

CHAPTER – II

***THE PROMOTERS OF OGALE
GLASS WORKS LTD.***

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Swadeshi Movement had two main principles –

- To root out economic exploitation of British power in India.
- To encourage the creation of an indigenous industries.

Already idea and practically use of *Swadeshi* had been started in Maharashtra before *Swadeshi* Movement. At the beginning of 20th century *Swadeshi* Movement was flourished in Maharashtra. There were feelings of sympathy about *Swadeshi* Movement in many state rulers of Maharashtra. That's why it was finding that, they were co-operation to creation and growth of many industries.

In the beginning of 20th century the youth of Maharashtra was very much inspire by *Swadeshi* Movement. They started many big and small industries. Kirloskar, Ogale, Cooper, Walchand-Hirachand, Kalyani, Garware, Bajaj were some of the leading business and industrial houses in Maharashtra emerged in this period. Most of these industries were related to an iron material. At that time in Maharashtra firstly Talegaon, Paisa Fund Glass Works, had started to produce a delicate material like glass, to go against the mainstream. Glass technology also teaches there. In 1916 at Ogalewadi, Ogale Glass Works was established by Shripad Ogale. He was learning a glass technology at Talegaon. Shripad's seven brothers helped him. Ogale Brothers unity flourished Ogale Glass Works.

The life and the work of Ogale brothers are not only important but also inspiring to the coming generations. Therefore, in this

chapter an attempt has been made to take a brief review of early life and development of Ogale brothers.

PRABHAKARPANT OGALE

Originally Ogale family came from Karnataka. Balaji Ogale had settled at Halkarni. He had three sons. One of them was Prabhakarpant. He was a school teacher. Even today there is a school which is named after him as Prabhakarpant Highschool at Halkarni.¹ Then he got job as a school teacher in Kolhapur state. He shifted from one village to another village. Such as Herlay, Vadgaon, Gargoti, Gaganbavda.²

Prabhakarpant was proficient in *Ayurveda* also. He was the author of many works on '*Ayurveda*' like *Chikitsa Prabhakar*, *Sulbhaushadhi Prabhakar*.....etc.

Prabhakarpant and his wife Parvatibai had one daughter and eight sons, who made the 'Ogale' one of the big industrial families of Maharashtra, which contributed to the economic progress of India. Their study becomes quite essential. A brief note on the life of Ogale brothers is given below.

Kusaakaa Ogale :

Kusaakaa was the elder of Prabhakarpants children. She was married to Narsopant Mhaiskar. Her son Damodar N. Mhaiskar had started his 'Welding and Engineering Workshop' within the precincts of Ogalewadi.

1) GURUNATH OGALE (1886-1944)

Gurunath Ogale was elder son of Prabhakarpant Ogale. He was born in 1886, on the day of '*Nagpanchmi*' festival, so he got the

nickname 'Nagesh'. He finished his Marathi primary education at Herlay, Vadgaon, Gargoti, Gaganbavda because of his father's transferable job. Then he went to his uncle (Prabhakar pant's brother), who was an employee in the education department at Kolhapur city.³ He was a student of Rajaram high school, Kolhapur. He made various scientific instruments of entertainment at home with the help of scanty equipment which is available. He made magic lantern and pin whole camera by square tin container. He set a record of photography of his friends and family members by his own pin whole camera on 'Bromaeid Paper' which was also made by him. All was happened before his matriculation. Even at that age his knowledge and love of machine was well developed.⁴

After passing the matriculation examination in October 1904 he entered the 'Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute', Bombay. He acquired degree of L.M.E. in first class in 1908. He was also a fellow of that institute for some time. Then he was appointed as a demonstrator, lecturer and the manager of student hostel at the said institute.

