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C H A P T E R - I I I

: HISTORY OF KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION :

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CHAPTER - III: HISTORY OF KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION :3.1 INTRODUCTION:

It is the history which gives guidelines required for doing research in any science. In other words, history of the subject stimulates us to undertake research. Especially, it becomes very difficult to undertake research in social sciences. Because, it provides necessary information required for the proposed research and initiates research activity. Therefore, it is said that " There is no route without history ". The present dissertation work is related to Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, therefore, an attempt is made to review the history of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation.

3.2 HISTORY OF THE CITY OF KOLHAPUR:

We get the thread of the history of the city of Kolhapur nearly 150 years back. Upto 1312, Kolhapur Kingdom was ruled by the Bacakar, Kadamb, Chalukya, Shaidrik, Maurya, Shilahar and Yadav's of Devgiri. The King Shri Karndev of Chalukya dynasty had built up the famous ' Mahalaxmi Temple '. During the period 1312 to 1659, Kolhapur Kingdom was under the rule of Muslim Emperors. But later on, it became the main centre of Maratha Emperors. Kolhapur became main and important city of the Karvir Sansthan founded by Maharani Tarabai - the daughter-in-law of Shivaji III. The name



Kolhapur and the vast area the city has covered is recent one. The city of Kolhapur has great and important political, educational, social and historical base and background. In 1752 Shivaji III shifted his capital from Panhala to Kolhapur, and in a real sense, since then only, the history of Kolhapur starts ¹.

Kolhapur was ruled by Maratha Emperors like Shivaji III, Shri Shahu, Shri Rajaram, Smt. Maharani Tarabai, During their rule, they had made drastic efforts to develop the city of Kolhapur. Because of their efforts the process of development of this city started and laid down the foundation of its development. Therefore, today we see Kolhapur in the form of a developed city.

3.3 NOMENCLATURE OF THE CITY OF KOLHAPUR:

According to the traditional account the town received its name from the demon namely 'Kol', who was defeated by Goddess Mahalaxmi in vicinity of the town. Others have derived it from the Sanskrit word 'Kolhar' or 'Kolihu', both terms signifying a lotus, which was to be abundantly found in the lakes and around the city. Therefore, it was named as Kolhapur ².

According to Shri Rajwade, Kolhapur originally belonged to the people known as 'Kol' or 'Kola' and Kolhapur was the town of Kolas ³.

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- 1 Annual Report of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, 1987-88, p.2.
 - 2 Sovani, N.Y., Social survey of Kolhapur, p.10.
 - 3 Rajwade Lekh Sangrah, Part III, p.247.
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3.4 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE CITY:

Modern Kolhapur has originated from the holy place of Karveer which is known as South Kashi. It is one of the important districts in the Pune division.

The city is situated on the bank of the Panchganga. It is located at 16° North latitude and 74.5° East longitude. Its height from the sea level is 1872 feet. It has a temperature climate. It has covered an area of 66.82 sq.kms. The average rainfall of this city is 30 to 40 inches ⁴.

3.5 DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURE OF THE CITY:

The city has certain demographic features. The data about its population shows a continuous increasing trend in it. The population of Kolhapur was 2.59 lakhs in 1970-71, 3.40 lakhs in 1980-81, 3.70 lakhs in 1985-86 and 4.20 lakhs in 1990-91. The percentage of increase in population of Kolhapur was 162.16 percent in 1990-91 over 1970-71. The floating population in the city shows a tendency to increase.

The possible causes of such a rapidly growing population of the city are, first, the farmers who switched over to cash crop cultivation like sugarcane due to growth of co-operative sugar factories around Kolhapur with increased prosperity and they shifted to Kolhapur proper to get better

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Annual Report of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation,
1987-88, p.247.

educational, medical and health and other necessary facilities for their families. Secondly, the industrial dispersal policy of the government established industrial estates in the vicinity of Kolhapur. A working class population increased in the city due to growth of small scale and ancillary industry in the industrial estates. Thirdly, in 1970's the regional offices of many public undertaking like Financial institutions, banks, government regional offices etc., have been established. It led to increase in this class of employees also. Fourthly, in the late 1980's the city has witnessed a considerable growth in the professional institutions of education like B.Ed., Polytechnic, Engineering, Medical colleges. This has increased the number of students and teachers community in the city.

