

CHAPTER IV

**PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO
HIGHER EDUCATION**

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Rajaram College made rapid progress surmounting successfully major financial and other obstacles, which threatened to curtail its growth. It tried to provide not only higher education but best of higher education, by appointing highly qualified staff and providing good facilities, such as library, laboratory, etc. Besides, the college management and Darbar made official efforts to promote education through various measures such as scholarships, freeships, prizes, etc., so that the deserving students, particularly belonging to poor and weaker sections, would not lag behind.

In this chapter an attempt is made to trace the efforts of the college and also the means employed to promote education. One of the popular and common means adopted by the educational institutions to promote education is scholarships. Rajaram College also followed the same method.

Huzur Scholarships:

There were special scholarships given by the

state to the deserving candidates; they were called 'Huzur Scholarships'.¹

Alfred Scholarships:

When Duke of Edinburgh arrived in Bombay, in 1881, Rajaram Maharaj II was present for his welcome. And on that occasion Rajaram Maharaj gave a donation of Rs. 45,000 and started Alfred Scholarships for those who passed matriculation from Rajaram High School. The first four in merit were given these scholarships.²

Bhikaji Pant Gokhale Scholarship:

The Chief of Miraj instituted a scholarship of Rs. 15 per month in the name of his deceased father, Bhikaji Pant Gokhale, to be awarded to a student of Miraj High School, who would get the highest marks in Matriculation examination.³

Jagannath Shankar Shet and
Bai Dayakar Scholarship:

A scholarship called 'Jagannath Shankar Shet and Bai Dayakar Scholarship' was also given to the students studying at Rajaram College.⁴

Inter Arts Scholarship:

Students securing first two ranks in Inter Arts

at Rajaram College, were given a scholarship each of Rs. 15 per month for a period of two years.⁵

Ten Different Scholarships:

Ten regular scholarships of monthly value of Rs. 150 were given to various students studying at Rajaram College. They were:

	Amount invested in Govt. <u>Promisory Notes Rs.</u>
1 Alfred Scholarship	52,000
2 Bhikaji Gokhale Scholarship	1,500
3 Jaysingrao Ghatge Scholarship by T.M. Marathe	1,500
4 Rajaram Scholarship	21,000
5 Jaysingrao Ghatge Scholarship	1,500
6 Furgusson Scholarship	2,000
7 Jaysingrao Technical School Scholarship	26,900
8 Mrs Parr Fund Scholarship	300
9 Jahagirdar School Fund	18,500
10 Radhabai Akkasaheb Scholarship ⁶	500

Golden Jubilee Scholarship:

When Rajaram College celebrated its Golden Jubilee, Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj instituted additional scholarships to deserving candidates. The following scheme for scholarships was sanctioned:

- A) Alfred Scholarship of Rs. 10 each month for only one year.⁷

Two students who stood first and second in the Matriculation examination from the Rajaram High School.⁸

Two scholarships to the best students who obtained the highest marks amongst the students joining the Rajaram College.⁹

- B) Alfred Scholarship of Rs. 10 each month tenable for one year at Rajaram College to the students obtaining the highest number of marks in F.Y. Examination, Rs. 30.¹⁰

- C) Alfred Scholarships of Rs.15 each for two years of Rajaram College to first two deserving students, who passed Inter Arts examination from Rajaram College.¹¹

- D) Alfred Scholarship of Rs. 10 each per month tenable for two years to a student who stood first in Inter Science (i.e., to a B.Sc. student) from Junior and Senior courses.¹²

The total State Scholarships available were

as under:

Four F.Y. Arts Class scholarships of Rs. 10	40
Two Inter Arts Class scholarships of Rs. 10	20
One Inter Science scholarship of Rs. 10	10
Two Junior B.A. Class scholarship of Rs. 10	20
Two Senior B.A. Class scholarships of Rs. 10	20
One Junior B.Sc. ...	10
One Senior B.Sc. ...	10

i.e., Rs. 1,560 per year.¹³

In 1931 The Yuvraj Maharaj of Devas Senior had given one Scholarship of Rs. 10 per month to an Inter Arts student, resident of an Indian State, standing third in order of merit.¹⁴

Foreign Scholarships:

Foreign scholarships were also granted during this year to two of its renowned scholars:

1. Mr M.R. Desai - Leeds University
2. Mr B.R. Kolatkar - London University.¹⁵

The foreign scholarships were awarded to deserving candidates in order to encourage them and to provide better educational opportunities.

