

## CHAPTER-II

### DEMOCRATIZATION

In this chapter an attempt has been made to take an over-all view of the process of democratization right from the first election of the municipality held in the year 1885. In order to understand the process of democratization in this particular town i.e. Karad, one needs to take into consideration all the factors like adult franchise, electorates, candidature etc. Let us to understand each factor separately. For the sake of convenience, here the process of democratization has been classified in three eras or periods of which the first is 1885 to 1945.

It appears from the political history of Karad that, the masses were acquainted with democracy. However, all the eight panch's were nominated by the government on 15th September, 1855.<sup>1</sup> This body of 8 members was nothing but a sort of advisory committee to the government, in all the matters of municipal activities. This board held office upto 30-4-1858. This was followed by a remarkable change. A joint board involving equal number of government officials and citizens, was formulated on 1-5-1858<sup>2</sup> and it lasted upto 30-4-1867.

The first joint municipal board<sup>3</sup> is as follows :

Joint Municipal Board

Government Officials

Nominated citizens

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Magistrate<br>(Collector) | 1) Shri Annaji Parasharam Karadkar |
| 2) Asstt. Magistrate         | 2) ,, Ranoji Krishnarao Dubal      |
| 3) Mamledar                  | 3) ,, Naro Appaji Deshpande        |
| 4) Munisif                   | 4) ,, Sayid Adamsha Kazi.          |

The year 1867 was marked for two reasons. One the municipal act of 1862, No. 9 was executed and accordingly the collector and mamalatadar became the 'Ex-Officio Members', secondly, for gaining co-operation from citizens in municipal administration. The nomination was increased to 2/3 i.e. 15 were nominated from citizens and 8 from the government officials. The meeting of general committee (23 commissioners) was held after every three months. Hence for looking after the working of municipality a committee of seven members was set-up in the year 1868.<sup>5</sup> The committee is known as Managing Committee, it was constituted from the nominated commissioners. The above mentioned board of 1867 lasted upto 1877.

The next remarkable change took place during the period 1877 to 1885. In this period Karad municipality got recognition as a corporate body and classified in city municipality. In this phase the total number of municipal board was decreased to 15. The government officials were 5

and the nominated from citizens were 10. In the year 1883 a three member sub-committee was set-up to prepare poll for the first democratic election which was to be held in 1885.<sup>7</sup>

Until 1885 all the members or so called commissioners of the Karad municipality used to be appointed by the Government. So upto 1885 there was no scope for democratization. Hence the process of democratization began from 1885.

#### Franchise :

Franchise means full right of citizenship given by a country or a town, especially the right to vote in election. The first general election of Karad municipality was held in the year 1885. In this context one has to consider the municipal Act No. 2 of 1884, which brought about a revolutionary change e.g.

- 1) For the first time, citizens of the city got right to elect half of the members of the total members of the municipality.<sup>8</sup>
- 2) Ex-officio membership was totally abolished.
- 3) The differentiation between town and city municipality ceased, etc. Accordingly the first election took place on 10th July, 1885 and since then the system of the secret ballot

has been existing. The right to vote was restricted to graduates, advocates, honourary magistrate and citizens paying Rs.1.5 as tax and staying within the municipal borders.<sup>9</sup>

First democratic Municipal election : 10-7-1885<sup>10</sup>

| No. and<br>name of<br>ward      | Total<br>No.of<br>voters | Total<br>voting<br>ntage | Perce-<br>ntage | Name of candidate            | Votes<br>obta-<br>ined |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Somavar                      | 98                       | 44                       | 43              | 1) Bhaskar Gopal Savarkar    | 2                      |
|                                 |                          |                          |                 | 2) Ganesh Chintaman Bhate    | 2                      |
|                                 |                          |                          |                 | 3) V. Mahipat Suparekar      | 1                      |
|                                 |                          |                          |                 | 4) R.B. Narayan A. Mutalik   | 3                      |
|                                 |                          |                          |                 | 5) Vinayak Narayan Deshpande | 11                     |
|                                 |                          |                          |                 | 6) Ramchandra Vishnu Bhagwat | 25                     |
| 2) Mangalwar<br>and<br>Budhawar | 11                       | 8                        | 75              | 1) Ramkrishna Shridha Pathak | 4                      |
|                                 |                          |                          |                 | 2) P. A. Gujar               | 4                      |
| 3) Gruvar                       | 67                       | 52                       | 75              | 1) Rajaram Ramachandra Kale  | 3                      |
|                                 |                          |                          |                 | 2) Paramchand Abachand Gujar | 1                      |
|                                 |                          |                          |                 | 3) Ramchandra Vishnu Bhagwat | 48                     |
| 4) Shukrawar                    | 22                       | 14                       | 63              | 1) Chandsha Manesha Kazi     | 14                     |

