

CHAPTER III

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Once the Sanstha accepted mass social upliftment through educational development as its aim, it could not arbitrarily confine itself to primary or secondary levels of education, as that would have meant half way progress; because mere primary education or secondary education would not have brought full benefits to the masses.

It was apparent after establishing the facilities for secondary education that the Sanstha had to provide for higher education. A group of past students of the Sanstha approached the Sanstha for starting a college at Satara in 1945 for the students of Satara and Karad, the region where the Sanstha operated the largest number of institutions. Higher education was then available at Rajaram College, Kolhapur. On the one hand there was rise in secondary students due to rise in the number of secondary schools and on the other hand the facilities were very meagre for higher education. For an estimated population of 2,08,49,840 excluding Sindh of the British districts of the then Bombay Province, there were 56 colleges with a student

population of 32,311 by the end of March 1947.¹ All the colleges were in the cities of provincial headquarters and average cost of education per pupil was Rs. 240. It was a problem for economically backward parents how to send their children to cities for higher education.

As such was essential as well as logical for the Sanstha to provide for higher education. However, the constitution of the Sanstha provided for only primary and secondary education as charge of the Sanstha. Therefore first the Sanstha had to amend the constitution so as to cover higher education also. This was the beginning of another phase in the progress of the Sanstha to start a college at Satara in 1947.

The Sanstha was passing through a crisis, but still it could start the college because of a generous donation particularly from one Dadasaheb Bhosale who contributed about Rs. 30,000 between the years 1945 and 1953.² It was started in the building called Phaltan Lodge, a palatial bungalow donated by Malojirao Naik-Nimbalkar of Phaltan.³ The said college was named after the founder of the Maratha rule, Shivaji-the-Great. Initially it had only arts Faculty. Totally there were four classes in the college at initial stage, viz., Inter Arts,

B.A.(Jr.) and T.D. and the total number of students was 167. Well qualified and experienced persons were appointed as lecturers. Subsequently the Science and Commerce wings were introduced in 1958 and 1960 respectively.⁴

Admission in this college was restricted to the students who were ready to stay in the hostel and adjust themselves to the discipline, austerity, simplicity in living and the obligation to do manual labour.⁵ It was strictly residential till 1951. Because of the financial difficulties, the Sanstha started charging fees; it also started admitting the day scholars. After 1955 the financial condition of the Sanstha improved a little. The main feature of this residential college was that alongwith education, students had to do manual works like digging, levelling, cultivation of land and construction of new buildings.

The next place the Sanstha chose for starting a college was Karad, which had come to have a considerable number of high schools, but did not have a college. On the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashmi of the year 1953 the Sanstha started the college by getting the crucial financial help from one Bando Gopal Kadam, who declared in a meeting at Karad to give Rs. 1 lakh as donation to the Sanstha

by instalments⁶ which enabled the Sanstha to open a college on 20 June, 1954, by Baburao Sanas the ex-Mayor of Pune Corporation. The Sanstha named the college as Sadguru Gadge Maharaj College, as was desired by the doner.⁷

Gaurihar Simhasane, an ex-M.L.A. of Karad came forward to help the Sanstha by donating a building to the Sanstha, which was a factory.⁸ By making some modifications it was converted into a college building. In 1954-55 the student strength was 50, which rose to 75 in 1956. Prof. R.K. Kanabarkar was appointed as the Principal of this college. After him the Principalship of the college was taken over by Mr B.A. Chaugule. In 1954, F.Y.B.A. and Inter Arts classes were introduced. Due to the rule of U.G.C. three-year integrated Degree courses were introduced in 1958. For the growth of this college the credit goes to Mr B.A. Chaugule and A.D. Attar at whose encouragement and personal interest students constructed college building, a hostel building etc., by way of manual labour. In 1962 this college became a fulfilled college with post-graduate classes in English, History and Economics.⁹

The Sanstha started a college at Shrirampur

in Ahmednagar district in the year 1960 by getting a munificent donation of Rs. 2 lakh from Shri N.S. Boravake.¹⁰ The college started functioning in a sugarcane godown which was rented out by Shri Boravake and was converted into a college building. The college was named after Rao Bahadur Boravake. He was a rich farmer who belonged to Mali community and happened to be a personal friend of Bhaurao Patil. The strength of the college was initially 200. The college was a three-faculty college to start with, namely Arts, Science and Commerce. Prof. S.K. Unune was the first Principal of this college.

The last college started by the Sanstha during the period of study of this dissertation was at Pandharpur. It is a small city and one of the famous centres of pilgrimage in Maharashtra. It was a cherished desire of the founder to open one educational institution at Pandharpur. The Sanstha started one college here in the year 1960 by getting a piece of land as donation from Mutha Ramananda Swami.¹¹ This college was provided with Arts, Science and Commerce Faculties simultaneously. It received good response from students.

