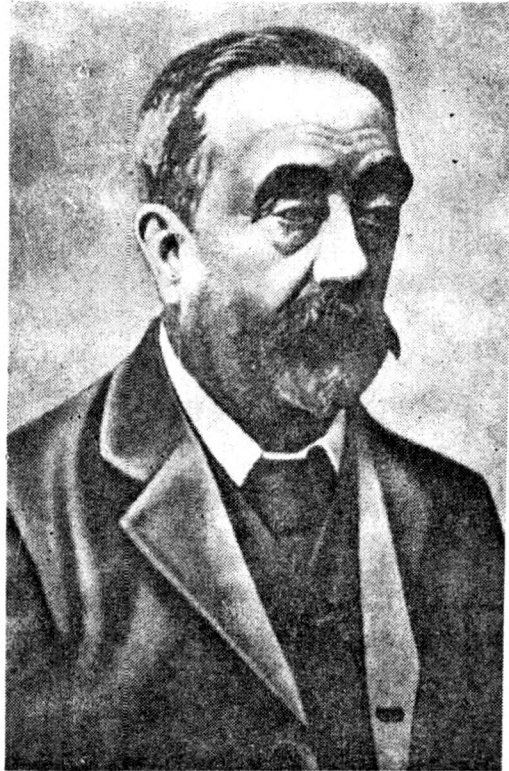


CHAPTER V

PRINCIPALS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS



Prin. C. H. Candy,
B.A. LL.M.
(1880-1899)



Prin. Balkrishna,
M.A. Ph.D.
(1922-1940)

CHAPTER V

PRINCIPALS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

Many direct and indirect factors contribute to progress of any college. Principal, perhaps more than any other factor, plays a major and substantial role in shaping up the destiny of a college. The Principal is both academic and administrative head of college. Naturally, the Principal's personality his/her vision, ideas, etc., have direct bearing on the progress of a college. Fortunately, Rajaram College, in its history of about seventy years of growth and development, passed through the tenures of ten able and distinguished Principals. The first four were the British and the rest, the native Indians.

The success story of Rajaram College is mainly due to great stalwarts-cum-Principals, who strove hard to build up the reputation of the college. No wonder, in a relatively short span of time, Rajaram College blossomed into a pioneering institution catering to the academic needs of the student community in general and thereby enriching their academic life.

Therefore, an attempt is made in this chapter to bring out and highlight, the contributions made by



the distinguished Principals to progress of Rajaram College.

Professor C.H. Candy, B.A., LL.M. (1880-1899):

In the history of this college a very significant place may be assigned to Prof. C.H. Candy. For he was not only the very first Principal of this institution but more important, he had comparatively longer tenure of two decades in which he had successfully cradled the infant institution.¹

His valuable experience as head of a prestigious institution fetched him the Principalship of a newly born Rajaram College in 1880, expectedly to face many challenges,² some of which resulting from the factors beyond his control, such as poor and low in the region, the natural calamities such as cholera, plague and famine which seriously curtailed the development of the institution etc.³ However, with a strong determination and untiring efforts he succeeded in steering the destiny of this institution.

He was a professor of English language. He not only had good mastery over the subject but he was also aware of the need to evaluate a teaching method suited to Indians.⁴ He was well-versed with Shakespearean Dramas,

and due to his interesting teaching, students took a lot of interest in the dramas, not only studying them but even enacting for annual college gatherings.⁵ Prof. Candy was considered to be an inspiration in this respect.

The period of Prof. Candy (1880-1899) was marked with a lot of ups and downs due to natural calamities.⁶ But inspite of these critical situations, he pulled out the college to better academic standard. Although in 1887-1888 the college registered the lowest percentage of Results such as 20 per cent in the 1st B.A.,⁷ Prof. Candy by 1898-99 was able to achieve 75 per cent Results in the Intermediate, the highest percentage secured under his regime.⁸ Therefore, under Prof. Candy the college tried its best to maintain the high standard, both for the quality of its teaching and for success at the annual examinations at the university.