| No. and<br>name and<br>ward | Total<br>No.of<br>voters | Total<br>voting | Perce-<br>ntage | Name of Candidate                   | Votes<br>obta-<br>ined |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5) Shanivar                 | 13                       | 12              | 92              | 1) Vittal Mahipat<br>Supnekar       | 12                     |
| 6) Ravivar                  | 35                       | 22              | 62              | 1) Balkrishna Rama-<br>chandra Kale | 1                      |
|                             |                          |                 |                 | 2) Ramehandra<br>Vishnu Bhagwat     | 1                      |
|                             |                          |                 |                 | 3) Naro Vittal<br>Ghate             | 20                     |

Chart No. 1

In the year 1923 the right to vote was further extended to those citizens who were paying minimum four annas as municipal tax. The voters were allowed to cast vote equal to the number of members to be elected.<sup>11</sup> In the year 1938 the right to vote was made more easy and extended further to those citizens who occupied or were in possession of a building and capable of earning Rs. 12/- per annum<sup>12</sup> within the radius of two miles of Karad. As a result of this the number of voters reached to 3785 whereas there were only 246 voters in the first election held in 1885. The above mentioned chart shows how franchise was limited in early period.

### Electorates :

In the year 1885 when the first general election took place, there were six electorates in all,<sup>13</sup> only Mangalvar and Budhavar peth formed a combined ward.<sup>14</sup> The number of wards was unchanged and remained the same till 1920. However, in the general election of 1920 Karad town was divided into four wards, instead of six,<sup>15</sup> with an allotment of two members per ward with the intention of ascribing representation to minorities. In order to emphasise the same in the year 1923 the number of members of each ward was increased to three.<sup>16</sup> As a result of this 12 members were elected from various wards.<sup>17</sup> One more change took place in the structure of electorates in order to give sufficient representation to muslims minority first time in the history of Karad. A separate muslims constituency was formulated. With the addition of this new separate ward, the total number of wards of Karad became five during 1926 to 1938.<sup>18</sup> Again the wards were reorganised as five general wards and one muslim ward, and the membership of wards was fixed in proportion to the population of ward and thus the number of members to be elected was increased to 17.<sup>19</sup>

### Candidature :

A study of the process of the democratization will be incomplete if one fails to consider the factor of candidature. The candidate contesting election, his socio-

economic condition family background education, social factors like religion caste etc. do have place in the development of democracy with this view an attempt has been made to analyse the candidature in the elections of Karad municipality right from the year 1885.

It appears from the record that in the very first election of municipality 14 candidates contested election for six seats. The six members elected were viz.

1) Shri Vinayak Narayan Deshpande. He was 'Vatandar Deshpande'. He was nominated on municipality in 1867.

2) Shri Ramkrishna Shridhar Pathak. He was brilliant and educated (matriculated).

3) Shri Ramachandra Vishnu Bhagwat. He was an advocate and was nominated member of municipality. He was gav-munsif also.

4) Shri Chandasha Manesha Kazi. He was a muslim and was also nominated member of Karad municipality. he was appointed as member of local fund committee.

5) Shri Vittal Mahipat Supanekar. He was an advocate of Karad Court. He was brilliant and gentleman and was also appointed in local fund committee.

6) Shri Naro Vittal Ghate. He was one of the famous money lenders and also appointed on local board.<sup>20</sup> Apart

from these six elected candidates there were three government officials and they were Mr. Ranade a Mamlatadar Mr. Nimbaji Chief Constable, Mr. Hari Raghunath - Hospital Assistant. Three more members were nominated from the citizens of whom Ravbahaddur Narain. A. Mutalik was appointed first President of Karad Municipality.\*

Overall view of candidature right from 1885 to 1945 denotes that the municipal board was in the hands of members of upper caste and class mostly dominated by Brahmins.