After coming out from the V.J.T. Institute he founded an agency named American Engine Company at Bombay.⁵ This agency used to supply the imported modern machinery to local industries. But at that time Solapur Bank which was providing finance to the agency became bankrupt. It resulted into closure of the agency.⁶ Later on Gurunath was appointed as a superintendent of 'Laxmi Technical Institute' at Barshi (Dist. Solapur). Then he tried to start some business at Kolhapur, but he failed. At that time in 1911 he got a job in 'Kirloskar's factory at Kirloskarwadi, with the help of his close

friend M. B. Jambhekar (Shambhunath). Jambhekar was a relative of Laxmanrao Kirloskar. Gurunathrao was appointed as an engineer in Kirloskar factory. He did his job till 1916. When 'Ogale Glass work' was shifted from Kirloskarwadi to Ogalewadi at that time Gurunath resigned the job of Kirloskar and joined his brother's emerging industry 'Ogale Glass Work' as an engineer.

At Godhra (Gujrat) a Parsi man's glass factory which was run on firewood was closed down in 1918. Since Godhra is situated nearby forest, so there was abundant and cheap firewood. With the finance, co-operation of an industrialist of Ahmedabad Sheth Abalal Sarabhi, Gurunath took that in his possessive factory and immediately started production.⁷

The director of industrial department of Bombay government P. G. Meed visited Ogale Glass Works Ltd. He was very much impressed by Gurunath. He tried his best to get Gurunath 240 Pounds annual scholarship for higher education of glass technology. Accepting P. G. Meed proposal, Gurunath Ogale went to 'Sheffield' in England for higher studies. Here he got extension for his scholarship on the recommendation of Dr. Turner and so he got an opportunity to study and work at Pittsburg University U.S.A.

Gurunath used to send his instructions for glass technique and construction of industry from U.K. and U.S.A. to his brothers in Maharashtra. Those instructions were followed by his brothers at Ogalewadi. So quality of Ogale glass products was improved. But he was not satisfied with production of only glass material. He intended to produce other things also in his brothers' factory.

Unsuccessful Job :

In the period of great depression Gurunath took a 'Figured Glass' factory at Vadvan. But the economic depression spread all over World and to all kinds of goods and as a result the factories were closed by its state authority. So Gurunath came back to Ogalewadi from Vadvan.

In 1937 Gurunath Ogale prepared a plan for producing 'bicycle'. In 1938, first cabinet was formed by the Congress in Bombay province. At that time the requirement like place, electricity etc. was fulfilled by Bombay Government with certain concessions. Moreover Bombay government assured warranty for initial 5 years to give 5% dividend. This was special concession. So share capital of Rs. 15,00,000 was underwrite. The negotiations were going on with 'Germany' for purchasing the machinery. Bombay government especially Annasaheb Latte and Laxmanrao Patil gave valuable assistance.⁸ But at that time 'Birla Brothers' brought out '*Hind Cycle*'. That's why Gurunath's all efforts came to naught.⁹

Other Hobbies :

Gurunath was a good artist as well as good author also. He used to regularly write in 'Kirloskar' magazine upto 1940. Its editor Shankarrao Kirloskar was his friend. He wrote critically on superstition, charlatanry, laziness ... etc. in his humorous style. He wrote some books also. His books '*Edisonche Charitra*' and '*Americacha Itihas*' Vol. I and II were famous. He wrote Edisons biography in Gujrati also.

Gurunath played a small role of '*Daulatgir*' in historical Marathi play called '*Totyache Band*' which was performed by an amateur group of Kirloskarwadi.

2) **SHRIPAD ALIAS ATMARAMPANT OGALE(1889-1950)**

Shripad alias Atmarampant Ogale was born in the year 1889 at Shirhutti in Sangli state. He completed his school education from Rajaram High School, Kolhapur.

He was interested in establishing an industry. He joined the 'Paisa Fund glass Works, Talegaon' in the year 1908 as a student. It was the only training institute in India working under the guidance of Balkrishna Shankar Karandikar, B.Sc.¹⁰ During the same time Annasaheb Vijapurkar's '*Samarth Vidyalaya*' was shifted to Talegaon with the co-operation of J. S. Karandikar ex-editor of Daily *Kesari*. There was very close relationship between the Paisa Fund and *Samarth Vidyalaya* at that time. He also keenly observed how Balkrishna Karandikar faced economic and other problems. This experience was of immense use to him when he established his own glass industry. Under the guidance of ascetic teachers like Annasaheb Vijapurkar and Balkrishna Karandikar, he became an idealist.

