

PREFACE

Latthe was one of the few personalities of Kolhapur who influenced social, cultural, educational and political activities of the people during the first half of the 20th century Kolhapur. His career attracted me as he was closely associated with various social movements that Chhatrapati Shahu had launched in Kolhapur in particular and outside Kolhapur in general. An attempt has been made here to study Latthe's career in its various facets. Latthe began his career only by receiving inspiration from Chhatrapati Shahu. Therefore, it was quite natural for him to turn towards social reforms, Satya Shodhak movement, reforms in Jain community and spread of education among the masses. All these were of prime importance for Chh. Shahu's emancipation work. Therefore, as a true lieutenant and the intellectual follower of Shahu's ideals, Latthe devoted himself to the cause of untouchables.

Though Latthe's career had many dimensions and his activities had spread over both Maharashtra and Karnataka, in this dissertation Latthe's career in Kolhapur alone has been chosen for study. Latthe received his education from Rajaram College, Kolhapur and did his post-graduation from Bombay University and took up teaching profession in Rajaram College, as a Professor of English. He was then made Education Inspector by Shahu Maharaj. Latthe was also associated with Jain Boarding as its superintendent. He was subsequently appointed Diwan of Kolhapur during Chhatrapati Rajaram's regime. He was also a very active member of Daxin Maharashtra (now Daxin Bharat) Jain Sabha and in his last phase

of career in Kolhapur Latthe was the legal adviser to Chh. Shahaji Maharaj upto 1948.

Therefore, Latthe's career in Kolhapur includes his studentship, his membership of Daxin Maharashtra Jain Sabha, professorship in Rajaram College, Superintendentship of the Jain Boarding and Education Inspectorship. His administrative work as Diwan of Kolhapur during Chh. Rajaram's times and his scholarly work of writing various books have been included as the aspects of his career for study in this dissertation.

While studying Latthe's career in Kolhapur one will find that the task is not easy owing to the difficulties that one encounters in collecting the source material which is available in the form of reports, gazetteers, newspapers, weeklies, monthlies, quarterlies etc., personal correspondence, various official records, official reports, orders, resolutions and other miscellaneous writings which are scattered at various places. As far as the original documents are concerned, I found useful the records of correspondence between Chh. Shahu and Latthe, Kolhapur State Gazetteers, Administrative Reports of Kolhapur State, the various issues of 'Pragati and Jinvijay' from 1902 to 1950 of Daxin Maharashtra Jain Sabha and the Proceedings Books of Daxin Maharashtra Jain Sabha. Latthe's own writings in the form of books and various other contemporary writings are useful for the study of Latthe's career. Fortunately for researchers on Latthe, Latthe Education Society, Sangli, in its college Kasturbai Walchand College,



Sangli has collected and preserved important documents like Latthe's personal correspondence, an album containing his photographs, Latthe's own writing in various newspapers, contemporary newspaper cuttings preserved by Latthe himself, Latthe's own Sanad-Patre, and other belongings. All these were of immense use to me for preparing this dissertation. All the Administrative Reports from 1880, and Latthe's books are well preserved in Rajaram College, Library, which were also very useful.

Throughout his life, Latthe was a source of inspiration behind the activities of Daxin Maharashtra Jain Sabha. Records of his work, his own edited paper 'Jinvijay' and other proceedings were made available in the office of Daxin Bharat Jain Sabha, Sangli, which I could use extensively for my purpose. Then some of the secondary sources which are mentioned in the Bibliography were also useful.

I cannot close this preface without mentioning my deep gratitude and thanks to my teacher and Guide, Dr. B.R. Kamble who guided me at every step in preparing this dissertation. The Librarians of Kasturbai Walchand College, Sangli, Rajaram College, Kolhapur, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Karveer Nagar Vachanalaya, Kolhapur, must be thanked for their prompt help in providing books and other necessary material. I thank them sincerely. Much needed material is available in Kolhapur Record Office. Shri Tamhane, in charge of the Record Office, rendered great service to me in providing me the necessary original material for my purpose. I

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Kolhapur

(Mrs.) (Padmaja A. Patil)

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