

CHAPTER VI

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It is said that ' Man is the product of his environment.' Many political leaders and social workers are the examples of this. Culture is the important factor in the life of great man. Shivaji Maharaj is a good example of this. It applies to Kisan Veer also. His personality emerged out of the atmosphere around him. Kisan Veer was the product of his time. We find the rebellian nature in him. So he could become a freedom fighter, good politician and good social worker. So it is said that the achievement of man makes him great. Kisan Veer's persoanlity reflects this truth.

Abhangas were recited in his family. This had a deep effects on the mind of Kisan Veer. So he never believed in untouchability. Hence many friends of other castes come to him like Babasaheb Mulla. Babasaheb Mulla was his best friend who remained with him till his death.

The entrance of Dev Master in the life of Kisan Veer gave a turn to his life. He was impressed by reading the biographies of revolutionaries provided by Dev Master and was inspired to take part in struggle. " In Satara district villagers supported Congress. When Shri Krishna lifted Govardhan mountain at that time his friends helped him. In the same way when Gandhiji started national movement, the leaders in Maharashtra like Y.B.Chavan, Bhausahab Soman and

Kisan Veer helped him by spreading Gandhian thought and ideology in the villages and also took active part in the national movement.

KRANTIVEER KISAN VEER

Kisan Veer started his revolutionary life by doing forest satyagraha. In this satyagraha Kisan Veer was arrested and was punished for eleven months. Vigorous imprisonment and Rupees twenty five as fine. During his punishment relatives of Kisan Veer and Dhanaji Cooper tried to turned the mind of Kisan Veer. But he sticked to his role and refused to beg excuse. This event showed the fearlessness of Kisan Veer.

In Visapur jail he was introduced with Vamanrao Kulkarni who was a good companion of Kisan Veer in the struggle of 1942. After the release of Kisan Veer he was introduced with Y.B.Chavan from Karad who became the best friend and co-operater till his death. " Because of the national movement and national thought he lost his family life and his business, he became physically weak, he had no time to solve the family problems. Thought he lost one side of his life he was successful in getting support of public which was behind him till his death. "¹

Kisan Veer came in limelight in 1942 because of his activities in national movement. In this year Mahatma Gandhi started " Quit India " movement. The slogan of this movement was ' Do or die. ' The activities of revolutioneries

increased, this became a cause of arresting of revolutionaries. Kisan Veer was arrested when he was coming from Pune to Kavathe. He was put in Yerawada jail in Pune. Because of his arrest Y.B. Chavan became uneasy because revolutionary activities in Wai taluka were nearly stopped. On October 31, 1942 he broke jail and ran away and became an underground activist. This event encouraged Y.B. Chavan. All the revolutionaries increased their activities.

Y.B.Chavan has rightly said about this event, " When the history of revolution of 1942 would be written, Historians must agree with the adventurous jump of Kisan Veer from the wall of Yerawada jail. It was a new step of the freedom movement in Satara district. "² In future Kisan Veer troubled the British government and police department. He established Pratisarkar and became the leader of Pratisarkar. He burnt many government banglows, post offices and broke electric wires. He tried to destroy the car of the Governor of Bombay state by hiding a bomb and spreading mines. But Military officers got the bomb and changed the programme of Governor. Mr. K.M.Sakhavalkar points out about this event, " Kisan Veer showed the path of revolution but did not disturb the principle of non violence of Mahatma Gandhi. "³ But it is not true, because Mr. Dhanvantari in his article which was written for " Daily Aikya " Kisan Veer Smruti Ank wrote, " Kisan Veer thought to destroy the Car of Governor and he planned to get the ammunition "⁴ He got it

from D.G.Deshpande and hidden it on the road which was passing near the Jarandeshwar hill by Dhanvantari, D.G.Deshpande and Pandurang Borate. In Krantiveer the B.V.Dharmadikari has written about it, " They had no plier to⁵ open the pin of bomb, so they hide it in the same position. "

If we observe these remarks we can point out that the aim of hiding the bomb was to commit violence. According to Dhanvantary they planned to destroy the car of Governor but they did not have plier to open the pin of bomb, if they had plier they could have opened the pin of bomb and it have been blasted and in this blast Governor would have died. This was not with the principle of Gandhi. If they wanted to show the ammunitions are with the underground leaders. It was sufficient to spread the mines, it was not necessary to hide the bomb. The damage to the car would be made by mines. So there is no doubt that Kisan Veer tried to disturb the non-violence principle.

