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## CHAPTER-VI

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*EDUCATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS AND  
SOCIAL ORGANISATION  
OF JAINA COMMUNITY  
IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT*

## CHAPTER VI

### **Educational Institutions and Social Organisation of Jaina Community in Kolhapur District**

There are some educational Institutes, Social Organisations and Associations which have started with the objective of organizing the Jaina Community and awakening its religious sense. Some of them are working at National level, some are working at state level. But many of them are working at Dist. Taluka and village level.

In this Chapter an attempt has been made to study the contribution of the following educational, social organization which are established and run by the Jaina management in the Kolhapur district. Due to the work of these social educational organization some socio-economic change has been occurred in the Jaina community in Kolhapur Dist.

1. Bahubali-Vidyapeet and its branches- Kumbhoj, Dist. Kolhapur.
2. Dakshina Bharat Jain Sabha
3. Veer Seva Dal.
4. Graduate Association.
5. Deshbhushan Education Society-Kolhapur.

### **Education and Society:**

Education and society are interdependent. With the development of society educational system develops and with the development of Education society develops. Thus education is both a process and social institution.

The ultimate objectives of Education are harmonious development of personality of an individual, building up of his character and helping him to prepare himself to face the tasks of his life. In this direction each nation has to identify its national goals and objectives and organize its system of education to achieve them

### **Education and Social Development-Social Mobilization:**

The role of education in social mobilization is very significant and important in any society, especially the developing societies. Spread of education stimulates social mobility which in turn activates people to participate in the social and political activities affecting their lives. Education is also an instrument of social stratification.

### **Jainism and Society:**

Shri. Gurudev Acharya Samantbhadra firmly believes in the fact that any religion worth of its name cannot be sustained without its true followers. Shri mahavir Brahmacharyashram, Karanja-Lad has fixed its motto "No Dharmo Dharimi Kairvina". Shri.Samantbhadra in one of his letter dated 20<sup>th</sup>

April 1934 writes "Without religious followers religion cannot exist and such people cannot be created without religious education."<sup>1</sup>

The Jain religion is described as 'Ahinsa Parmo Dharma'. Non-violence is regarded as the most important principle in the history of human civilization. The creed of 'Ahinsa' is the base of Jainism and therefore it is regarded as the Supreme religion. The Principle of non-violence was the basis of Indian Freedom struggle. Accepting the creed of non-violence and leadership of Mahatma Gandhi we have achieved true independence of our nation.

#### **Acharya Shri. Samantbhadra(1891-1988):**

Acharya Sri. Samantbhadra Maharaj from Bahubali has a great influence on Jaina community of Kolhapur District. Therefore it is worthwhile to give here a brief biography of this saintly person. He is regarded by Bhisikar Guruji as Religious father of many students who studied in Bahubali and other Gurukulas started by Samantbhadra P.P. 108 Acharya Shri. Samantbhadra has been the main architect for bringing the combination of ancient system of formal education.

He was born on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1891 A.D. at Karmala Dist. His parents were Kankubai(Mother) and Shri Kasturchand(father). His early

name was Devchand and belonged Digamber Jain sect and in the Humbad caste. From the early childhood Devchand's life was influenced by religious attitude of his parents and the father also realized the religious aptitude of young Devchand.

### **Student Life:**

Young Devchand completed his primary education at his own native place-Karmala , Secondary education in Akkalkot town and highschool education in Solapur. Young Devchand with the help of his friends founded organization known as "Jain Balotejak Samaj" at Solapur. He was also influenced by Bahiskar Movement started by Lokmanya Tilak who visited Solapur in 1906.

### **Higher Education:**

He completed his college education in Bombay and Poona and passed B.A. He went to Bombay and started taking college education by joining Wilson College in 1910. Young Devchand started the study of Inter Arts in the Fergusson College, Poona(1912). He appeared for B.A. Examination of Bombay University in the year 1916. he was the student at Wilson College Mumbai and Fergusson College, Poona.