#### Reservation :

Initially there were not reserved seats but in order to give enough representation to minorities the numbers of wards was reduced to four with three members each. This was pursued and in the year 1926 a separate constituency for muslims was formulated.<sup>21</sup> This can be said as landmark in the history of democratization. One more special mention must be made that Karad municipality took a revolutionary step by introducing a reserved seat for the members of scheduled caste in Mangalwar ward.<sup>22</sup>

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\*Resolution : The municipal elections held at Karad show that a fair amount of interest was displayed by the towns people. There were 14 candidates for a seats, while out of 246 electors 152 or 62 percent voted at the elections.

The Governor-in-Council is pleased to appoint Rao Bahaddur Narayan Anant Mutalik to be President of Karad Municipality.



Women folk was deprived of contesting elections upto 1924. However, the ban was withdrawn in the same year, but not a single woman became the member of municipality till 1938. Therefore, a special seat was reserved for women in Somwar, Guruvar and Shukrawar wards by rotation.<sup>23</sup>

#### Women's Participation :

As mentioned earlier there was no women's representation till 1938. Only after the introduction of reserved seat for women one Mrs. Gangabai J. Gune got elected and thus represented the women folk first time in history of Karad Municipality.<sup>24</sup> This was followed by one Mrs. Mangalabai Narayan Vingakar during 1943 to 1946.<sup>25</sup>

#### Voting :

The right of voting was not common then. It was restricted to certain masses. The educational, social economic status of a person was the only criterion for the getting the right of voting. In the very first election of the 1885 the right of voting was restricted to graduates, Advocates and Honourary Magistrates living within the limits of the municipality and also to tax payers who paid minimum Rs. 1.50 per annum. as tax. Hence, the number of voters was only 246 when population of the town was 10,778. Afterward in the course of time conditions for a voter were loosened,

as a result of this the number of voters increased to 3785 as against the population numbering 17,996.<sup>26</sup>

In the year 1909 the government took a progressive step on 10th March 1909, by passing a resolution No. 1313 which allowed the municipality to elect its own president with a condition that the president should be elected by 2/3 of majority in failing so the government would nominate the President.<sup>27</sup> This means the right to vote for election of the President was given to the municipal members. In the year 1920 nomination was brought down to the 1/3 of the total members of municipality. Again in the year 1923,<sup>28</sup> it was brought down to 1/5 of total number of municipality this shows that decreasing of nomination increases the voting with regard to Presidents election.

Taking into account the above said factors of democracy like franchise, electorates, reservations, candidature women participation and voting, it can be concluded that the process of democratization in Karad municipality started taking roots.

#### DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE PERIOD 1946 to 1960 :

This era is marked for a number of developments which contributed to the strengthening of democratization of Karad municipality. According to the Government Resolution No.7797-A

of 28-3-1946 Karad municipality got recognition as Borough municipality.<sup>29</sup> Naturally the responsibility and duties mentioned in Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act 1925, were made applicable to this municipality. So an account of elections, restructuring of wards and number of members were increased to 22 in proportion to the population of wards.

#### Franchise :

Franchise may be said to be a back bone of democracy in the earlier period this was restricted to a number of people fulfilling the conditions of voters laid therein and this type of franchise was in practice till the introduction of Adult Franchise Act of 1950. With the introduction of this act the right to vote was given to every adult citizen.<sup>30</sup> So in the year 1952 the number of voters was 11,350<sup>31</sup> and 80 percent of the voters performed their right by voting. This was supposed to be a landmark. In this way democracy began to take deep root in the masses in a large scale.

Before the year 1949 the voter was allowed to cast vote equal to the number of members to be elected and the voter was also free to cast his all votes even to a single candidate it was soon banned and one candidate one vote was came in practice.<sup>32</sup>

Electroates :

In the period 1946 to 1950 though restructuring of wards was carried out and the number of members was increased to 22. The number of wards remained the constant i.e. six. The second Triannual election took place in 1949. At this time, separate ward for muslims created in 1926 was cancelled and the sixth general ward of Raviwar Peth was formed.<sup>33</sup> And this structure was continued till the year 1960.