Prof. Candy started with just 3 students in 1880⁹ but by the end of 1897 there were 116 students on the roll at the Rajaram College.¹⁰ It was a good strength even though the awareness of higher education was at the lowest ebb during this period. Prof. Candy paid equal importance to the library. He was particular about library being well stacked with relevant books. Therefore, he spent substantial amount on library. He spent a sum

of Rs. 925 as the highest amount during his tenure.¹¹

Prof. Candy was also known as a strict disciplinarian. He was very particular about attendance in the classes. However, he did not favour the traditional practice of caning students, hence he stopped it. Perhaps, he resorted to it only once in the case of a student caught copying in the examination.¹²

Prof. Candy rightly placed equal emphasis on sports, as physical development is no less important than the mental one and laid the foundation of sports in the college.¹³ He introduced cricket, athletics, gymnastics etc..¹⁴ In fact, he was the founder of Athletic Association of Kolhapur and popularized the gymnastics among the students by instituting a number of prizes.¹⁵ He had distinguished coaches appointed to coach the students in various respects.¹⁶

He started a boating club in Kolhapur, which lasted upto the end of 1946.¹⁷ More important, Prof. Candy not only patronized the western sports, but also the native ones, such as Kho-Kho, wrestling, etc..¹⁸ He visited the playground personally to encourage the students, the gesture appreciated by many.¹⁹ Naturally, the students felt that he was one of them, the way he always wanted

to project himself, which in turn created a very healthy atmosphere in the college. Prof. Candy may rightly be called a true architect of sports in Rajaram College.²⁰

Besides, Prof. Candy also encouraged staging of dramas. He was particular about annual get-together, When the students staged plays, literary activities also flourished under his regime.²¹ Prof. Candy was a strong believer in the principle, "Duty well done was its own reward", and he tried to live up to it.²² His long and successful tenure had sad and abrupt end, as there developed unfortunately some misunderstanding between him and Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj. However, his sincerity to the cause of education fetched him a reward as his student Shankar Dhavale, in appreciation of his work, instituted Candy Memorial Fund to help the deserving, meritorious students.²⁴

Unfortunately, there is not much information on the Principals who followed Prof. Candy, such as J.F. Adear, M.A. (1899-1902), R.S. Lucy, B.A. (1902-1908) and Rev. Durby, M.A., B.D. (1908-1918).²⁵ But to their credit, the enrollment of the students rose and the college kept on expanding.

Though Rajaram College was established in 1880,²⁶ it

took long span of about four decades before a native Indian could come to head it. The truly proud gentleman was Dr. A.N.Apte.²⁷

A product of Rajaram and Elphinston colleges, he started his teaching career in the latter institution.²⁸ Two years later in 1890 he joined Rajaram College as Professor of Mathematics.²⁹ He had mastery over Astronomy by having bestowed upon him the rare honour, the distinguished membership of the Royal Astronomical Society of London.³⁰

However, one of the positive developments in the history of the college took place in his tenure, viz., separation of the college with a view to providing more space for its classes.³¹

Unfortunately, the financial position of the college was discouraging during his tenure. The Kolhapur Darbar was on the verge of closing down the institution due to paucity of funds.³² And, therefore, the academic brilliance of the mathematician-principal could not be utilized as he could not simply implement his plans without adequate financial aid.³³ After the institution was handed over to the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha in 1919, Dr. Apte retired, and Nepalsingh was appointed.³⁴

He was the representative of the Arya Pratinidhi. He took over the reigns of Principalship in 1920.³⁵ He left the Principalship in 1922 and secured a job in Badshahi Sanadi.³⁶

In 1922 the management could not find a successor to him immediately.³⁷ The post remained vacant till May 1922.³⁸ Dr. Balkrishna, a Punjabi scholar, was appointed his successor. With his appointment Rajaram College entered a very meaningful and fruitful phase as his tenure lasted for about two decades. The decades of progress and development.³⁹

Dr. Balkrishna, M.A., Ph.D. (1922-1940):

He was a product of Gurukul started by Shradhanandani where he studied for 12 years.⁴⁰ Later on he went to London to study and to earn his Ph.D.. He earned his Ph.D., writing about the trade relations between India and England.⁴¹ On his return, the Arya Pratinidhi appointed him the Principal of Rajaram College.⁴² The Principalship came as a great challenge to him, as the college was passing through a bad patch.⁴³ Dr. Balkrishna lived upto the expectations of Arya Pratinidhi.

