

CHAPTER-III

PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY, EDUCATION UNDER
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The Karnatak Liberal Education Society right from its inception in 1916 made considerable progress within a short period of 50 years. It opened educational institutions from Kindergarten level to the Post-graduate level and was one of the biggest educational institutions in Karnataka.

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION : The Pre-Primary or Nursery education in Belgaum district started in 1956 under the control of private bodies. These pre-primary schools were run on grant-in-aid sometimes. But large number of pre-primary education was left to the parents and private organisations. The idea of Kindergarten was with the view that children could be trained before joining the primary schools and moreover, the young children could learn and enjoy with the classmates of the equal age i.e. of 3-5 years.¹

Kinder-Garten, Belgaum, 1960

The K.L.E. Society decided to start the Kindergarten because there was not any Kannada medium Kindergarten in Belgaum city and secondly the society felt that children

must be caught young in order to give them proper education.²

Therefore, K.L.E.Society started a Kindergarten at Belgaum in 1960. It had its own building costing about Rs.60,000/-. Mr.M.H.Bellugi was the Chief Architect of this institution. Every year 60 students were admitted and two well-trained lady teachers were appointed. The school had well-equipped modern materials for children. Soon this institution became popular among the citizens of Belgaum.³

Middle School at Bellad-Bagewadi, 1923

Bellad-Bagewadi is a small village in Hukkeri taluka of Belgaum district. An Anglo-Vernacular School was started there by K.L.E.Society in 1923 with the help of local people. The donors of the school were Shri Basaprabhappa Katti and Shri Basappa Honalli who donated Rs.5,000/- each. The school was run very systematically upto 1951 but after 1951 it was closed as per the Government rule that the English was not to be taught in the middle school.⁴

PRIMARY EDUCATION:

Kannada Primary School, Belgaum, 1942

The school was started in 1942 in a rented house at 'Risaldar Road' of Belgaum city and had only 30 students in the beginning. After few years the same school was attached to the K.L.E.Society's Teachers Training Institution at Belgaum.⁵ The school had very few students in its initial

stages but later on it attracted number of Kannada speaking pupils. In the beginning classes upto 4th standard were conducted but in the course of time higher classes were also introduced upto the 7th standard.⁶ In the year 1963 the strength of student was 256, and in 1965, it reached to 300 students.⁷ This was a Kannada medium school and under the supervision of Shri B.S.Hanchimal⁸ it soon made progress is indicated by the strength of students which increased from 30 in 1942 to 150 in 1943.⁹ Good standard of education was maintained for a long time is indicated by the fact that in the year 1965, the percentage of successful students in the examination of 7th standard was 100.¹⁰

SECONDARY EDUCATION :

G.A.High School, 1916

Gilganchi-Artal High School was the first educational institution of the K.L.E.Society which was started in 1916. In the beginning, it was known as Anglo-Vernacular School. In 1919, classes of 8th standard were added to this school and then it became a high school. It was called G.A. High-School which was named after two veteran leaders of the Veershaiva Community i.e. Shri Gilganchi and Shri Artal.¹¹

At the beginning G.A.High School was housed in a rented building in the fort area of Belgaum city. Founders of the K.L.E. Society worked as the teachers of different

subjects and there were only 30 students in 1916. The strength of students increased to 55 during 1917-1918 and in 1917-18 it had 85 pupils.¹²

As already mentioned above the school was started in a rented building. In 1933, it was shifted to Lingraj College building for some years and once again it was shifted in 1940 to Raja Lakhamgonda Science College till it had its own building in the year 1945.¹³

In 1919 lower VIIIth Std. classes were introduced. Then onwards the school was upgraded as a High School. The first batch of the Matric students faced their annual examination in 1922.¹⁴ Prof.M.R.Sakhare was the first Head-Master of the High School. Under him the school developed rapidly. Distinguished visitors of the school were his excellency George Lloyed the then Governor of Bombay who was the Chief Guest of Annual Social Gathering in 1922 and Sarojini Naidu in 1924.¹⁵