Candidature :

Mr. Shivarao Ramrao Chaugule was elected President for the first time since the recognition as Borough municipality was given to Karad municipality. The candidature allotted to each ward was as below in the year 1946.<sup>34</sup>

- 1) Somwar Ward - four
- 2) Shukrawar Ward - three
- 3) Guruwar Ward - four
- 4) Mangalwar ward - three
- 5) Shanivar Ward - four
- 6) Muslim Ward - four.

In all 22 candidates were to be elected from six wards, in the year 1949 muslim's separate ward was replaced by Raviwar ward and one seat in Mangalwar ward, two seats

in Guruwar ward, and one seat in Raviwar ward, were kept reserved, by which for muslims the total number of candidates increased by one and became 23. Further in the year 1956 the number of seats was raised to 24 according to the resolution No. RCN 2766 (B) E 15-5-1955 passed by local self government and public health department.<sup>35</sup> However, one point must be noted, initially the tenure of this board was for three years i.e. from 1952 to 1955 in the year 1954 Municipal Borough Act was amended and the tenure of the office of the Municipal Councillors was made for four years.

#### Reservations :

According to Bombay Municipal Borough's Act one seat out of three seats of Mangalwar ward was kept reserved for the member of Harijans or so called lower caste.<sup>36</sup> This reservation persisted in future also. In the year 1946 Karad Municipality rearranged its wards and 1 seat for Harijans was kept reserved in ward No. 4.<sup>37</sup> Similarly one seat was kept reserved for woman candidate in ward No. 2, 3, 5 and 1 respectively by rotation.<sup>38</sup> At the time of second trainnual election in the year 1949 four seats were kept reserved for muslims as stated earlier. The same allotment was continued in future.

#### Women's Participation :

The women's participation in Karad Municipality began in the year 1938. One Mrs. Mangalabai Naryan Vingkar was the

member of Municipality from 1943 to 1946. Then Mrs. Vasantikabai Dattatraya was elected member between 1946 and 1949 and again. Mrs. Vingkar became the member of the period 1949 to 1952.<sup>49</sup> Since then the number of lady candidates increased steadily forth, there were two women participants viz. Mrs. Yashodabai Watwe and Mrs. Khudaija Naddaf in the election of 1957 again two women participants were elected. Mrs. Yashodabai Watwe an old councillor was re-elected. Here it must be noted that the first time in the history of Karad Municipality one Mrs. Indirabai Vishwasrao Patil, Maratha by caste was elected.<sup>40</sup> This indicates the growing awareness and active participation of women in the Karad Municipality.

In this period 1946 to 60, one can observe that the process of democratization was growing rapidly. Because of the Independence of India the Governments at the both level were concentrated to give autonomy of local government.

With a view to develop the democratic sense and for the implementation of community development programme. In the general election of 1957, 76 candidates were contesting for 24 seats.<sup>41</sup> While in the first election of this Municipality which was held in 1885. 14 candidates contested for 6 seats these figure show the growth of democratic sense among the people.

DEMOCRATIZATION DURING 1961 TO 1980 :

Franchise :

There was no notable change during this period regarding franchise except creation of first electoral roll. First electoral roll was prepared in the year 1965 according to Section 11(3) of the Maharashtra Municipal Act.<sup>42</sup> The principal of universal adult franchise was already brought into practice.

Electorates:

The number of wards was six with twenty three seats to be elected upto 1957. The wards were rearranged thereafter and the total number of the wards was increased from six to nine.<sup>43</sup> The borders of every ward was determined. Similarly the number of members to be elected was also increased by three i.e. in all 26 members were to be elected.

Then the next general election of Municipal Council was held in the year 1967 which was marked by a significant change.

This election was held according to the provisions made in the Maharashtra Municipality Act, 1965. The important and revolutionary provision made in this Act was a representation of a candidate from a particular electorate or ward. Or in other wards the act created single representative constituency<sup>43</sup>

with the implementation of this Act 24 wards were formulated and 24 members were elected two members were co-opted and the total number of candidates become 26. In the year 1971 wards were rearranged again in response to the letter received from Director, Municipal Administration, Bombay, the census of 1971 was the best year for this rearrangement then the population of Karad 42,326 was divided into 27 wards, hence total No. of wards became 27. The ideal ratio of representation was one to 1,401, it means one member was to be elected from minimum population of 1401 and maximum population 1723.<sup>44</sup> And accordingly the election was carried out in the year 1974. When 35 members were elected and 3 were co-opted and total number of Councillors became 38.<sup>45</sup> This municipal board was given extension until the municipality superseeded by the government in 1981.

