

CHAPTER - I I

FOUNDATION OF THE KARNATAKA
LIBERAL EDUCATION SOCIETY

CHAPTER - II

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'Karnatak Liberal Education Society' took shape when a group of seven idealists, all graduates decided to dedicate their lives to the cause of spread^{of} education in the educationally backward areas of Bombay Karnataka. The seven idealists were Shri S.S.Basavana, Shri M.R.Sakhare, Shri B.B.Mamadapur, Shri B.S.Hanchinal, Shri H.F.Kattimani, Shri P.R.Chikodi and Shri V.V.Patil.¹

All these founders of the K.L.E.Society were inspired by the ideals of self sacrifice, service and dedication to the cause of spread of education in the then backward region of Karnatak. All these members were educated at Poona, where educational idealists like Chiplunkar, Agarkar, Gokhale and Lokmanya Tilak had laid a foundation for similar work by starting the Deccan Education Society.

All founder life members of the K.L.E.Society believed that proper education was the only means of bringing about material, intellectual and spiritual re-generation of the common people. They also believed that education should be carried to rural population and to the

ordinary people. They had high ideals of 'Satya', Prema, Seve and Swarthatyaga' (truth, love, service, and self sacrifice)' which have been inscribed on the emblem of the 'Karnataka Liberal Education Society'.²

The founders of the K.L.E.Society, were educated at Kolhapur, Poona and Bombay with the help of Lingayat Education Fund. When they were students of Deccan College at Poona, they used to meet every evening and discussed about the position of the Lingayat community. At that time Tilak had started Ganesh and Shivaji Jayanti festivals for the development of national integration among the Maratha people. Naturally, the ideas influenced these young people and whenever they returned their homelands, during vacation period, they observed the social activities of eminent leaders of Lingayat community such as Sirasangi Desai, Raja Lakhamgouda Sardesai, Veerkumar Hangal Mahaswamiji and various activities of 'Lingayat Education Association'.³

During those days education was a luxury to be indulged in by the rich and well placed people. However, there was a great thirst for education among the middle classes and the poorer sections of the society. Keeping in mind the need of the times, the founder members of the K.L.E.Society made determined efforts to fulfil their dream of providing cheap and good education to their younger generation both from rural and urban areas. For them the

profession of teaching was not a means of livelihood, but a sacred mission for enlightening the ignorant masses.

So the founders of the society voluntarily and happily embraced a life of hardship and poverty with a view to regenerating their illiterate and backward people by the means of education. So in 1916 first Anglo Vernacular School was started at Belgaum. The Anglo Vernacular School was named after Gilaganchi-Artal High School, the two leaders of Lingayat Community.⁴

G.A.High School was the first institution started by the above mentioned young graduates. It was established at Belgaum, in a rented building, in fort area (bunglow No.21) on 13th November, 1916.⁵ That was the landmark in the educational history of North Karnataka because education was the only means for proper development of the society. With proper education one can easily fight against the social evils and then only the dream of establishment of socialistic pattern of society can be realized was well understood by the founders of the K.L.E.Society.

In 1917, Shri V.V.Patil joined other six young founders of the K.L.E.Society.⁶ The society was registered under Registration Act of 1860 in 1917. The following was the Society's Registration Certificate.⁷

"The memorandum of the Karnataka Lingayat Education Society, Belgaum as required by Section 2 of the Act No.XXI of 1860.