The following table illustrates the full and

partial scholarships awarded to students of Rajaram College between 1937 and 1942.¹⁶

<u>Year</u>	<u>Full scholarships</u>	<u>Partial scholarships</u>
1937	85	302
1938	67	295
1939	60	325
1941	97	354
1942 combine	455	

Prizes Awarded:

Rajaram College not only awarded scholarships but also gave away prizes to the outstanding candidates. This was done in order to encourage the students to take more interest in the higher education, thus furthering the cause of education.

The following are some of the prizes awarded:

Sovani Prize and Chhatre Memorial Prize:

Two prizes were awarded by the college. They were the Chhatre Memorial prize, and Sovani prize. Mr Sovani in memory of their father offered a sum of Rs. 1,500 to provide annual Sovani Prize of Rs. 60 to the student of Rajaram High School for the higher number of marks in mathematics and General Knowledge in Matriculation, if he joined Rajaram College.¹⁷ It was instituted in

1887-88.¹⁷

Donation From M.J. Dave:

A donation of Rs. 1,000 was received from Professor M.J. Dave for funding 5 prizes of equal value to be awarded to female candidates in High School and College at Science, F.Y., Inter and B.A. Examinations. These prizes were given from the amount of interest received from Rs. 1,000 which was deposited in the bank, for the same purpose.¹⁸

Other Prizes:

- 1 Prizes were awarded for standing first in total in various examinations. Rs. 25 B.A., and B.Sc. Rs. 20, Inter Science Rs.15, Junior B.A. and B.Sc. Rs. 15, F.Y. Total of Rs. 135.¹⁹
- 2 Prizes were awarded for standing first in individual subjects in Junior B.A. for history, economics, Sanskrit, philosophy, mathematics and Marathi Rs. 50.²⁰
- 3 Donation from M.J. Dave: A donation of Rs. 1,000/- received from Professor M.J. Dave for funding 5 prizes of equal value was also of the same nature.²¹

- 4 Donation from Miraj Chief: The Chief of Miraj donated Rs. 300 to the college for awarding Sanskrit prize to the student standing first in Sanskrit for B.A. Hons.²²
- 5 Prizes were awarded for standing first in individual subjects in F.Y. Rs. 40.²³
- 6 Prizes were awarded for standing first in B.A. history and economics Rs. 240²⁴
- 7 There were also other prizes provided from Candy fund.²⁵
- 8 The Chief of Miraj donated Rs. 300 to the College for a prize to be given to the students who stood first in Sanskrit in B.A. Honours.²⁶

Medals:

Alongwith the various prizes awarded to students, Rajaram College also gave medals to motivate students to take more interest in studies at Rajaram College and encourage others in the same direction.

Waller Memorial Medal:

The Waller Memorial silver medal was instituted for B.A. Class first. The medal was given from the interest

accrued on the endowment fund of Rs. 900 deposited in the Imperial Bank of India by the subscribers of Colonel Waller Memorial Fund.²⁷

Gold Medal:

A donation of Rs. 1,000 was received from M.J. Dave, which also instituted the award of one Gold medal, to be given to a student standing first in the religious courses started by the college.²⁸

Concession in Fees:

Rajaram College charged moderate fees to its students, so as to enable maximum students to take Higher education. But even charging moderate fee was not enough as there were many who could not pay them. Therefore, Darbar exempted poor and backward class students from fees.

Shahu Maharaj, in the year 1911, took the decision of allotting 15 per cent of the students a free education in all the educational institutions.²⁹ The idea of taking such a difficult step (on the background of a precarious financial position) was nothing but to promote higher education among the poor and the backward communities.

In addition to these concessions, in the year 1945 four full scholarships were granted by Darbar.

They were as follows:

- 1) Shree Shahu Freeship
- 2) Hangadi Desai Freeship (for Jain student)
- 3) Jamkhandi Freeship (for Jamkhandi students).³⁰

The Chief of Jamkhandi paid Rs. 2,000 to help the poor boys from Jamkhandi, studying at Rajaram College.³¹

Loan Fund:

Besides those means, if the need arose for extending financial aid for academic cause, the Darbar, the College Management and staff always rose to the occasion. A reference may be made to the following incident.