Overcoming many obstacles the Sanstha opened five colleges at different places of Maharashtra.

Though from 1957 the Science Faculty was introduced in Shivaji College, till 1960 it was not a separate Science College. After 1960 it was separated and called as Science College, Satara. Out of 4 colleges, 2 colleges provided Arts, Science and Commerce courses; whereas one college provided Arts and Commerce courses. During 1947 the Sanstha had only one college and student strength of the college in the said year was 25. During the year 1956-57 the total student strength was 527.

Training Colleges Under the Sanstha:

During the course of 1940-60 the Sanstha spread its network of educational institutions like 578 Primary schools, 111 Secondary schools and 5 Colleges. But the concern of the Sanstha was not mainly to spread the education, but it always cared for the standard and high quality of education. The latter does not depend only on the adequate material and physical facilities but more on the quality of teachers. The Sanstha made conscious efforts to meet the great need of teachers on the one hand and insisted upon the high quality and teaching capacity in teachers on the other. For the said purpose it started the training colleges for teachers.

The Sanstha's network of training colleges began with the establishment of Silver Jubilee Training College at Satara in the year 1935. Mr Hamid Ali (District Collector of Satara and President of the Sanstha) and the late Rai Bahadur Kale (the Vice-President of the Sanstha) encouraged to start the Training College to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Coronation of King George the V.¹³ K.S. Dixit was appointed as the Principal of the College.¹⁴ (He was a retired Education Inspector). Due to this college all the voluntary schools run by the Sanstha were able to get trained teachers. This training college provided agricultural-biased courses with a view to providing such instructions to the village children as it would be useful to them in their future life as agriculturists.¹⁵ According to Mr Dixit, the rural training college was to produce the teacher-cum-village worker rolled in one, properly instructed in the technique of agriculture. This school gained success in its work within two years, i.e., 1940 to 1942. Some 240 students from many schools from different far-flung areas were provided with primary training.

Women's Training College:

The Sanstha started a women's training college

in 1942. It was named after Jijamata (the mother of Shivaji-the-great). The purpose of training college was to provide trained women teachers to its five voluntary schools.¹⁷ It had a strength of twenty students, to begin with. Though the Sanstha started many training colleges for men, government gave a token grant of Rs. 100 to the college. Initially it had a student strength of 20.

The next step taken by the Sanstha in the field of training colleges was to start one more college at Ashta (a village in Sangli district) in the year 1950. It was named after A.B. Latthe. The special feature of this training college was that besides training in education, it also included courses like weaving and spinning. In 1950 the student strength of the college was 166.¹⁸

The next training college was started at Rukadi in Kolhapur district, in 1952 when Bombay Government decided to close down the training college after the merger of the Kolhapur State in Bombay Province.¹⁹ It was named after Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur. After restarting the college by the Sanstha the agricultural-biased course was introduced. With this, 60 acres of land was attached to this college for agricultural purposes.²⁰ But it is not possible to ascertain the student strength

due to non-availability of the necessary record.

In 1954 at Kusur in Karad Taluka the Sanstha started the training college at the initiative of Bando Gopal Kadam (once the Vice-President of the Sanstha) in the year 1954.²¹ The college was provided with agriculture as basic craft.

The next primary training college was established at Jamgaon in Ahmednagar district in the year 1955. It was started on the estate of Maharaja Jiyajirao Madhavrao Shinde and hence the college was named after him.²²

In 1955 one more college was started by the Sanstha at Satara, named after Maulana Abul Kalam Azad for providing training to the Secondary school teachers.²³ The college introduced agricultural course as basic craft.²⁴

After primary training college, the Sanstha started training college for B.Ed. in 1954; the B.T. college was started by the Sanstha at Satara. The college started functioning from 1955.²⁵

In those training colleges, thanks to the good standard maintained by them, students from different parts of Maharashtra sought admission in large numbers. Basic attention was paid to physical work which helped the students to develop their

practical experience, so that they could look after the overall development of the school, once they were appointed as the teachers.

Deputation for Training Course:

In 1940 three graduate teachers from Silver Jubilee Rural Training College were deputed by the Society for the first time. In the next two years, for instance in 1942, more teachers from both Maharaja Sayajirao College and Silver Jubilee Rural Training School were deputed. During 1955 three-fourths of the candidates in B.Ed. College were deputed by the secondary schools conducted by the Sanstha at Satara. In 1941-42 some 240 primary teachers were deputed by government and by the District or Municipal School Board.²⁶ In 1950 some four or five graduates were deputed but in 1952-55 the number rose to 48.²⁷ Since 1955 three-fourths of the candidates in B.Ed. College, Satara were deputed by the Secondary Schools conducted by the Sanstha.