With Shripad also studied M/s Chandorkar, Bhawe, Sane, Chaphekar and P. G. Kale all of whom were in the glass line, the first four conducting the 'Vijaya Glass Works' at Bombay and the last Solapur glass Works at Solapur.¹¹ Shripad had also the benefit of association of revered and model teachers under whose guidance he studied. That left on his mind a permanent stamp of earnestness of purpose and ideas of national goods. Karandikar always used to impress on the minds of his students that they were the foundation

stones of the national structure and should always be prepared to dedicate their lives for the national cause. Shripad was always reminded of this saying of his late revered teachers.

Having finished his course of training there in three years Shripad tried his luck at a 'Glass Factory' of Dandvate in Baroda.¹² During those days the glass industry was still in the experimental stage. But within a short time it was closed. So he had to return very soon to Maharashtra. But he strongly desired to start a glass factory of his own. And shortly he started a glass factory at Kirloskarwadi.

Other Activities :

He worked actively from 1927–28 in Maharashtra Trade Council. Thereafter due to industrial recession he concentrated all his energies on his industries. In the year 1941 their company celebrated its silver jubilee. He had dedicated himself to the work of Maharashtra Trade Council. He took part in the work of this association at the time of industrial exhibition arranged at the *Tilak Smarak Mandir*, Pune in 1942.

From 1944 till 1946 he was the president of 'Maratha Chamber Of Commerce and Industry'. During his tenure, the Chamber under his leadership gained true recognition and acclamation. Sir Chintamanrao Deshmukh visited the Chamber during the tenure of his Presidentship. Gurunath Ogale memorial plan and Gopal Sadashiv Parkhy Industrial Honour Prize plan took shape during the tenure of his president ship. His hard work gained him membership of the ILO (International Labour Organization). He attended its meeting as the representative of industries from India on 27th October 1945. During

his Europe tour he visited the various glass industries there and observed their techniques.

From 1947 to 1949 Shripad strived painstakingly to get the industries of South Maharashtra under one umbrella. He was the member of Indian Industries Association Central Committee. The Bombay provincial government appointed him as a member of Industrial Education Committee and pilot plant's committee.

Shripad strongly tried to convince the government of Maharashtra to construct a dam across river Koyana. He emphasized the importance of the project to the people and the industries of South Maharashtra and Konkan. He followed up with the government bodies to get the dam started. In 1948 he convened a meeting of southern industries at Helwak. He even delivered a speech at Karad on the importance of the Koyana hydroelectric project. His work for this project was incomplete. A month before his death he gave a speech at Bhore during an industrialist conference to make the government take cognizance of the Koyana project.

During the riots after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948 the Brahman community in Maharashtra was targeted. But in Ogalewadi, Shripad's industry was safeguarded by its non-Brahmin workers.

3) GANGADHARPANT OGALÉ

Gangadharpant's valuable help in selling the shares facilitated the quick sale of the capital in the days when the concern was changed into stock company.¹³ Afterwards he was settled in Sangli to deal in insurance.

4) SHANKARRAO OGALÉ (1894-1972)

Shankarrao Ogale was born in the year 1894. He was the student of '*Samartha Vidyalaya*' at Talegaon. After completing matriculation he joined the 'Paisa Fund Glass Works, Talegaon' as a student. In 1915 he joined the glass factory of his brother as a salesman of bangle glass and other products of the works. He was the one of the partner of 'S. P. Ogale and Company'. "The credit of popularizing the Ogale products in the country and creating a universal demand for same from all over goes to Shankar Ogale and was a result of his assiduous efforts".¹⁴