- 1) Name of the Society : The Karnataka Lingayat Education Society, Belgaum.
- 2) Objects of the Society. : The objects of the Society are the promotion of Science, Literature, Spread of Primary, Secondary and Higher Education in the Districts of Belgaum, Bijapur and Dharwar by starting or affiliating institutions at suitable places.
- 3) The Names, addresses and occupation of the members composing the Governing Body of the Society are:
 - i) Shrimant Sardar V.G.Naik Bahadur Desai of Chachadi, Watandar, Pensioner's Line, Cantonment Belgaum.
 - ii) Rao Bahadur Redragouda Chanavirgouda Artal, I.S.O. Retired Deputy Collector, Belgaum.
 - iii) Mr.Vaijappa Adiveppa Angol, Landholder, Bench Magistrate and Municipal Councillor, Ganapat Galli, Belgaum.
 - iv) Mr.Shivalingappa Shivayogappa Basavanal, M.A., Life Member of the Karnatak Lingayat Education Society, Belgaum and Teacher, Gilganchi Artal High School.

v) Mr. Basavantappa Balappa Mamadapur, B.A., Life Member of the Karnatak Lingayat Education Society, Belgaum and Teacher, Gilaganchi Artal High School, Belgaum.

4) We the undersigned members of the Karnatak Lingayat Education Society, Belgaum do hereby declare that we are desirous of being formed into a society named the Karnatak Lingayat Education Society, Belgaum in accordance with the provisions of the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 and in testimony whereof we affix our signature against our names.

<u>Name of the Members</u>	<u>Signatures</u>
1) Shrimant Sardar Virbhadrapa Gunappa Naik Bahadur Desai of Chachadi.	Sd/- V.G.Desai, 9-7-1917
2) Rao Bahadur R.C.Artal ISO	Sd/- R.C.Artal 9-7-1917
3) Mr.V.A.Angol	Sd/- V.A.Angol
4) Mr.B.S.Hanchinal	Sd/- B.S.Hanchinal
5) Mr.H.F.Kattimani	Sd/- H.F.Kattimani
6) Mr.B.B.Mamadapur, B.A.	Sd/- B.B.Mamadapur
7) Mr.M.R.Sakhare, M.A.	Sd/- M.R.Sakhare
8) Mr.S.S.Basavanal, M.A.	Sd/- S.S.Basavanal
9) Mr.P.R.Chikodi, B.A.	Sd/- P.R.Chikodi
10) Mr.V.V.Patil, B.Ag.	Sd/- V.V.Patil

5) Dated this day, Monday the 9th July, 1917, Inspector of Land Records and Magistrate II Class hereby state that the gentlemen mentioned above have affixed their

signatures in my presence.

Dated this day, Monday 9th July, 1917.

Sd/- Illegible
Inspector of Land Records
and
Magistrate II Class, Belgaum.

"TRUE COPY"

Sd/-
Registrar of Companies, Bombay
Bombay, 4th November, 1943."

The aims and objectives of the Society were:

- 1) To establish colleges, schools and other educational institutions of various kinds in important places as may be determined from time to time by the society at a meeting of the General Body.
- 2) To take over or affiliate colleges and schools belonging to or managed by other similar Educational Societies or Local Self Governing Bodies for the purposes of Management and Control.
- 3) To spread Education in general and impart instruction in any branch of knowledge wherever feasible.⁸

Until 1936, there was not a well framed constitution of the K.L.E.Society. All the management of the Society and the powers rested in the hands of the founder members of the society. In 1936, the constitution was framed, but later on in 1944 the life members of the society realized certain shortcomings in it and hence a new constitution and

rules were framed and it was passed by the general body at its meeting held on 17th of September, 1944.

In the constitution of the society the members of the society were classified as benefactor, grand patrons, patron, fellows, ordinary members, life members, retired life members and honorary members on the basis of certain considerations.⁹

The Authorities of the Society were:

- a) The General Body
- b) The Board of Management
- c) The Trust Committee
- d) The Local Governing Body
- e) The Board of Life Members. ¹⁰

General Body :

The General Body of the Society consisted of benefactors, grand^{patrons} patrons, fellows, ordinary members, life members, retired members, and honorary members. All powers like administrative, financial and management of the Society's affairs rested in the General Body.

The meeting of the General Body was to be held in each academic year atleast two times. The first meeting was held in 2nd week of May and second was in the 3rd week of October. The General Body had powers to elect Boards of Committees and Office bearers such as -

- 1) The President
- 2) Four Vice-Presidents
- 3) Members of the Board of Management with power to elect their own Chairman who was not a Life Member.
- 4) Chairman and Members of the Trust Committee.

