

CHAPTER-III

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF KARAD MUNICIPALITY

The development of the political leadership of Karad Municipality has been classified in three parts. They are - (1) From 1855 to 1885, (2) from 1885 to 1940 and (3) from 1940 to 1980. Following questions are raised to reveal the pattern of leadership in these three periods :

1) Who were these leaders ?

What were their social characteristics ?

2) What were their political linkages ?

At the time of establishment of Karad Municipality in the year 1855 following 8 members were nominated on the Council of Municipality.¹

- 1) Shri Ranoji Krishnarao Dubal
- 2) ,, Naro Appaji Deshapande
- 3) ,, Ramachandra Ranganath Ghate
- 4) ,, Datto Balavant Atakekar
- 5) ,, Ramakrishna Dhondaji Gijare
- 6) ,, Naro Narsinh Vagamare
- 7) ,, Adamasha Khujadnia Kazi
- 8) ,, Annaji Parasharam Karadkar.

Due to paucity of data, no definite conclusion could be drawn regarding their social characteristics and political

linkings. However from their names one can safely say that the composition was multicaste. They belonged to wealthy and prestigious families of Karad. Some of them like Deshapande, Ghate, Altekar, Karadkar, Gijare by their surnames appear to be brahmins. Mr. Kazi a muslim fellow and Mr. Dubal Maratha one. Except Mr. Kazi all belong to Hindu savarna fold no one has been nominated from downtrodden community of Hindus.

The first nominated Chairman of the Council from amongst the people was Mr. Ravbahadur Narayan Anant Mutalik.² He was appointed as Chairman of Council in the year 1885. He continued Chairmanship for one year, he belonged to rich Brahmin family and had good social prestige in the town. He had good political background. He was in charge of all politico-administrative affairs of Pant Pratinidhi of Peshava.³ For the Karad town this clearly shows the political linking of the first Chairman of Karad city with the Royal family of Peshwas.

Mr. Vinayak Narayan Deshapande :

Mr. V.N. Deshapande was a nominated member of Karad Municipality in the year 1867.⁴ He was also elected member of Municipality from 1885.⁵ He was a 'Vatanadar Deshapande', that means he belonged to reach family and by caste he was Brahmin.

Mr. Ramachandra Vishnu Bhagawat :

Mr. R.V. Bhagawat was a nominated member of Karad Municipality in the year 1866. He was Chairman of the first Managing Committee.⁶ He was an Advocate. He was 'Gav-Munisif'.⁷ Being a Gav Munisif he had also political background.

During this period i.e. pre 1885 there was very limited scope for the development of leadership in the Karad Municipality. The Municipal Board had a very limited rights regarding functioning of the Municipality. Municipal Boards were advisory boards only. The members of these three boards were multi-caste during this period.

Mr. Narayan Anant Mutalik, Mr. Vinayak Narayan Deshapande and Mr. Ramchandra Vishnu Bhagwat were the prominent leaders of that period. All of them were brahmins having good education, sound economical position and social prestigate. Mr. Ravabahaddur N.A. Mutalik and Mr. R.V. Bhagwat also had good political background. Thus the leadership in the Karad Municipality in its early stage was nominated, and dominated by rich and brahmin class.

Second Period 1885 to 1940 :

The year 1885 marks the beginning of elections in the history of Karad Municipality. The period from 1885 to 1940 is, therefore a period of extension of democratization on various levels. This, therefore, is the period of development

towards full composition of democratic leadership. In this period nominated element slowly declined and democratic element slowly increased. To study social characteristics and political linkages of the leaders of this period following prominent personalities are selected.

1) Shri Ramachandra Vishnu alias
Bhausahab Bhagawat :

Mr. Bhausahab Bhagawat was the first Chairman of first Managing Committee of Karad Municipality who held the office during the 1868 to 1886 i.e. continuously for 18 years. After having functioned as Chairman of Managing Committee he was appointed as the first President of Karad Municipality from amongst the elected members on 1-10-1886⁸ and he lasted-up to 31-3-1889. He was a 'Gav Munisif' and legal practitioner too. He was a well known social worker of the city.