He was a good scholar of History. He was a loyal Arya-Samajist and had a great love and respect for Vedic

philosophy.⁴⁴ As it was true with many social reformers, such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Vivekanand, Dayanand Saraswati, etc., Balkrishna also believed in the call of 'Back to Vedas'. He had evolved out his own views on education, he always felt that the Macaulay's⁴⁵ education policy had brought slavery and shamefulness with its aim of creating Indians in blood and colour but English in taste, opinion, morals and intellect.⁴⁶

On his arrival, he found that the college was affiliated to the University of Bombay, for courses in pass subjects.⁴⁷ This meant he had to do a lot in order to raise the college to higher level, a tough task by any account. His membership on the university senate, his foresight in selecting competent professors, his power of appreciation and merit, his excellent capacity and his friendship with the leading men of education attracted more students to the college.⁴⁸

Under his guidance in the year 1922-23, the college started teaching English, Sanskrit, Persian, Marathi, Mathematics, History and Economics courses⁴⁹ By introducing such courses, the college had opened the floodgates of education to its student community. In the year 1926, once again the college was handed back to Darbar⁵⁰ but it made no difference to Dr. Balkrishna. He

continued with his efforts.

Sincerity of Dr. Balkrishna paid dividends soon. He was able to start Science classes and in 1931 B.A. and M.Sc.⁵¹ And therefore, in the words of Dr. S.H. Dikshit who was a former student of the college, "And therefore, at this rate in 1931 Rajaram College became the first grade college in the Bombay Presidency".⁵²

Under his Principalship the first batch of B.Sc. class was graduated in the year 1932.⁵³ He was able to convince Darbar authorities in order to sanction good amounts for the developments of the college. He was able to get the sanction of Rs. seven lakhs for the erection of college building in the year 1937-38.⁵⁴ It was during the same year that the Arts and Science Departments were bifurcated.⁵⁵ He not only paid attention to the higher education of the students but encouraged his staff by granting them scholarships for advance studies in and out of India.⁵⁶ It was under his tenure, that Professors like A.C. Bose and M.G. Patil, were granted scholarships for their advanced study and sent to foreign universities. A remarkable achievement on the part of Dr. Balkrishna.⁵⁷

Dr. Balkrishna enhanced the prestige of this

institution by laying certain plans. First of all he was able to gather a good team of Professors, Dr. Sitaram from Madras, N.C. Phadke from Poona, Prof. Vithalani for science, Sanskrit was taught by Prof. Joshi, whereas Dr. Balkrishna himself taught history at the B.A. level.⁵⁸ Out of these professors, Dr. Balkrishna, Dr. Sitaram and Prof. N.C. Phadke were good orators. They were appreciated for their talents not only within the college but even outside.⁵⁹ He built a good team of teachers deriving talents from length and breadth of the country.

Dr. Balkrishna had maintained good relation with Chhatrapati and Diwan of Kolhapur Shri Surve, thanks to which the college administration was smooth, and improvements could be hastened.⁶⁰

It was under his tenure that the students' own library was started in order to help the poor and the needy students.⁶¹ The standard of reading room and poor boys library was improved in order to extend better facilities to the students.⁶² Dr. Balkrishna spent substantial amount on the purchase of library books. Until 1922, the maximum amount spent on library purpose was between Rs. 600 and 800 every year.⁶³ But Dr. Balkrishna in the first year of his tenure raised it to Rs. 2,000.⁵⁴ The maximum amount spent during his time was towards

the end of his tenure in 1939, 1940. It was Rs. 9,008 and Rs. 9,556 respectively,⁶⁵ whereas immediately after him in the following year, it dropped to Rs. 5,016.⁶⁶ Dr. Balkrishna made this tremendous contribution and also made library a centre of life for the students as well as teachers. No wonder, Rajaram College library was named after him.