The President was to preside over the meeting of General Body. Atleast 25 members was a quorum for the meeting of the General Body. The duty of the General Body was to sanction adequate educational facilities for various institutions like schools, colleges, buildings, hostels, staff quarters, etc. It had powers to consider and dispose of the proposals of the Board of Management regarding the special promotion, salary, extension of service of the employee, allowance, pension, gratuities, insurance fee, providend fund subscription, etc. in respect of life members of the society. General Body had power to discuss the recommendation of Board of Management regarding orders of suspension, fine and action against any employee of the society.

The General Body had power to enter into contracts for the purchase of moveable and immoveable property and to arrange for raising loans on the recommendation of Board of Management and Trust Committee. Another important duty of

the General Body was to award special scholarships for higher studies and to provide special facilities to life members.¹¹

Board of Management :

The Board of Management consisted of 15 members. Two were elected by the General Body from amongst benefactors, grandpatrons and patrons, 7 from ordinary members, 3 from life members and one from trust committee, one nominated by the President and one nominated by the Sirsangi-Trust Committee. The total duration of the Board was for 3 years. One of the life members was elected as a Secretary of the Board of Management.

The main duty of the Board of Management was to look after and exercise control over the management of all institutions. It had power to appoint committees for the selection of lecturers, professors, teachers, head-masters, demonstrators and tutors, etc. It submitted to the General Body the Annual Report and the budgets of the institutions. It recommended to the General Body opening of new educational institutions or to take over institutions under the control of either local self governing bodies or other educational societies.

Another significant duty of the Board of Management was to arrange for the collection of funds and donations by

appointing committees or individuals ¹² and to exercise strict control over the accounts records of the various institutions.¹³

President of Society :

He presided over all meetings of the General Body. He had power to supervise the financial and executive administration of the society. Whenever the Board of Management failed in taking any action against the institution he was empowered to interfere into the matters. Sometimes, he nominated the experts who could solve the problems. Sometimes he could transfer his powers to the senior most person among the Vice-Presidents in some cases.¹⁴

Local Governing Bodies :

Every Institution (except Lingraj College) had its own governing body consisting of 7 to 9 members. Chairman of the governing body was elected by the Board of Management and the Head of the Institution was an ex-officio member. The main duty of the governing body was to arrange for the collection of funds and supervise the accounts of the institution and to submit annual reports to the Board of Management. The governing body supervised the academic activities and fixed hostel charges for the students, and took important steps to prohibit students from taking part in any politics or anti-government activities.¹⁵

Board of Life Members :

Board of life members consisted of all the life members of the society. Its main duty was to arrange the meetings of the Board and to propose names of persons fit to be enrolled as life members. It could propose the names of persons fit to be superintendents of hostels and heads of the institutions, etc. and even could propose the opening of new schools, colleges, hostels etc. All life members had to devote their attention to the development of the institutions as well as the society.¹⁶

Head of the Institution :

Duty of the Head of every institution was to maintain strict control over the day-to-day works. Sometimes he appointed laboratory assistants, menials and he could fine or dismiss any of the menial staff. He could recommend to the Governing Body the transfer of any member of the staff to any other institution of the society. Sometimes he consulted the local Governing Body in respect of granting freeships to poor students.¹⁷

Funds and Properties of the Society :

The funds and properties of the Society were (1) permanent funds, (2) current funds, and (3) general funds. These included membership subscription, donations, buildings, all dead-stock such as furniture, library books,

laboratory apparatus, fees and fines received from students and interest received from endowments. All funds were deposited in the name of the President in bank or banks as approved by the Board of Management.¹⁸

Trust Committee :

This Committee consisted of 7 members. It held all the immovable property and investments of the society in Trust for Educational purposes. The duty of the member of this committee was to take reasonable care as regards maintenance and repairs of all the properties of the society and to protect the property.¹⁹

Thus, the constitution of the K.L.E. laid solid foundation for the democratic functioning of the society and provided for the strict control over all the educational institutions. Almost all the powers regarding the establishment and administration of the institutions and control over financial matters were vested in the general body.²⁰

The founder life members of the society were responsible not only for the establishment of the society but most of them devoted their whole lives in the service of the institution. Naturally, it is essential to understand about the life and work of these veteran social workers who worked for the spread of education among their fellow countrymen.