#### Candidature :

Following members were co-opted on the Municipal Council first, Mr. Karambelkar P.L. and second Mr. Sansuddi S.M. This co-option was made according to the Maharashtra Municipal Act 1965.<sup>46</sup>

When we glance at the list of these 38 Councillors of 1974. We notice that no stone was left unturned i.e. representation was given to the citizens of all religions, castes, classes with various socio-economic and political background. This indicates how the process of democratization filtered the masses.



### Reservations :

In the year 1962 Karad Municipality rearranged the wards with an assignment of reserved seats in particular wards such as one out of three seats in East Somawar ward was kept reserved for female candidates. Similarly two more seats one in Shaniwar peth ward and one in Raviwar Peth ward were kept reserved for female candidates. One seat out of two was kept reserved for scheduled castes in Budhawar Peth. This shows that the attitude towards women was a little bit liberal. In the year 1971 in response to the letter of Director of Municipal Administration, Bombay one seat was kept reserved for scheduled castes in Ward No. 11,<sup>47</sup> and ten percent of the total number of members was kept reserved for the female candidates in alternate wards.

### Women Participation :

Women representation increased due to reservation for them. The number of female candidates elected in the year 1962 was three. This number remained static in the elections of 1967 and 1974.

R E F E R E N C E S

- 1) P.D. Patil (Editor), Karad Nagar Palika Shatsanvastaric  
Smriti Granth, 1955, p. 18.
- 2) Ibid, p. 27.
- 3) Ibid, p. 27.
- 4) Ibid, p. 32.
- 5) Ibid, p. 33.
- 6) Ibid, p. 39.
- 7) Ibid, p. 45.
- 8) Ibid, p. 46.
- 9) Ibid, p. 46.
- 10) Ibid, p. 47.
- 11) Ibid, p. 72.
- 12) Ibid, p. 89.
- 13) Ibid, p. 46.
- 14) Ibid, p. 47.
- 15) Ibid, p. 72.
- 16) Ibid, p. 72.
- 17) Ibid, p. 73.
- 18) Ibid, p. 79.
- 19) Ibid, p. 89.
- 20) Ibid, p. 48.
- 21) Ibid, p. 79.
- 22) Ibid, p. 89.

- 23) P.D. Patil (Editor), Karad Nagarpalika Shatsanvastaric Smriti Granth, 1966, p. 89.
- 24) Ibid, p. 90.
- 25) Ibid, p. 91,
- 26) Ibid, p. 89.
- 27) Ibid, p. 56.
- 28) Ibid, p. 72.
- 29) Ibid, p. 96.
- 30) Ibid, p. 105.
- 31) Ibid, p. 105.
- 32) Ibid, p. 97.
- 33) Ibid, p. 97.
- 34) Ibid, p. 96.
- 35) Proceeding Book of General Committee of Karad Municipality, 1957.
- 36) P.D. Patil (Editor) Karad Nagarpalika Shatsanvastaric Smriti Granth, 1966, p. 96.
- 37) Ibid, p. 96.
- 38) Ibid, p. 96.
- 39) Ibid, p. 98.
- 40) Proceeding Book of General Committee of Karad Municipality, 1957.
- 41) Ibid.
- 42) V.S. Joshi and Leela Kayamakhane, Maharashtra Nagarpalika Adhiniyam, Nyaydeep Publication, Pune, 1980, p. 69.

- 43) V.S. Joshi and Leela Kayamkhane, Maharashtra Nagarpalika Adhiniyam, Nyaydeep Publication, Pune, 1980, p. 68.
- 44) Proceeding Book of General Committee, 1971.
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- 46) V.S. Joshi and Leela Kayamkhane, Maharashtra Nagarpalika Adhiniyam, Nyaydeep Publication, 1980, p. 65.
- 47) Proceeding Book of General Committee Year 1971.