Overseas Education:

A foreign tour broadens the individual's outlook. Overseas education is a part of higher education. During the period from 1930 to 1960 importance to overseas education was given. Even government was sending intelligent students for

higher education in foreign countries. The Sanstha decided to help its students to ascend the ladder of higher education by sending them abroad for higher studies. In this field the first step was taken by the Sanstha by sending Shri S.B. Sukthankar to Edinburgh in 1938.²⁸ After completing his Diploma in Education, he came back and worked till his retirement in different colleges and training colleges of the Sanstha.²⁹ Shri D.M. Shinde was sent to Germany for training in leather technology.³⁰ After coming back he started his own industry by getting financial help from the founder of the Sanstha. Similarly, P.G. Patil was sent to London for the course of Bar-at-Law in 1946 and after his return till retirement he worked with different institutions of the Sanstha.³¹ Shri B.A. Bagwan, a student of the Sanstha, was sent to London for doing Bar-at-Law in 1950.³² Shri B.K. Patils and Shri S.B. Chavan were two others sent in 1950 and 1953 respectively for doing B.Sc.(Eco.) in London. Mr A.D. Attar was also sent abroad by the Sanstha in 1955. He did M.A. (Edn.) in Birmingham. After his return till his retirement he served in different colleges of the Sanstha and was also the Life Member of the Sanstha. S.K. Unune was sent abroad in 1957 to do M.A.,B.T. in London.³³ Besides this the students

belonging to untouchable communities who had never thought of education, were provided with overseas education by the Sanstha. For instance, M.R. Bobade, M.A. Kamble and T.B. Awale were sent abroad by the Sanstha by getting some aid from government.

The Sanstha maintained high standard of education in its colleges. The result of the colleges shows its standard. For example, during 1947-48 the percentage of result in Inter Arts was 50. It again rose to 79.9 in 1951-52. Similarly T.D. result was 82 per cent in 1951-52 for Part I and it rose to 100 per cent during 1952-53.³⁴ In 1956-57 the result of Gadge Maharaj College was 60.9 per cent.³⁵ The result of the College of Education, Satara in the year 1952 was 96.2 per cent and in 1956-57 it was 96 per cent. The training colleges were started in rural surroundings, but they were not following separate syllabus. The syllabus etc., were common as prescribed by the Education Department of the State or the University. Excluding the two colleges at Satara, all others were started at rural surrounding where population was even less than one thousand. It is found that the rural setting and agricultural bias courses had not affect-

ed the academic standard of the colleges and training colleges.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- 1 Dr. Kadiyal, R.A., Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil, p. 259.
- 2 Dr. Mathew, A., Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil, pp. 266-267.
(According to Dr. Mathew's book, the Sanstha received Rs. 30,000 by way of donation from Dadoji Bhosale between the years 1945 and 1953 for starting Shivaji College; while according to the book Sansthechi Vaat Chaal, p. 116, Dadoji Bhosale gave a donation of Rs. 25,000 to start the Shivaji College.)
- 3 Dr. Kadiyal, R.A., Op.cit., p. 267.
- 4 Sansthechi Vaat Chaal (Marathi), p. 227.
- 5 Dr. Mathew, Op.cit., p. 272.
- 6 Dr. Kadiyal, R.A., Op.cit., p. 272.
- 7 Ibid.
('Sadguru Gadge Maharaj, a Peasant Saint of Maharashtra')
- 8 Ibid., p. 273.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Ibid., p. 280.
- 11 Sansthechi Vaat Chaal (Marathi), p. 123.

- 12 A Brief Report of the Sanstha for the year
1953-54, p. 8.
- 13 Dr. Kadiyal, R.A., Op.cit., p. 138.
- 14 Department of Education, Government of Bombay.
A Review of Education in Bombay State, 1955-
56, pp. 109-109.
- 15 Rayat Shikshan Sanstha - The First Triennial
Report for the Year 1935-38, Borade, B.S.,
Bartakke, Honorary Secretary, 1939.
- 16 A Brief History of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha,
1953-54, p. 8.
- 17 Dr. Kadiyal, R.A., Op.cit., p. 148.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 Ibid., p. 150.
(The Bombay Government had a Primary Training
College at Kolhapur, but it was supposed
to be closed down after the merger of Kolhapur
State with Bombay Province in 1949 and was
taken over by the Sanstha to run)
- 21 Ibid., p. 151.
- 22 Ibid.
- 23 Sansthechi Vaat Chaal, p. 129.
- 24 Dr. Kadiyal, R.A., Op.cit., p. 151.
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 Ibid., p. 145.
- 27 Ibid., 157.

- 28 A Brief Report of the Sanstha, for the year
1953-54, p. 19.
- 29 Ibid., 1956-57, p. 26.
- 30 A.V. Magdum, Karmaveer Bhauro Patil, p.
123.
- 31 Katkar, M.V., Prabodhanachi Dhagdhagit Mashal,
(Marathi), p. 139.
- 32 Ibid.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 A Brief Report, Op.cit., 1956-57, p. 19.
- 35 Ibid., p. 20.