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CHAPTER IV

Reforms of Babasaheb Ghorpade :

Educational Reforms.

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#### Educational Reforms.

" Babasaheb Ghorpade gave top priority to Educational reforms. Prior to his installation on the gadi, the number of schools in his jagir, was very limited. English education was available only at Ichalkaranji and that too upto fifth standard only.<sup>1</sup>

After his accession, Babasaheb Ghorpade introduced many reforms in the field of education. He divided the department, of education under the heads like, primary education, secondary education, higher education, women's education, teacher's training, trade education, and physical education. He made all the departments very efficient.

#### 1) Primary Education :

" Primary Education upto fourth standard in the jagir, was made free. Schools were opened in almost all the villages in the jagir. The total number of the Primary Schools was forty eight. Only for twenty to twenty five students, primary schools were opened. There were two schools in Ichalkaranji. Ajara also had a full-fledged, Primary School. Seventh standard, was opened at Ichalkaranji. Fifth standard was opened at schools in Arag and Lat."<sup>2</sup>

2) Teacher's Training :

Babasaheb's policy from the beginning was to increase the number of trained teachers. He therefore sent at least two or three teachers for training every year.<sup>4</sup>

Sending the teachers for training was an expensive affair in those days. It was also difficult to get admission. Earlier, teachers, desirous of going for training were supplied with loans. But in 1936 Babasaheb Ghorpade wrote off the loans given to teachers, Then onwards it was arranged that training expenditure was incurred through the state coffers.

Other teachers were also benefitted by the weekly discussion, ideal lessons and training of teaching units. Thus, their teaching methods were also elevated to a qualitative standard.<sup>5</sup>

The two letters by the Principal of Training College for Men, Poona to the Chief of Ichalkaranji read as follows :-

" It is expected that you will please submit your recommendation for the teachers, whom you propose to allow to join our training College."<sup>6</sup>

In his letter, dated 10 July 1913, the Principal of the Training College, says, " Please let me know how many

trained men you would require to sent out from this college for your State during each or next two years." <sup>7</sup>

3) Secondary Education :

Babasaheb was deeply interested in Secondary Education, from the begining of his tenure. In 1898, he founded Govindrao English School at Ichalkaranji, He built up a spacious building for high school. This English school was only upto fifth standard. Boys had to go elsewhere after doing their fifth standard.

The population of the city of Ichalkaranji started growing very fast because of Babasaheb's generous and progressive policies. Trade and commerce developed. And hence a full-fledged high school became a 'must'. Consequently in 1928 ' Govindrao English School ' was changed to Govindrao High School. The high school was recognized by Bombay University. Babasaheb Ghorpade appointed graduate teachers in the high school. He gave them handsome salaries. He helped the students by providing them with a very nice library. <sup>8</sup>

In the begining Mr.Cholkar, B.A.,B.T., was appointed headmaster of the school. In the following fourteen years, the school made astonishing progress under the indefatigable guidance of Mr.Cholkar.

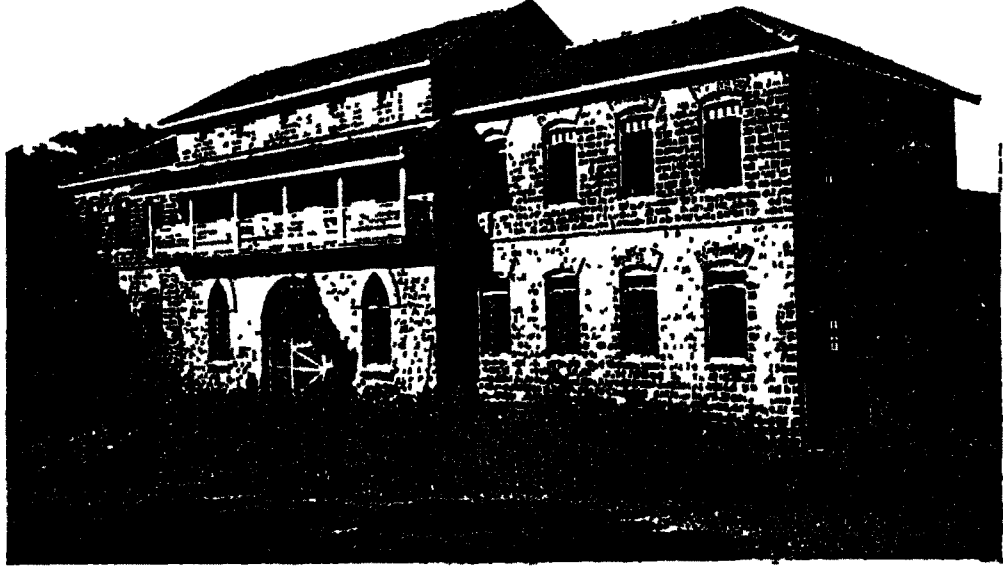
Principal Mate, Prin. Mahajani, Dr. Raghunatherao Praranjape, Prin. Wakil, ex-educational inspector of Dharwad, Prin. Mackenzi, Sir Robert Holand, Mr.N.C.Kelkar, D.K.Karve, were the prominent persons, who visited the School and praised it's work. Though the highschool was in the rural area, it had ranked itself among the qualitative highschools in Maharashtra. It was all due to Babasaheb's liberal policy.<sup>9</sup>