Mr. Shankar Balaji Dhavale, a student of the college, proceeded to England to prepare himself for the Indian Civil Service Examination. In order to enable him, the college staff succeeded in raising a loan fund for the distinguished pupil of the Sardar Class and other Rajaramians. His Highness was pleased to contribute a substantial sum of Rs. 2,000 to this fund.³²

Candy Memorial Fund:

Candy Memorial Fund, amounting to the tune of Rs. 841 was deposited in the Bank of Kolhapur by Shankar Dhavale, one of the students of Rajaram College, in

appreciation of Prof. Candy's work. The interest accrued on this amount was given as a scholarship to those who stood first in English, in Inter Arts and B.A. Hons.³³

Thus, the state efforts to promote collegiate education through its scholarships, prizes, medals etc., went a long way in bringing college education to poor and backward communities and also attracted a number of students from nearby and district places.

Hostel Facility: Boon on University Education:

The outstation students studying in Kolhapur, faced much inconvenience due to inadequate lodging and boarding facilities, available in the city then. The said lacuna was removed to some extent by Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, a reference to which is made in Chapter II. Though the state government incurred heavy losses on maintaining the college hostel, it continued to do it in order to accommodate deserving students from regions around Kolhapur.

Library - A Means of Promotion:

Though the library fees were minimum, yet a great many poor students could not simply afford the fees. Therefore, Rajaram College Library introduced a number of schemes, for the benefit of poor and deserving

students. The said schemes may be divided into the following categories:

1. Poor Boys Library
2. Students Own Library
3. Study Room.

Poor Boys Library:

This library was opened in 1912³⁴ and by 1914 it had 494 books.³⁵ The main purpose of starting this library was, that the poor students should be given maximum help. The following chart shows the number of students who benefitted by this additional facility:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Students benefitted</u>	<u>Books available</u> ³⁶
1915	39	494
1916	45	-
1917	60	2,000
1920	70	2,150

Students Own Library:

This library was started in June 1923.³⁷ The purpose was to provide facility to those students of Rajaram College, whose resources for higher education were limited. Such students were given a complete set of text-books for one or two years by the students own library.³⁸ And they were charged minimum amount of 4 annas each. This was

done in order to promote the spirit of mutual help and co-operation amongst the students and to promote educational activities.³⁹

A glimpse at the following table will show us the usefulness of this library facility.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Students benefitted</u> ⁴⁰
1924	30
1925	27
1929	-
1930	-
1937	70
1938	121
1939	99
1941	-
1944	197
1945	183

Reading Room:

Rajaram College Library Reading Room was very useful along with main library. A large number of periodicals both Indian and foreign, were subscribed to by the college. The number of periodicals was 22 in 1927 in addition to 5 dailies and 13 weeklies.⁴¹

This Room was originally designed to meet the needs of students, but after 1948, as the college started showing progress, it was converted into Research Room.⁴²

Thus, by these extended library facilities,

vast resources were thrown open to students and the higher education received impetus through these activities.

Generosity Towards Promotion of Higher Education:

Rajaram College fees were considered as the moderate fees in the whole of Bombay Presidency, which does not mean that it had the moderate expenditure. It was the State Government which continued to provide the deficit towards the college expenditure in the interest of higher education.

The following table will show the per capita expenditure incurred on each student from 1882 to 1941.⁴³

<u>Year</u>	<u>Enrollment at college</u>	<u>Expenditure per pupil</u> <u>Rs.</u>
1	2	3
1881-82	20	111
1883-84	38	102
1886-87	22	357
1887-88	25	424
1889-90	41	268
1890-91	55	287
1891-92	62	289
1892-93	59	268
1893-94	61	261
1894-95	79	214
1895-96	65	238
1896-97	116	155
1897-98	97	170

1	2	3
1898-99	67	243
1899-1900	22	249
1900-01	79	181
1901-02	61	242
1802-03	37	383
1903-04	67	288
1904-05	87	220
1908-09	76	276
1909-10	86	292
1911-12	127	272
1912-13	157	169
1913-14	197	140
1914-15	87	167
1915-16	169	132
1916-17	153	152
1917-18	116	176
1918-19	155	240
1919-20	124	165
1920-21	161	158
1921-22	173	153
1922-23	280	146
1923-24	382	120
1924-25	420	113
1925-26	392	103
1926-27	330	148
1927-28	398	147
1928-29	424	143
1929-30	522	137
1930-31	540	145
1931-32	683	116
1932-33	768	103

contd.

