

## P R E F A C E

Social reforms movement and the nationalist movement in Maharashtra in modern times present two important aspects of its modern history. There is a galaxy of eminent social reformers and political leaders in history of renaissant Maharashtra. As a student of history I was interested in the study of socio-political changes that took place in Maharashtra during the latter half of 19th century and the former half of present century.

Life and career of Keshavrao Jedhe ( 1896-1959 ) attracted me the most. He was one of those prominent socio-political workers who can be rightly called the makers of modern Maharashtra. His masterful personality had many significant aspects. He was a prominent leader of the non-Brahman movement, a fearless and selfless patriot, a good organizer of Congress party, founder member of Peasants and Workers Party. It was Keshavrao Jedhe who won over the non-Brahman masses in rural parts of Maharashtra to the Congress and brought them into the national freedom movement. He was associated with various progressive social reforms movements. He also played an important role in the agitations for Goa liberation and Sanyukta Maharashtra. However scholars in the field of historical research neglected the life and activities of this nationalist non-Brahman leader for a long time.

In the past some stray attempts were made to write on some of Jedhe's activities. In 1927 Achut Balwant Kolhatkar wrote a Marathi book entitled 'Jedhe-Javalkar - Javalkaranchi Kaifiyat' in which he wrote something about the contributions of Jedhe and Javalkar in the non-Brahman movement. As a contemporary evidence I have made good use of this book. In 1944 Shri Dattatray Sakharam Darekar wrote another Marathi book entitled, 'Bahujan Samajateel Karmaveer' in which he has described Keshavrao Jedhe's various activities upto 1940. So I thought there is a scope to study life and career of Keshavrao Jedhe in details. I selected the topic " Keshavrao Jedhe - A Non-Brahman Nationalist Political Leader " for my M.Phil. dissertation. It was my intention to study the life and career of Keshavrao Jedhe with special reference to his roles in different socio-political movements and his outlooks towards such movements.

Shortly after my M.Phil.registration a comprehensive Marathi book on Keshavrao Jedhe written by a renowned scholar Prof.Y.D.Phadake appeared in 1982. Due to this, my task became more challenging and difficult. I mustered up all my courage and decided to meet this challenge. Thus I set out to form an estimate of Keshavrao Jedhe in my own humble way.

For collecting the necessary source material pertaining to my topic of research I visited many

libraries and archives. I am very much thankful to the librarians and the staff of the following libraries for their kind co-operation and help : Barrister Balasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Jaikar Library, Poona University Pune, Kesari Maratha Library, Pune and the libraries of Chh.Shivaji College, Satara; Arts, Science and Commerce College, Ramanandnagar (Dist. Sangli), Shri Shahaji Chh.College, Kolhapur. The library of Shahu Research Centre of Shivaji University, Kolhapur proved more useful to me. There I could study rare source material like Pandharinath Patil Papers, Madhavrao Bagal's Correspondence and his collections of old, rare books and also the files of old newspaper 'Hunter'. I shall be failing in my duty if I don't express my thanks to Hon. R.K.Kanbarkar, then Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University who gave me permission to study the source material available in Shahu Research Centre. Similarly in the library of Shahaji College, Kolhapur I could consult Shankarrao More Papers, his books, a few issues of a newspaper 'Jansatta' and some newspaper cuttings. For making this material available to me for my study. I am grateful to Prin.Dr.Katamble and the library staff of his college.

Two veteran leaders of the non-Brahman movement: Madhavrao Bagal and Late Shri Dinkarrao Mane of Kagal have obliged me by granting me personal interviews and by placing at my disposal whatever useful material they

had with them. I am much indebted to these two great men.

I am also grateful to the members of Jedhe family who affectionately made available some newspaper cuttings, original manuscripts etc. source material for my study. My special thanks are due to Keshavrao Jedhe's son and grandson, Shri Prataprao Jedhe and Santaji Jedhe, respectively, for their help and co-operation.

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( Vijay N. Nalawade )