Within a very short period the high school became popular among the pupils. In 1963 the student strength was 1,097, in 1964, 1,157 and 1,156 during 1965. The school had maintained good results since its establishment. During 1965 the percentage of passing at S.S.L.C. examination was 45. Shri M.M.Khoorshe secured 4th Rank to the Mysore S.S.L.C. Board Examination in 1965. The school had very valuable books in its library.¹⁶ The head-masters of the

high-school were Prof.M.R.Sakhare (1919-1933 and 1935-1940), Shri B.B.Mamadapur (1933-35 and 1940-45), Shri C.V.Shirol (1945-54), Shri B.F.Pattanshetti (1954-55) and Shri S.D. Inchal (1955 onwards).¹⁷

This shows that the institution had a glorious history of brilliant students and devoted scholar teachers. The Institution rapidly developed as a good centre of learning in the Belgaum region in short time which is clear from the growing number of students from year to year which ultimately rose to more than thousand students is the clear indication of the popularity of the institution among the students and that was mainly because of the devoted teachers like Shri Sakhare, Shri Mamadapur, Shri Pattanshetti and Shri Inchal.¹⁸

Raja Lakhamgouda Sar-Desai High School, Dharwar, 1922

It was the next institution established by the K.L.E. Society. The people of Dharwar had the desire to have their own high school and as a result, the founder life members of the K.L.E. Society decided to extend their educational activities in that part of Bombay Karnataka.

It was started in the house of Dandini family initially. Later on it was shifted to the fort area of Dharwar city and once again it was shifted to its own building in 1928.¹⁹ Shri C.C.Hulakoti and Diwan Bahadur Shantveerappa Kotur of Dharwar sold landed property of

15 acres to the Lingayat Education Association costing about Rs.30,000/-, Lingayat Association constructed three big rooms there where the high-school was started in 1928.²⁰

At the beginning it was called K.L.E. Society's High School but from the year 1924, it was named as 'Raja Lakhamgouda Sar-Desai High School' after the name of its great donor. Meanwhile, Shri Mritunjay Mahaswamiji had started free lodging and boarding facilities at Dharwar for poor students from rural areas. This facility attracted number of students from rural areas.²¹

The K.L.E. Society decided to add few more rooms to the main building of the high school. Once again, people of Dharwar and surrounding areas made handsome donations to the society in 1947. Among them Shri Chigteri Murrigeppa of Devangeri, Shri G.H.Guggli, Retired District Judge, Sadar-halli Trust of Hubli and even traders and merchants were prominent. With such kind help from the citizens of the E.L.E. Society constructed Science Halls, Gymkhana Halls, Reading Room, Staff Rooms etc. in the High School.²²

All these developmental activities took place during the period of Shri B.F.Pattanshetti who was the Head Master of the institution. The High School was upgraded as a higher secondary school in 1964. Shri P.W.Kore was the next Head Master who was the recipient of State Award for

teachers in 1968.²³

The total area of building was 15,000 sq.ft. It was on the Bangalore Poona road. In the year 1963 total strength of the students was 873, including girls. It increased to 911 in 1964 and in 1965 it was 805. The percentage of the students passing at S.S.L.C. examination was 48. In 1965 Shri Veeranna Desai secured first rank in S.S.L.C. examination.²⁴ This shows that the standard of instruction in this institution was also high and continuous efforts were made by the teachers of the high school to maintain its reputation.

The school produced famous Authors, Scientists, Sportsmen. Among them the prominent were Shri Patil Puttappa, Editor of Kannada Weekly Prapancha, Shri Chennveer. Kanvi, Shri Hirenullur Iswaran, the author and lecturer at Lieden University of Holland.²⁵

The Head Masters took keen interest in the development of the institution. Shri S.S.Basavnal (1922-1933) who was transferred from G.A. High School, Belgaum to Dharwar was the first Head Master of the school. Then Shri B.S.Hanchinal (1933-40) was the Head Master for some time. Shri H.F.Kattimani (1940-41), Shri C.V.Shirrol (1941-45), Shri V.R.Koppal (1945-58), Shri B.F.Pattanshetti (1956-65) and Shri P.U.Kore (1965 onwards)²⁶ were other Head Masters of this high school.