He was the chairman of 'Mysore Chamber of Commerce'. 21st Annual session of, 'Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce And Industries' was hold at Delhi's hotel Imperial's Ballroom on 28 – 29 March 1948. It was Chamber's first session after independence. So delegates of each and every Commerce Federation were present in large number. It was attendant by Shankarrao Ogale of 'Mysore Chamber of Commerce'.¹⁵ He had worked on various industrial committees of the governments of India, Mysore and Travancore. For a year he had worked on permanent committee of federation of 'Indian Chamber of Commerce'.¹⁶

Other Hobbies :

Shankar Ogale was a good cricketer of the Kirloskarwadi cricket team. He was a good hunter also. He often used to go for hunting. In 1928, he killed the panther. He played a small role of '*Vithai*' in the play '*Totyache Band*'; which was performed by an amateur group of Kirloskarwadi.

5) NARHARPANT OGALÉ

Narharpant was the fifth Ogale brother. After passing matriculation he went to Bombay and got training in the pottery section of the Sir J. J. School of Arts. On his return the problem then faced by the Ogale Glass Works was entrusted to him. Particularly that was essential in point of the melting crucible which used to come from Japan; and prices of which rose to any figure during the Second World War. Solely with the desire of making the glass industry self-dependent the Ogales started on the making of the glass melting crucibles at Ogalewadi. With great skill and perseverance and with the data properly tabulated and the results minutely observed and scrutinized for over 12 years Narharpant Ogale succeeded in putting that crucible making department on a good working basis. Then the entire crucibles were made at the works at Ogalewadi and they lasted two or three times longer than the Japanese ones with the same cost or a little less. Great credit goes to N. P. Ogale for the successful introduction of a very useful department of the works.¹⁷

6) DIGAMBARPANT OGALÉ

After taking his lessons in glass making at the 'Ogale Glass Work's Ltd.'; and after having put in a few years here for experience Digambarpant Ogale opened a glass factory in Nagpur under the name and style of "The Nagpur Glass Works Ltd." In 1923.¹⁸

7) VENKATRAO OGALÉ

Venkatrao Ogale completed his education till matriculation in Kolhapur and Bangalore city. He had worked under Baburao Painter. Then he went to Bombay and he acquired a job in 'Royal Art Studio

and Laboratory'. He was an artist. His attitude was artistic. At that time he became ill with Malaria and Anemia. So he came back to Ogalewadi. His brothers insisted on him to stay at Ogalewadi. They didn't want to send him back to Bombay.

Then he joined an artist's team of Shrimant Balasaheb Pantpratinidhi Rajesaheb of Aundh. This team of 15-16 artistes went to the Ajanta caves to make a duplicate model of the paintings. He did a good job there. He wanted to start a new cinema studio. But on the advice of his brothers he joined Enamel Department of Ogale Glass Works Ltd.

His knowledge and love of art did help him in his job. He acquired the knowledge of Chemical.¹⁹ An artist by nature V. P. Ogale emphasized with artistic view to produce all enamelware very beautifully which were going out of the factory and this added to the reputation of the Ogale Enamelware.

Venkatrao was so expert in enamelware's work, that it is started by a close study he had been able to attain the same proficiency in the enamellings line too which is mostly chemical so much so that even post graduate students from the Banaras Hindu University received their practical training under him. About three of such students returned after getting further training in England, Japan and America and the experience were being indirectly derived by the works.²⁰

Contribution To The Freedom Movement :

Ogalewadi came within the jurisdiction of Aundh state and Ogale brothers' patriotism made Ogalewadi one of the most

privileged house of the underground freedom fighters during the days of the Quit India Movement of 1942.