Shri Venkatrao A.V.High School was started at Ajara by Babasaheb. It was started on 6th April, 1932, as a memorial of late Mr. Venkatrao Raosaheb. Separate and spacious building for the High School was provided. In that highschool, English was taught from first to the fourth standard. In 1942 the number of the students was seventynine. Out of the four teachers, one was an Arts graduate and the other was having Secondary Training Certificate.<sup>10</sup>

#### 4) Higher Education :

Babasaheb Ghorpade helped the students from his jagir to get higher education. He gave large sums of money as donations to the Colleges in the vicinity as well as to the college as distant places. He saw to it that majority of the students, desirous of taking higher education, were given

Govindrao Highschool, Ichalkaranji



( गोविंदराव हायस्कूल, इचलकरंजी )

free education. He wanted that students from his state should go abroad to take higher education and for that he founded, ' Ichalkaranji Education Endowment Fund,' to help desirous candidates.<sup>11</sup>

Babasaheb Ghorpade made higher education available to the middle class students as well as the down trodden class. The then, students were fortunate enough to avail such an opportunity only because of Babasaheb's benevolent attitude.<sup>12</sup>

✓ Babasaheb offered eight scholarships to the students of Willingdon College, Sangli out of which four were meant for students from Brahmin community and the other four were for the students from non-brahmin community. The Scholarships given were not in proportion with the strength of the brahmin caste and the non brahmin caste. He offered four scholarships each in Fergusson College and S.P.College, Poona. Likewise, he offered fifteen rupees per month as a scholarship for a ✓ student in Karnataka College at Dharwad. Babasaheb was the first donor to offer a handsome amount of rupees 50,000/- for the foundation of the Willingdon College near Sangli.<sup>13</sup>

Twenty five rupees per month, were offered to the ambitious students going for study in Benaras Hindu University. In the same manner, twenty five rupees per month were offered

to the students going for study of subjects like Industrial Chemistry, Mining Metallurgy and Aurveda. He donated rupees 2,000/- to Bhandarkar Research Institute at Poona. If a student from Ichalkaranji State intended to take advanced studies in Sanskrit, he was to be given it freely, through that donation in the institute.

As Babasaheb donated rupees 5,100/- to Orphan students' hostel Poona, free accomodation facility was provided there to a student from Ichalkaranji jagir. He offered " Ichalkaranji Sadwartan (Good conduct) prize." Similarly, he offered different prizes like, 'Ichalkaranji Science' and 'Hastvyawasya ( Hand Industry) Prize.' In addition to this, he gave rupees 5,425/- for the worship offering, and light facility of Loard Rama, the archer.

He donated rupees 9,000/- to " Ranade Industrial and Economic Research Institute." A Scholarship of Rs.25/- per month given to a student recommended by Ichalkaranjkar through the interest of the donation.

Babasaheb was keenly interested in building School-buildings in the jagir. A total of rupees 1,11,447/- was spent for the construction and development of school buildings. The sums of money spent on various buildings in Ichalkaranji and Ajara would be clear from the table-5.