To sum up, while narrating the demographic features of the city, it can be said that, due to above mentioned reasons the population of the city has increased to a considerable extent. It increased from 2.59 lakhs in 1970-71 to 4.20 lakhs in 1990-91 registering an increase of 162.16 percent. The floating population is the noteworthy feature of the population of the city of Kolhapur.

3.6 GROWTH OF THE AREA OF KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION:

The modern Kolhapur which we see today covers a large area. The old Kolhapur was not so comparatively large, but

it was very small related to area covered. Especially, after its conversion into Municipal Corporation in 1972, it has covered a vast area. The area covered has been increased from 25.7 square kilometers in 1951 to 66.82 square kilometers in 1991. The noteworthy feature is that, it has covered area in all the directions. Of this it has covered the maximum area towards North-west and West side of the city and which is mainly developed for residential purpose. At the same time due to increase in the limit of the Municipal Corporation, several nearby villages also have been included within the corporation limits.

3.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CITY:

Kolhapur has emerged from the holy place of Karveer. It has a heritage of playing significant roles in many respects. Still today, it has been playing a vital role, therefore, it has achieved an important position in the cities of Pune division. Therefore, an attempt is made to narrate its significance.

Kolhapur has a long historical background and it is a famous historical place. Many Emperors had ruled over Kolhapur. But, it came into limelight during the Maratha rule. Smt. Maharani Tarabai - the daughter-in-law of Shivaji III founded the Karvir Kingdom in 1731 with Panhala as Capital. Today also we see some historical places like Shalini Palace,

New Palace, Bhawani Mandap etc. Panhala the capital of Karvir is the nearest historical place to the city having continuous contacts.

Kolhapur is a holy place of Gods and Goddesses. The famous Mahalaxmi temple known as ' Dakshin Kashi ' is located in the heart of the city. Thousands of people, especially from Maharashtra visit it.

Since the Emperor's rule, Kolhapur is famous and important market of Jaggery. Shri Chh. Shahu first established the Jaggery Market in the city. At present, Kolhapur has a regulated market namely Shri Shahu Market Yard of farm products has been developed. Recently, there is also the market of vegetables and fruits. Therefore, demand for establishing a separate market for them is coming up from the citizens of Kolhapur.

Today, we see Kolhapur as an important educational centre. There is the Shivaji University and colleges, high schools, primary schools. The noteworthy feature is, upto 1980's many professional colleges have been established in Kolhapur. And a large number of students come to derive advantages from these educational facilities.

Besides, Kolhapur is a centre of sports. It has a long heritage of wrestling. There are many play grounds and

stadiums in Kolhapur. It has given birth to many renowned players. The performance of these players in wrestling, cricket, hockey, football is considerable one.

Recently, Kolhapur has become a centre of politics. Many political leaders and their supporters have settled in Kolhapur. The political parties like Indian National Congress, Janta Dal, Bhartiya Janata Party, Shivsena, Republican Party of India are engaged in creating and developing political consciousness among the people.

Kolhapur is known as 'Kala Nagari', which has given birth to many artists, actors, directors, producers, singers, poets, writers and also musicians. At present, there are two film studios namely ' Jay Prabha ' and 'Shalini Cinetone '. At the same time the work of developing 'Chitra Nagari' is in progress. It is a famous Marathi film producing centre in Maharashtra.

Kolhapur is one of the beautiful cities. The purposeful efforts have been made to make it beautiful. There are various spots and picknic points like Rankala tower, Palaces, Museums, University, colleges, Mahalaxmi temple, Katyayani, Tryamboli, Panchganga river and gardens in Kolhapur. Besides, the holy places namely Panhala and Jotiba are too much nearer to Kolhapur. A large number of tourists come to Kolhapur to live happily and pleasantly.

Lastly, Kolhapur has the heritage of social reform movement. There are many social reform institutions and reformers engaged in performing social reform activities. The renowned social reformers like Shri Chh. Shahu, Jotiba Phule, Dr. Ambedkar, Shri Bhaskarrao Jadhav, Shri Bhaurao Patil were in close contact with Kolhapur. We must agree with the social consciousness created and developed among the people by the social reform movement in Kolhapur.

