
CHAPTER - V

Administrative and Social Reforms in Ichalkaranji
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Introduction :

Shrimant Babasaheb laid the foundation of Ichalkaranji Municipality at the beginning of his tenure to provide civic amenities to the people. He gave financial assistance to Ichalkaranji, Municipality for supplying tap-water to his subjects. Even small vailages under his jagir were also supplied with schools, chawadies, good roads and water supply facilities. Shrimant Babasaheb spent almost rupees one lakh, ten thousand for water supply. Almost the same amount was spent on education facilities. One lakh, twenty five ^{thousand} rupees were spent on government offices, theatre, sanatoriums and guest-houses. He always had public welfare at his heart. And he spent an amount of about three lakhs rupees for constructing spacious and airy buildings.¹

The administrative reforms introduced by Babasaheb were motivated by his desire to improve the quality of people's life by providing with civic amenities.

1) Public Works Department :

Inspite of the limited income of his jagir, Babasaheb during his tenure of about fifty years. provided his subjects

with public wells, schools, roads, bridges and temples. The city of Ichalkaranji was provided with drinking water facility from the river Panchaganga. Bore wells were dug and hand pumps were attached to them in different villages in the jagir. Almost all the government buildings were built during his regime.²

The building of the Palace at Ichalkaranji was constructed before Babasaheb Ghorpade's accession to gadi. Under Babasaheb the public works department was encouraged to give out its best. Consequently, a number of commodious public buildings were constructed to accommodate a highschool a library, hospital, vernacular school, clubs, guest house and municipal office.³

The expenditure incurred on the constructions of, Public building, temples, administrative buildings, courts, health resorts has been mentioned in tables given below :-

TABLE - 7 : Public Buildings :

Sr.No.	Name of the Building	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1.	Panchaganga Ghat & Towers.	Ichalkaranji	18,409
2.	Sou.Gangamai Women resort	"	27,920
3.	Public Theatre, repairs	"	5,223
4.	Guest House	"	13,063
5.	Narayan Sabha Hall	"	36,782
6.	Hospital extensions	"	28,730
7.	Ramateertha Sanatorium in Ajara	Ajara	1,319

TABLE - 8 : Administrative Building

Sr.No.	Name of the Building	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Central Prison	Ichalkaranji	23,450
2.	Police Station	"	6,544
3.	Post office, extension	"	3,277
4.	Administator's office	Ajara	12,840
5.	Police Quarters	Ichalkaranji	8,560
6.	Anandbhuvan Bungalow	"	20,000
7.	Hava-Mahal Bunglow	"	16,000
8.	Madhavgiri Bunglows	Ajara	33,800
9.	Ajara Palace	"	17,096
10.	Ajara Servant's house	"	1,262
11.	Shipur Shivasadan Bunglow	"	14,229
12.	Narsinvawadi oil(Pendol)	"	5,421

TABLE - 9 : Temples

Sr.No.	Name of the Building	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Vishnu Devalays's Sabha Mandap.	Ichalkaranji	1,500
2.	Gadre Datta Temple	"	1,725
3.	Hanuman Temple	"	2,174

TABLE - 10 : Health Resorts

Sr.No.	Name of the Building	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Wrestling amphitheatre	Ichalkaranji	1,252
2.	Talim	"	4,093
3.	Mrs. Frier Badmitton Court and Club.	"	6,550
4.	Ajara Health Resort	Ajara	2,300

2) Water supply :

The water-works at Ichalkaranji, which were overhauled at a cost of rupees 60,000/- assured a plentiful supply of good water to all citizens of the town.⁵

In order to supply drinking water to the people of Ichalkaranji and Ajara. Babasaheb built public water tanks and reservoirs. The details regarding their expenditure has been given in the table-11.

TABLE - 11 : Public water tanks and wells.

Sr.No.	Source of water supply	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Narasoba Tank	Ichalkaranji	1,700
2.	Naromahadeo Tank	"	1,831
3.	Dhor Tank	"	1,900
4.	Ganapati Tank	"	3,628
5.	Attar Tank	"	2,800
6.	Khajina Tank	"	1,697
7.	Shipur Public Well	Ajara	2,751
8.	Bahirewadi Public Well	"	1,288
9.	Sarambalwadi Public Well	"	1,355
10.	Vairagwad Public Well	"	317
11.	Maligne Public Well	"	1,019
12.	Mativade Public Well	"	935
13.	Madigle Public Well	"	1,183
14.	Khotwadi Well	"	1,299
15.	Hativade Well	"	925
16.	Gingudge Well	"	2,116
17.	Belkundri Well	"	3,976
T O T A L R S. :-			1,10,144

Among these seventeen wells and tanks, built so as to supply water to people only one seems to have been earmarked for Dhor, an untouchable caste in Ichalkaranji.