Dr. Balkrishna had 173 students in the college at the time of his appointment,⁶⁷ whereas towards the end of his reign in 1940, the strength grew to 863 which speaks of his great efforts in attracting students from various places, within and outside the state.⁶⁸ Another important achievement of Dr. Balkrishna, was the growing enrollment of the native students. In 1911-1915 the native students were 64 in average,⁶⁹ whereas under Dr. Balkrishna in 1935-36 the average reached to 294 students.⁷⁰

Dr. Balkrishna was a strict Principal. During his time the maximum and minimum daily attendance was 88.50 and 69.84 per cent in 1930 and 1940 respectively.⁷¹ It was never less than 69 per cent⁷² throughout his tenure. This speaks of students' interest in the college and the good administration of Dr. Balkrishna.

The promotion of female education started by

Chhatrapati Shahu was upheld by Dr. Balkrishna. During his tenure the strength of lady students began to add and by 1940 there were 47 lady students studying in Rajaram College.⁷³ A new era had begun in the field of female higher education.

Standard of any institution is always measured by the students' performance in the annual examination. Therefore, Dr. Balkrishna tried his best to maintain the quality of teaching at Rajaram College. During his time students had done exceptionally well. To illustrate this point, a table is given below:⁷⁴

<u>Course</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1) 1st Year	1933	73
2) F.Y. Arts	1938	89
3) Inter Arts	1939	76
4) M.A.	1929	100
5) F.Y. Science	1939	82
6) B.Sc.	1932	84

No doubt, the above mentioned performance was well respected in the academic circle.

Dr. Balkrishna paid equal attention to the development of sports at Rajaram College. He had taken lot of personal interest in improving the sports facilities. He was a great encouragement to the participants.⁷⁵ In 1932, .

he had selected the best group of cricket players who won the prestigious Northcot Cricket Honour for the second time, defeating Fergusson College of Poona. He was a driving force behind the Athletic Group.⁷⁶ He gave them opportunities to present themselves outside the state for competitions. Students were able to get a few prestigious prizes in his tenure.⁷⁷ He also had an interest in the physical training aspect. He always felt that, due attention must be given to Physical Training classes. In the year 1937, he sponsored N.G. Purandare, for advanced education in the field of P.T.⁷⁸ This act of Dr. Balkrishna speaks of his keen interest in every minute detail of the college programme.

The period from 1916 to 1923 was considered as the slowest period as far as the growth of drama at Rajaram College was concerned.⁷⁹ But the arrival of Dr. Balkrishna made tremendous difference. He gave personal attention which was highly appreciated by the student body.⁸⁰ In the year 1933-34 the college gathering had to be conducted in advance, since Dr. Balkrishna had planned to visit America.⁸¹ This speaks of his interest in the said field. He helped, encouraged and presented awards to enrich the Department of Drama at the College.⁸²

Dr. Balkrishna successfully shouldered, along

with his responsibility at the college, the additional responsibility of Inspector of Secondary Education.⁸³ Even though he was fully occupied with college work, he never neglected the work of school inspector. Towards this assignment he formed "Secondary Teachers Association" and prepared the syllabus of Secondary Schools.⁸⁴ He also made good selection of text-books for schools. He is a pioneer in starting Inter-school Competitions for Secondary School students. Because of this contribution, Dr. Balkrishna was well respected among the educationists.⁸⁵

Dr. Balkrishna was known as the best orator and was appreciated by all. His lecture on the myth of Indian Independence speaks volumes of his characteristics. Just before the World War II he took a tour of Europe.⁸⁶ After his return he arranged three lectures on three important topics.⁸⁷

1. Hitler and Nazism
2. Mussolini and Fascism
3. Churchill and Democracy.

People always gathered from far and wide in order to listen to the interesting and informative lectures of Dr. Balkrishna. He stunned people with his oratory.⁸⁸

Dr. Balkrishna always felt that the prestige

of Kolhapur must be enhanced by establishing an university, named after Shivaji Maharaj.⁸⁹ He made first reference to this in the Annual Social function of 1931-32.⁹⁰ Since then, he always laid stress on the formation of Shivaji University, and therefore, Shivaji University was called the 'Dream Child' of Dr. Balkrishna.⁹¹ He was a moving spirit behind the establishment of two other colleges in the Presidency, viz., Tararani College, training teachers for better service and Law College to meet the growing needs of the society.⁹²