**Shri Mahaveer Brahamacharya Ashram Karanja Lad(1918):**

He went to Karanja Lad in 1916 to make the advanced study of Jainism under the guidance of Shri. Veersen Maharaj of the Shengan Bhattarak Karanja. After studying religious education for two years, he decided to establish Gurukul Ashram for students in 1918 with the help of local leaders. They accepted the motto of 'na Dharmo Darmikairinath' meaning that no religion can exist without its devoted followers. Karanja Gurukul became one of the prestigious educational institutions in the region of Vidarbha.

**Br. Devchand enters into the order of 'Kshullak'(1933):**

After the ceremony of 'Kshullak Dikshavidhi' Br. Devchand became P.P. 105 Shri Samantbhadra Maharaja as per order of P.P. Acharya Shri Shantisagar Maharaj since 1933. At the instance of Shri. Gurudev a new educationalist institution known as 'Smt. Kankubai Shrivika Ashram' devoted to the education and upliftment of women of the Jain community was founded at Karanja in 1934.

**1.Bahubali Gurukul(1934):**

Shri Gurukul visited the holy place of Shri Bahubali near Kumbhoj on the invitation of leaders of Digamber Jain community of the region in 1934. Majority people of the Jain community also desired to have gurukul type of educational institution at Bahubali(Kumbhoj). The Bhattarakas of

both Nandani and Kolhapur also showed their willingness to help such institution. Gurudev after consultations with pt. Devakinandan Shastri took the final decision to start the Gurukul type of educational Institution at Shri Bahubali(near Kumbhoj). The Bahubali Brahmacharya Ashram or Gurukul was founded on the auspicious day of 'Sruta Punchami' i.e. 13<sup>th</sup> July 1934. Now this Bhahubali became one of the leading educational religious and cultural centres of Jaina community in Kolhapur District. There is hostels and educational facilities from where number of future Doctors, Professors and other eminent persons of Jain community took their education.

Samantbhadra stayed at Bahubali and expired on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1988. he was assisted in his mission by team of ardent followers like Br. Manikchand Bhisikar Guruji, Bhupal Dalal Guruji, Manikchand Shah, Shantikumar Patil, Ajitkumar Karke, Shushilkumarji Upadhye, Mrutunjaya Malgave Smt. Gajaben Shah and many others.

#### **Features of Jain Gurukul Education System:**

Samantbhadra started same Gurukulas in M.P., Maharashtra and Karnatak. It has some special features.<sup>2</sup> It provided facilities of receiving religious education along with the formal education to the young boys of the Jaina community. All the students are taught to be self reliant and are expected to do the manual labour work.<sup>3</sup> the third special feature is the

emphasis given to the physical education.<sup>4</sup> The 4<sup>th</sup> feature of Jain gurukul education system is that Gurukul students are taught to serve the society. The students are taught the basic principles of Jain religion. The gurukul students are afforded an opportunity of living in the company of saintly personalities like Shri. Gurudev, Bhishikar Gurujikar etc.

Bahubali is the right living true monument of Samantbhadra Maharaj and inspiration to the posterity. Every Jain and non Jain also visits this place. Shri Bhisikar Guruji rightly said that 'Samantbhadra Maharaj' was a religious father of many students who joined and took education in Jain Gurukulas founded by Maharaja at Bahubali, Karanja, Stavanidhi and other places. He further adds that 'Guru' teacher is real parents of student because he show the real path of Sanmarg, guide him, took care and encourage him from time to time.<sup>5</sup>

The sad demise of Samantbhadra Maharaj took place on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1988 at Bahubali and left his mission incomplete. At this time number of Condolence message received to Bhisikar Guruji who was Director of Bahubali Vidhyapeet.

Swastishri Devendrakirti mahaswami Humacha writes 'Heartfelt Condolence for the sad demise of Acharyashri Samantbhadra Maharaj. May the noble soul rest in peace.'<sup>6</sup>

Dr. V.A. Sangave rightly pointed out that Acharya Samantbhadra Maharaj lived 97 years and he was an exponent of total Cultural progress.<sup>7</sup>

Hon'ble Sharad pawar, then Chief minister Maharashtra send the following condolence message "Deeply arrived on the Sad Demise of Jain Munishri Samantbhadra Maharaj"<sup>8</sup>

The message of Samantbhadra Maharaj is as follows which is guiding spirit to future generation "Control your tongue, talk sweet and be brief in your talk. Don't hurt others."