Shri Shivlingappa Shivyogappa Basavanal (1893 to 1951)

Shri S.S.Basavanal, a great personality in Lingayat Community was born on 7th November, 1893 at Haveri of Dharwar District. His father's name was Shivgyogappa and mother's Shiddamma. As his father was working as a Station Master in Bellary (South Karnataka). He had his early education at Bellary through Telgu medium. But his father taught him Kannada and Sanskrit at home. He passed his matriculation in the year 1910. Then he joined Deccan College, Poona and completed his B.A. course with History, Economics and Political Science.²¹

Then he went to Bombay for completing M.A. course. He stayed at 'Veershaiva Hostel' and completed M.A. course with History, Economics and Political Science securing good number of marks. During those days the leaders of Lingayat community had established a trust named 'Victoria Jubilee Trust'. The purpose of the trust was to award Rs.1,200/- to a Lingayat student who could obtain M.A. degree. Surprisingly, in 1916, two students completed their M.A. degree. Though Shri Basavanal secured more marks than Shri Sakhare, Basavanal himself suggested to the trustees that the amount should equally be divided between the two.

Shri Basavanal was one of the Life members of the K.L.E.Society which started 'Anglo-Vernacular School' to facilitate the education of poor students of Bombay

Karnatak. Later on the school was named as G.A.High School. Shri Basavanal started teaching English and History in that school. In 1922, another High School named as 'Raja Lakhamgouda Sardesai High School' was started at Dharwar and he was promoted as a Principal of that institution. He served his level best for the progress of the school.²²

In 1933, first collegiate institute was started by K.L.E.Society at Belgaum which was named as Lingraj College. There Shri Basavnal started teaching History, Economics and Kannada. Afterwards, he was made Vice-Principal of the College. In 1950 Karnatak University was established at Dharwar. He was the member of Senate of the Karnatak University.

Prof.S.S.Basavnal was a great scholar. He published good number of books in Kannada and English languages. His works are 'Shabar Shankar Vilas', 'Girija Kalyana', 'Veershaiv Tatva Prakashike', 'Harihar Devan Ragale', 'Chennbasav Puran', 'Shabdhasmriti' of Nagavarma', etc. In English he published 'A Case for Karnatak University', 'Hand book of Veershaivism and 'Mussings of Basava'. He was the editor of 'Prabodh' and 'Jai Karnatak'. In 1944 the 28th Kannada Sahitya Sammelan' was held at Rabakavi in Bijapur district and he was the President of the conference.

He died on 22nd of December, 1951 at Dharwar.²³

Prof.M.R.Sakhare (1892 to 1951)

Another dynamic personality in Veershaiva Community was Shri Maharudrappa Rgvappa Sakhare who was born in 1892 at Yamakanmardi, a small village in Hukkeri taluka of Belgaum district. His mother's name was Mallavva. He started his early education in Marathi medium at Rajguli, a place near Yamakanmardi. When he was studying in second standard his father expired and hence they came to Yamakanmardi to stay with his mother's brother. His mother desired to educate Maharudrappa and accordingly her elder son assured his mother not to worry about the education of Maharudrappa and determined not to marry till his younger brother's education was completed.²⁴

Shri Sakhare went to Belgaum to join 'Sardars High School' but he was not given the admission. Naturally, he returned to Yamakanmardi. Fortunately, one Shri Sidram Utture, a relative of Sakhare, gave a letter to Shri Veerbasappa Shresthi, then the Head Master of Rajaram High School at Kolhapur and Sakhare got the admission to the school. He passed his matriculation examination in the year 1910. Later on he completed intermediate course from Rajaram College of Kolhapur and went to Poona to join S.P. College. He completed B.A.course in 1914 with Sanskrit as a major subject.