Mr. Bhagawat was founder member of 'Karad Rashtriya Sabha' in 1888.⁹ He was also founder member of 'Chhoti Congress of Karad' in the year 1891.¹⁰ He was an active member of Rashtriya Sabha. He actively participated in national movement because of his background as 'Gav Munisif'. He was highly educated and belonged to a rich Brahmin family, having socio-political image in Karad.

2) Mr. Chandasha Manesha Kazi :

Mr. Kazi belonged to Muslim family. He was elected as a member of Karad Municipality in the year 1885.¹¹ He was

municipal member from 1978 to 1907 for about 26 years. He was Chairman of School Committee and Sanitary Committee for few years.¹²

Mr. Chandasha Manesha Kazi was also a 'Vatandar' and Chief Kazi of Muslims. He was President of 'Karad Taluka Congress' in the year 1888. In the same year Rashtriya Sabha at Karad was established under his Chairmanship.¹³

3) Shri Naro Vittal Ghatte :

Mr. Ghatte was elected member of Karad Municipality for 10 years from 1885 to 1892 and 1895 to 1898.¹⁴ He was a well known money lender and a 'Jamindar'. He was a Chairman of Managing Committee during the year 1886 to 1889.¹⁵ He was the founder member of 'Rashtriya Sabha' at Karad in the year 1888.¹⁶ Mr. Ghatte belonged to rich brahmin family. He was also appointed in Local Board.

4) Shri Vittal Mahipat Supanekar :

Mr. Supanekar was elected member of Karad Municipality in 1885.¹⁷ He was also appointed on the 'Local Fund Committee of Karad Taluka'.¹⁸ He was a legal practitioner in Karad Court. In the year 1891 he alongwith Mr. Bhausaheb Bhagawat established 'Chhoti Congress' of Karad.¹⁹ He also participated in the 'Islampur Congress'.²⁰ Mr. Supanekar was educated and a legal practitioner. He belonged to a Brahmin family.

5) Shri Datto Vasudev Kale :

Mr. Kale was a nominated member of Karad Municipality during 1892 to 1895, and he was elected member of Municipality from 1895 to 1901.²¹ He was Chairman of the Managing Committee during 1895 to 1898.²² He was the Chairman of the 'Walawa Taluka Congress' in the year 1897.²³ He belonged to a Brahmin family.

6) Shri Ganesh Chintaman Bhate :

Mr. Bhate was the elected member of Karad Municipality and Chairman of the Managing Committee during 1892 to 1895.²⁴ He was a well known advocate. He belonged to a rich Brahmin family.

7) Shri Bhaskar Gopal Savarkar :

Mr. Savarkar was a nominated member of Municipality in the year 1887 and elected member during 1889 to 1891.²⁵ He was President of Karad Municipality during 1889 to 1891.²⁶ He was a well known advocate. In the early period of Municipality he was Octroi Inspector of this Municipality i.e. in the year 1878.²⁷ Mr. Savarkar belonged to a Brahmin family.

8) Shri Narayan Ramchandra Bhagawat :

Mr. Bhagawat was a member of Karad Municipality continuously for about 28 years i.e. from 1898 to 1926 out of which, he was elected member for 18 years and nominated for

10 years.²⁸ He was President of the Municipality during 1909 to 1910 and again during 1918 to 1920.²⁹ He was Vice-President during 1904 to 1905 and he was Chairman of Managing Committee during 1898 to 1904.³⁰ He was a bench Magistrate. He belonged to rich Brahmin family.

9) Shri Ramakrishna Narsinh Kale :

Mr. Kale was a elected member of Karad Municipality during 1904 to 1910.³¹ He was Chairman of Managing Committee during 1904 to 1907.³² He was well known money lender and interested in wrestling. Mr. Kale belonged to a rich Brahmin family.