3) Roads :

The total milage of motorable roads in the Ichalkaranji jagir was about sixty miles. The maintenance of the roads was undertaken by the department of Imarat-Karkhana of the Ichalkaranji jagir. A sum of rupees eighteen to twenty thousand was annually spent on the maintenance of roads and bridges. This expenditure was incurred through the local funds and other income in the Ichalkaranji jagir, as the jagir did not ^{get} the petrol fund and motor-tax.⁷

All the villages in jagir were connected by public roads Babasaheb Ghorpade was keenly interested in connecting Ichalkaranji with Miraj-Kolhapur railway, because such a connection would have led to further development of Ichalkarnji, as an industrial centre in Southern Maharashtra. His efforts however, did not bear fruit⁸ and Ichalkaranji could not be on direct rail-route.⁸

TABLE - 12 : Roads and Bridges

Sr.No.	Name of Road/Bridge	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Lag Bridge	Ichalkaranji	14,625
2.	Yashoda Bridge	"	12,608
3.	Kala Odha Dam	"	4,976
4.	Arag-station Road	"	4,000
5.	Ajara-Shipur Road	Ajara	41,000
6.	Sambhaji Bridge	"	18,956
7.	Mahagaon Road	"	5,376
8.	Ajara-Ramateerth Road	"	2,605
9.	Gavase Bridge	"	10,500
T O T A L R S.			1,14,646

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4) Health :

" During his administration, Babasaheb Vastly improved the sanitary condition of almost all the village and towns in the jagir." ¹⁰

Hospital assistants used to be employed in the hospitals. Babasaheb however appointed L.M. & S, graduates as Chief Medical officers. Earlier there used to be only one compounder in the hospital. In 1930, Babasaheb appointed one more compounder and in 1932, he appointed a B.P.N.A., Nurse in the hospital to help the female patients. In 1935, a

a maternity hospital was opened with the financial support of Babasaheb.

The women in the jagir were provided with the facility of getting the treatment of trained nurses and expert doctors during pregnancy and for delivery. From 1929 onwards all the students both male and female, in all the schools in the city had to undergo medical examination at least once a year.¹¹

In 1913, Babasaheb Ghorpade spent fifteen thousand rupees and built up a hospital building, and named it, "King Edward Hospital." Patients could get admitted in the hospital. There were different sections like, modern therapy, contagious diseases and post-mortem. The Servent's quarters as well as the mess building were attached to the main hospital.¹²

In the initial stages forty to fifty patients used to get treatment from the hospital. Later the number rose to seventy five. The amount to be spent on the hospital rose to rupees two thousand five hundred from rupees one thousand five hundred.¹³

Though, the hospital at Ajara was opened in 1883, its building was built in 1887. A Very beautiful garden was also cultivated infront of the hospital at Ajara.

During 1889 to 1930, people from Ajara area suffered from " plague ". After the initiation of plague vaccination at the hospital, the disease was brought under control to a certain extent.

For the health of the animals, Babasaheb opened a government aided Veterinary Hospital in Ichalkaranji.¹⁴

5) Police and internal security :

For the security of life and property of the people, Babasaheb increased the number of police from fifty to one hundred. The Police, under his control had to be very meticulous about their uniform. There were some armed Police also. Babasaheb appointed retired military-men to train the Police in exercises, races and firing. Extraordinary and meritorious police constables and officers were offered prizes. Babasaheb insisted that Police documents must be remarkably clean. He made arrangements for the inspection of the Police documents for the superior authorities. He made some amendments to police rules on the suggestion of the Police officer Mr. Raosaheb Joshi.¹⁵

The Salary of the Police rose from rupees five per month to rupees twelve per month. The provision for their provident fund was also made. Their services was made

pensionable. They were given travelling allowances. The police were given rigorous training. The administration gave policemen with good merits.

Babasaheb Ghorpade trained his police to be impartial even in religious crimes. Babasaheb Ghorpade spent rupees 6,544/- for building a separate police station. ' Lock-up ' arrangement was also made in the police station. Forty six new rifles were provided for the armed police in 1942.

