

CHAPTER III

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Wai is an important centre not only in co-operative movement but also a centre of education. Since Independence, every political leader in Western Maharashtra has taken up the programme of establishing co-operative societies and educational institutions. It is well known fact that Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil established Rayat Shikshan Sanstha of Satara.

"It is believed that Wai was also the centre of Buddhist learning. It is surrounded by mountains in which we find some Buddhist cave. It is believed that it was a dense forest and Buddhist lived here during 500 (B.C). It is stated that these caves were schools of religion. Wai was also centre of vedic learning during Yadava's period. During Shivaji's period Wai was considered as a centre of Brahminical learning." ¹

"After 17th B.C. Raste Sardar brought here many Kokani families and made new settlement. They continued the study of Vedas and also a tough Brahmin students of their home. Such ' Gurukul System ' was prevailing here since three or four hundred years." ²

When British conquered Satara district, the first Governor of Bombay Presidency Elpheston took much interest in

education, Primary Public Schools were opened here in 1821 as some references from report of Board of Education shows.³

In 1853 the Government had started a high - school at Satara. After first world war, ' The Dravid High School ' was established by the " Deccan Education Society of Poona. " The Deccan Education Society was managed by the Brahmins and this school at Wai could not encourage non Brahmin students. The relation between Poona and Wai is historically important. Prior to 1918, Wai considered Poona as its educational centre. Establishing Dravid High School was more convenient for the upper caste but for the non-Brahmin Satara was considered as educational centre.

The upper caste in Wai permitted their children to pursue education. They were against the education for women. In 1923, Dhondo Keshav Karve tried to establish a school for women and he was banned in doing so by the orthodox Brahmins. D.K.Karve had to fight against this orthodoxy for some years and ultimately he established " A Girls Schools at Wai. "⁴

Even though schools were established at Wai, they served the interest of upper caste. The non-Brahmins of Wai had to educate themselves not at Wai but at other centres.

In Maharashtra, Mahatma Phule brought educational progress in common people. After him Chh. Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur gave the educational facilities to the students of all religion specially to backward class. In Satara district Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil established Rayat Shikshan Sanstha at

Kale first and shifted it to Satara. He opened Shahu Boarding house for all students who belonged to all religion and caste.

In Wai taluka the upper class dominated the learning centres whereas the other communities had been denied educational opportunities for centuries. Kisan Veer's father suffered due to his illiteracy. Kisan Veer also had the same experience. Though Kisan Veer passed his fifth standard, his father did not allow him for the further education. There was no higher secondary school at Wai nor his father could bear the expenses by sending him to other place for education and Kisan Veer was deprived of education.

"Kisan Veer had to go to Kavathe for his primary education. The urge of education always remained in Kisan Veer to contribute in his own way for educational development of the non-Brahmin masses. He had to suffer a great deal for getting whatever little education he had. With these experiences Kisan Veer after emerging as a powerful Congress leader besides contribution to educational development in Wai Taluka. He was influenced by Laxamnshastri Joshi because of his national spirit. For some time they did not agree with each other but when Laxmanshastri joined Congress, Kisan Veer and Y.B. Chavan joined him for national cause. The Pradnya Pathshala at Wai is considered to be the important centre of learning since its establishment in 1904. Kisan Veer was nominated on this body as a life member. "

5

Kisan Veer decided to open the school at Kavathe

because he knew the importance of education. He wanted to produce educational young men from every house. After the freedom of India, he opened a Higher Secondary School at Surur in Kavathe. This secondary high school was first belonged to Shivaji Shikshan Sanstha of Karad. This school was established in 1951. In establishing the school his friends Baburao Chavan, Dr. Rashid Khan, Babasaheb Mulla and Y.B. Chavan helped him.

In 1954, the school was upto 8th standard but gradually it increased upto 11th standard. Strength of students was increasing. But management of Shivaji Shikshan Sanstha was not good. They used to send those teachers whom students did not like, so it affected the bad. In 1954, only one student passed in 11th standard so 10th standard and 11th standard were closed. ⁶

Yashawant Shikshan Sanstha, Surur.

In 1960 Kisan Veer registered Yashawant Shikshan Sanstha. Shri B.N.Chitnis was appointed as the Head Master of secondary high - school which belonged to Yashwant Shikshan Sanstha. When Chitnis went to start the office of Sanstha the teachers of Shivaji Shikshan Sanstha opposed him and demanded RS.3,300/- as per donation. Kisan Veer was angry when he noticed this. He informed Y.B. Chavan on telephone, who gave the responsibility of the Sanstha to Kisan Veer. Kisan Veer became the President of Yashawant

Shikshan Sanstha with B.S.Chavan as Vice-President and B.N.Chitnis as Secretary.

In 1960 there were 100 students and today there are 3,000 students taking education in this educational institution. Kisan Veer never interfered in the management of the school. Government gave 50 % grant to the school, therefore, number of students increased.

" Though the school was opened, there was problem of place. Mr. Marutrao Kale and his brother sold four acres land to Sanstha Rs.500 per acre. Two acres land was given to Sanstha by three Mokashi families. " ⁷ Thus the problem of the place was solved.

In 1972, new building came into existence at Surur. Kisan Veer was President of this Sanstha from 1960 to 1978 but he never interfered in the appointment of teachers. He opened hostels for eighty four poor students backward class and other classes.

Today there are six branches of Yashawant Shikshan Sanstha named as follows.

1. Shri Shivaji Vidyalaya, Surur.

2. Wai High School, Wai.

Now this is named as Laxman Shastri Joshi High School, Wai.

3. Gulum High School, Gulum.

4. Kenjal High School, Kenjal.

5. Udatare High School, Udatare.

6. Shivathar High School, Shivathar.

These high schools having four thousand students are serving the rural areas at Satara district.