10) Shri Balaji Narayan Belapure :

Mr. Belapure was elected a member of Municipality during 1901 to 1910 and he was Chairman of Managing Committee during 1907 to 1909.³³ He was editor of 'Vidushak' a news paper,³⁴ which was published from 1888 onwards in Karad. Mr. Belapure belonged to a Brahmin family.

11) Shri Krishnaji Govind alias
Kakasaheb Bahulekar :

Mr. Kakasaheb Bahulekar was elected member of Municipality during 1904 to 1910 and he was, Chairman of Managing Committee during 1909 to 1910.³⁵ He was also Chairman of Sanitory and School Committees for few years. He was a well known legal practitioner and social worker. He belonged to a Brahmin family.

12) Shri Laxman Mahadev alias
Nanasaheb Deshapande :

Mr. Nanasaheb Deshapande was a notable figure in the cultural, educational, social, economical and political life of Karad city. He was first elected President of Karad Municipality, during 1910 to 1916.³⁶ He was member of the Municipality for about 18 years. During his period Karad Municipality developed very much. Mr. Nanasaheb Deshapande was the pioneer of modern and filtered water supply scheme of municipality.³⁷ In the year 1913 this scheme was planned and estimated Rs. 451,234-00 and was completed in the year 1918. He revised the octroi tax and wheel tax was introduced by him in the year 1914.³⁸

Mr. Nanasaheb Deshapande was one of the chief members of 'Akhil Bharatiya Varnashram Swaraj Sangh'.³⁹ He was elected member of Bombay Legislative Council during 1926 to 1930.⁴⁰ He alongwith Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was the member of the Committee formed with an intention to help depressed classes in the city.⁴¹

Mr. Nanasaheb Deshapande was a person who had a foresight. Karad being one of the chief markets Mr. Deshapande established 'Karad Urban Co-operative Bank' in the year 1917.⁴² He also established 'The Bank of Karad' in the year 1943.⁴³ He was a Chairman of both the Banks for quite long time. He also tried to establish a cooperative sugar factory.

He was one of the founder members of 'Tilak High School'.⁴⁴ Mr. Nanasaheb Deshapande was member or founder member of so many institutions in Karad.

Mr. Nanasaheb Deshapande was in Poona for his matriculation, where he was highly impressed by the ideology of Late Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Late Mr. Pandunana Shiralakar one of the disciplines of Lokamanya Tilak was then at Karad. Mr. Deshpande, alongwith Mr. Shiralkar joined the freedom movement with a view to serving mother land. Mr. Deshapande was follower of Swadeshi. In order to encourage Indian Industry Mr. Deshapande alongwith Mr. Pandunna Shiralakar opened a new factory manufacturing match boxes at Karad.⁴⁵

Mr. Nanasaheb Deshapande worked as member of finance committee of Bombay Legislature as well as on the advisory board of Southern Maratha Railway in 1929.⁴⁶ Mr. Deshapande resigned from Legislature as protest against atrocities committed to Satyagrahis at the time of 'Civil disobedience' in the year 1930.⁴⁷

Nanasaheb Deshapande belonged to a Brahmin family. He worked in all the walks of life, his work was of high standard. He was no doubt, alround leader of Karad.

13) Mr. Vishwanath Dyanoba Batane :

Mr. Vishwanath Batane was elected member of Municipality for about 22 years. Since 1901 he was Chairman of Managing

Committee.⁴⁸ For eight years during the period 1910 to 1918. He belonged to rich family. He was well known social worker. But he limited his field of work only upto Municipality and gave scope to his younger brother Mr. Ganapatrao Batane.