Kadashidheswar High School, Saundatti, 1935

In 1935, the K.L.E. Society opened a high school at Saundatti, a taluka place in Belgaum district, as per the wishes of the people there. At the beginning, it was conducted at Kadashidheswar temple in Saundatti. Soon it was shifted to the rented building and finally it had its own building in 1951. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the new building on 26th December, 1951.²⁷

The Hon'ble Shri H.V.Koujalagi (The President of K.L.E. Society as well as then the Revenue Minister of Karnataka State), and Shri Venkaraddi of Hooli took keen interest in the development of the school. They travelled from village to village for the collection of funds and in 1961, four more class-rooms were added to the building. During 1963-64 the strength of students was 728 and it increased to 1,000²⁸ during the next academic year.

The result of examinations of the various classes in the year 1964-65 were as under.²⁹

Class	Appeared	Passed	Percentage
S.S.L.C.	102	47	45.6
Hindi Examination:			
Prathama	39	19	48.9
Madhyamik	24	11	45.8
Rastrabhasha	3	2	66.6

The K.L.E. Society looked after all round development of the school and appointed efficient Head Masters from time to time. Among them were Shri A.K.Parvatrao (1935 to 1950), Shri V.S.Malimath (1951 to 54, 1955 to 1964), Shri V. S.Desai (1954 to 55) and Shri M.I.Kanagali (1964 onwards).³⁰

The K.L.E. Society was responsible for the spread of education in Saundatti region after their beginning at Belgaum and Dharwar. The K.L.E. Society had slowly started spreading the network of its institutions in other regions of North Karnataka. While compared to Belgaum city, the other parts of Belgaum district had less percentage of literacy and all this area was educationally backward. So it was decided by the members of the K.L.E. Society to extend their educational activities to other parts of Bombay Karnataka and the establishment of Kadashidheswar High School was one such step in that direction.

Annappa Kadadi High School, Solapur, 1937

Veershaiva Lingayat Community was spread not only in North Karnataka but even at the bordering areas of Maharashtra such as Solapur, Akkalkot, Kolhapur, Sangli etc. The mother tongue of most of them was Kannada and hence naturally they were in need of the educational institutions where instruction was given through Kannada medium. Hence the K.L.E. Society decided to open a Kannada medium High School at Solapur which then was the part of Bombay Presidency.

The founder life members of the K.L.E. Society, Shri S.S. Basavanal and Shri H.F.Kattimani visited Solapur in 1937. At the beginning they opened Anglo-Varnacular School upto the 4th standard³¹ with 111 students.

The school was started in a rented building. The school continued to be held there until 1943 when it was shifted to its own building. Shri N.B.Kadadi and Shri M.B. Kadadi donated whole heartedly for constructing building for high school on spacious plot of land measuring about 4 acres.³²

The K.L.E. Society and the above mentioned donors entered into an agreement regarding the use of the building and playground. As per the agreement, in 1941 the school was named as 'Annappa Kadadi High School'. Shri H.F.Kattimani the founder life member of the K.L.E. Society was very much responsible for effecting this agreement between Kadadi Brothers and Society.³³ Subsequently, new structures were pu -up on the site by the society at a cost of Rs.2,10,000/-. The total area covered by the building was about 30,000 sq.ft.

Shri H.F.Kattimani and Shri Y.M.Yelaja, Head Master, laid a sound and solid foundation for growth of the institution.³⁴

At the beginning there were only 128 students. However, the strength increased year by year and in 1965

the total strength of the students was 1,050 including girl students.³⁵ The following table shows the strength of the students during that year.