He observed five vows non-violence, truth, non stealing, celibacy and non-possession (Ahinsa, Satya, Astya, Brahmacharya and Aparigraha.

Late Advocate Nanasaheb Nandrekar said that Samantbhadra Maharaj was a great revolutionary Man.

## **2.Daksina Bharat Jain Sabha(Establishment 3-4-1899):**

The another social Jain institution started by Jain community was 'Dakshina Maharashtra Jain Sabha' which is renamed subsequently as 'Daksina Bharat Jaina Sabha' on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1899.<sup>9</sup> The founder of members of this Sabha were Prof. A.B. Latthe, Annappa Fadyapa Chaugule, A.B. Hanje from Kini etc.

The Sabha was established in Stavanidhi conference of Jainas and continued even today. The aim of this Jain Sabha was to bring all round

progress of Jaina community of this area. The Daksin Bharat Jaina Sabha is running at present Hostels for boys in Kolhapur, Sangli, Dharwar, Hubali, Poona, Belgaum and sanctioning scholarship for needy and poor Jaina students. This Sabha also started 'Sravikashram' for girls belonging to Jaina community in Kolhapur, Sangli and other places.<sup>10</sup>

Side by side Sabha has publishing some religious books useful to Jaina community. The Sabha has been publishing 'Pragati' and 'Jinavijay' weekly from 1902. Generally every Jain read this weekly.

There is a regular sessions of conferences held of Dakshina Bharat Jain Sabha every year and the problems of Jaina community of Kolhapur Dist. and this area were discussed. This Sabha is doing very well in the social, religious, educational fields. At present the Head Office of Dakshina Bharat Jaina Sabha is at Sangli. Prof. D.A. Patil from Kolhapur is a Chairman of this Sabha. The Sabha arranged lectures on various subjects which were useful to people of Jaina community. The centre of activities of Sabha in Kolhapur is Jaina Boarding.

To erect Jaina temples in Kolhapur Dist. and other places, this Sabha is rendering great service. Not only this but to spread tenets of Jainism this Sabha is doing important work in this area and undertaking useful program

was for the upliftment of Jaina community. There is a need of special study of this Sabha which is a guiding force to posterity.

From 1899 to 1975 there were 62 annual sessions of this Sabha. The places of sessions were as follows Shri Kestra Stavanidhi (near Nipani) (28 Sessions), Kolhapur 5, Sangli 7, Belgaum 3, Kavalapur Dist. Sangli 1, Hubali 1, Kothali 1, Bhoj 1, Ichalkaranji 2, Miraj 2, Bhilvadi 1, Rui 1, Dundhgaon 1, Asta 1, Shamnewadi 1, Nipani 1, Halage 1, Jaysingpur 1, Kothali 1, Terdal 1, Rukadi 1 etc.<sup>11</sup> The Laxmisen Mahaswami of Kolhapur, Jinsen Bhattarak Mahaswami of Nandani, Vishalkirti Maharaj of Latur presided the some sessions of this Sabhas. Prof. A.N.Upadhye, Karamveer Bhaurao Patil, Prof. A.B. Latthe, Nejekar were also president of some sessions.

This sabha also has been looking after the welfare and upliftmant of women of Jain community. There are number of scholarship sanctioned every year to boys as well as girls. There is a special session of Mahila Parishad arranged every year by Dakshina Bharat Jain Sabha in its annual session. It encouraged female education. The Sabha also started Jaina youth organization since 1922 which later on became 'Veer Seva Dal'.

This Sabha stressed much importance for English education, female education, publishing religious books etc.<sup>12</sup>

### 3. Veer Seva Dal(1979):

This is an unique organization of Jain youths came into existence on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1979<sup>13</sup> and continued till now. The founder member of this Veer Seva Dal were Dr. Dhananjay Gude and Late Dr. N.J. Patil. The credit of expanding this Dal goes to Veeracharya Babasaheb Kuchnure.