TABLE-5 : Expenditure allotted construction of  
School buildings :

Sr.No.	Name of the School Building	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Govindrao Highschool extension.	Ichalkaranji	42,000
2.	Smt.Anubai Girls Highschool extension.	"	7,367
3.	Adi Venkatrao Highschool extension.	"	16,656
4.	School No.2. extension	"	4,569
5.	School No.3. extension	"	5,518
6.	Shirdhon School	"	4,372
7.	Rangoli School	"	3,840
8.	Arag School	"	7,513
9.	Manerajuri School	"	11,080
10.	Venkatrao English School	Ajara	8,532
T O T A L    R S :-			1,11,447

(14)

Shrimant Babasaheb offered loan scholarships to the bright and brilliant students going abroad. He reserved a special fund for that. Sixty five students took the benefit of this facility for doing their I.C.S. and other such type of

education abroad. Upto 1942, the sum of Rs. 2,38,765/- were distributed through this scheme, on refund basis.<sup>15</sup>

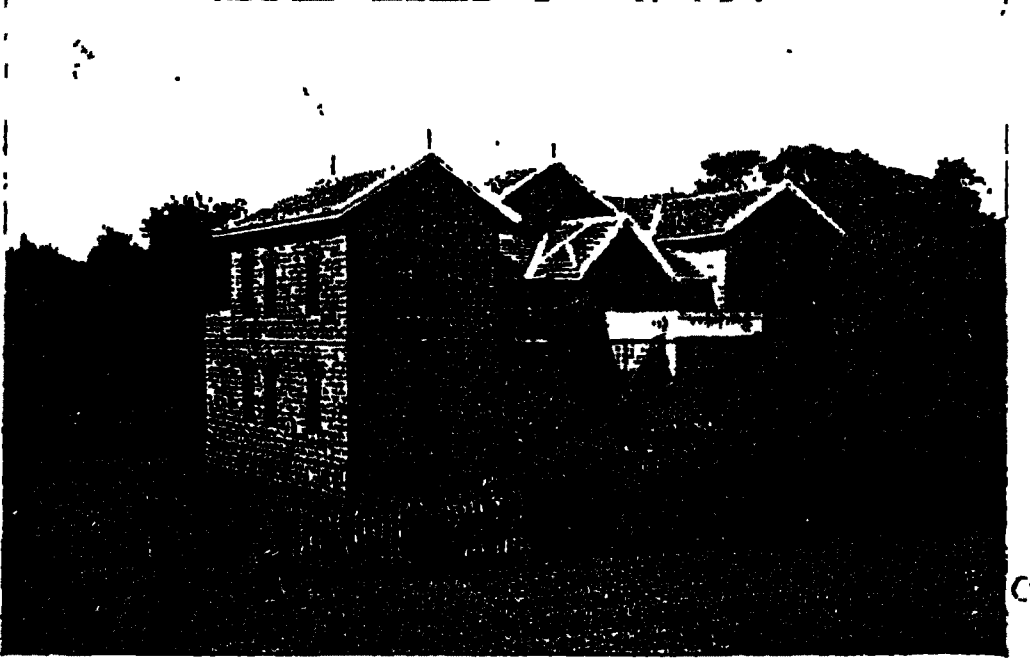
5) Women's Education :

Babasaheb was equally concerned about women's education. His thoughts about 'Women's education' were traditional and a bit orthodox. He believed that women should become literate. They should have some knowledge of English, necessary for practical purpose. Babasaheb thought that women should be educated to become ideal wives and mothers and that they should stop their education after their marriages. Subjects like Drawing, Embroidery, Tailoring and Cutting, Singing and Culinary arts were included in Women's Education.<sup>16</sup>

Shrimati Anubai girls school gave education upto seventh standard. Towards some extent, Babasaheb to some extent encouraged girls in taking English Education. There were sixteen and fifty girls taking English education in A.V. Highschool, Ajara and Govindrao Highschool, Ichalkaranji respectively. Thirteen girls had passed their matriculation upto 1942, from these highschools. Babasaheb thus, helped for the spread of girls education.

' He had offered five different scholarships, specially for girls in places like, Training College, Hingane, Mahila

Smt. Gangamai Mahilalaya, Ichalkaranji



( श्री. स. सौ. गंगामाई महिलालय, इचलकरंजी )

Pathashala and a College at Erandawana. This helped for growth of girls education.<sup>17</sup>

A special club and library was founded at Ichalkaranji only for women. In this way, Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade promoted education and socialization of women in Ichalkaranji jagir.

5) Physical Education :

Babasaheb believed that in addition to academic education, physical education and sports . were important in the development of personality. He therefore appointed physical director in comparatively big schools to train the students for taking physical exercises. ' Kho-Kho ' and Hu-tu-tu teams of Ichalkaranji State were famous all over. Youths were trained in ' government- Talims ' at Ajara and Ichalkaranji in Wrestling. Babasaheb Ghorpade patronized many local talims and clubs like, Shivaji Mandal. At the time of ' Navaratra ', Wrestling bouts were organized and the triumphant wrestlers were awarded prizes.<sup>18</sup>

Babasaheb himself took regular physical exercises and lived a happy and long life only because of his physical fitness. He appointed physical teachers in highschool to train students Indian and Foreign games.<sup>19</sup>

7) Boarding and Hostel facilities :

Boarding and hostel facility was the speciality of the Ichalkaranji State. It was made available to the pupil in the State.