The Veershaiva students learning in Poona met every evening for discussing about establishment of an educational society on the pattern of 'Deccan Education Society' for spread^{of} education in the northern parts of Karnatak.

Shri Sakhare proceeded for M.A. course and completed it in the year 1916 from S.P.College of Poona. He also shared, 'Victoria Jubilee Prize' of Rs.600/- as he was among the first students from the Veershaiva community who had secured M.A.degree.²⁵ After the opening of G.A. High School in the year 1916 he started working there as a teacher of Sanskrit and soon was made the Head Master. In 1933 the 'Lingraj College' was established at Belgaum. Dr.Nandimath had the opportunity to be the Principal of the College but Shri Sakhare was very much interested to be a Professor of Lingraj College. As Dr.Nandimath was teaching Sanskrit there and Shri Sakhare also was the teacher of same subject.²⁶ There was no scope for Shri Sakhare to be a professor.

In 1933 he decided to join London University and secure M.Ed. degree. But it was too much expensive to go to London. Sardar Raja Lakhamgouda Sardesai of Wantmuri came forward to share half the expenditure of the visit to London for studies of M.Ed. course. Unfortunately, Shri Sakhare was not given admission to M.Ed. course. He obtained a degree of 'Diploma in Teaching' and returned back

to India in 1935 and took charge of the office of the General Secretary of the Society. He desired to re-organise the administration of the society and its institutions, but this aggravated the misunderstanding between him and Dr.Nandimath.²⁷ The differences between these two grew to a great extent and as a result Dr.Nandimath resigned his life membership of the society in 1943 and joined the Basaveswar College at Bagalkot.

Prof.Sakhare was a good teacher of Sanskrit. He collected along with his fellow members a large amount for the society. He was a good scholar too. He published books entitled 'History and Philosophy of Lingayat Religion' and 'Lingadharan Chandrika'. He died in 1951.²⁸

B.B.Mamadapur (1891 to 1972)

Another founder life member of K.L.E.Society was Shri Basappa Balappa Mamadapur. He was born at Mamadapur village in Gokak taluka of Belgaum district on 15th March, 1891. His mother's name was 'Nagamma'. He completed his early education at Mamadapur upto the 4th standard. In the year 1903, the plague spread all over the country. His father Balappa died and the whole family became orphan.²⁹ At the age of 15 he completed his primary education. He had ardent desire to learn English but financial conditions of the family was not satisfactory. A friend of his family Mr.Godageri took Mr.Basappa to Gokak and gave all the

facilities to continue his education. When he was learning in English School at Gokak, Shri V.S.Shresti was the Head Master. He admired Mr.Mamadapur for his thirst of knowledge. He completed his education upto the 4th standard in Gokak.³⁰ For further studies he tried to join 'Sardars High School' but he was not given the admission. Fortunately, Shri V.S.Shresti had joined Rajaram High School at Kolhapur as a teacher who wrote a letter to Mr. Godageri to send Mr.Mamadapur to Kolhapur and made provision for his accommodation at Lingayat Boarding. At Kolhapur Chhatrapati Shahu had made provision for education of the common people and had even provided lodging and boarding facilities.³¹

Mr.Mamadapur was very much influenced by the thoughts and works of the Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj. Shri Sakhare and Shri H.F.Kattimani were his contemporaries at Rajaram High School of Kolhapur. He completed his matriculation in the year 1909 with good number of marks and joined Rajaram College and completed intermediate course. Then he went to Poona for getting admission in Deccan College. The famous Prof.Ben was then the Principal of the College and Prof.Wilkinson taught Mathematics. He completed his B.A.course in 1914.³²