14) Dharmavir Ganapatrao Dyanoba Batane :

Mr. Ganapatrao Batane was elected member of the Karad Municipality for contineously 25 years. Since 1907.⁴⁹ He was loyal member of 'Rashtriya Sabha'. He became famous because of his religious deeds. He was true lover of Hinduism. In the year 1926 Mr. Ganapatrao Batane alongwith his Hindu friends decided to lead a Ganapati procession as usual i.e. with playing musical instruments, band etc. But unfortunately muslims of the city objected to take that procession via mosque. Mr. Batane argued that it was their judicial right and filed case in the court and established this traditional right then the procession went smoothly as usual. This act of Mr. Batane was appreciated by a leading daily news paper called 'Kesari' which honoured him as 'Dharmavir'.⁵⁰

Mr. Ganapatrao Batane belonged to rich family and was religious minded person. Though Mr. Batane nailed from a very rich commercial and professional family he was not interested in all that. He devoted himself to the freedom movement and religious field.

15) Shri Pandurang Keshav Shiralkar
alias Pandunna Shiralkar :

Mr. Panduanna Shiralkar borned in a wealthy, money lenders saraf family. He was a nominated member of Karad Municipality from 1-4-1913 to 31-3-1916 and then onwards Vice-President of Municipality upto the year 1920.⁵¹ He was a member of Bombay Legislative Council during 1937 to 1939.⁵² He was Chairman of School Committee for 5 years.

Panduanna Shiralkar, Nanasaheb Deshapande and Kakasaheb Bahulekar this trinity was popular then in Karad. Mr. Shiralkar was disciple of Lokamanya Tilak. He collected funds for Poona Congress and stepped in politics.⁵³ Lokamanya Tilak delivered a speech in Swadeshi on February 6th 1906 at Karad which inspired Shiralkar most. This inspiration lead him to the erection of a factory manufacturing match boxes at Karad. He contributed Rs. 32000-00 for the same.⁵⁴

Governor visited Karad on 13-7-1930 he was welcomed by showing black flags and by observing 'Haratal'. This was resulted into imprisonment to Mr. Shiralkar. He conducted a protest meeting when Mahatma Gandhi was arrested by police. This resulted in detention of Shiralkar. He was sentenced punishment of imprisonment for several times which he accepted with smile.⁵⁵

Panduanna Shiralkar was donor as well as he was associated with various institutions. He was member of congress Vice-President of Municipality and Satara Zilla Parishad. Besides this he actively participated in politics. He was a founder member of many institutions like Tilak High School, Deccan Match Factory member of All India Congress, Karad Urban Co-operative Bank of Karad, Karad Industries, Geeta Dharma Mandal, Lok Sevasangh, Paisa Fund, Home Rule Movement, Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Shabda Kosha Mandal.

His forefathers used to lend money to Peshawas of Satara.⁵⁶ He was well known as cold minded with excellent moral character selfishlessness and a donor for philanthropic activities as a result of which he was honoured and respected by the people.⁵⁷ He had also political linking with Peshwa's of Satara.

16) Shri Sadashiv Khando alias
Appasaheb Alatekar :

Appasaheb Altekar was Chairman of Managing Committee during 1918-1919. He was member of Municipality during 1916 to 1920.⁵⁸ Appasaheb Altekar was disciple of Lokamanya Tilak. He toured in mofussil areas like Tasgaon, Islampur, Vita etc. for awareness regarding 'Home Rule Movement'.⁵⁹

Mr. Alatekar was a leading advocate. But he gave-up his profession and joined hand with Mahatma Gandhiji's Non

Co-operation Movement.⁶⁰ He was elected as a member of All India Congress Committee in the year 1929.⁶¹

Appasaheb Alatekar belonged to 'Brahmin Family'. He was a good Journalist. He performed various roles like true lover of Mother land, social worker, soldier of freedom movement.

17) Mr. Sitaram Gopalaji Patil :

Mr. Sitaram Gopalaji Patil was a elected member of Karad Municipality from the year 1916. Continuously for thirteen years. He was President of Karad Municipality during the year 1920 to 1922.⁶² Mr. Sitaram Patil was the first President from Maratha Community.