The year 1940 was a gloomy year in the history of Rajaram College, as it removed in quick succession, two persons who mattered most. Dr. Balkrishna, its efficient Principal and Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj, its patron.⁹³ Under such tragic circumstances Balasaheb Khardekar took over the principalship. A product of Cambridge University and a former part-time professor of Shaaji Law College, was associated with Rajaram College both as a student and as professor.⁹⁴

Dr. Khardekar was a good orator. Through his good and informative lectures, he was well respected in the student-community. His lectures on education and revenue topics were consulted by state authorities.⁹⁵

He had study-room renovated and got it furnished

with beautiful cushioned furniture.⁹⁶ It not only attracted students but helped them read and study comfortably. More important, he extended its duration and kept it open practically for more than twelve hours a day, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.⁹⁷ More important, he brought the college into limelight by inviting the scholars and luminaries of national and international fame such as Dr. Radhakrishna, Srinivasan Shastri, and Chakravarti Rajgopalachari.⁹⁸

However, his most important and farsighted contribution was the opening of Archaeological Department.⁹⁹ Funds had been stimulus in the year 1945. Rs. 30,000 was spent on excavations, services of a band of experts headed by Dr. H.D. Sanklia were taken. The excavations were carried out from the middle of November on Brahmaguri Mound No. II. In these excavations they were able to recover pottery, some Bahaman coins of Silhara period and the whole study was based on twelfth century A.D.¹⁰⁰ It marked the beginning of cultural education in India.

Dr. Khardekar, being a great lover of sports, promoted sports activities extensively. He was the first to open a separate sports department for ladies and exempted Tennis Girl Champions from fees.¹⁰¹

During his tenure Rajaram College produced a

number of good athletes such as V.V. Wajandar, G.N. Kale, V.L. Patil, R.H. Chougule and earned reputation beyond Bombay Presidency.¹⁰² They earned prestigious trophies such as, the track trophy, general championship trophy and trophy in wrestling. This was possible because of the generous attitude of Dr. Khardekar and his encouragement to the field of sports.¹⁰³

Unfortunately, Dr. Khardekar's tenure ended abruptly on a sad note. He tendered his resignation over an incident, when in a function some mischievous students insulted a lady speaker.¹⁰⁴

Dr. Khardekar was followed by Dr. Appasaheb Pawar (1945-1949),¹⁰⁵ again a past student of Rajaram College. He was very practical about the academic qualities of his teachers, on whom depended the academic progress of the college. He was a good administrator.¹⁰⁶ He was also particular about maintaining discipline on college campus. He stopped the mixed games. It is in his period that some students went on strike, perhaps for the first time in the history of Rajaram College.¹⁰⁷

Dr. V.K. Gokak, M.A. (Oxon) 1945-1952, was the last Principal for the period under review.¹⁰⁸ He was a product of Willingdon College, Sangli, a first rank

holder in the Oxford University. He had mastery over English language and English literature. A good orator, who would keep his audience spellbound for hours together, made college faculty proud of him.¹⁰⁹ He encouraged the budding students to take up to writing articles and making poems. In fact, he made Rajaram College a "school of poets" who wrote in English and Kannada.¹¹⁰

The peaceful college campus bubbled with varied engagements like electioneering for the Gymkhana Posts, for the sports and games, for picnics, for college matches and what not. No wonder, students always found life under Principal Gokak to be full of excitement and achievements.¹¹¹

During his tenure Rajaram College won laurels in sports. Khashaba Jadhav, a Rajaramian, became the first Kolhapurian to win medal at Helisinki Olyrpics for wrestling.¹¹² In the middle of 1952, he was transferr-
ed to Karnataka, his native place, as the Principal of Dharwad College.¹¹³ Most of the students lost their charming person Prof. V.K. Gokak.

Because of these men, Rajaram College could see the light of the day. They steered the destiny of their *alma mater* not only through prosperity but also

in adversity, in the days of trials and calamities. These incredible selfless services rendered to this institution have proved to be blessings to thousands of its own sons and daughters. They sowed the seed of higher education and Rajaram College continues to reap its rich harvest.

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