To sum up, it can be said that Kolhapur is an important city which has a vital position in many respects. It has played and playing a significant role in various respects. It is a historical place, a market, an educational centre, a centre of sports, a centre of politics, a Kalamagari, a beautiful city and a centre of social reform movement. Therefore, we can never forget its significance.

3.8 HISTORY OF KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION:

Municipal government in the true sense of the term, originated in Maharashtra or in the Bombay Presidency during the fifties of 19th Century. Under the Maratha rule, which ended in 1818, Municipal administration did exist, but it lacked the essential elements associated with Municipal Government. Municipal administration under the Marathas was not self-regulated mechanism having independent sphere

of autonomy within the broad framework of supervision and control of the Central Government ⁵.

As per 1981 census, there were 11 Corporations in Maharashtra at Nasik, Amravati, Kalyan, Aurangabad, Thane, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Bombay, Nagpur, Pune, Sholapur and Kolhapur. Of these, the Bombay Municipal Corporation was governed by the Act of 1888, while the Nagpur Municipal Corporation by a separate Act, the city of Nagpur corporation Act 1948. The other three Municipal Corporations - Pune, Sholapur and Kolhapur were governed by the Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporations Act, 1949.

Kolhapur town had come into limelight during the Maratha rule, as the adjoining town Panhala was captured by the Great Shivaji Maharaj in 1659. Smt. Maharani Tarabai - the daughter-in-law of Shivaji III founded the Karvir Kingdom with Panhala as capital in the year 1731. In 1782 Shivaji III shifted his capital from Panhala to Kolhapur and from that time modern history of Kolhapur starts.

The civic affairs of the city of Kolhapur were managed by the Kolhapur Municipal Bureau. The beginning of Municipal administration can be traced back to 1830, when the then King of Kolhapur, Shivaji III issued an order for clean and

5 Inamdar, N.R., Municipal Administration in India, p.221.

maintenance of roads and sanitation. Kolhapur being the Kingdom of Maratha; Sardars, service staff and relatives of the rulers shifted their families to this city. The town became thickly populated within a short span of period due to constant flow of population to the capital. There were no proper roads, and sanitation facilities having unclean and improper sanitation. In the same order he suggested collection of house tax from the residents for cleaning and maintaining the roads and surrounding area⁶.

Under the provisions of the Government of India Act, XXVI of 1850, in 1854 by the Political Agent of Kolhapur Major George Malcom formed a Municipal Committee about establishment of a Municipality for Kolhapur. And Kolhapur Municipality was established on 12th October, 1854. At that time, its total expenditure was only 300 Rs. and the population of city was 40,000. For the expenditure of Municipality Rs.300/- were given as a grant every year by the Kolhapur State. In 1869, instead of Government grants, certain items of income viz. Octroi, tobacco tax etc., were handed over to the Municipality with a view to increase its income. A house tax was levied in 1873. (Report of Hemic Committee).

In 1884, there was a move in Bombay Province to have a local self government. This had repercussions in Kolhapur also. Therefore, on the basis of Bombay Municipal

6 Kolhapur Municipality Centenary Celebration
Volume, 1954, p.14.

Act of 1884, the then Government of Kolhapur appointed a Committee in 1886 to reconstitute the Municipality. From 1904 to 1920 the Municipality was suspended due to unsatisfactory work, all powers were transferred to an administrator. In 1925, the Kolhapur State Municipal Act was moulded on the lines of Bombay District Municipal Act 1901. In 1944 Kolhapur Municipal Bureau Act 1944 was prepared on the lines of Bombay Municipal Bureau Act and was applied to Kolhapur Municipality on 1st March, 1949, the Princely State of Kolhapur merged into Indian Federation.

The Kolhapur Municipality celebrated its centenary in 1954. The Municipality has done an outstanding work during last 100 years. During the regimes of Chh. Shahu, Rajaram and the Regency Councils a lot of work was done like constructing of Railway station, Shahupuri Peth, educational institutions, Boardings and industries. Thus, before the merging of Kolhapur State, the work of development in the field of economic, educational and industries was divided between Chhatrapati, the State Government and Municipality. But after the merging of Kolhapur State in the Indian Federation, the whole work was carried out by the Municipality itself. The Municipality had done an outstanding work. But a lot of work is yet to be done for the benefit of its citizens. An important work like completion of underground drainage system, adequate

Water supply are yet to be completed.