18) Mr. Krishnaji Marutrao alias Bhauso Kalambe :

Mr. Krishnaji Kalambe was President of Karad Municipality. He was editor of 'Shikshakancha Kaivari'.⁶³ Mr. Bhauso Kalambe was captain of terrorist organisation.⁶⁴ He tried to revolt in 1911, during period of first world war. Then he tried to revolt against British with help of Germany but due to changed policy of Portuguese he did not succeed in it.⁶⁵ Then he worked as social worker.

Mr. Kalambe who was prominent leader of freedom movement and because of his popularity and his social work he was unanimously elected as President of Karad

Municipality.⁶⁶ He was a teacher and belonged to a Brahmin family. This was the only leadership in Karad Municipality which was terrorist one.

19) Shri Pandurang Ganesh alias Tatyasaheb Bhate :

Mr. Tatyasaheb Bhate was a well known advocate. He was a member of Municipality for nine years and during 1920 to 1923 he was Vice-President of the Karad Municipality.⁶⁷ He was supporter of 'Rashtriya Sabha'. He was staunch interested in co-operative sector. He adopted himself to co-operative movement.

Mr. Bhate belonged to Brahmin family educated and a leader of freedom movement, leading advocate.

20) Shri Sankar Rajaram Dhavalikar :

Mr. Dhavalikar was President of Karad Municipality during the period 1925 to 1928.⁶⁸ He was Chairman of Managing Committee during 1920 to 1923.⁶⁹ He was a elected member of Municipality for six years. He was teacher in the Municipal English School. He was also member of Local Board. He was an advocate.

21) Mr. Khanaso Haji Ahamad Kasamasaheb Kachhi :

Mr. K.H.A.K. Kachhi was President of Karad Municipality for 12 years. During 1926 to 1927 and again from 1928 to

1938.⁷¹ He was the co-ordinator of buildings of Municipal Hospital and Market. He represented muslims constituency in Bombay Legislative Assembly unanimously in the year 1937.⁷² Mr. Kachhi belonged to rich muslim family. He was chief honourable merchant.

22) Mr. Kisanlal Premaraj alias
Bhausahab Marawadi :

Mr. Bhausahab Marawadi belonged to rich Marawadi family. He was member of Municipality for 21 years i.e. from 1926 to 1946.⁷³ He was Chairman of Managing Committee for 11 years and Vice-President of Municipality for 12 years i.e. from 1926 to 1938.⁷⁴ He was propounder (exponent) of 'Gorakshana'. He was chief cloth merchant of Karad city.

23) Mr. Marutrao Gopalrao Shinde :

Mr. Shinde belonged to a Maratha farmer's family. He was President of Municipality during 1927 to 1928.⁷⁵ He was a elected member and Chairman of Managing Committee during 1926 to 1932.⁷⁶

24) Mr. Hari Pandurang alias
Haribhau Lad :

Mr. Haribhau Lad was disciple of Lokamanya Tilak. He participated in non co-operation movement and also in civil disobedience in the year 1930 for which he was imprisoned.⁷⁷ He was municipal member during 1930-32.⁷⁸ He wrote a book

entitled 'Mazya Rajakiya Athawani' in the year 1974. Mr. Lad belonged to poor Maratha family. Physically he handicapped. But a strong freedom fighter and nationalist. He was Chairman of Karad taluka Congress Committee in the year 1930.⁷⁹

25) Mr. Ramchandra Sadashiv Dhavale :

Mr. Dhavale was elected member of Municipality for about 8 years during 1930 to 1938.⁸⁰ He was also Chairman of water Works Committee and School Committee for few years. He was member of Poona University Court. He was highly educated i.e. M.A., LL.B. and Advocate. He belonged to a Brahmin family. He was Professor in English in the Shivaji College, Satara.