	Standard					
	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Boys	85	93	87	369	371	335
Girls	16	16	4	60	57	41
Total:	101	109	91	429	428	376

This High School was one of the leading high schools in Solapur City. The percentage of passing in various examinations was satisfactory. The following table shows the results in the academic year 1964-65.

Examination	1964-65		
	Appeared	Passed	Percentage
1) S.S.C. (March)	185	140	76.0
2) Drawing Elementary	38	11	29.0
3) Intermediaries	14	4	33.3
4) Bombay Hindi Vidyapeetha			
(a) Ist Exam.	8	8	100.0
(b) IInd Exam.	12	10	83.0
(c) IIIrd Exam.	7	5	75.0

(Contd.)

Examination	1964-65		
	Appeared	Passed	Percentage
5) Maharashtra Hindi Exam.			
(a) Balbodhini	12	12	100.0
(b) Subhodini	28	25	89.0
(c) Prabhodini	51	47	92.0
(d) Prabhakar	15	14	93.0
(e) Subha Shankala	17	17	100.0

The Head Masters of the high school were Shri Y.M. Yelaja (1937-40), Shri S.S.Chanshetti (1940-41), Shri H.F. Kattimani (1941-46), Shri A.M.Yelaja (1946-49 and 1952-54), Shri B.F.Pattanshetti (1949-52), Shri C.V.Shirol (1954-62), Shri P.U.Kore (1962-65) and Shri N.E.Patil (1965 onwards).³⁷

The establishment of the Annappa Kadadi High School was another land-mark in the educational activities of the K.L.E.Society. With the establishment of Annappa Kadadi High School, the long felt need of the Kannada speaking population of Solapur was fulfilled and that was because of the attempts made by the K.L.E. Society. The Society was thus spreading the networks of its institutions at distant places. The satisfactory performance of the students in the examinations make it clear that this institution had maintained good standard of instruction.

Silver Jubilee High School, Barshi, 1941

In 1937, the secondary educational institution was opened at Solapur and within another four years, another institution was opened in this areas of present Maharashtra which was part of Bombay Presidency until the linguistic reorganisation of the States. The K.L.E. Society made attempts for the spread of education, especially among the Kannada speaking population and hence it opened the network of its educational institutions at the places like Barshi and Akkalkot too. The Veershaiva Lingayat Community had settled in these areas from a long time and to fulfill their needs of education the high schools were opened at Barshi and Akkalkot. In fact, the Silver Jubilee High School of Barshi (Dist. Solapur) was started by Barshi Municipality in the 19th century.³⁸ However, the municipality was finding it difficult to run the school and they were in search of a proper organization³⁹ to which they wanted to handover the school. After careful consideration, the Municipality under the presidentship of Shri Babasaheb Bhatkar decided to transfer the school to K.L.E. Society for a period of 50 years.⁴⁰

Barshi Municipality High School was named as 'Silver Jubilee High School' at the hands of Shri C.N.Millard, the then Collector of Solapur, on 5-1-1956. Shri Kakasane Zadbuke made considerable efforts for the development of this school.⁴¹

During the early period of its management under K.L.E. Society, the school was fortunate in receiving full co-operation from the people for its various departments. The expansion of building was started by Shri U.J.Mali, Head Master of the School and a recipient of a national award.

The total area of the building of the School was 18,000 sq.ft. having a beautiful open air theatre with children's park. This school was one of the leading schools in Solapur district. The school possessed good library containing 4,700 books.⁴² The eminent educationalists rendered their valuable service by holding the posts of Head Masters, Asstt.Head Masters and teachers. They left indelible imprint on the working of this institution. Shri S. V.Shirol (1941), Shri L.Y. Tonnennavar (1941-44), Shri M.R. Malya (1944-45), Shri C.S.Naik (1945-46), Shri S.S.Chanshetti (1946-49), Shri C.S.Hiremath (1949-53), Shri P.U.Kore (1953-54), Shri Y.M.Yelaja (1954-56), Shri U.J.Mali (1956 onwards)⁴³ were the Head Masters of this high school.

