 | 704 | 38,669 |
| 1925-26 | 565 | 98 | - | - | 6 | 5 | 674 | 31,992 |
| 1926-27 | 608 | 93 | - | - | 1 | 5 | 707 | 35,811 |

When Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj came to the throne in 1922, there were 559 Boys' Schools, 11 Aided indigenous Schools, 6 Night Schools, 33 Girls' Schools and 5 Urdu Schools in the whole State of Kolhapur and the total number of pupils taking education in various schools in the State was 33,887.

From the year 1922, the strength of schools and pupils increased every year. The number of primary schools reached 707 in 1926-27 from 614 of 1921-22, and the strength of pupils rose to 35811 from 33,887 of 1921-22. In the above table the number of Girls' Schools in 1925-26 and 1926-27 has not been shown separately. It has been included in the total number of Boys' Schools during that period.

After 1926-27, the nature of Primary Schools seems to have undergone some changes.

TABLE - III

DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE YEARS 1927 AND 1940-41

| Year | Type of Schools | | | | | No. of | |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------|--------|
| | Boys' Schools | A.V. Schools | Night Schools | Girls' Schools | Urdu Schools | Schools | Pupils |
| 1927-28 | 650 | 19 | 7 | 53 | - | 729 | 37,663 |
| 1928-29 | 697 | 19 | 7 | 67 | - | 790 | 41,190 |
| 1929-30 | 707 | 21 | 8 | 64 | - | 800 | 42,845 |
| 1930-31 | 666 | 22 | 13 | 67 | - | 768 | 41,940 |
| 1931-32 | 687 | 23 | 15 | 65 | - | 790 | 43,474 |
| 1932-33 | 695 | 27 | 13 | 64 | - | 799 | 43,852 |
| 1933-34 | 696 | 28 | 18 | 61 | - | 803 | 44,958 |
| 1934-35 | 712 | 29 | 30 | 69 | - | 840 | 47,822 |
| 1935-36 | 697 | 29 | 23 | 75 | - | 824 | 48,979 |
| 1936-37 | 706 | 29 | 21 | 71 | - | 827 | 50,038 |
| 1937-38 | 700 | 30 | 18 | 71 | - | 819 | 51,630 |
| 1938-39 | 712 | 26 | 10 | 70 | - | 818 | 54,092 |
| 1939-40 | 721 | 27 | 10 | 71 | - | 829 | 55,424 |
| 1940-41 | 732 | 28 | 10 | 72 | - | 841 | 56,822 |

From 1927-28 to 1940-41 some new schools were opened. Some existing schools were merged in other schools. For example Nineteen Anglo-Vernacular Schools were opened in 1927-28. There were five Urdu Schools in earlier years i.e. till the year 1926-27. But there were only 194 Muslim pupils studying in those five urdu schools. The guardians of these Muslim pupils wished to send them to Marathi medium schools. Therefore, these Urdu Schools were linked with Marathi medium schools. So later these schools taught Urdu as an additional subject for the Muslim Pupils. Thus the Urdu Schools were converted into Marathi medium schools teaching Urdu as an additional language since 1927. Since the year 1927 all the unaided primary schools were closed down. This might have occurred due to lack of initiative from private individuals.

From 1927 to 1940 the primary education appears to have growth in number. The Boys' Schools grew from 650 to 732, Anglo.Vernacular Schools from 19 to 28, Night Schools from 7 to 10, and Girls' Schools from 53 to 71. The total number of pupils in all these schools rose from 37,663 to 56,822.

VARIOUS SCHEMES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS -

SCOUT MOVEMENT :

Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj started the Scout Movement as an educative movement at the Primary School level in 1922-23. However, the movement was initially limited to the Primary

Schools in Kolhapur city only. But after four years i.e. in 1925-26 the Maharaj enlarged the range of the movement so as to cover the primary schools even outside the city of Kolhapur. The following extract clarifies this -

The Scout Movement fostered by His late Highness has made very good progress in the State in the course of the last 4 years. The sphere of the activities of this movement was limited to the Kolhapur City as the name of the Association". The Boy Scout Association Kolhapur City" indicates, but during the year under review the Association extended its sphere and started work at Nadaini, Shirol, Gadghinglaj, Vadgaon, Mangson and Kodoli and consequently "The City Scout Association" has now become the "State Scout Association".⁴