Mr.Mamadapur was one of the founder life members of the K.L.E.Society. In G.A.High School, he was a teacher of Mathematics. He served for 32 years as a teacher out of which 10 years he worked as a Head Master. He was the President of District School Board, Director of Belgaum District Co-operative Bank, Senate Member of Bombay University and Member of L.E.Association at Dharwar. He died at the age of 83.³³

Shri P.R.Chikodi (1884 to 1961)

He was born on 4th February, 1884 at Rabakavi in Bijapur district. He completed his early education at Bijapur and at Dharwar. After completing matriculation he went to Poona and joined Ferguson College. There he completed B.A. course in 1914. Then he went to Bombay for completing LL.B. course. At Bombay, the Lingayat Merchants had established 'Veershaiva Sheva Ashram' where free lodging and boarding facilities were provided for poor deserving students of Lingayat Community. Shri P.R.Chikodi joined the Veershaiva Seva Ashram and studied law but he could not be successful. He returned back and accepted the job of the Head Master at Gokak High School.³⁴

He soon went to Belgaum and established a 'Veershaiva Graduates Sangh'. It seems that in very short period he left the job at Gokak. Shri H.F.Kattimani, Shri S.S. Basavnal, Shri B.B.Mamadapur, Shri B.S.Hanchinal were the

members of the Sangh established by Shri Chikodi. He was too one of the founder life members of the K.L.E.Society. All of them, cooked their own food in one room at Belgaum. After Chikodi's marriage all founder members began taking their food at Chikodi's house.³⁵ But to the great shock of all he resigned the membership of K.L.E. Society in 1918 to enter the political affairs of the State. Even then he continued his help to society upto his death in 1961.

Shri P.R.Chikodi and Raja Lakhamgouda Sardesai of Vatmuri were the close friends. Raja Lakhamgouda gave handsome donations to the K.L.E.Society for the development of education in North Karnataka. Shri P.R.Chikodi was well versed in Kannada, Gujarati, Marathi and English language. He was member and President of various government departments³⁶ too. In 1921-22 he was Member of Compulsory Primary Education Board, Member of Non-Brahmin Samiti, Member of Graduate Samiti, Member of Backward Samiti, Gramoddhar Samiti, etc. He started 'Vibhakar' a newspaper both in Kannada and English language. In 1926 he was a President of District Local Board. During his tenure as a President he was responsible for the establishment of 205 schools in Belgaum District.³⁷

Shri H.F.Kattimani (1887 to 1977)

Another life member and teacher of G.A.High School and famous educationalist in K.L.E. Society was Shri

Huchhayya Fakirayya Kattimani who was born on 24th July, 1887 at old Hubli. His father's name was Fakirayya and mother's Huchamma. He completed his early education at Hubli and for higher studies he joined Rajaram College, Kolhapur. Afterwards he joined Fergusson College at Poona and completed B.A. degree in the year 1914.³⁸

From 1916 onwards he became a teacher in G.A.High School. He was an honest and sincere worker. He was un-animously elected to the Legislative Council of Karnataka State three times and at the age of 90 he died in 1977.³⁹

Shri B.S.Hanchinal (1889 to 1977)

Shri Hanchinal was born in a rich family of a Businessman. His father's name was Siddalingappa and mother's Basamma. But he lost his father at an early age. His elder brother looked after the business and owned cotton mills and assumed the title of 'Cotton King'. His main aim was to educate his younger brother, Basappa and desired that he should join Government service. Basappa completed his primary education at Hubli itself. At the age of twelve he married Gurusiddamma of Hoovin Hadagali of Bellary District.⁴⁰

He completed matriculation in 1909 from Lamington High School at Hubli. For higher studies he went to Poona and joined the Deccan College. There already other

founder life members of the K.L.E. Society were receiving their education and naturally he joined them. He completed B.A. course in 1914⁴¹ with History, Political Science and Economics. When G.A.School was established, he worked as a teacher. His brother did not like this. Naturally a family dispute arose between the two brothers. Shri Hanchinal left his home, and wealth of the family and decided to educate poor backward Veershaiva students.⁴²