As a memorial of his adopted son (the late Mr.Venkatrao) Babasaheb Ghorpade started ' Shri Venkatrao Vasatigraha ' in 1929. A very spacious and airy building was built up for this boarding. For the poor boys from the jagir, facility was being made available in the school itself under the supervision of the teachers. It was called ' Chhatraniketan '. Poor boys were benefitted from five such ' Chhatrniketans ' in the jagir.<sup>20</sup>

All these facilities made it possible for some boys from ordinary families to take their education.

8) Scholarship Scheme :

Babasaheb donated rupees 2,50,000/- to different educational institutions in Maharashtra. He always had public welfare at his heart while offering donations. He donated rupees 50,000/- to Deccan Education Society's Willingdon College at Sangli. One of the hostels of Willingdon College at Sangli, was called ' Ichalkaranji Vibhag.' Babasaheb helped Prof. M.K. Karve by donating him rupees 15,400/- for his girl schools established at various places.<sup>21</sup>

9) Encouragement given to education of the Backward communities -

The Mahammadans, the Virshaiva, Chambhar, Dhors and Mahars were backward in education. In order to spread education

Babasaheb Ghorpade gave financial assistance to Muhammadans.<sup>22</sup>

Similarly, primary education was made free to Chambhar Dhor castes among the Virshaiva Sect, as well as the Mahars.<sup>23</sup>

They were also given freeships and scholarships for the higher studies and occupational education.<sup>24</sup>

Chhatraniketans for the students in the Mahar caste were started by him.<sup>25</sup>

10) Ichalkaranji Education Endowment Fund :

Babasaheb registered a trust of rupees 75,000/- under the name of ' Ichalkaranji Education Endowment Fund', for assisting the students going abroad for higher education. Dr.Sir R.P.Paranjape and Principal J.R.Gharpure were the other trustees. Needy students were offered educational loans with minimum rate of interest. Both male and female students could avail of this facility.

Mr. Franks has remarked regarding this facility in his book, ' The Story of Ichalkaranji ' as under :-

" In addition to the local facilities for education, the Chiefsahab had created from out of his own personal saving a trust, which is known as the " Ichalkaranji Education Endowment Fund, which is especially designed to help poor deserving students to carry on higher studies locally as well as in foreign countries in different disciplines studies such as, military, Education, industrial and technical." <sup>26</sup>

Babasaheb upto 1942 gave loan advances of Rs. 2,44,754/- to the students, Out of this a sum of Rs. 1,52,481 was returned; the amount of rupees 91,682 remained to be repaid by the students. In all 65 students took benefit of this scheme. <sup>27</sup>

The facility was also made available for the students taking education in following Indian Education Institutions.

1. The Mining School, Dhanbad, Bihar
2. Tata Research Institute, Benglore
3. Technological Department of the Bombay University, Bombay.
4. Harcourt Buttler Technical Institute, Kanpur.
5. The Royal Military Academy, Deharadun.
6. Forest Research Institute, Deharadun.

7. Royal Indian Marine Training Ship S.S.Dufferin, Bombay.
8. Imperial Agricultural Institute, Delhi.
9. Flying Schools for Aeronautic Courses.
10. Kala Bhavan, Baroda.
11. All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.
12. Government Training School, Calcutta.
13. The School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. (28)

The following list of sixty three persons who received loan from the fund, will reflect upon the help that students of high merit, received from the Ichalkaranji jagir, under Babasaheb Ghorpade.



TABLE - 6 : Names of Scholars who were financed  
from the Ichalkaranji Education  
Endowment Fund.