Babasaheb recruited educated adults in the police force and gave them legal education. Babasaheb arranged for Police force patrolling during night. He used to make some surprise visits to patrolling units at night, especially during the epidemic of Plague. Babasaheb would take two mounted armed Police with him, and visit slum areas for consoling the sufferers at the time of fire at night time.¹⁷

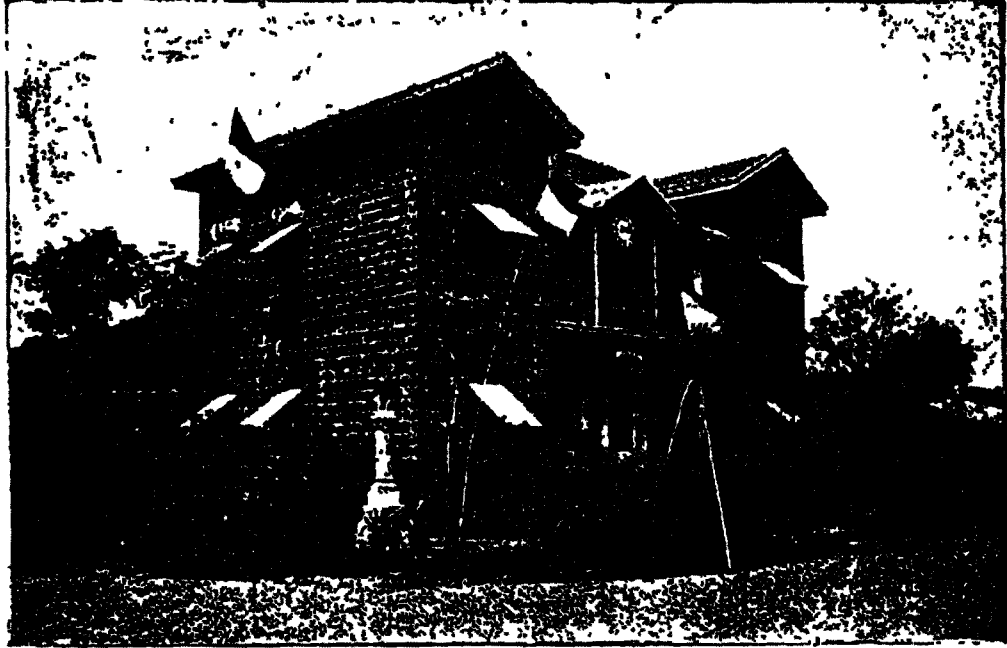
" Babasaheb arranged for prisons for punishing the criminals. Earlier, the Prison was in the government place itself. Babasaheb built a new building for prison in 1910. It was modified and extended in 1928. The expenditure of amount of Rs.23,450 was incurred on it. He paid special attention to the cleanliness and health of the prisoners"¹⁸

7) Ichalkaranji Municipality :

The Civic affairs of the town having an area of 7.59 square miles were managed by a municipality established in 1893 and were regulated under the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act (XVIII). The Municipal Council was composed of 20 members all elected. Two of the seats were reserved for women and one for the Scheduled Castes. There were five Municipal committees, viz. the standing committee and committees for public health, public works, Octroi and Law. The Chief executive officer was at the head of the administrative organization.¹⁹

" In 1941, the population of the Ichalkaranji city rose to 18,573. The annual income of the municipality in 1941 was rupees 21,202, Anna-11 and Pai-6. Its expenditure in the same year was rupees 18,789, Anna-15, Pai-6. The average taxation per person in the city was rupees 1, Anna-4. This was the lowest tax in all municipalities in the region. Babasaheb built forty-eight public sanitations, including a new sanatorium on the outskirts of Ichalkaranji city. He built a ghat on the river Panchganga. During the term of office of Babasaheb Ghorpade there was no municipal octroi on any goods brought into the city. This was speciality of Ichalkaranji only.²⁰

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8) Judicature :

Upto 1896, there was only one judge for Ajara and Ichalkaranji. He found it very difficult to administer justice at both the places simultaneously. But in 1933 Belif was appointed to serve notices to the concerned persons. A special typist was also appointed for the clerical work. Till 1941, there was no prison for civil offences in the jagir. In 1892, there were only four advocates in the jagir, but 1942, there were fifteen advocates in the jagir. Nine were law-graduates. A separate court was established at Ajara, By Babasaheb Ghorpade in 1898.²¹

In this was justice was rendered to the subjects cheaply and quickly.

