CHAPTER II

GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF RAJARAM COLLEGE

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Established in 1880, Rajaram College made considerable progress in a short span. The institution grew in shape and size, surmounting a number of problems. An attempt is made in this chapter to trace its growth and expansion by dividing this theme into three broad phases corresponding to:

- A) Pre-Sahu period (1880-1894)
- B) Shahu period (1894-1922)
- 6) Post-Shahu period (1922-1950)

A) Pre-Shahu Period:

Rajaram College had a very humble beginning. Initially, it had only three students on its roll, Mr G.K. Gokhale, Mr A.N. Apte and Mr G.Y. Dhurandhar. Prof. C.H. Candy, B.A., LL.M. was its first Principal. In the initial period, the college classes were accommodated in the Rajaram High School building.

However, as the enrollment of the students picked up, a need for larger accommodation arose. 4 The high school

building continued to accommodate all three divisions, Rajaram College Department, High School and Rajkumars' Classes. As some of the classes were held in an old building about a quarter of a mile away from the main college building, inconvenience was felt on the score of close supervision. Therefore, an appeal was made for a separate independent building for the college Department on the outskirt of city. But Kolhapur Darbar was in no position to fulfill this requirement for want of funds.

College continued to function from the same School building. Prof. Candy underlined the growing need for independent accommodation for the college in the following words:

I am of the opinion, that the best solution would be to separate the high school and the college, and to build latter outside the town making residence compulsory on all students.

Another important development that took place during this time, was the dawn of new magazine, called "Granthmala" The graduates of this college after 14 years of its growth had began imparting the knowledge to their less fortunate fellow countrymen, who had very little or no advantage of university education. With



a view to spreading this knowledge, and the good ideas of the east and west, this magazine was started. 10

B) Shahu Period:

Since the college had small beginning in the year 1880, 11 it did not expand much till the beginning of Shahu's reign. 12 Shahu became the ruler in 1894 and since then lot of attention and priority was given to the development of Rajaram College. 13

For first time the Sardars' classes were discontinued in 1900-01. 14 Clubbed together with High School, Rajaram College showed smooth sailing till down the end of 1902. Then, it suffered first reverse due to circumstances beyond its control. India fell in grip of plague in 1903. 16 So did the princely State of Kolhapur. As a result, the college remained temporarily closed down between January 19 and May 1, 1903. 17

In August 1906, Rajaram College was inspected by a committee comprising, Principal W. Sharp, the Hon. M.C.H. Setalwad and Prof. A.M. Masani. 18 The said committee was appointed by the Syndicate of Bombay University under provisions of Section 21 of the University Act, governing the principal conditions of affiliation, viz., management, teaching staff, buildings, residence of

teachers and students, library, scientific equipment and finances. 19

In the year 1912-13 the University of Bombay decided to remodel the arts and science courses to improve the method of scientific study. ²⁰ New apparatus were ordered from England and appointments of requisite staff were made in order to meet this need. ²¹

Another important development during this year was the introduction of new college magazine called 'Rajaramian'. Principal Durby himself had introduced this magazine. Initially, it was printed twice a year. 23 Even today this magazine is one of the special features of this institution.

At the fag end of Chhatrapati Shahu's reign Rajaram College suffered serious financial crisis. It looked very difficult, if not impossible to run the College efficiently within the limited financial sources at the disposal of Kolhapur State. The cost per head of students rose disproportionately which Shahu Maharaj attributed to opening up of new colleges at Dharwad (Karnataka) and Pune, which in turn affected the strength of the College. 24 He reasoned out that heavy expenditure on Rajaram College adversely affected primary education

in the State. 25 Therefore, he thought in terms of closing the college and actually issued a notification to that effect on 29th March 1918. The so called draszic measure would have perhaps seriously crippled the cause of higher education in the State, but thanks to resourcefulness of Shahu Maharaj that he discussed the matter with two important members of Arya Samaj, the editor of Arya Gazetteer, Lahore and the Education Inspector of Baroda and worked out the transfer of the institution to the representatives of Arya Samaj. 27 A notification to this effect was issued out on 1st June 1919. Thus Shahu succeeded in averting a serious crisis and so Rajaram College came under the management of Arya Pratinidhi in 1919.²⁸

The change in the management proved very beneficial to the college, for the very next year, it got elevated to the first grade college, affiliated to the University of Bombay. 29 Luckily it came to have a very efficient and forsighted Principal in Dr. Balkrishna, who shaped the destiny of the college in his comparatively long tenure of 18 years (1922-40). 30