On 7th August 1942 V. P. Ogale had attended the Congress session at the “Gavaliya Tank” with Shrimant Rajkumar Appasaheb Pant of Aundh and his wife Nalini Pant. They all returned to Aundh with strong determination and haunted by the slogan of Quit India.²¹

V. P. Ogale was the only one rich person who openly helped Yashwantrao Chavan and his group by all means. So Yashwantrao was treated well as an underground activist. When there was no place to hide and stay at that time Yashwantrao Chavan went to Ogale within an hour’s message.²²

8) AVADHUTRAO OGALÉ

Avadhutrao Ogale passed his matriculation exam in 1924. After his matriculation he joined the plant. Later on he studied by himself and stood first in the examination of Electrical Engineering carrying first class with Honors. He had also worked for the couple of years in the ‘Tata Iron and Steel Works’ at Tatanagar, where he had obtained the valuable experience in all branches of Mechanical Engineering. At Tatanagar he had studied the tinning process and brought that experience to bear on his work in the Lantern factory.²³

It was not an easy task to start a small independent industry and run it successfully under the colonial rule. At that time Shripad started his own factory. He was a dynamic person. He developed his factory slowly at Ogalewadi. His brothers helped him in various ways. Gurunath’s knowledge of glass technique and construction of industry was unique. He had a great view, that’s why Ogale started various

sections and branches. Gangadharpant's valuable help in selling the shares facilitated the quick sale of the capital in the days when the concern was changed into stock company. The credit of popularizing the Ogale products in the country and creating a universal demand for same from all over goes to Shankar Ogale and was a result of his assiduous efforts. Credit of making crucibles was goes to N. P. Ogale for the successful introduction of a very useful department of the works. The credit of opening a glass factory in Nagpur goes to Digambarpant Ogale. An artist by nature V. P. Ogale emphasized with artistic view to produce all enamelware very beautifully which was going out of the factory and this added to the reputation of the Ogale Enamelware. Avadhutrao Ogale obtained the valuable experience in all branches of Mechanical Engineering. At Tatanagar he had studied the tinning process and brought that experience to bear on his work in the Lantern factory. The plant was worked very successfully and the credit for that goes to all Ogale brothers. "Ogale Brothers" unity made the glorious days of Ogale Glass Work Ltd.

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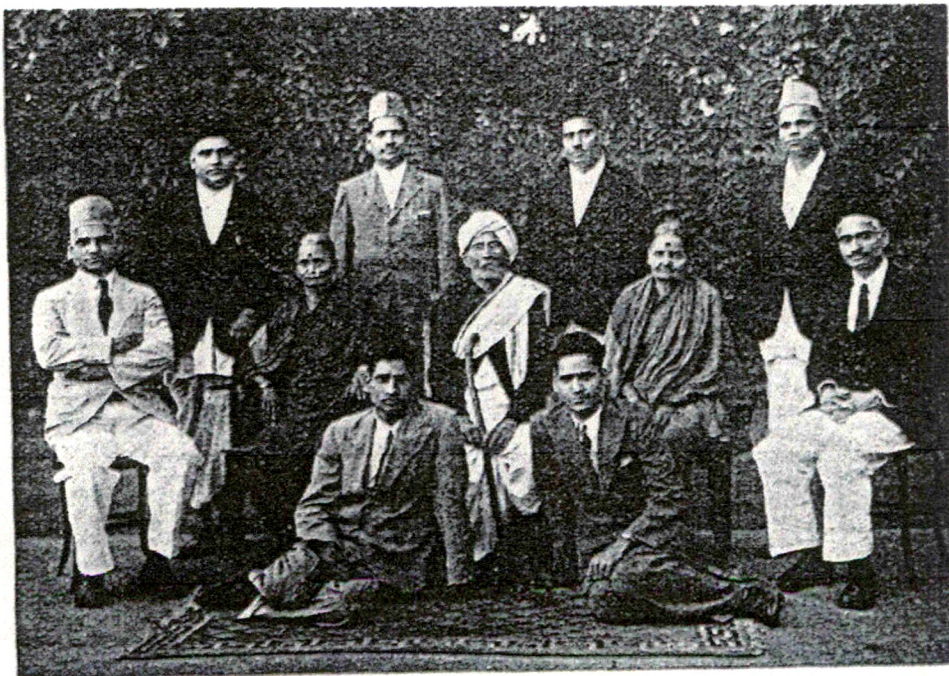
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LEADING WOMEN
OF
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MRS. SAGUNABAI MORE.



Ogale Family Group.