

## PREFACE

The term leftist movement has been used here to denote the peasants' and workers' organisations for making collective efforts to fight for the economic benefit in proportion to the labour of the worker or peasant that he puts in. Therefore, an attempt has been made in this dissertation to study mainly peasants' and workers' movements under various groups of leaders in Satara district in the context of Indian situation in general and situation in Maharashtra in particular. It has been found that among the 19th century movements it is Satya Shodhak Movement that influenced the workers of Satara district in 1920s and even the Peasants' and Workers' Party founded in 1950 drew much inspiration from it. Both Chhatrapati Shahu of Kolhapur and Dr. Ambedkar who launched their movements in the first half of the 20th century were also considerably influenced by Satya Shodhak movement. Therefore, in the first chapter of this thesis which deals with 19th century awakening both Shahu's and Ambedkar's movements have been briefly surveyed.

Leftist movement of Socialists, Communists, Royists and Radicalists in terms of raising their voice against injustice to the farmers and workers was prominent in Satara district in pre-independence days but after that in 1950s leftist movement somehow survived due to labour organising efforts of the communists. After the formation of Samyukta Maharashtra in 1960 communist influence also recorded decline. This has been discussed in Chapter Two and Chapter Four. In Chapter Three the

peasants' agitations that were launched from time to time as situation arose have been discussed, though it is also stated that there is no peasants' organisation worth the name and also no peasant leaders worth the name in spite of the fact that the farmers' population formed 56% in Satara district.

Out of the scattered source material which is available at various places in the form of a few newspapers, journals, district gazetteers, labour gazetteers, party publications and such other miscellaneous records an effort has been made here to compose the history of leftist movement in Satara district upto 1960. Ever since my M.A. in 1975 it was my cherished desire to do my research in leftist movement in Satara district. As the district produced many nationalists it also produced renowned socialists and communists. My own family members who have been very humble workers in the communist led workers' movement of Satara district under the leadership of my father advocate V.N. Patil, for the last forty years, have been a great source of inspiration to me which prompted me to undertake this project.

I cannot conclude without expressing my deep sense of gratitude to certain institutions and persons who wholeheartedly helped me in my endeavour to complete this work. I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. B.R. Kamble who guided me at every step of this work until its completion. The librarians of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, Dr. Ambekar Labour Research Institute, Bombay, the Central Library, Satara and Kesari Office, Pune, Shivaji University Library, Kolhapur and

Dayanand College Library, Solapur were prompt in giving me books and necessary literature. My thanks are also due to them. Some labour workers who were associated with the labour movements in Satara district are still alive today. Kulkarni Master is one of them who was extremely kind in spite of his old age in giving me a written account of certain movements in which he himself was a participant. I record my gratitude to him. It is but due to the continuous insistence and help in getting the thesis typed and some times going through the typed work meticulously by Dr. J.P. Naiknavare that I could complete this work with speed. I record my thanks to him. Last but not least I thank Shri V.G. Chopade for typing the thesis meticulously.

Kolhapur:

December 15, '83

Mrs. Vaijayanti J. Naiknavare