<u>Sr.No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Qualification</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
1.	Mr. M.R.Dhavale	I.C.S.
2.	Mr. G.D.Kelkar	B.A.
3.	Mr. A.S.Bakare	Bar-at-Law
4.	Dr. V.B.Ghokhale	M.B.B.S.,F.R.C.S.
5.	Mr. V.S.Bhide	I.C.S., Bar-at-Law.
6.	Dr. V.N.Likhite	B.Sc., Ph.D.
7.	Mr. D.W.Kerkar	M.A.
8.	Mr. B.V.Gadgil	B.Sc.
9.	Dr. N.R.Damle	M.Sc.,Ph.D.
10.	Mr. S.A.Kher	B.A.(Camb)
11.	Mr. G.N.Pandit	B.E.,B.Sc.(Lond.)
12.	Mr. L.T.Gholap	I.C.S.
13.	Mr. N.S.Gupchup	B.Sc.(Edin)
14.	Mr. V.S.Mahajani	B.A.(Cantab)
15.	Mr. N.K.Kanitkar	B.Sc.(Lond.)
16.	Mr. R.R.Raddi	B.A.
17.	Dr. G.T.Kale	M.Sc.,Ph.D.,D.Sc.
18.	Mr. R.V.Jahagirdar	M.A., (London)
19.	Mr. M.G.Bhat	M.A.,B.Sc.(Lond.)
20.	Mr. S.H.Lele	M.A.,M.Sc.

Sr.No.	Name	Qualification
1	2	3
21.	Mr. S.H.Lele	M.A.,M.Sc.
22.	Mr. N.K.Draavid	I.C.S.
23.	Mr. V.M.Tarkunde	Bar-at-Law
24.	Mr. K.V.Krishnamurti	M.Sc.
25.	Mr. P.M.Joshi	M.A.,Ph.D.
26.	D.S.Agashe	B.A.
27.	Mr. R. Madhaw Row	M.Sc.,Ph.D.
28.	Mr. V.N.Patwardhan	M.Sc.
29.	Mr. G.M.Vaidya	M.A.
30.	Dr. D.V.Karmarkar	M.Sc.,Ph.D.
31.	Prof. V.S.Tilak	M.A.,B.A.(Lond.)
32.	Dr. B.G.Ghate	Ph.D.(Lond.)
33.	Mr. V.M.Joshi	I.C.S.
34.	Dr. V.R.Damle	M.B.B.S.,F.R.C.S.,I.M.S.
35.	D.V.Nadkarni	F.C.P.S.(Bom.)
36.	Mr. P.K.Kelkar	B.Sc.(Elect.)
37.	Mr. K.L.Joshi	M.A.(Lond.)
38.	Mr. J.V.Karnadikar	B.A.,LL.B.(D.R.S)Berlin
39.	Dr.Miss Shanta Saptarshi	M.B.B.S.(Bom.) F.R.C.S.(Edin)
40.	Mr. G.D.Kane	B.Agrl.(Bom), B.S.(LWSA)
41.	Dr. G.S.Kasbekar	M.Sc.,Ph.D.(Manch)

Sr.No.	Name	Qualification
1	2	3
42.	Prof. C.B.Joshi	M.A.(Bom), B.A.(Cantab)
43.	Mr. V.D.Mehendale	B.Sc.
44.	Mr. V.N.Limaye	Education in Book-Binding and Printing.
45.	Prof. N.R.Parasnis	M.A.,B.T.,T.D.(Lond.) M.R.S.R.
46.	Dr. K.P.Rode	M.Sc.,Ph.D.(Zurich)
47.	Miss Nalini Dravid new Mrs.N.Pant)	M.B.B.S.(Bom)F.R.C.S.(Edin)
48.	Dr. V.G.Joshi	L.C.P & S.
49.	Mr. M.S.Satwalekar	Higher Education in Printing.
50.	Mr. B.N.Datar	M.Sc.
51.	Mr. M.S.Parkhe	B.A.,Paper & Paper Pulp- Expert.
52.	Mr. V.K.Kothurkar	B.A.(Hon.)(Cantab)
53.	Mr. M.A.Kolkhede	B.Sc., A.I.D.I.
54.	Mrs.Kamalabai R. Ashtaputre	Mid-Wifery
55.	Mr. S.G.Karmarkar	R.I.N.K.
56.	Mr. K.S.Rane	B.E.(Elec.)A.M.I.E.E.
57.	Mr. R.S.Khot	M.Sc.
58.	Mr. V.W.Wakankar	L.M. & E.E.(BHU.)
59.	Dr. P.J.Deoras	M.Sc.,Ph.D.,LL.b.
50.	Mrs.Gangubai Patwardhan	T.D.(London)
61.	Dr. D.L.Deshpande	B.Y.V.
62.	Mr. R.A.Kulkarni	I.C.S.
63.	Mr. D.S.Bakhale	I.C.S.

Most of the students are from the Brahmin caste. Yet it can be very easily seen from this list of 63 students that many of them took advanced higher education in foreign countries due to the patronage of Babasaheb. The students took education in different advanced subjects and country was benefitted, in the long run, by their higher education and experience.