26) Mr. Narayan Vaman Gogate :

Mr. Gogate was elected member of Karad Municipality during 1932 to 1935.⁸¹ He was Chairman of Managing Committee for 1 year. Mr. Gogate ... belonged to a rich Brahmin family. He was Director of the famous 'Ogale Glass Works'.

27) Mr. Govindrao Joti Thorawade :

Mr. Thorawade was member of Municipality for 14 years out of 1926 to 1946.⁸² He was Chairman of Sanitary Committee and Dispensary Committee also for few years.

Mr. Thorawade belonged to a Harijan family. He was the first Harijan member of Municipality.

28) Mr. Rau Bala Kadam :

Mr. Kadam was President of Municipality during 1938 to 1940 and again from 23-2-1946 to 31-7-46.⁸³ He was Chairman of Managing Committee Water Works Committee, Sanitary Committee for few years, totally he was member of Municipality for 16 years. He belonged to Maratha family.

29) Mr. Haji Alli-Mahamad Kasamsaheb Kacchi :

Mr. Kachhi was elected members of Municipality during 1938 to 1940 and again from 1943 to 1946.⁸⁴ He was Vice-President of Municipality in the same period. He belonged to rich muslim family.

Following conclusions are derived from the above discussions. Socialologically it may be said that during this period, Karad Municipality was heavily dominated by Brahmins of the selected 29 Municipal Councillors of this period.

- 1) 18 were the Brahmins, 4 Maratha, 3 Muslim, 1 Marwadi, 2 Lingyat and 1 was Harijan.
- 2) Of the 29, 16 were highly placed professionalists like money lenders, merchants, pleaders, 7 were big estate holders and remaining farmers and Balutedars. It must be mentioned here that the large number was of the pleaders.

- 3) During this period out of these 29, 13 were directly connecting with national freedom movement, a very peculiar characteristic is that, most of them started their political career in Municipal politics and then joined freedom movement.
- 4) The entire Municipal leadership of this period was elitist masses were not properly and proportionately been represented even in local self government.

Third Period 1940 to 1980 :

During this period the nominated element was completely replaced by representation of the citizens. The right of voting was extended. For the first time in the history of Karad Municipality provision for women representation was made-up in the year 1938.⁸⁵ Reservation for Harijans was also made-up. That means this period was period of full democratization. Municipality in a real sense became a local self-government. This period mainly deals with leadership after the independence of India i.e. Post-independent leadership of the Karad Municipality. To study social characteristics and political linkages of the leaders of this period following personalities are selected :

1) Mr. Sadashiv Krishna Bahulekar :

Mr. Sadashiv Bahulekar was a elected member of Karad Municipality from 1938 to 1940 and again from 1943 to 1946.⁸⁶ He was President of Karad Municipality during 1943 to 1946.⁸⁷

Mr. Bahulekar belonged to a rich Brahmin family. He was an advocate.

2) Shri Shivarav Ramrav Chaugule :

Mr. Chaugale was elected member of Karad Municipality during 1946 to 1949.⁸⁸ He was first President of Karad Borough Municipality. He belonged to jain family. He was highly educated i.e. B.A., LL.B. He was well known advocate of criminal court.

3) Shri Ganapatrao Balavantrao Chavan :

Mr. Chavan was municipal member during 1943 to 1947.⁸⁹ He was president of Municipality from 14-9-1947 to 15-12-47.⁹⁰ He was public worker belonged to Maratha family. He was brother of well known national leader and present Chairman of Eighth Finance Commission of India Mr. Yashavantrao Balavantwao Chavan.

4) Shri Gajananrao Vishwanath Umbrani :

Mr. Umbrani was a elected member of Municipality during 1946 to 1952,⁹¹ he was President of Municipality from 8-1-48 to 6-10-48.⁹² He belonged to Brahmin family.

