
CHAPTER SIX

KISAN VEER'S CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION

C H A P T E R VI

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Wai today is an important centre not only in co-operative movement but also it is centre of education. Satara being the District place, it could not isolate itself in educational development. It is a wellknown fact that Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil established Rayat Shikshan Sanstha at Satara. It is since Independence, every political leader in Western Maharashtra has taken up the programmes namely, establishing, co-operative societies and educational institutions.

It is belived that Wai was also the centre of Buddhist learning. It is surrounded by mountains in which we find some Buddhist caves. It is belived that it was dense forest and the Buddhist lived here during ¹⁷⁰⁰ ~~17 hundred~~ (B.C.). It is stated these caves were schools of religion. Wai was also centre of Vedic learning during Yadava's period. During Shivaji's period Wai was also considered as a centre of Brahminical learning.

" After 17th B.C. Rasthe Sardhar brought here many Kokanast families and made new settlement. They continued the study of Vedas and also they ^{taught} ~~teach~~ Brahmin students in their home. Such ' Gurukul System ' was previlling here since three or four hundred years"¹.

1. Khare G.H., Borate V.M. " Ashi Amuchi Wai' (Marathi), 1979.

When British conquered Satara District, the first Governor of Bombay Presidency Elphinstone took much interest in education. Primary public schools were opened here in 1821 as some references from report of Board of Education shows².

With this tradition and background, Wai taluka the upper caste dominated the learning centres. Various other communities had been denied educational opportunities for centuries. Kisan Veer father had suffered and because of which Kisan Veer had also to suffer. Even in those days when Kisan Veer pass his 5th standard, his father did not allow him further education. There was no higher secondary school at Wai nor his father could bear the expenses by sending him elsewhere for education. This is how Kisan Veer could not pursue higher education.

It was in 1853, the Government had started a high school at Satara. Wai had no high school upto 1918. It was only after first World War, The Dravid High School was established by the "Deccan Education Society of Poona". The Deccan

2. Interview with Chavan R.N.,

Education Society was managed by the upper caste and this school at Wai could not encourage non-Brahmin students. As stated in earlier chapter, the relation between Poona and Wai are historically important. Prior to 1918, Wai considered Poona as its educational centre. Establishing Dravid High School was more convenient for the upper caste and for the non-Brahmin Satara was considered as centre.

" It is stated by many intellectuals that the upper caste in Wai permitted their sons to pursue education. They were against the education for women. It is believed that in 1923, Dhondo Keshav Karve tried to establish a school for women and he was banned in doing so by the orthodox Brahmins. D.K.Karve had to fight against this orthodoxy for some years and he did establish " A Girls School at Wai". This points to the special nature of orthodox Brahmins at Wai.

Even though schools were established at Wai, they served the interest of upper caste. The non-Brahmins of Wai had to educate themselves not at Wai but at other centres.

This is how Kisan Veer had to go to Kavathe for his little education. Because of this, a urge always remained in Kisan Veer to contribute ~~his~~ own way for educational development of the non-Brahmin masses. He had to suffer a great deal for getting whatever little education he had. With these experiences Kisan Veer after emerging as a powerful Congress leader besides contributing to the economic development has also contributed to educational development of ~~Wai~~ taluka. Kisan Veer as an emerging Congress leader also was much influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's thought and Tilak's nationalism. Because of these influences Kisan Veer join the National movement. His nationalist role in ~~Wai~~ taluka is important because, he appreciated National leaders and nationalistic activity wherever possible. He was also much influenced by Laxmanshastri Joshi because of his nationalist spirit. Though for some time they did not agree with each other. It was only when Laxmanshastri Joshi join^{ed} the Congress, Kisan Veer, LaxmanShastri Joshi and Y. B. Chavn join^{ed} each other for a Nationalistic cause. The Prandhya Path Shalla at Wai, is considered to be important centre of learning, since its establishment since in 1904. Kisan Veer was nominated on this body as a life member. Even the Vishva Kosh, Dharma Kosh was the result of the support extended by the then Chief Minister Shri Y. B. Chavan and Kisan Veer.

Besides doing such services in Wai taluka, Kisan Veer also thought of having an independent educational institution which he established at Surur in 12th June, 1960 naming it as " Yashwant Shikshan Sanstha ". To say this educational society owns six schools as follows:

- 1) Shri Shivaji Vidhyalaya, Surur,
- 2) Wai High School, Wai,
- 3) Gulum High School, Gulum.
- 4) Kenjal High School, Kenjal,
- 5) Udathere High School, Udathere,
- 6) Shivthar High School, Shivathar,

having more than four thousand students, serving the rural areas at Satara district.

Kisan Veer also established, Arts and Commerce College, Wai named today " Kisan Veer Mahavidhalaya " Wai, run by Janata Shikshan Sanstha, Wai, established in 1967. Kisan Veer had to face various sorts of problems to start this college which was originally run by Prandhya Path Shalla.

Kisan Veer though had much in his mind to further the cause of education, could not do much. By the time Kisan Veer made up his mind for educational development,

the masses had been provided with many educational institutions. Nevertheless he concentrated more on rural areas and he did establish more schools than colleges. Besides for running the affairs of the college, he established an independent management. It is learnt that though he established colleges, schools etc., he always saw that the affairs and administrative aspects laid down in safe learned academic persons.

In everything what Kisan Veer did, he had his own view. He could have dominated every big office of every institution which he nurtured, but he never did so. He saw and believed in distributive authority so that he could evolve good future leaders. He was self asserting but rarely tried to dominate. His ultimate interest in everything what he did was to evolve leadership loyal to his leaders Shri Y.B.Chavan, who discribed Kisan Veer after his death as follows:

"... A Colleague in freedcm struggle and friend in my private life, I will not achieve the same however, I may search".