✓ The government of Maharashtra converted Kolhapur Municipal Council into Municipal Corporation on 15th December, 1972 under the provisions of Bombay Municipal Corporations Act 1949. After its conversion, it started its working under the control of Administrators like Shri D.N.Kapoor, Shri N.M. Devsthalee, Shri D.T.Joseff etc. Since its conversion it has been providing utility services and facilities to its citizens by undertaking many good projects. These were Shahu Cloth Market, Kotithirth Market, Mahavir Garden, Sagarmal shopping Centre, Isolation hospital, Savitribai Pule Hospital etc. This reveals that, during the control of Administrators also due to their purposeful and drastic efforts some services and facilities have been provided by the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation ⁷.

✓ The Kolhapur Municipality was established in 1854 and converted into Municipal Corporation in 1972. After its conversion, from 1972 to 1978 it was under the control of Administrators. The first Administrator of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation was Shri D.N.Kapoor and the last was Shri D.T. Joseff. The first general election of Municipal Corporation was held on 29th May, 1978 for 60 representatives. And Shri N.D.Jadhav and Shri B.K.Mulay were elected first Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation.

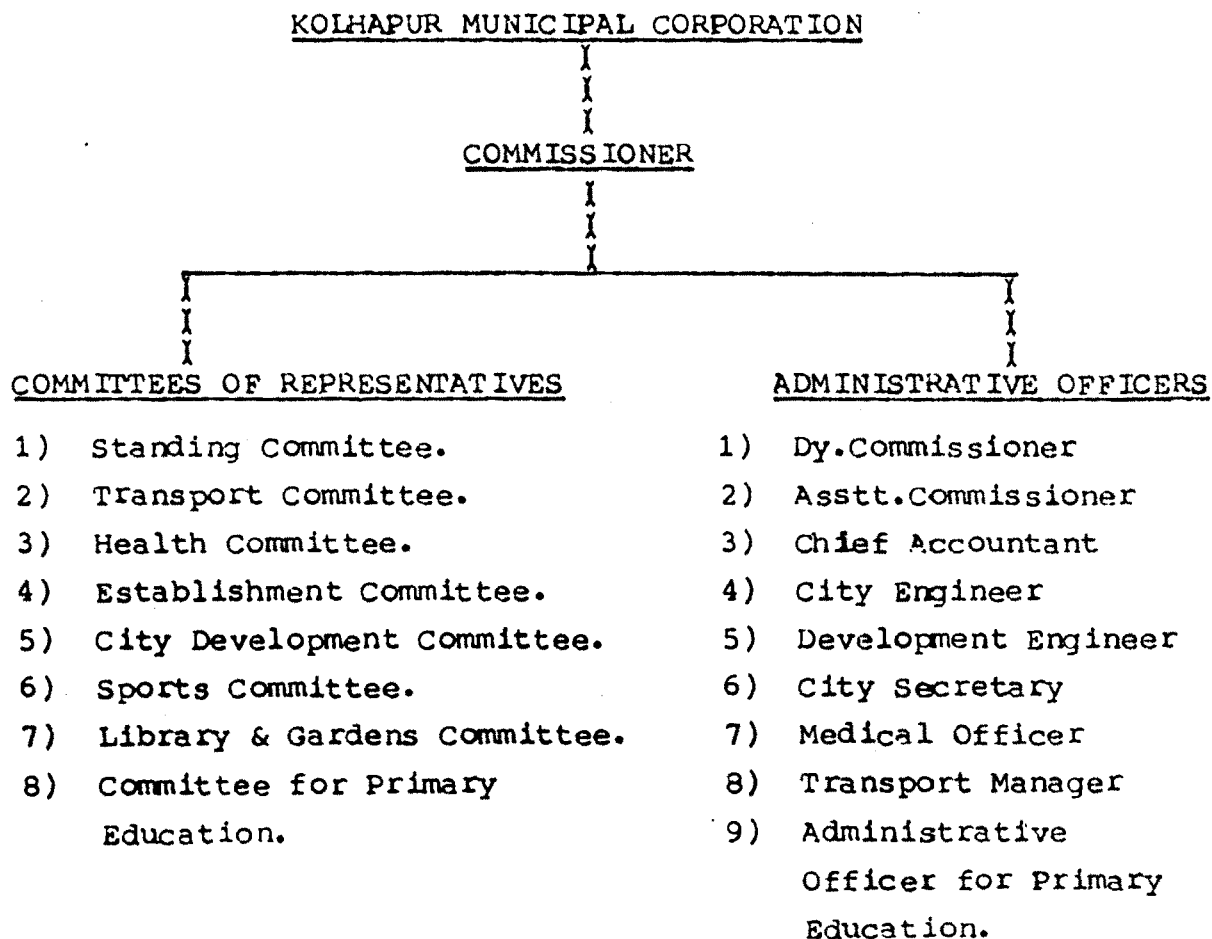
7 Annual Report of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, 1987-88, pp.4-5.