5) Shri Pannalal Gopilal Lahoti :

Mr. Lahoti was President of Karad Municipality from 7-10-1948 to 31-10-1949.⁹³ He was Vice-President during 1947 to 1948.⁹⁴ He was elected member of Municipality for about 12 years.

Mr. P.G. Lahoti, belonged to Marawadi family was well known cloth merchant of Karad City.

6) Shri Atmaram Narayan Jadhav :

Mr. Jadhav was President of Karad Municipality from 1-11-1948 to 31-10-1950, he was member of Municipality during 1949 to 1952.⁹⁵ He was follower of Congress. He belonged to Maratha family.

7) Mr. Rambilas Kisanlal Lahoti :

Mr. R.K. Lahoti was member of Municipality during 1947 to 1974. And he was President of Municipality during 1950 to 1951.⁹⁶ He was Vice-President during 1949 to 1950. He was follower of Congress. He belonged to Marawari family.

8) Dr. Shrikrishna Mahadev Kulkarni :

Dr. S.M. Kulakarni was President of Karad Municipality during 1951 to 1952.⁹⁸ He was member of Municipality during 1949 to 1952.

Dr. S.M. Kulkarni belonged to Brahmin family was highly educated i.e. L.C.P. and S.L.M. (Dublin) Cancer specialist, Director of Karad Urban Co-operative Bank.

9) Mr. Prabhakar Laxman Karambelkar :

Mr. Karambelkar was member of Karad Municipality during 1952 to 1959.⁹⁹ He was President of Karad Municipality during 1952-53. He belonged to Brahmin family. He was highly educated i.e. B.A., B.T. He was founder member of 'Shri Shivaji Education Society' and Director of Karad Urban Co-operative Bank.

10) Mr. Pandurang Dadaso Patil :

Mr. P.D. Patil was a member of Karad Municipality from 1952 to 1981 successively. He was President of Karad Municipality first during 1953 to 1955¹⁰⁰ and again from 30-1-1956 to 1981. Until Municipality was superseded by Government i.e. from 2-1-81.

A study of development of Municipal leadership in Karad town cannot be completed unless one takes a overall view of leadership that emerged after 1952. Mr. P.D. Patil was the President of Karad Municipality for about 28 years. Mr. P.D. Patil is a very talented person who possesses excellent qualities of leadership and who could create good deal of confidence amongst the members.¹⁰¹

In the early period he has to face opposition, which he over came by his co-operative and selfless nature in very limited time. Consequently, the member of opposition showing and gradually started appreciating his democratic ideals and zeal for public welfare. He tried his level best to keep the municipal activities aloof from the political parties, which resulted in all sided development of the Karad city. Karad city has a glorious, historical, religious educational, cultural traditions which he enriched predominantly. On the occasion of celebration of century of Karad Municipality he edited, "Karad Nagarpalika Shatsanvastric Smriti Granth" in 1955 in which he has taken resume of political changes in the course of hundred years. Mr. P.D. Patil has throughly studied social and political life of Karad which made him to understand the feelings, emotions and opinions of common people of city which helped him to take his oppositions into confidence and to take unanimous decisions. Because of him only, the library of Municipality is being recognised as biggest and rich library in mofussil area. He introduced different dias or forums like - 'Yashavantrao Chavan Vyakhyanmala', 'Saneguruji Kathamala' etc.

Under his able leadership Karad Municipality developed gloriously. The present Municipal Office building and open air theatre were completed in the year 1957.¹⁰² Under his guidance. In the year 1973, Municipal Stadium i.e. Shivaji Stadium was completed.¹⁰³ In the year 1975 the Karad Underground Drainage scheme was completed.¹⁰⁴ This scheme is supposed to be first and first class in municipal area in Maharashtra. This scheme cost Rs. 44 lakhs. The glory of Karad town is the present 'Town Hall', which consists of auditorium, library and public hall, is almost completed under his guidance. The Shivaji Housing Society, Marketyard, Karad Water Supply Scheme, these were some of the schemes which were completed under the guidance of Mr. P.D. Patil.