The Scout Movement was attached to Bombay provincials scout Headquarter. It ran its training courses every year. This movement was in progress until the end of Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaja's regime. The General Administration Report Of 1940-41 says in this regard,

"The Boy Scouts Association, Kolhapur State was established in 1925 and was originally affiliated to the Bombay provincial Scout Headquarters. Since then the movement has been making headway throughout the State and the people have been realising its worth as an educative movement, which develops the moral standard of the boys, inculcate in them the spirit of loyalty to His Highness, and sows the seeds of

social service, brotherhood, unity and fraternity amongst all".⁵

SCHOLARSHIPS :

Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaja continued the different scholarships instituted first by Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj at the primary school level. The General Administration Report of 1921-22 in this regard runs as follows :

"Two Sakvarbai Rani Saheb Scholarships of Rs.3 and 2, tenable for one year, are awarded to girls of Std.V. The Ahilyabai Scholarship of Rs.6, tenable for one year, is granted to the married girl, whose husband is studying in the Rajaram High School or College. Kamalabai Owalekar Scholarships of Rs.3 is offered to a girl of Std.V. Besides these, a prize of Rs.8 known as Mrs.Parr's prize is awarded to a girl scoring the highest number of marks in Std.V. The Waller prize of Rs.15 is granted to a girl of Std.V securing the highest number of marks in Mathematics. In addition to these 3 prizes of Rs.40, 15 and 12 known as Radhabai Akkasehab Maharaj prize, Mrs.Shirgavkar and Miss Shirgavkar prize respectively are awarded to girls of Std.V. Two prizes of Rs.40 each are awarded to the first two girls of Std.IV." ⁶

Thus the scholarships were awarded every year as mentioned above. From 1924-25 some prizes too were distributed to the students of merit. The General Administration Report of 1924-25 states in this regard -

"Two prizes of Rs.40 each known as Padhabai Akkasaheb Maharaj prizes are awarded to the first two girls of Std.IV. Jankisaheb Sabnis Scholarship of Rs.3 is awarded to a girl securing the top most place in the annual examination in English Std.V and a prize of Rs.10 known as Mrs.Jankibaisaheb Sabnis prize is granted to a girl excelling in drawing. A prize of Rs.8 named Mrs.Parr Prize is awarded to a girl of Std.V. securing the highest number of marks in Geography. The Waller prize of Rs.15 is granted to a girl of Std.V securing the highest number of marks in Mathematics. Two prizes of Rs.40 and 15 known as Padhabai Akkasaheb Maharaj prize and Mrs.Shirgaonkar prize respectively are awarded to two girls for good conduct. One prize of Rs.12 known as Miss Shirgaonkar prize is granted to a girl of the Gaud Saraswat Brahman Community.⁷ Thus by instituting several scholarships and prizes for deserving promising girl students taking education in primary schools Rajaram Maharaj sought to promote the cause of spread of primary education amongst girls. His encouragement to female education was an important factor responsible for the spread of primary education as well as female education in his state.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION :

Realising the importance of physical fitness and health, physical education was made compulsory in the primary schools right from the year 1927-28. This encouraged Boys

and Girls to take part in various sports and competitions. The aims and objectives of compulsory physical education have been clearly stated in one of the General Administration Reports as follows -

"Great attention is paid to the physical development of students and the exercise of Namaskaras is made compulsory. As tournaments are the order of the day and stimulate a healthy competition in sports they are being held at Kolhapur every year for the vernacular school-going boys. Boys from 8 to 20 years of age take an active part in running, wrestling, atyapatya and khoko matches. A competition for drill is also held. New games such as Japanese Race are introduced. Compulsory course of physical exercises has been introduced in each school from this year. In short, the boys are encouraged to enjoy themselves fully by taking an active part in yearly tournaments. A sum of Rs.115 is being spent for distributing prizes among winners".⁸

The movement of compulsory physical education was started in the year 1927-28. This movement was in progress until the close of the regime of Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj. General Administration Report of 1940-41 states in this regard -

"Special attention is being paid to the physical culture of students and physical training is made compulsory in all the state schools in the city, by appointing a special physical instructor. In order to encourage the students, a sum

of Rs.200 is spent every year in awarding prizes to the winners in the Annual Sports held at Kolhapur".⁹

RESULTS OF THE VERNACULAR FINAL EXAMINATION :

When Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj succeeded to the throne in 1922 the results of vernacular Final Examination of the Kolhapur State were as follows :

" At the Vernacular Final Examination held during the year under report 304 candidates had applied for admission but only 290 against 285 actually appeared. Of these 93 against 136 came out successful."¹⁰

Separate Vernacular Final Examination for boys and Girls were held from 1927-28. General Administration Report states regarding the examination.