When Maruti Shenekar, the great robber was killed by Barde Master, Babaji Patankar, Shekh Kaka. At this time Kisan Veer was incharge of underground movement and murder is the violence activity. It is against the principle of Gandhi.

Prof. Dubal R.D. remarked that " Kisan Veer was follower of Mahatma Gandhi " ⁶ But it is not true because " On July 28, 1944 Gandhi requested the underground leaders to assemble at the police station by giving memorandum. He

also declare that it was his personal advise to underground leaders to assemble at the police station. "⁷ Many underground leaders attendented police station. But some leaders not attened they waited the order of congress committee Kisan Veer included among them. If Kisan Veer was follower of Mahatma Gandhi, he would have obeyed the advise of Gandhi. But he waited for order of congress committee. This event shows that Kisan Veer was the follower of congress party not of Mahatma Gandhi. But about this movement Mahatma Gandhi said, " I have no belief in this movement, but not against to it also. "⁸ The role of Mahatma Gandhi about this movement was that of nutral.

On April 25, 1946 Government cancelled the warrants of the underground leaders. All the underground leaders appeared. About the work of Kisan Veer in underground movement Mr. Dhanvantari Kasegaonkar wrote " Kisan Veer was a great hero and fighter of Satara who made the British government to surrender. British government repressed national movement in whole India. But it could not repress underground movement. The government surrendered before the Pratisarkar-movement of public. "⁹ Kisan Veer was the last dictetor of Pratisarkar. After the arrest of Y.B.Chavan, the leadership of movement of Satara district came to Kisan Veer. In the absence of Y.B.Chavan Kisan Veer increased his activities. He organised all underground leaders and guide them. To stop the activities of Pratisarkar or underground

leaders, government tried hard to arrest the underground leaders specially Kisan Veer. But government never succeeded in it. Kisan Veer gave hard fight with British government.

POLITICAL LEADERS

After becoming free from underground activities, Kisan Veer was selected as the secretary of Satara District Congress Committee. He organised lot of meetings successfully this work of Kisan Veer shows his loyalty to congress party. In election of local board Kisan Veer supported Balasaheb Desai and Nana Patil supported V.N.Patil, in this election there are two groups in congress. Balasaheb Desai won this election because of Kisan Veer.

It is a well known fact that when Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, there were many riots in all over India. Many houses of Brahmins were burnt. These events took place in Wai also. It was said that Kisan Veer was behind these events which were happened in Wai Taluka. But it is not true because Kisan Veer was against castism. Many Brahmin people participated in underground movement with Kisan Veer. Many Brahmin people were his friends. During the underground movement many Brahmin families helped him. On this background he was involved in burning houses does not seem to be true. He was not ungrateful person. But this misunderstanding made him uneasy and the result was that he lost the election of legislative assembly. But in 1962 he

won the Lok Sabha election. In Delhi he played an important role to solve the problem which was aroused after the death of Pandit Nehru and death of Lal Bahadur Shastri. During this period he brought together the M.Ps from Maharashtra. After 1967 he refused to go to Delhi as a M.P. He requested to Y.B.Chavan to fight election through Satara electorate and Y.B.Chavan agreed with him. From here onwards he concentrated his mind in strengthening the congress party.

The politician who rebels against injustice is a real politician. Kisan Veer rebelled against the British atrocities. After independence he also fought against the injustice. He believed in the principle that politics is the instrument of social work. He knew that in democracy collective leadership and discipline of internal party must be obeyed. The decision which is taken by majority must be obeyed if it is against our wish, without it political organisation can not stand for a long life.

He opposed to those who used the party for their self motives. He had good judge the real political leaders. He stressed on good character and training of political leaders.

He caught hold of real workers and leaders and helped them in their lives. Kisan Veer was away from the power. He concentrated his mind on it. He thought that organisations are the weapons of social work. He had no any attraction of any post or power. He put his image clear and good moral character in front of the party.