During 1930-32 he completed B.T.Course (Teaching Course). From 1933, Hanchinal became the Head Master of the Raja Lakhamgouda High School at Dharwar. In 1940 the K.L.E. Society applied for the Teacher's Training Institution at Belgaum and it was sanctioned. In 1940, Teacher's Training College was started in the building of G.A.High School and he was the only trained teacher to be its Principal. He was issuess. His wife Gurusiddamma was very generous and a kind hearted lady. She cooked food for poor students who studied in G.A.High School and Training College.⁴³

For his devotional work government nominated him as a member to various departments, District School Board Committee, Board of Head Masters, Vidya Vardhak Sangh, etc. He was elected to the Legislative Council thrice from graduates constituency and was a Member of Senate of Karnatak University, Dharwar. He died at the age of 75 in 1964.⁴⁴

Shri V.V.Patil (1888 to 1979)

Another founder life member of the K.L.E. Society was Shri V.V.Patil. He was born in 1888 at Kochavi-Masur Village in Hirekerur taluka of Dharwar district. His father's name was Veerbasavangouda and mother's was Guramma. Their family was called as 'Police-Patil Family'. During those days primary schools were not established in every village. Shri Veeragouda completed his early education at a Matha (Monastery) in a place called Kachavi in Hirekerur taluka of Dharwar district.⁴⁵

At the end of the 19th century plague spread all over the country. Father and brother of V.V.Patil lost their lives in the epidemic. Hence he came to the mother's residence at Masur in Dharwar district. For High School education he went to Savnur and stayed at a relatives family known as 'Asundi' but there he had to do all household and agricultural work and thus he completed matriculation in 1911.

For collegiate education he went to Poona and joined agriculture college there and secured degree in Agriculture in 1914. In the year 1915 he visited 'Sabarmati Ashram'. There he saw Mahatma Gandhi playing with a Harijan Baby and he was inspired by this incident. He decided to devote his life for the 'Harijanodhara' i.e. upliftment of the down trodden people. He worked as a Science Teacher in G.A.High School.⁴⁶

He was the first graduate from Hirekurur taluka. He was felicitated in a open function and honoured. When Gandhiji visited Belgaum in 1924 for All India Congress Conference, he heard about the works of V.V.Patil as Veer-gouda had already started Harijan Seva Kendra, Gandhiji appreciated his work and encouraged him. In 1930 he resigned from the K.L.E. Society and decided to spend remaining life for the upliftment of the common people.

In 1932 he was the President of the 'Harijan Sevak Samaj'. In 1933 he travelled through Karnataka alongwith Gandhiji and in 1934 he established 'Harijan Balikashram'. In 1947 he was given the title of 'Sardar' of Karnataka. Afterwards he established 'Mahila Vidyapeetha', 'Akkamadevi Training College', 'School for Blind', Nursery Teachers Training Institutions, etc.⁴⁷

He was awarded Padmshree in 1961 and he died in 1979. Thus all the founders of the K.L.E.Society devoted themselves to the cause of education and upliftment of the common people. Because of their sacrifice and continuous efforts the K.L.E. Society could develop as the prominent educational institution in a very short period.

Notes and References

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- 3 Ibid.,p.2.
- 4 Society's Golden Junilee Souvenir, p.1.
- 5 Information sent from G.A.High School.
- 6 Ibid.
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- 9 Ibid.,p.3.
- 10 Ibid.,p.5.
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- 12 Ibid.,pp.11-16.
- 13 Ibid.,pp.16-17.
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- 22 Ibid.,pp.6-11.

- 23 Ibid.,pp.11-71.
- 24 Sunkapur M.S., Biography of M.R.Sakhare (Kannada),
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- 26 Ibid.,pp.26-30.
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- 33 Ibid.,pp.71-74.
- 34 Belagali D.N., Biography of P.R.Chikodi (Kannada),
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