The feeding of the school was mainly from the people of middle class and from grass root level and from the rural areas. The strength of students in 1963 was 1,405 and it increased in 1964 to 1,505 and again in 1965 to 1,523.⁴⁴

India became independent in 1947 and adopted a republican democratic form of the government. Naturally, some members of the K.L.E. Society desired to change the name

of the Society from 'Karnataka Lingayat Education Society' to 'Karnatak Liberal Education Society' to make it secular in nature. Accordingly, in the meeting of the general body on 10th April, 1949, the change in the name of the society was effected which was really keeping with the spirit of the changing times and thought.⁴⁵

Mangrule High School at Akkalkot

The pious work of spread of education was ceaselessly continued by the society. The year 1952 witnessed the establishment of another educational institution i.e. Mangrule High School at Akkalkot. Then Akkalkot was a part of a Bombay Presidency. Some eminent personalities and lovers of Kannada language desired to provide education through Kannada medium but it was very hard work to proceed further. Under the able and spontaneous guidance of Shri D.S. Hangurshi (Civil Judge), Shri Revansiddappa Mangrule and Shri Dhanappa Shivgund came forward to start a high school at Akkalkot (Dist. Solapur). They also thought that the proposed plan of high school should be implemented by K.L.E. Society of Belgaum.⁴⁶

Shri Revansiddappa Mangrule donated a complete building including open space i.e. total area of 2,652 sq.ft. of which the cost was approximately Rs.25,000/-.⁴⁷

The Society too welcomed the idea and asked them to provide a building for school and Rs.25,000/- for primary

expenses. The above galaxy of social workers agreed with certain conditions.⁴⁸

Shri Sharanappa Digge, Shri Annarao Modi, Shri Dhanappa Shivgunde, Shri Dadabhai Wangi, Shri Adiveppa Halli Katti, Shri Kalyanappa Patil, Shri Basavanappa Solose, Shri Gunubulappa Gandage, Shri Basanappa Ekilaje, Shri Gunulingappa Mahant, Shri Shivshankar Bhimapure, Shri V.R.Bharamshetti, Shri V.S.Birajdar, Shri Gurulingappa Kore were the prominent patrons and the donors of the institution.⁴⁹

His holiness Shri Mrutinjaya Mahaswamiji of Mudhol paid Rs.5,000/- as a gift which he received through his religious lectures, alongwith his hearty blessings to this school.⁵⁰ Shri Shankarappa Lokapure, Shri M.Jirole, Shri Shivappa Swami, Shri Adivappa Kadagandhi, extended their financial co-operation.⁵¹

Though the school was started on 8th June, 1953 it was inaugurated on 23rd June, 1953 at the hands of Shri G. D.Sathe (then Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, Bombay State) and Shrimant Shri Babasaheb Bhosale. The high school was named as Mangrule High School as per the desire of the donor Shri Revansiddappa Mangrule.⁵²

It was a matter of pride as permission for Ist to Xth standards was sought during the first year. Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka University, Shri D.C.Pavate played a key role in securing the above permission.⁵³

The plant of Mangrule High School began to grow under the guidance of the Head Master Shri C.S.Hiremath from June, 1954. Further in the academic year 1955-56 permission to start Kannada VIIIth class was granted. Especially lovers of Kannada language were overjoyed as their dream turned into reality.⁵⁴

Because of sincere efforts of the school employees good administration of the Head Master and timely guidance of the K.L.E. Society the school began to flourish and the original building proved to be inadequate. So Shri P.U.Kore (Ex.Head Master) requested the society for extension of school building. The society inspired him by granting his request and the building work was started in 1960. The building had area of 20,000 sq.ft.⁵⁵

The total strength of students in the year 1964-65 was as mentioned below.⁵⁶

	Standard							Total
	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	
Boys	26	26	23	196	217	141	140	769
Girls	3	5	6	23	25	14	12	88
Total:	29	31	29	219	242	155	152	857

The following table shows the various examination results of the academic year 1964-65.⁵⁷