He spent his life in politics. He saw the men of the new ideas. Some persons were brought in politics by Kisan Veer. He belonged to the old generation but gave the chance to young person. He tried to understand the opinion of young person. He used to remove the misunderstanding from his mind and used to get along with the new trends in politics. So he remained on top till his death.

Kisan Veer helped Y.B.Chavan in every election. He supported Yashwantrao Chavan till his last. Yashwantrao Chavan was his close friend. About the relation between Y.B.Chavan and Kisan Veer Balasaheb Desai had written, Kisan Veer was Yesaji of Yashwantrao. This simili to Kisan Veer is suitable. As in 1659 Yesaji Kank attacked on the army of Afazalkhan at the bottom of Pratapgad and helped Shivaji to destroy the army of Vijapur. In the same way Kisan Veer handled congress party very well and supported and helped Yashwantrao Chavan. Thus Kisan Veer was Yesaji of Yashwantrao Chavan. Since pre-independence activities to his death he remained with Y.B.Chavan. During freedom movement both of them gave full co-operation to each other. In the sanukta Maharashtra Movement Kisan Veer supported Yashwantrao Chavan. He and Y.B.Chavan tried to convey their ideas to people by arranging tours in villages. In the election of 1967 he requested Y.B.Chavan to participate the election as a candidate from Satara electorate. Yashwantrao Chavan agreed with him. This event showed the close

relationship and friendship between Yashwantrao Chavan and Kisan Veer, and selflessness and sacrifice of Kisan Veer. His friends suggested him to join the Rajya Sabha but he refused it. He used to say that because of it he was away from his district and organisation which was important for him.

After the independence many great leaders left congress party. In the absence of them Kisan Veer made congress party strong. He brought discipline in congress party. He used to judge the leader by their trust in Yashwantrao Chavan. He kept congress party in strong condition after Yashwantrao Chavan went to Delhi.

GREAT ORGANISER AND ADMINISTRATOR

Kisan Veer was skilled organiser and administrator. During the freedom movement he was in charge of underground movement in Satara district. He organised underground movement. His transferring message system was quick. He consulted every underground leader. He used to take quick decision and apply it. Many times Kisan Veer used to speak about organisation. He considered the building organisation more important than any post. He helped those who were in difficulty. After the independence of India, he gave his attention to build congress party.

In Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement congress remained unbreakable because of Kisan Veer. He was successful in

explaining his role in front of public. Many leaders came close with him. He brought many young leaders in the party and made it strong. Because of his skilled organisation Yshwantrao Chavan did not bother much about ~~congress~~ party. Kisan Veer was incharge of propoganda of ~~congress~~ party during the election period. Yashwantrao used to say " The events which took place in my political life, I depended on some of my friends, among them the number of Kisan Veer was high. "¹⁰ In politics, he gave the company to Yashwantrao Chavan. He knew the leaders by their names. He knew his efficiency and his capacity of work. If some mistake is done by the leaders it must be excused sometimes was the opinion of Kisan Veer. But he was an iron man regarding the implementation of the rules and regulations and the maintainance of the party. He was the Sardar Patel of the Satara district.

He was a good administrator also. When he was the Chairman of Satara District Bank, he solved many problems of bank workers and workers of sugar factory. Under his Presidentship bank and sugar factory made progress.

A SOCIAL WORKER

Kisan Veer was a great social worker. He played an important role in social work. In his childhood he succeed to take away the people from superstion. During underground movement robbers were killed by the underground leaders. At the time of Koyana earthquake he sent help to the people. During

famine he helped the people. When Panshet dam was broken Kisan Veer sent help in form of cloths, foodgrains from Wai to Pune by collecting it from people.

He became the President of District Central Bank. He sanctioned loans to farmers and gave the motivation to agricultural development. In 1972-73 there was a famine in Maharashtra. Satara district was in bad situation. During this period he took a bold decision to change in the rules which were applied for distributing the crop loan. He changed the orthodox ideas of paying the loans. Under his Presidentship the number of branches of District Central Bank increased from 21 to 66.