3) Post-Shahu Period:

The appointment of Dr. Balkrishna as Principal of the college came towards the end of Chhatrapati

Shahu's reign and at the beginning of that of his successor, Rajaram Maharaj, which marked the beginning of post-Shahu period. 31

The permanent affiliation of the Rajaram College to Bombay University for the pass courses in English, Sanskrit, Persian, Mathematics, Marathi, History, Economics and Philosophy for the B.A. Degree was granted by the University with the sanction of the Government of Bombay. 32 Similarly, it also received provisional affiliation for a period of three years from 20 June 1922 for the Honours courses in English, Sanskrit, Persian, Mathematics, History, Economics, and Philosophy. 33

The provisional affiliation said for Homours courses was on condition that the management would appoint additional professors in order to cope up with the work of Honours classes. 34 However, appoint to additional required staff would mean more expenditure. Thanks to the generosity of Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj, the success-Shahu Maharaj a generous grant of Rs. 10,000 was made available to the college and thus the additional required staff was immediately appointed. 35

Rajaram College was managed by Arya Pratinidhi till 1926, 36 after which it was handed back to Darbar.

By 1926 it came to be recognised as a full fledged institution. 37

The year 1920s constitutes a very important decade in the history of Rajaram College, because for the first time, the college management thought in terms of introducing the Science wing in the college. 38 It is true that by 1920s the college had established its reputation as first grade Arts College; yet it is also true that the study of Science subject was confined to study of either Physics and Chemistry or Zoology and Botany, or the optional subjects of B.A. level. 39 Although the student was exposed to science subjects in a very limited way, yet his study was further handicapped by lack of proper laboratory facilities. 40

This was a serious lacuna in a century characterised by the rapid advancement in education of science all over the world. It is 1920s that this serious lacuna was removed. But for the foresightedness of Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj and his strong desire to convert Rajaram College to the forefront of advanced civilization and without full-fledged science Department his desire *that the torch of learning shall burn brightly in Kolhapur State" would have remained incomplete. 42

Thus in 1927 a fullfledged Science Department

was introduced in the Rajaram College. A very significant event and a great step forward by any account in the history of this institution! 43

The staff of the college played no small role in translating the wishes of Chhatrapati Rajaram into realities. Particular mention may be made of Dr. V.S. Shah and Mr V.N. Karekar, Prof. S. Phatarphekar and Mr B.K. Bhatnagar and finally Prof. R.K. Shirodkar and Savetkari who were instrumental initially, in starting and developing respectively Chemistry, Biology and Physics Departments. 44

Similarly, there were developments in the Arts wing too. In the year 1929, 45 Rajaram College added one more distinction to its credit by introducing a foreign language, German, to its students in F.Y. Class. Prof. G.K. Kokil was appointed the Professor of German. 46 Soon German became popular in Rajaram College.

The affiliation of Science Department was initially granted for the period of three years. 47 And these Departments were accommodated in the 'Paga Buildings'. 48 The library hall was used by Chemistry wing whereas the first floor weas partly used by Physics and Biology Departments. 49 But, unfortunately the Science Department could

not get positive response from the students, for the very next year there was an unexpected drop in the enrollment which, in turn subsequently forced closure of Biology Department for nearly one year. The Department reopened in 1929; it could not attract the students satisfactorily. St

On the expiry of three-year period, the University Science Commission comprising Father Blatter, Principal Burrow and Professor Normand paid visit to the college in 1930.⁵² They further recommended the affiliation of the college for Inter Science, B.A. and B.Sc., and the college was affiliated for B.Sc. for one year and the Inter Science for four years.⁵³

Similarly, the university arts commission also paid their visit in the first week of February 1930, 54 comprising Father Duhr, Principal of St. Xavier's College, Bombay and Prof. P.A. Wadia of Wilson College. The coimmission was thoroughly satisfied with the working of the institution. 55

Soon, because of the expansion of the Arts and Science wings, the existing accommodation was getting more crowded. Therefore, in the year 1930, Chemistry and Biology Departments were shifted to O'Brien building

in Laxmipuri. 56 In addition to this, a small plot of land (100' x 300') was laid out near the O'Brien building as a Botanical garden for the use of this Department. 57

In subsequent years, much attention was paid to the developments of the laboratories at Rajaram College. In order to speed up the improvements of the Science Departments, further sum of Rs. 20,000 was earmarked. Standard College Departments, further sum of Rs. 20,000 was earmarked. Standard College Departments were conducted in O'Brien Building and Physics Department in the old 'Paga' building in Bhavani Mandap. Standard College Department in the teachers as well as students to shuttle between these two buildings and therefore, Darbar donated Rs. 20,000 towards the erection of Physics building at Lawamipiri. Thus in 1934, all the Departments were brought under one roof. Similarly, in the same year Botang as principal and Zoology as subsidiary were introduced.