11) Patron of Music :

Babasaheb was a lover <sup>of</sup> music. He not only helped " Gandharava Mahavidyalaya", but established a music school of his own at home. Babasaheb was the patron behind the great classical singer, Pandit Balkrishna Buva through out of his life. Pandit Balkrishna Buva had a chain of his great classical singer disciples like Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar, Pandit Gundubuva Ingale, Pandit Anant Manohar.

Pandit Balkrishnubuva came to Ichalkaranji for permanent stay and coached great classical singers like Annabuva, Mirashibuva, Dattopant Kale, under the patronage of Babasaheb Ghorpade.

Mirashibuva and Bhatbuva were originally clerks, but they rose to become classical singers on the strength of their will and practice alongwith the merit of their voice. Babasaheb regarded fine arts with equal importance. He had deep faith in such arts and always encouraged them. <sup>30</sup>

By patronizing great classical singers of high order like Pandit Balkrishnabuva, Babasaheb encouraged Indian classical music. His court turned into a music school of top order. In the beginning of his tenure great singers like, Ravajibuva Gogate and his sons Keshavbuva and Narayanbuva Gogate, Phaltankar were in his service, Babasaheb had formed very good relations with the Gokhale family at Miraj. Babasaheb got published the historic document in Gokhale family's possession under the name " Gokhale Gharaneki Goyaki ". in Hindi.<sup>31</sup>

Thus, Babasaheb made a very significant contribution to the development of Indian classical music. Through Pandit Balkrishnabuva, great classical singers like, Pandit Vishnu Digambar, Gundubuva Ingale, Prof. Anant Manohar, become associated with Babasaheb. Babasaheb had great love for Pandit Paluskar and all his disciples, the chief among them was Vinayakbuva. Pandit Gundubuva Ingale's second son, Keshavarao had become his court singer.<sup>32</sup>

12) Granthotejak Fund : Encouragement to Historians-

Babasaheb Ghorpade had deep interest in creative writing and historical research. " He reserved a fund of rupees 20,000/- for Ichalkaranji Granthotejak Fund. " Through the interest of the fund he could get approximately rupees 1,000/- per year,

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which be utilized for giving donations to different writers. For example, he helped famous historian V.K.Rajwade for his 'Nirukta'. Ganesh Hari Khare, S.N.Chaphekar the prominent historians were also given donations for their books. Mr.V.K. Bhave was donated for publishing his 'Peshvekalin Maharashtra' a pioneering work on the social history of Maharashtra in the eighteenth century. Dr. S.V.Ketkar was offered donation for a publishing his monumental 'Dnyankosha'. Mr. S.R.Wasudeo and Mr. Bendre were awarded the donation of rupees 7,000 for their historical research. Prior to the establishment of this fund Babasaheb had helped many creative writers in either money or kind in his prolonged tenure."<sup>33</sup>

13) The Study of Vedas :

With the introduction of modern education Babasaheb was not totally dissatisfied with the old and traditional study of Vedas. Babasaheb was orthodox minded and deeply religious by nature. He started the study and teaching of Vedas in his principality. His Vaidic Schools had become famous all over Maharashtra. He took the benefit of the stalwarts like Pandit Balshastri Telang, Haribhau Padagaonkar and Murgudkar Shastri by inviting them to teach Vedas in his schools. Sadashivashastri Bhide, one of the experts in Vedas was one of the students of this School.

" People like Vedmurti Dinkar Bhat Tamhankar, Balam Bhat Mangaonkar and Mr. Padhye gained prominence in India at the Ved experts. The Brahmin community at Benàras honoured Sakharam Maheshwar Bhat Padhye and Ranganath Bhat Altekar by offering look of them, the honorific title of Rigaveda Ratna. Both these scholars had received encouragement from Babasaheb. But for Babasaheb the study of Vedas could not have been undertaken in his principality.<sup>34</sup>

Babasaheb moreover had an eye for the education of drawing, Carpentry and Painting. Vocational Education of all this type was imparted at Govindrao Highschool, Ichalkaranji.

The " Tailoring and cutting college ", founded in 1929 turned out to be a great success in Ichalkaranji principality.

N.D. Tamhankar, his first biographer, has rightly called him " a born artist and educationist "<sup>35</sup> His outlook towards education was comprehensive covering not only art and science but also sports and physical education. He was aware of the fact that deserving students coming from poor families do need encouragement. By providing hostels, endowment funds and scholarships, he helped promising students who served the country in different fields in their life.

NOTES

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