The idea of establishing youth organization Jain youths was first conceived in the annual session of Dakshin Bharat Jain Sabha held in Davangere in 1979. The aim of Veer Seva Dal is to organize Jain youths and infused them the religious spirit of Jainism as well as them to undertake social work, abstain them from vices and drinking Alcohol utilize their force for constructive work rather than destructive role. This is useful organization of Jain youths found in every village in Kolhapur District.

The actual work of Seva Dal started on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.1979 from Digamber Jain Boarding Kolhapur. The founder President ofVeer Seva Dal was Dr. Dhananjay Gunde.<sup>14</sup> The first branch of Veer Seva Dal was established at Herle near Kolhapur by Prof. B.A. Chaugule, mr. Dhananjay Gunde, Mr. V.A. Sangave, Late Adv. Nandrekar, Late Dinkarrao Mudrale were present on this occasion at Herle.

### Organisation:

The office bearers of Veer Seva Dal is as follows: There was a Central Committee of veer Seva Dal consisted of 30 members. Among them, there was 1. President, 2. Karyadhaksh (working President). 3. Karyavah-Executive Office. 4. Treasurer.

Later on there was a spread of Veer Seva Dal in every village. The Jain youths voluntarily joined this Dal. There are four directors for each Branch of Veer Seva Dal. They are 1. Social Director 2. Religious Director 3. Cultural Director 4. Organizing Director. Besides this there are sub sections headed by one persons like Patshala, Library, Head of Musical Instrument .(Vadhyapathak), tree plantation etc.<sup>15</sup>

#### **Branches:**

At present there are more than 175 branches of Veer Seva Dal spread in Kolhapur Dist. and Sangali. They run more than 115 Pathshalas where Jain religious education is imparted to young children. This Dal also established Veeracharya Babasaheb Kuchnure trust, runs three Highschools, managed 3 pathpedhis and undertaking various social and religious works. Whenever there was a panchkalyan Puja or any other religious functions youths of Veer Seva Dal voluntarily worked there and make grand success that Programme. So now this Veer Seva Dal is a needful and helpful organization for Jain community.



Veer Seva Dal is not a traditional organization but it adopt modern technology also and running computer training centres for Jain Students, spread religious books, published religious and social cassettes. Distributing beautiful and readable posters, Monthly issues etc. They also arranged Health camps for poor, exhibitions and lectures of erudite scholars. Every year they organized death Anniversary of Saint Shantisagar Maharaj on ground scale. This Veer Seva Dal is a offshoot of Dakshina Bharat Jaina Sabha which is its parent body.

The monthly issue of Veer Seva Dal is publishing every year and readable religious and social articles have been publishing every issue. At present the services of Prof. B.A. Chaugule is noteworthy and guiding force to this organization.<sup>16</sup>

Veer Seva Dal has been publishing Monthly 'vartapatra' every month since 1991. They also published some special issue of Veer Deva Dal at special occasion like Pratamacharya Shri Shantisagar Special issue, Chandraprabhu special issue.<sup>17</sup> This Dal also encouraged youths for attending competitive spirit and arranged *elocution* competition on the life of Lord Mahavir and others. They also arranged number of Sanskar Shibir and influenced interest of Jain religion among Jain youths. Lastly they also

spread the importance of vegetarian diet which is their one of the important mission.

#### **IV. Graduate Association(2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1989):-**

This is another social organization founded by Jain graduates on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1989.<sup>18</sup> The members of this Association are Jain graduates who obtained degree of University on any Branches. The members of this organization are, doctors, Engineers, teachers, Professors and government Officer.

The aim of this Association is very good and lofty one. A Jain graduate once occupied important position, he should do something for the upliftment of his fellow Jain brothers and sisters. But unfortunately this is loose organization and nothing doing any concrete or construction work. Therefore it should be reorganized on the model of Veer Seva Dal and they should take some useful programme for Jaina community.

The Association arranged some seminars of Jaina book like 'Punit' 'Gatt Agreement' Problem of minority, Modern Agriculture but this is only for intellectual and not useful for common Jains.