"During the year under report 40 candidates sought admission for the V.F.Examination for Girls at the Kolhapur Centre. Out of these 40 candidates 9 were absent, 17 failed and 14 came out successful."¹¹

At the end of Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj's regime the results of the Vernacular Final Examination were as follows :

TABLE IV

PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
FOR BOYS FOR THE YEAR 1940-41

| Year | No. of students appeared | No. of students passed | Percentage |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| 1940-41 | 1779 | 864 | 48.5 |

TABLE - V

PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
FOR GIRLS FOR THE YEAR 1940-41

| Year | No. of students appeared | No. of students passed | Percentage |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| 1940-41 | 80 | 48 | 60.0 |

In 1940-41, out of 1779 student boys who appeared for the primary school leaving certificate examination, 864 students passed. Thus the percentage of result was 48.5 %.

In 1940-41, out of 80 Girls students who appeared for the primary school leaving certificate examination, 48 students passed. Thus the percentage of result was 60.0 %.

Following table will provide with description of the nature of primary schools that existed in the year 1940-41 and the number of students enrolled in all kinds of primary schools in that year.

TABLE - VI

DESCRIPTION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS IN
1940-41

| No. of Schools | Type of Schools | No. of pupils |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 732 | Boys Schools | 50,515 |
| 28 | Anglo Vernacular Schools | 1,692 |
| 10 | Night Schools | 169 |
| 27 | Girls Schools | 4,446 |
| - | Urdu Schools | - |
| 841 | | 56,822 |

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Even after the year 1926-27 there wasn't any marked change in the educational administration of the primary schools in Kolhapur state. No statistical details regarding the actual expenditure incurred by the state of primary education at the beginning and end of Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj's regime are available in government records. However, the various general administration reports on Kolhapur State provide us the information regarding the total expenditure on education incurred by the State. In the year 1921-22 the



expenditure on education incurred by the state was Rs.3,01,583 and the same reached Rs.7,43,283 in 1940-41.

Local newspapers 'Satyavadi' in its issue of 4th November 1937 has published an article on educational progress in Kolhapur state and in that article the following things are mentioned. Rajaram Chhatrapati has continued his father's work of spread of education with an earnest zeal. Realizing the importance of primary education all the possible attempts are being made to universalize it. Primary education is completely free in Kolhapur State. Education given to both boys and girls is the same. Co-education is practised in Marathi as well as English Schools and the college. Due to the liberer policy of Kolhapur State, the state has achieved remarkable progress in the field of education. Systematic efforts to impart education to the backward caste people are being made. Kolhapur has become an important educational centre second only to Poona.¹⁴

According to the reminiscences of a retired headmaster of Harihar Vidyalaya, Kolhapur, Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaja used to visit this school very often. He used to bring some students in his carriage and reach them to this school. He asked the teachers to look after those children and teach them carefully. He used to halt his carriage at the school for half an hour. Sometimes the European Officers such as British resident used to distribute sweets to the children in primary classes in order to attract them to education.¹⁵

REFERENCES

- 1 The General Administration Report on Kolhapur State
(hereafter mentioned only as The General Administration
Report) for the year 1921-22.
- 2 The General Administration Reports, 1921-22 to 1926-27.
- 3 The General Administration Reports, 1927-28 to 1940-41.
- 4 The General Administration Report, 1925-26.
- 5 The General Administration Report, 1940-41.
- 6 The General Administration Report, 1921-22.
- 7 The General Administration Report, 1925-26.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 The General Administration Report, 1940-41.
- 10 The General Administration Report, 1921-22.
- 11 The General Administration Report, 1927-28.
- 12 The General Administration Report, 1940-41.
- 13 Ibid.
- 14 Satyavadi, dt.4-11-1937.
- 15 Interview with S.D.Shinde,
Retired Headmaster, Harihar Vidyalaya, Kolhapur.