

## P R E F A C E

An attempt has been made in this work to present an account of the activities of Satya Shodhak Samaj founded in Kolhapur by some of the followers of Mahatma Phule.

Whether it was a Hindu rule, or a Muslim rule, or a British rule Brahmins in India always demonstrated the character of dynamism for the reason of their years monopoly in education. But others, whether non-Brahmins or Lower Castes remained exploited for lack of education for ages together in India. Traditionally the non-Brahmins including the untouchables remained unconcerned with the education. The non-Brahmins formed more than 95 % of the total population. Educating them to remove their ignorance, which was their real enemy was the basic pre-condition for awakening them and uplifting them.

Mahatma Phule took up the cause of non-Brahmins including the untouchables to free them from their age old mental slavery caused by the preaching of Brahmanism, by advocating compulsory primary education for the masses.

It is through his Satyashodhak Society movement that the influence of his forceful thought reached Kolhapur and ultimately culminated in founding a Kolhapur Satyashodhak Samaj by leading learned social reformers of Kolhapur especially under the patronage of His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati who had emerged as a social emancipater in the 1920s .

During Shahu's period ( 1894 - 1922 ) Kolhapur became the Centre of Satya Shodhak activities. Many of Satya Shodhak activities. Many officers of Kolhapur Darbar became the office bearers of the Kolhapur Satya Shodhak Samaj. Many leaders from Kolhapur like B.V.Jadhav, Dasram, A.B. Latthe, Khanderao Bagal, Madhavrao Bagal, etc. rendered great services to the spread of Satya Shodhak Samaj activities in Kolhapur region. A great bulk of Satya Shodhak literature was produced during this period in Kolhapur by the supported of the movement.

Therefore, an attempt has been made to enumerate and explain the various stages of Satya Shodhak movements making extensive use of the original documents like files of Hunter, Vijayee Maratha, Din -Bandhu, Shahu Files and Satya Shodhak literature. In addition to this we have also used so many secondary sources.

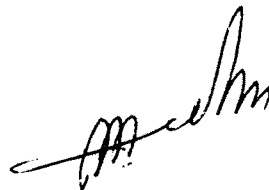
In course of preparing this work, I have received help and co-operation from many and I deem it my duty to express my deep gratitude all of them. I must express my gratefulness

and gratitude to Dr. B.R.Kamble , Professor and Head,  
Department of History, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for his  
encouragement, suggestion and co-operation.

I must express my deep sense of gratitude to my Research  
Guide Dr. B.D.Khane, who guided me at every step of this work  
until its completion. Without his guidance and help this  
M.Phil. Thesis would have been absolutely impossible. I  
acknowledge my indebtedness to him.

I must also mention my debt to Dr. Baba Adhav, for his  
advice. I am thankful to Principal Haladankar S.G., Shrimant  
Gangamai Girl's Junior College, Ichalkaranji for her  
inspiration and encouragement.

My thanks are also due to my friend A.N. Hore, for  
his co-operation and help. I am personally responsible for the  
opinions expressed and the errors if any in this thesis.



( Kadam N.M. )

Kolhapur :

July 26,1985.

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