In 1937, Bombay University bifurcated Arts and Science subjects and spent a good amount of money on their developments. 62 So by 1937, Science Department was fully equipped to impart good education from F.Y. to B.Sc. level. The credit of improvement in Science Department after 1937 goes to some of the outstanding professors of the college like, Dr. Shah, Dr. E.N. Solanki,

Dr. Sengupta, Prof. M.G. Pawar and others. 63

The Science Committee visited Rajaram College on 26.9.1938.⁶⁴ The said committee expressed its satisfaction over the working of Science Department, especially in the field of research work carried out by the professors and lecturers. Because of its commendable performance Science Department automatically got further affiliation for a period of five years from June 1939 on condition that the management would provide a new permanent building sufficient suitable accommodation for Science Department.⁶⁵

Similarly, the Arts side was also inspected on 28 February 1939 by a committee appointed by the University of Bombay. 66 The committee expressed satisfaction ever the staff and specially appreciated the action of the State in sending out two professors abroad for stady. It also further made recommendation for adequate accommendation for the college. In its report the Committee said, "The State is to be applauded for its great efforts in the service of education". 67

Another significant contribution made by the college was the Department of Archaeology started by the State Government under the supervision of Rajaram College. Prof. Kundangar, who was a professor of Karnada

at Rajaram College, was made incharge of the Department. 69

It was a constructive step which further extended the activities of Arts Department at Rajaram College. And the region of Kolhapur is rich in historical monuments.

In 1947, two Science Commissions visited Rajaram College for the purpose of making recommendations regarding the permanent affiliation. The first commission consisted of Principal V.K. Bhagwat, Prof. K.H. Dixit, Prof. V.V. Apte and the Second Commission consisted of Dr. R.C. Shah, Prof. Dixit and Dr. D.V. Bal.

Thus, by the middle of twentieth century Rajaram College earned the reputation as first grade Arts and Science College. 71 It was under Dr. V.K. Gokak, the successor of Dr. A.G. Powar in 1949 that the institution was handed over to the Government of Bombay. 72

However, the study of its expansion will not be complete without the reference to its library and hostel.

Library:

Library plays very important role in the spread and promotion of meaningful education. A college is incomplete without a library which opens the mind of

student to its greater depth and wisdom. But only stacks of books does not make a library, nor a small room in some corner of building makes a library, as may be the case with many college libraries. However, Rajaram College library was an exception.

In the initial stage college library was housed in the 'Paga Building' 73 which was considered to be sufficient for the need. As the college expanded, a need arose for bigger accommodation. Hence, a new small two-storeyed building in front of the study room was built and a reference section was shifted to it. This in turn caused inconvenience to student-readers, as they were required to move from place to place: for books in one place, for reference to another place and lastly for study room in the third place. To

This state of affairs continued till, down the period of this dissertation, i.e., 1950. However, the inconvenience did not ditter many, from utilizing liberary facility to the best of their advantage.

Special Features of Library:

Every library has its special features, and Rajaram College library was not an exception. It had books as well as card catalogues. 76 This library also holds rare

books to its collection, which is another noteworthy feature of this library. 77 A mention may be made of a few such collections:

- Professor Vijapurkar-edited Granthmala
- 2 G.R. Datar's Nighantu Ratnakar 1867
- $\frac{7}{2}$ 3 Marathi-English Dictionary (1957), Molesworth 1857
 - 4 A grammar of Sanskrit language, Colebrook published in 1805 etc. 78

'Rajaramian' magazine was another special feature of the library, giving various information on the college management and its various activities. Today, this magazine is a source of information for the readers and great help especially, to the Researchers.

By 1929 there were sections of library serving the need of students in Rajaram College. 80 They were:

- 1 The college library textbooks and general books
- 2 The State library books on various subjects
- Reference library selected books. 81

In order to create interest amongst the students, class libraries and library periods were started in the year 1938 and 1947 respectively. Then, by 1939 the Deway decimal system and systematic indexing was carried out in order to update the library. Therefore, the college

library played a vital role in the promotion and expansion of Rajaram college.