1	2	3
1933-34	804	115
1934-35	800	123
1935-36	793	132
1936-37	695	154
1937-38	749	161
1938-39	891	148
1939-40	866	149
1940-41	871	142

Promotion of Non-Brahmin Students:

Though a number of prizes and scholarships were instituted to promote and encourage education, it was very much essential to see to it that the students from backward castes and communities, availed themselves of them. In order to ensure it, Chhatrapati Shahu specifically mentioned in 1911, that half of the freeships should go only to the students of backward classes and castes.⁴⁴

Thus, Kolhapur Darbar, College management made considerable efforts to promote higher education in the region in general and with specific view among the poor and the backward communities. It was remarkably successful in extending the higher education to weaker and backward communities, mostly comprising non-Brahmin castes.

Interpretations:

As the record reveals, Rajaram College started with very low percentage of non-Brahmins. Hardly five percent, whereas, in 1940 the non-Brahmin percentage or non-Brahmin students rose to fifty-six per cent.⁴⁵ A tremendous eleven-fold rise! The existing records show maximum rise of nearly thirty-one per cent in Chhatrapati Shahu's period alone.⁴⁶

Given below is a table showing the percentage of Brahmings and non-Brahmin students.

Year	College Roll	Brahmin student	Non-Brahmin student	Brahmin percent-age	Non-Brahmin percent-age
1	2	3	4	5	6
1886-87	22	20	2	95	5
1893-94	79	73	6	93	7
1917-18	116	96	20	83	17
1919-20	124	83	41	67	14
1920-21	161	100	61	62	38
1921-22	265	165	100	62	38
1922-23	280	173	107	62	38
1939-40	840	367	473	44	56

The percentage of non-Brahmin in the initial

stage began with 5 (1886-87) whereas at the end of the year 1940 it was 56, which was more than the Brahmin percentage which was 95 (in 1886-87) had fallen to 44 in 1940. These figures justify Chhatrapati's efforts in opening the privileges of the non-Brahmin communities to higher education. Rajaram College has played an important role in fulfilling this social need, which heralded a social change in our society. It achieved the main purpose of spreading higher education to the masses.

Areawise Representation:

One of the important motives behind the foundation of Rajaram College was to meet the higher educational needs of the region and around princely state of Kolhapur. Rajaram College lived upto its expectations. For instance in 1911, out of the total strength of 78 students, nearly 32 belonged to other than Kolhapur state.⁴⁸ The same trend continued in the latter period. In 1937-38, 42 per cent students were from Kolhapur state, whereas 58 per cent were from outside the state.⁴⁹ Therefore, we can say that Rajaram College, with no discrimination, imparted higher education to its alumni, regardless of the state to which he/she belonged.

In order to have brief idea of students attending

Rajaram College from various States the details are given below for the year 1940-41.⁵⁰

Statewise Representation, 1940-41:

<u>State/Area</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>State/Area</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
Ahmednagar	3	Kulaba	4
Bangalore	1	Kurundwad	2
Bellari	1	Mysore	5
Belgaum	103	Pune	4
Bijapur	46	Ratnagiri/ Sawantwadi	97
Bombay	6	Satara	80
Calcutta	2	Travancore	2
Kucch	2	Janjira	1
Devas	1	Kashmir	1
Dharwad	31	Kolhapur State	390
East Khandesh	4	Miraj	3
Goa	13	Phaltan	1
Siwallar	1	Punjab	1
Hyderabad	1	Sangli	8
Junagad	1	Akkalkot/ Solapur	25
Karveer	28	Thana	3

(Total 871)

This means that in 1940-41, 55 per cent students were from outside the state, whereas 45 per cent belonged

to the home state.⁵¹ Thus, it may be seen that Rajaram College, besides promoting higher education in general, successfully opened the doors of higher education to backward castes and it also fulfilled the need of higher education in Kolhapur and surrounding regions.

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