9) Eradication of Untouchability :

In addition to the administrative reforms intended for the better civic facilities for people of Ichalkaranji, reforms directly boaring on the socially backward people were given attention to by Babasaheb of Ichalkaranji.

Shahu Chhatrapati of Kolhapur (1874-1922) had introduced social reforms. The Prime Minister of Rajaram Chhatrapati, son and successor to Shahu Chhatrapati of

Kolhapur, inquired with Ichalkaranji regarding the reforms introduced for the untouchable (Harijans) in the Ichalkaranji jagir. In reply the Karbhari of Ichalkaranji wrote in a letter dated 1st August, 1938.²²

The following steps had been taken for the spread of education among the depressed classes and for removing untouchability in the jagir.

(I) Primary education was made free to all students upto IV Standard in the jagir. In the Adi Venkatrao Shala (Venkatrao Highschool) half freeships were given to Harijan students in Standard V to VII irrespective on any qualifications. Similarly half freeships were given in all classes to all Harijan students in the Govindrao High School irrespective of any qualifications and full freeships were given to deserving Harijan students.²³

(II) Two scholarships of rupees three and rupees two were awarded in Adi Venkatrao Shala, Ichalkaranji and Venkatrao A.V.School Ajara respectively and two special-half scholarships were given in the Govindrao Highschool for the Harijan students.²⁴

(III) There were in all 228 Harijan students in the Jagir schools. A chhatraniketan opened for the lodging of students under an efficient Harijan teacher, was kept open for all

classes including Harijans. Students were taking advantage of the same. Another Chhatraniketan was started in another school which was attended to by the majority of Harijan pupils under a Harijan teacher, so that as many as possible of such students may avail themselves of this facility.²⁵

Two students of the Chambhar caste, an untouchable caste were sent at the Jahagir expenses to Agara (U.P.) for receiving training in tannery and the manufacture of leather goods.

(IV) The harijans were given appointments in offices and Schools. There were 55 Harijan employees, being 9.6 % of the total number of the employees in the jagir. In the Educational Department more than 10 % of the total number of lecturers come from these classes.²⁶

(V) Untouchability was not observed in schools and offices. In public meetings Meherban Shrimant, Jahagirdar Saheb insisted on the Harijans mixing freely with all other people. The Jahagirdar saheb and his officers made it a point of visiting Harijan quarters to see that their sanitary and other wants were attended to properly.²⁷

A Harijan preacher was engaged for going round and preaching and holding Bhajans for the religious and moral uplift of the community. Arrangements had been made for the supply of

good drinking water for the different Harijan communities by building cisterns or standing pipes near their quarters at Ichalkaranji. At Ichalkaranji milk was provided to the children of poor people from the Jahagir Funds which amounted to about Rupees 90/- preference being given to the children of despressed classes, their number being 80 % of the total number of children.

This letter from the Karbhari reflects upon the mature of social reforms introduced for the benefit of harijans in Ichalkaranji principality.

NOTES

1. N.D.Tamhankar, Shrimant Narayanarao Babasaheb Ghorpade, Ichalkaranji, 1951, p.76
2. Author Anonymous, Ichalkaranjicha Rajyakarbhar, in Maha-Rashtra, edited by P.R.Ambike, 1942, p.52.
3. Kolhapur Archives, Ichalkaranji General file No.59, p.378.
4. Author Anonymous, op.cit, p.53.
5. Kolhapur Archives, op.cit, p.378.
6. Author Anonymous, op.cit. p.53.
7. Ibid, p.52.
8. H.G.Franks, The Story of Ichalkaranji, 1930,p.134.
9. Author Anonymous, op.cit. p.53.
10. Kolhapur Archives, op.cit, p.376.
11. Author Anonymous, op.cit,p.54.
12. Ibid, p.54.
13. Ibid, p.55.

14. Ibid, p.55.
15. N.D.Tamhankar, op.cit, p.78.
16. Author Anonymous, op.cit, p.57.
17. N.D.Tamhankar, op.cit, p.79.
18. Author Anonymous, op.cit, p.56.
19. Government of Maharashtra, Maharashtra State, Gazetteers, Kolhapur District, 1960, p.841.
20. Author Anonymous, op.cit, p.57.
21. Ibid, p.59.
22. Kolhapur Archives, Ichalkaranji Administration File No.98, p.201.
23. Ibid, p.201.
24. Ibid, p.201.
25. Ibid, p.201.
26. Ibid, p.201.
27. Ibid, p.201.