
CHAPTER - VII

Babasaheb Ghorpade of Ichalkaranji :

An Estimate -

CHAPTER - VII

Babasaheb Ghorpade of Ichalkaranji :

An Estimate *

I) Historical background of reforms in Maharashtra -

The reform movement in Maharashtra, in the real sense of term begins with Mahatam Jotirao Phuley. His pioneering work in uplifting the position of women, untouchables and widows is remarkable in the history of India. He with the help of his wife, Savitribai, started schools for women and untouchables, and opened the water tank in his house for their use. The widows suffered under the restrictions imposed by the Brahmin orthodoxy. Jotirao Phuley arranged widow-remarriages.

Rajarshi Shahu Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, Karmavir Bhaurao Patil and Vithal Ramaji Shinde continued the work of Jotirao Phuley in introducing socio-economic reforms.

Shahu Chhatrapati try to solve the financial problems of the non-brahmins and the untouchables by opening hostels. He also encouraged classical Indian music, Marathi drama and wrestling. He removed the disabilities of the untouchables in the Kolhapur State.

Taking inspiration from Shahu Chhatrapati, Karmavir Bhauroao Patil established the ' Rayat Shikshan Sanstha ' and propagated the ' earn and learn ' scheme for the benefit of poor deserving students from all the caste.

Maharshi V.R.Shinde established the 'Dispressed class Mission ' and served the untouchables in Maharashtra.

II) Estimate of Babasaheb :

The leagucy of these great social reformers was to a certain extent continued by Babasaheb Ghorpade of Ichalkarnji.

Babasaheb Ghorpade introduced economic, educational, ✓ administrative, social reforms in the Ichalkaranji principality in the period 1892, when he became the jagirdar of Ichalkaranji . to 1943, when he breathed his last.

✓ In this period of about fifty years he faced a number of problems in the administration in his jagir.

✓ In economic field he introduced agriculture, industry, and trade and commerce. His help to co-operative movement in Ichalkaranji is noteworthy. This the important contribution of Babasaheb to Ichalkaranaji.

In the field of education, his reforms are of general nature though, he provided for the spread for education in

different stages. His administration did not give sufficient attention and encouragement to the backward communities.

In social reforms also his emphasis was on improving the general administration of Ichalkaranji jagir, and thereby improve the quality of life of the people in Ichalkarani.

At the end of his carrer that is by 1938, he seems to have given attention to initiate reforms in eradicating the untouchability in Ichalkaranji jagir. He wanted to introduce constitutional reforms in the Ichalkaranji jagir.

But he did not succeed in materializing these reforms. His work in Bombay Legislative Council, in the service of inamadars and sardars, was not ^worthy.

Babasaheb Ghorpade, thus, utilized his powers as Jagirdar of Ichalkaranji for the betterment of people. Essentially, because of his economic reforms he is famous in Maharashtra, as he succeeded ^{ed in} making Ichalkaranji the Manchestor of Maharashtra.

...