Examination	Appeared	Passed	Percentage
1) S.S.C. (March, 1964)	122	73	60
2) Elementary Drawing Exam.	30	16	53
3) Intermediate	20	6	30
4) Hindi Examinations:			
(a) Balbodhini	20	19	95
(b) Ist	61	46	73
(c) IInd	78	59	72
(d) Prabhodh	13	11	85
(e) Pravin	4	3	75
5) Sanskrit Examination:			
(a) Prathama	54	43	75
(b) Dwitiya	12	9	75

Head Masters who contributed to the development of the school were Shri C.S.Hiremath (1953-57), Shri P.V.Kore (1957-62) and Shri S.S.Chanshetti (1962 onwards).⁵⁸ It was the only school in whole of Akkalkot Taluka where Kannada was the medium of instruction. Within short period, it developed rapidly and looked after alround development of the pupils.

It must be noted that the three Kannada medium educational institutions were started by the K.L.E. Society at

Solapur, Barshi and Akkalkot which were part of Bombay Presidency until the linguistic formation of the States. Afterwards the District of Solapur became part of Maharashtra State. Even then, these institutions were successfully run without any problem which indicates that the Government of Maharashtra too encouraged the development of these institutions.

The K.L.E. Society had the opportunity to open two other higher secondary educational institutions in 1958 and in the year 1965. Thus we find that during the first 50 years, the K.L.E. Society was able to open about eight high schools at different places which ultimately contributed to the spread of education in their surrounding areas.

The Society opened a new high school at Athani in 1958. Athani is a taluka place in the district of Belgaum. The citizens of Athani were repeatedly approaching the society to start a high school there and promised all kind of help and co-operation. Hence, the school was started in a rented building in the year 1958 and was shifted to its own building in 1960. The site of the school is on the Athani-Satti Road.

The high school made good progress under the guidance of Shri B.G.Turmari (1958-65) and Shri G.P.Kambi (1965 onwards) who were the Head Masters.⁵⁹ At the beginning the strength of the students was 138 but gradually it increased to 490 in the year 1965. The percentage of the students who passed S.S.L.C. examination in 1965 was 50.49. The high school

had its own library containing about 1608 books.⁶⁰

The another high school was opened at Galataga, a^{in 1965} place in Chikodi taluka of Belgaum district. Much interest was taken by Shri R.S.Kothiwale (then Vice-President of K. L.E. Society) and Shri V.V.Teggimani (then Chairman of the Society) in opening this institution. The notable donors were Shri R.S.Ginde, Shri A.M.Patil and Smt.Gangadevi Burge. Shri S.G.Masali was the first Head Master of the high school and there were about 140 students on roll.⁶¹

Thus, we find that the K.L.E. Society took interest not only in the spread of higher education, but paid attention to the growth of primary and secondary educational institutions also. The society felt need of opening its institutions wherever the Kannada speaking population was dispersed. The small plant established for spread of education soon began to blossom and soon the network of its institutions was spread not only in the parts of Karnataka but even in the parts of Maharashtra. Since establishment of the K.L.E. Society from 1916 to 1965 it ran about 23 educational institutions. Out of them one was Kindergarten, one primary, one was middle school, and 8 high schools. Thus we find that the K.L.E. Society paid much attention to the spread of education of all levels. It not only made attempts for the spread of higher education but it took interest in opening the primary as well as secondary schools.

Another notable thing about K.L.E. Society was that it not only concentrated its educational activities in the North Karnataka region, but it decided to open its institutions at various places where Kannada speaking people resided, and where the need of opening of Kannada medium schools was felt. The educationally backward areas such as Galataga, Bellad-Bagewadi, Athani also became the centres of educational activities of the K.L.E.Society.

A small plant of the education which was implanted by the founding fathers of K.L.E. Society was now rapidly developing and growing into a big and bigger tree. During the course of time the branches of this tree spread not only in North Karnataka region but even to the other areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka spreading light of education to urban as well as the rural population.

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