Rajaram College needs to be commended on the collections of library volumes to its store house of knowledge. It is evident from the Administrative Reports, that the college authorities left no stone unturned in this regard. By the end of pre-Shahu period 1394, the college library had 4,015 volumes, added over the 14 years of its existence. 84 This momentum was curtailed to some extent during the period between 1894 and 1922 inasmuch as there were only 3,687 volumes added to the college library, making the total of 7,687. 85 However, during post-Shahu period the number of volumes reached to 33,345 by the end of 1945.86 A remarkable performance by any standard.

In addition to the college library, a State library was also attached to it. By the end of 1941, this library also had 3,054 volumes containing useful books on science, religion, literature etc. 88

Hostel:

Students from surrounding areas who flocked to Kolhapur for school and college education felt much inconvenience, due to inadequate lodging and boarding

facilities. As most of them belonged to poor families, they could not have afforded local private hostels. ⁸⁹ There also existed the need of hostel for other reasons. In the words of Prof. Candy,

Anyone who has had anything to do with education knows how much greater are the benefits to students from living together in association with their professors as a corporate body governed by rules of discipline under our present system. We cannot pretend to teach habits of discipline, since each student is left to make arrangement for lodging and boarding. We meet together only in a lecture room or the play ground.

This made Chhatrapati Shahu to extend boarding facilities to the outstation students. He started hostel in 1896 and appointed one Mr V.B. Gokhale, as incharge of this hostel. 91

Initially, the hostel was opened to all castes, 92 which subsequently turned into Brahmin hostel. 93 Disappointed and discouraged Shahu diverted the hostel expenditure to launching up of scheme for separate hostels for various castes and communities. 94 The Rajaramians were accommodated in such hostels for some time. 95 However, as the college expanded rapidly, a need for separate hostel became inevitable and so the college decided to open a new

A. 9**7**07 hostel in 1929. For this purpose the college hired a building at Sheribag. 96

The college management invited applications from students desiring accommodation to the first term of the college. After due scrutiny of the applications, students were actually admitted to the hostel in the second term. A student once admitted to hostel, could avail himself of hostel facility till he completed his education. 98

Soon the hostel at Sheribag proved insufficient, and hence another building in Laxmipuri was hired in 1930-31 and thus created more accommodation for 20 students. Two years later, college secured a nice building in its own campus accommodating 60 students.

The administrative report of 1944-45 states that the hostel accommodation is not enough in view of large number of pupils seeking admissions in the college hostel. 101

The administrative report of 1934-35 refers to accommodation for 60 students being made available in the hostel. The records indicate that till 1945, the maximum and minimum number of boarders was 45 and 25 in the years 1945 and 1939 respectively. However, the

Administrative Report of 1944-45 mentions need for bigger hostel to provide more accommodation. The said observation stands contradicted. 104

Enrollment:

Thus, Rajaram College started in 1880, made considerable progress to become one of the leading institutions. Its progress in terms of building expansion, improvement upon existing facilities etc., is already traced. However, its actual progress in terms of students output is essential to trace, which is possible by going through students enrollment record.

The minimum and maximum enroll)ment for the years of between 1880-1894 was 3 and 66, in the years 1880 and 1894 respectively. The college suffered two reverses in its enrollment, that is 21 students in 1886 compared to its 47 students in the previous year and 59 students in 1893 compared to 62 students in the previous year. 106 Besides these reverses the college strength grew steadily.

However, the enrollment shows erratic trend between 1896 and 1920. It shows the maximum reverses during this period. 107

- 1. 1896 from 79 to 65
- 2. 1899 from 67 to 22

- 3. 1902 from 79 to 61
- 4. 1903 from 61 to 37
- 5. 1906 from 87 to 39
- 6. 1911 from 86 to 78
- 7. 1915 from 195 to 87
- 8. 1917 from 169 to 153
- 9. 1918 from 153 to 116
- 10. 1920 from 155 to 125

This reveals the unsteady growth of the college in the first two decades of this century. This could be perhaps one of the reasons, which prompted Chhatrapati Shahu to close down the institution in 1918. The erratic pattern of enrollment was a result of various factors such as Cholera epidemic at the natural disasters and some students being diverted towards other colleges, especially students from some states and British territories. 109

However, Rajaram College showed considerable progress in 1920's and thereafter the minimum and maximum number of students studying at Rajaram College was 280 and 866 in the years 1923 and 1940 respectively. This period also witnessed three reverses in the years 1935, 1936 and 37. But these were not very much significant compared to the earlier ones.