Arts and Commerce College and Kisan Veer

" Founder of Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha, Bapuji Salunkhe wanted to establish the college at Wai, Kisan Veer also wanted to establish the college at Wai. Laxmanshastri Joshi also gave the support to Swami Vivekanand Sanstha at first. Y.B. Chavan was of the opinion that if a local Sanstha wants to establish any college the bigger Sanstha should not come in its way. " 8

After independence the policy of Government changed. Many high schools were opened in villages. But there was no college in villages. Students would go to Satara or Pune for higher education. Only rich families used to send their children to Satara or Pune for higher education. This was became the main reason for the establishment of college at Wai.

On July 16, 1961 Kisan Veer, Laxmanshastri Joshi, Vithalrao Jagatap, Advocate B.D. Prabhune , Appasaheb Bhat, Nanasaheb Page and other leaders came together and founded " Janata Mahavidhyalay Samiti, " This Samiti had forwarded its application to Poona University for sanction of the college. But University did not give permission to open the college because this Sanstha was not registered.

" To solve this problem Kisan Veer and Vithalrao Jagatap requested Laxmanshastri Joshi to open the college through Pradnyapath Shala Mandal. Pradnyapath Shala Mandal accepted this responsibility and college was opened in June 1962. " ⁹

Many financial problems came before the newly opened college. To solve this problem Municipality of Wai gave financial co-operation of Rs.25,000. Narayanrao Hagir was Mayor of Wai at that time." Dr. Marathe collected Rs.10,000 from people in the form of donation. He was also successful in getting financial help from Rotary Club of Panchgani. Rotary club gave Rs.32,000 without interest which was paid to the University in the form of deposit. Bilimoria, Dr.Marchant, Dr. Desai, Bhilare Guruji, Dr. Sawant and Dr.Thakar were the members of Rotary Club. " ¹⁰

Though the financial problem was solved, yet many other problems still remained. So Kisan Veer, Laxmanshastri Joshi and Prataprao Bhosale discussed and decided to take college under Janata Shikshan Sanstha.

On July 12, 1967 Janata Shikshan Sanstha was registered. Janata Shikshan Sanstha took the charge of college from Pradnyapath Shala on April 1st, 1968. Kisan Veer became the first President of Janata Shikshan Sanstha on August 27th '67 Kisan Veer gave Rs.57,000 to college as a donation which was collected by people on the occasion of 60th birthday of Kisan Veer as felicitation fund. " ¹¹

While transferring the college from Pradnyapatha Shala to Janata Shikshan Sanstha there was a problem of 1.5 lakhs rupees which was to be given to Pradnyapath Shala as a donation. At this time Kisan Veer requested his friend to take loan and help the college. They put their land to the Sangli Bank as mortgage. These great people were Kisan Veer, S.D. Dere, B.B.Patil, G.B.Ghadge, S.M.Jagtap from Kavathe, Prataprao Bhosale, Vijaysinha Jadhav from Bhuinj, Madanrao Pisal, B.K.Bhintade from Bavadhan, B.S.Chavan, S.K.Patil from Surur, G.G.Gaikwad from Pachwad, K.M.Farande, R.B.Padale, K.B.Jamadade, V.S.Mungase, J.B.Jamadade, S.T.Jayakar, B.P.Sawant, B.S.Patane, M.S.Korade, S.R.Bodhale and K.M.Dhage from Wai, Laxmanrao Patil, A.P.Jadhav from Bopegaon, G.M.Dhamal, N.S.Pawar from Vele, P.A.Ithape from Chindhavali, G.V.Yewale from Pasarani, M.A.Nigade from Asale. " ¹²

Except this help Kisan Veer and Prataprao Bhosale collected Rs.1 lakh in the form of deposit without interest from people. Panchayat Samiti Wai gave Rs.40,000 from local cess fund as donation, 38 Grampanchayaties from Wai taluka gave donation from Rs.200 to Rs.3,000.

" During 1960 to 1969 this classes were held in the building which was hired from Dr.D.N.Gokhale. On April 25, 1969 Janata Shikshan Sanstha purchased the same land and building for Rs.30,000 with the help of Dr.P.S.Marathe. Kisan Veer could get this land where Janata Shikshan Sanstha built a new building for the college. " ¹³

The opening ceremony of this building was on Feb 15, '76 by Y.B. Chavan. Dr.R.G.Kulkarni was the first Principal of this college. In 1973 - 74 Mr. Bhogishian, the Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University gave visit to this college. In the meeting Kisan Veer informed him about the birth and development of college. Mr. Bhogishian told in his speech that " No birth is without pains. " ¹⁴

Khandala Vibhag Shikshan Sanstha.

In 1952, Khandala Vibhag Shikshan Sanstha opened Rajendra Vidhyalay at Khandala. In 1962 Kisan Veer became the President of this sanstha. Under the leadership of Kisan Veer this sanstha achieved its progress. Now Junior college is attached to Rajendra Vidhyalaya.

There are six branches of this sanstha established in Jawale, Loham fata, Shivajinagar, Bhandwade, Wing and Ahire. Because of these branches many students are benefited. Today about 3,000 students are taking education in these branches.

Kisan Veer never interfered in appointment of teachers. He gave full opportunity to worker and managing committee. He was against carruption. Under his leadership Yashawant Shikshan Sanstha, Janata Shikshan Sanstha and Khandala Vibhag Shikshan Sanstha achieved very good progress. Kisan Veer was the President of these three educational institutions till his death.

After the death of Kisan Veer, the managing committee

changed the name of the Arts and Commerce College. Today this college is named as Kisan Veer Mahavidyalay, which is great tribute to his educational work. In this college science faculty was started in 1982. Kisan Veer had a dream of all the three faculties in Wai college. It was completed in 1982.

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