
: INTRODUCTION :

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Satara District is one of an important district in Maharashtra. It has always played an important role and has been in the forefront known for social and political movements. Many national and State level reformers, educationists and political leaders belong to this district. Leaders like Shri Y.B.Chavan, Balasaheb Desai, thinkers like Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, Laxmanshastri Joshi, social reformers like Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil, Sant Gadage Maharaj, belong to this district.

The District came into prominence both during pre-independent days and the post independent days. During pre-independent days Satara district was known for the role played by Nana Patil, Kisan Veer, Y.B.Chavan, Borate, Baburao Ghorpade etc. It was these leaders who took part in the underground movement, today have a dominant influence in the district and State level politics of Maharashtra.

In the first chapter an effort is made to understand the socio, political history of Satara drawing a background of Maharashtra. Of all the political leaders some how the role played by Kisan Veer in both pre-independent and independent Indian period has been neglected. Kisan Veer was for very long time the back-bone of Satara district politics. He is less known as political leader because, he

played an active role in almost all the elections of Satara district. He carved an important position as a co-operative leader.

Politics of Maharashtra as it is wellknown cannot be isolated from the politics of Co-operative leadership. Co-operative leadership is considered to be an important source of power to capture political power. The two cannot be separated from each other especially in Maharashtra. In this direction Chapter II draws a life sketch of Kisan Mahadev Veer. In Chapter III, the role played by Kisan Veer as a Congress leader has been examined. Kisan Veer as a Congress leader contested two elections in the year 1952 and 1957. He could not get elected to the State Assembly. It is because of this, he realised the weaknesses of the Congress Party in Satara district.

In the Chapter IV, Kisan Veer's role as a Co-operative leader is assessed. Kisan Veer helped in establishing the District Central Co-operative Bank. He collected both money and men to establish different co-operative credit societies, by which he could control the masses and create a favourable atmosphere for the Congress leadership. He was centre of all political linkages in Satara District. A major part of the work tries to assess Kisan Veer's contribution to Co-operative movement in Satara district.

Chapter V tries to understand the three major co-operative institutions which Kisan Veer established. Kisan Veer could develop rural leadership by establishing:

- 1) Satara Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. (Bhuing)
- 2) Krishna Valley Co-operative Milk Suppliers Union, (Wai).
- 3) Wai Taluka Sale and Purchase Union (Wai).

It is through these Co-operative institutions Kisan Veer not only emerged as dominant Co-operative leader, but also created the necessary infra structure for rural leadership to emerge. In every elections Kisan Veer relied upon this infra structure, because of which he could maintain political linkages. In understanding a dominant political leader it is essential to understand the political linkages of the dominant political leader.

Chapter VI is devoted to the role played by Kisan Veer as an educationalist. Kisan Veer as mentioned was interested in rural leadership rather than elite leadership. He concentrated his educational activity in rural areas because of which he established six schools in different villages of Wai taluka and a college at Wai. Concludingly an assessment of Kisan Veer as a rural leader is made.

9 ' Kisan Veer, a case study in rural leadership, is based on the data collected by interviewing Shri B.N. Chavan, Shri Sarjerao Jadhav, Shri Vittalrao Jagtap,

Shri Dadasaheb Jagtap, Shri Sambajirao Thorat, Shri Hanmantrao B. Pisal, Shri Balasaheb B. Pisal, Shri V.V. Gagtap, Shri B.N. Chitnis, Shri Shankarrao Patil, Shri Ramchandra Bhosale.

Some of the important personalities from Wai and rural areas. I had the benefit of discussing various aspects of Kisan Veers leadership with them. Besides the work is also based on the soveneirs, pamphlets, articles, written by various scholars from time to time. As the work is based on secondary sources and first of its type it may suffer from some limitations. Nevertheless it is felt such studies help for better understanding of the emerging rural leadership.