Inspite of these reverses, Rajaram College strove hard to attract students and by 1945 it crossed the

mark of 900 students. 112

Performance of Students:

The standard of any institution is measured by the performance of its students and, therefore, it is necessary to study the results or performance of Rajaram College. Good performances have proved to be catalysts in the growth of many institutions and Rajaram College is one such institution.

Pre-Shahu Period:

- A) Class: Previous: 113
- 1) Year: 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1892 1893 1894

 Percentage 41 40 29 21 N.A. 13 23 62 38^{14} N.A. = Not Admitted
- B) Class: First B.A.:

Year: 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1892

Percentage 56 50 50 50 27 05 19¹¹⁵

C) New Intermediate:

Year: 1894

Percentage 66¹¹⁶

This shows that the maximum and the minimum percentage secured in previous class. Under this period was 62 and 13 in the years 1893 and 1888, 117 whereas in the first B.A. it was 56 and 5 in the years 1883 and 1888

respectively. 118 Comparing these two classes we can very well conclude that the First B.A. students fared well compared to the previous class, since their average percentage was 36 and 33 respectively.

The reasons attributed for the poor performance by Prof Candy were:

- (1) Number of old students appearing for the finals without keeping 1st term with the college. Hence greater number of failures occur amongst them. 119
- (2) The matriculation examinations do not keep up the standard of their test as a result, students joining college find the examination hard and most of them fail. 120
- (3) Raising of minimum standard of marks for passing in each subject from 25 to 30. 121
- (4) Setting of new paper "English Composition" in the previous examination, caused many failures. 122

Shahu's Period:

Intermediate:

A) Year: 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900 1901 1902

Percentage: 68 40 55 75 55 72 39

B) Year:	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1910	1911	1912
Percentage:	48	56	61	52	42	63	53	66
C) Year:	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
Percentage:	59	51	51	32	40	57	47	62
D) Year:	1921	1922						

Percentage: 38 67¹²³

Previous:

A) Year:	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Percentage:	28	59	26	58	56	45	55	42
B) Year:	1904	1905	1906	1907	1910	1911	1912	1913
	44	56	34	37	53	37	37	52 ¹²⁴

C) Year: 1914 1915 1916 125

Percentage: 37 0 0

First Year Course: Year, 1922: Percentage 126 126

The maximum and the minimum percentage secured in intermediate class, during this period was 75 and 32 respectively, 127 whereas in the previous it was 59 and 26 in the year 1897 and 1898 respectively. 128 One striking feature of the students' performance was, even during this period, the overall performance of the previous class was still lower than the intermediate, which was replaced for old B.A. in 1894. 129 The overall performance of the previous was 4 per cent compared to intermediate

which stood at 54 per cent.

The poor performance of the Previous Class was justified by Prof. Candy. He says, the poor performance was due to Cholera epidemic and many students were not allowed to go to Bombay, to write their examination, as the Previous examination was conducted by Bombay University. 130 However, irrespective of such performances Candy's view was to maintain the better standard of the institution.

Here is a table showing the highest and lowest percentage of performance of students at various examinations for the period 1922-1945. 131

Subject/Exam.		Year		Year
1	est	2	est	E
1	<u>. 4</u>	3	4	5
1. M.A.	100	1927, 1929 1936	74	1928
2. F.Y. Arts	92	1941	69	1942
3. F.Y. Science	90	1941	74	1942
4. B.Sc.	84	1932	50	1931 and 1936
5. B.A.	81	1943	30	1926
6. Inter Arts	76	1939	32	1929
7. First Year	75	1935	55	1927
8. Inter Science	71	1932	29	1931
9. M.Sc.	67	1945	34	1936

Even though the chart indicates the highest percentage of result in the M.A. examination and the lowest in Inter Science, that cannot be taken as the general performance of those classes over the period. Therefore, these results can be grouped under three categories.

M.A. and F.Y. Science examinations with little fluctuation showed the highest percentage of results, that is, 80 and above during this period. Followed by first year, B.Sc., F.Y. Arts and B.A. examinations which often secured more than 60 per cent results and the last were the Inter Arts and Inter Science results which had the least performance between 40 and 50 per cent. 132

However, the college tried its best to maintain the high reputation both for quality of teaching and for success in the annual examinations at the university.

Inspite of many ups and downs, obstacles, financial problems, Rajaram College flourished because of many favourable factors such as, the efficient Principals, positive role played by Darbar etc. It always tried to maintain high academic standard and quality.

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- 130 K.S.R.G.A., 1897-98, p. 101.
- 131 K.S.R.G.A., 1922-45.
- 132 Ibid.