Recently, the general election of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation was held in 1990 for the same number of seats i.e. 60 seats. But, the peculiarity of this election is that, for the first time 30 percent political reservation for ladies was implemented. Shri Bhikseth Patil and Miss Malti Haladkar were elected as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation. This reveals that, Kolhapur is the first Municipal Corporation, who accepted the participation of ladies in local politics. As per statutory provisions of Act, 1949, Commissioner is the Chief Executive Officer of Municipal Corporation. At present Shri Sudhakar Joshi is the Commissioner of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation.

3.9 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION:

The Kolhapur Municipal Corporation being a urban local government, it performs obligatory and discretionary functions. Its working is administered by the Administrative Officers appointed by the State Government as well as the representatives of citizens i.e. Corporators. The mutual co-operation and co-ordination between the administrators its working. Therefore, it becomes necessary and interesting to understand the administrative structure of the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation.

The administrative structure of the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation can be illustrated as follows:



The above said agencies administer the working of the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation. There are eight main departments or sections created to administer its working.

1) Committee of Representatives:

Various committees or representatives are formed as to make easy and convenient administration of working of the

Kolhapur Municipal Corporation. Of these committees, Standing Committee and Transport Committee are the statutory committees and others are special committees. The meetings of these committees are conducted under the supervision of their Chairman by the City Secretary. The suggestions, recommendations and policies of corporators are considered in its administration.

2) General Administration Department:

The working of this department is undertaken under the supervision of the Commissioner. There is also a Deputy Commissioner and an Assistant Commissioner for systematic and efficient working of this department. This department is further divided into sections such as General Administration, Planning and Working, Labour Officer, Public Relations Officer, Pleader Branch, Bureau Office, Record Office and Store Department. The General working of the Corporation is administered by this department.

3) Establishment Department:

The working of this department is undertaken under the supervision of the City Engineer and the Development Engineer. There are five Assistant Engineers to assist them. Besides, there is also a committee of representatives to help the administration. This department is further

divided into sections such as General Administration, Accounts Section, Light Department, Water Supply, Public Gardens, Project Branch and Survey Department.

4) Health Department:

Medical Officer of the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation is the Head of this Department. There is one Administrative Officer and Committee of Representatives to assist him. All decisions concerned with medical and health facilities are to be taken by this department. This department is further divided into Birth-Death Registration Office, Savitribai Phule Hospital, Cleanical Laboratory, Family Welfare, Diagnostic Centre and Nose, Ear and Throat sections.

5) Primary Education Department:

There are two important constituents of this department, namely Primary Education Board and Committee of Representatives. Both the constituents take decisions related to providing primary educational facilities. The Administrative Officer is the head of this board.

6) Secondary Education Department:

Kolhapur Municipal Corporation has been running high schools and a college. Their administration is vested in the hands of Head Masters and the Principal respectively. They have power to make concerned decisions.

7) City Transport Department:

In 1962 Kolhapur Municipal Council took city transport in its hand. The Transport Manager is the Administrative Officer of this department. There is a committee of representatives and other officers to assist the Transport Manager. The management tries to implement objectives, suggestions, recommendations and policies of the Transport Committee of representatives. The transport manager is the top decision making agency of this department.

8) Collection Department:

This is one of the important department of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation. Because it is the agency which mobilises revenue for corporation through its various sources. The working of this department is undertaken under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner. This department is further divided into sections such as Octroi Collection, Tax collection, Income from earnings of corporation, Assessment Section, Shri Bhaskarrao Jadhav Library, Shops and Establishment, Kondwada etc.