The main aim of this organization is to take some responsibility of Poor Jains and guide them properly and helped them, redress their grievances. Even among Jain Community very few are rich and others are

poor. So there is a need of such organization also but they should raise some funds and extend monetary help to student coming from Poor strata of Jain society. This is also one of offshoot Dakshina Bharat Jaina Association. The centres committee of graduate Association was consisted of the following members for the year 1998 to 2001.

1. Dr. Suresh N. Patil (Jaysingpur), Chairman.
2. Prof. B.A. Chougule (Herle), Vice Chairman.
3. Mr. S.A. Patil (Sangli), President.
4. Prof. A.A. Mudalgi (Sangli), Secretary.

Besides this there were same 18 members.<sup>19</sup>

**5. Shri Acharyaratna Deshbhushan Education Society, Kolhapur (19<sup>th</sup> April 1963):**

Another important educational Institution established by the leaders of Jain community in Kolhapur was Shri Acharyaratna Deshbhushan Sikshan prasarak Mandal Kolhapur. This society at present runs one senior college i.e. Mahaveer College, two High Schools, one Junior College and other educational Institutions.

The story of establishing this education society was in interesting. Once in the year 1962 Acharyaratna Deshbhushan from Kothali came to Kolhapur and stayed for sometime at Laxmisen Math, Shukravar Peth,

Kolhapur. He advised to some Jain leaders to start educational Institution in Kolhapur instead of erecting temples. This was his wise advice to Jain community because in education institution is useful to bring out the socio-economic change of new generation. At his advice, his disciples Dadoba Chougule, Bapuso Mudhale, Ganpatrao Rote, Bapuso vankudre, Smt.Champatai Nitave, Adv. Mama Vardhamane, V.P. Patil, Dr. V.A. Sanghave, R.J. Shaha, Kashinath Pokale, Bapurao Kapase, Adv. Dhanpal Tike and many others came together and established Shri. Acharyaratna Deshbhushan Shikshan Prasarak mandal at Kolhapur on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1963.<sup>20</sup> Accordingly this society was registered and its register No.K.F.91/63. This society received the blessings of Mahaswami Laxmisen. The first founder chairmen of this society was Mama Vardhmane and founder secretary B.B. Patil who acted upto 1990.

After Mama Vardhmane Dr. Gajanan Mirje became the second chirman of this society and now advocate K.A. Kapase is the Chairman of this society. The second Secretary was Shanthinath alias Tatya Patane (1990-96). The present President is Hon. Kallappana Awade Ex. M.P. Besides this Balaso Magdum, Bhujgonda Patil, Adv. B.S. Patil, Amangonda patil, Mahavir Desai, Jaywal Sheth, Nejkar Patil, B.N. Gargate, Adv.

Nanasaheb Nandrekar Smt. Vadgave, Advo. R.N. Patil are in the executive council.<sup>21</sup>

This institution runs the Shri Deshbhushan Highschool(1963), D.A. Magdum Highschool(1969), S.M.K. English School, B.M. Rote Junior College and Mahaveer College (1970).

**Mahaveer College(1970):**

The previous name of this college was 'Kolhapur College' which was renamed as 'Mahaveer College' in 1974-75 on the occasion of 2500<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Lord Mahaveer. Now this college is one of the leading College where number of Jain and non-Jain students receiving Education and shaping their future destiny. It has a big and spacious college campus.

The first Principal of this College was renowned educationalist Prin. S.S. Fharate. Later on Prin. G.K. Patil(1975), Prin. A.A. Patil, Prin. B.B.Patil, Acting Principal A.B. Khot became the Principal of Mahaveer College and expanded this College in every direction. Prin. D.R. Konnur assumed the post of Principal on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1996 and has been working very well now.<sup>22</sup>

The teaching and no-teaching staff is also well qualified. 'Acharya Vidhyanand Sanskriti Bhavan' is built in the premise of College which is

now became the cultural centre of Jain community in Kolhapur Dist.<sup>23</sup> This Society is helping poor and needy students by extending monetary help.

Thus these Educational institutions and social organization like Veer Seva Dal are bringing socio-economic change in Kolhapur District to some extent. Therefore there is need of many social organization yet to start for bringing rapid progress in the Jain society.

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