Mr. P.D. Patil has been actively participating in other fields of life in socio-economic, co-operative sectors, politics as well.

He was Chairman of 'Agricultural Producers Market Committee' during 1955 to 1958 and again in 1959 to 1960.¹⁰⁵ He was elected on the general board of institution of local self government during 1958 to 1962 by general board of Karad Municipality.¹⁰⁶ In the year 1960 he was appointed on legislative council.¹⁰⁷

In the year 1961 he established a society for fourth class municipal servants.¹⁰⁸ Sweeper, road cleaners are the member of this society. This society is having balance of

Rs. 1.5 lakhs now a days. In the year 1963 he was elected on legislative assembly.¹⁰⁹ In the year 1966 he created 'Pritisangam Water Supply Scheme' a Co-operative Lift Irrigation.¹¹⁰ Right from its beginning he was its Chairman. In the year 1971 a co-operative sugar factory was erected at 'Shirawade' near Karad as result of his constant efforts and hard work. He is one of the founder member of ¹⁺ and has been Chairman of Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana since then. Again he was elected on the legislative assembly on 29-5-1980.¹¹²

Mr. P.D. Patil is highly educated and belongs to Maratha family. Whatever may be written about Mr. P.D. Patil may be not enough. He is different subject for the purpose.

11) Shri Ganapatrao Dhyanoba Karande :

Mr. G.D. Karande was member of Municipality from 1952 to 1957. He was Vice-President of Karad Municipality during 1955.¹¹³ He was a Harijan member of Municipality.

12) Shri Narayan Balaji alias Nanasahab Budhakar :

Mr. Nanasahab Budhakar is member of Municipality from 1952 to 1967.¹¹⁴ He belongs to Brahmin family. He is highly educated. He was Chairman of Karad Bar Council and Vice-Chairman of Bank of Karad.

Following Social characteristics of the top ranking selected leaders of the Karad Municipality are found :

(A) 1) During this period also Municipal politics appears to be significantly controlled by Brahmin's of the 13, 5 were brahmins, a single largest number but the total of non-Brahmin was finally better than the Brahmins i.e. Maratha 3, muslim 1, Marawaris 2, Jain 1, Harijan 1, but as far as caste composition is concerned it must be mentioned that Presidentship of the Karad Municipality has remained in the hands of Maratha leader throughout entire period. Mr. P.D. Patil, Maratha advocate was President for 28 years with exceptional break of one year.

ii) Eventhough during this period franchise was reached to all adults of city and large No. of adult exercised the right to vote and eventhough number of Municipal Councillors from amongst had increased top ranking leadership i.e. President and Chairman of Committees mainly belonged to higher middle class, elitits, professionalists, four were pleaders, one doctor, 2 merchants etc.

(B) Two notable features must be noted here as below :

i) The first is, nobody from national freedom movement even occupy any position in power politics in the Municipality. The old generation of national freedom movement seems to be completely out of picture.

ii) The Presidentship of the Karad Municipality remained in single hand from 1952 onwards. Advocate P.D. Patil was very honest follower of Y.B. Chavan a very high ranking leader of

State and Nation. Karad has remain since Independent the home constituency of Mr. Y.B. Chavan. He had nurtured this constituency in such way that, eventhough in 1957 entire western Maharashtra was shaken by the wave of opposition parties allience. Mr. Y.B. Chavan got elected from this constituency very safely. Mr. P.D. Patil by working as an honest follower Mr. Y.B. Chavan. Successfully dominated politics of Karad Municipality. It, therefore, was one man show since 1952 when we start evaluating the leadership of this period entire consentration is to be made upon Mr. P.D. Patil.

(C) Surprisingly from 1940 to 1950 period of high mark of national freedom movement, municipal leadership was escaped from the hands of freedom fighters and reached to the hands of power politics. Most of President were not linked with the politics of national congress.

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