Kisan Veer founded sugar factory in 1968. Many people were able to get job in this factory. Farmers tried to increase production of sugar cane, because of this economical condition of farmers became good. Agricultural lands could get water from Dhom and Kanher dam. Kisan Veer was the director of this sugar factory and was the Chairman of this factory from 1968 to 1971. Under his Chairmanship sugar factory achieved good progress.

He resigned Chairmanship of sugar factory in 1971. But he remained a member of Board of Director.

Kisan Veer knew the importance of education, he suffered with illiterary. So he established Yashwant Shikshan Sanstha at Surur. Today there are 6 branches of

this sanstha. He played a great role in establishment of Arts and Commerce college at Wai. In this work Laxmanshastri Joshi, Dr.P.S.Marathe helped him. He wanted to start three faculties in this college. But during his life there were two faculties i.e. Arts and Commerce in the college. In 1982 Science faculty was opened in this college and dream of Kisan Veer was fulfilled. There must be a graduate person in every house this was the dream of Kisan Veer. Today Janata Shikshan Sanstha is fulfilling this dream thorough the Kisan Veer Mahavidyalaya.

Fighting nature was the characteristic of his personality. Struggle was the formula of his life. He had the mixture of good career, activities, and selfishness. His personality was full of good oration, mild behaviour, organisation skill, sportsmanship, tolerance, fearlessness and sympathy for the down troden. He was interested in forming the organisation than to have power. He gave chances to young leaders and gave them his hearty support in the party. He saved Satara District Congress Organisation on stormy occassions. Kisan Veer belonged to minority but he was the leader of Bahujan Samaj. The politics of Kisan Veer was fearless and so he was away from debate of minority and mejority. Kisan Veer showed that a person who belongs to minority could be the leader of Bahujan Samaj by his work. He nither praised nor criticised. He never gave attention to what people say about him.

After India's freedom Kisan Veer became the secret



of District Congress Committee and Swami Ramanand Bharati was President. At that time President said, " Kisan Veer has boldness, daring, love for the poor, love for the nation. Today's friends would be foe of tomorrow. Many leaders use person only for the work. They deceive for selfish motive. But we never praised each other and never criticised behind each other. We also observed humanity and played politics. "

The conference which was arranged at Wai in 1946, organisation of Maharashtra Sewa Dal at Satara, conference of Ex-servicemen from Satara District which was held at Satara are the good examples of skill of organisation and work in Kisan Veer.

Kisan Veer was always in hurry. If he got some time from his political life he used to go to see the drama. Kisan Veer liked drama and dramatical music. He used to hear a song of good singer. He used to hear the news from radio.

He had many friends in his life. He considered others' difficulty as his difficulty. Kisan Veer gave chance to youngsters. They took advantage of this and become the officers in Zilla Parishad, M.L.A. and M.P.s. Some of them are Prataprao Bhosale, Krishachandra Bhoite, Anandrao Phalke, Chandrahar Patil, Laxmanrao Patil, Sarjerao Jadhav, Bakajirao Patil, Shankarrao Gadhav who shaped their lives with the help of Kisaan Veer.

He was an adictless person. He advised same to others.

He never liked falls, because of it he supported those leaders whose behaviour and thoughts were clear. The skill organisation was main reason for the stability of Satara Congress Committee from stormy occasions.

The political life of Kisan Veer was rich. During pre-independence period he was known as a great revolutionary and fighting patriot. After the Independence of India he was known as a good and selfless and loyal leader.

He had great respect and regards for Yashwantrao Chavan. Kisan Veer was proud of Yashwantrao Chavan. In his talk about Yashwantrao we find the proud. In solving the some problems at the time of discussion if Kisan Veer did not agree with Yashwantrao, he opposed him or pointed out mistake of Yashwantrao. It was the daring of Kisan Veer. They had hot discussion with each other in private life. But they never showed it openly.

Such was the love, affection and regards of Kisan Veer for Y.B.Chavan. The latter also accepted the importance and great role played by Kisan Veer in the freedom movement. Y.B.Chavan remarks, " Kisan Veer has a peculiar place in the freedom movement of Satara district. The way he exhibited his organisation skill, firmness, loyalty to the principles, individuals boldness and collected the men around him is remarkable. Due to this I have a great regard for him. " ¹²

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