

CHAPTER-VII

EPILOGUE

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Jain religion and philosophy have a distinct place in the religious history of India. Jainism was came into existence in North India but after third century B.C. penetrated into south India. Kolhapur was a strong hold of Jainism since first century A.D. This area was ruled & controlled by Satavahanas, Vakatakas, Chalukyas of Badami, Rashtrakutas of Malkhed , Chalukyas of Kalyani and Yadavas of Devgiri. Silakaras were the rulers of Kolhapur from 10th to 13th century A.D. and extended great patronization to Jainism.

During Silahar period we find many Jain Temples. There are many inscriptions belonging to Silahar period which speak about the glory of Jain religion in the past. During medieval period this area was controlled by Muslim rulers and Jain people preserved their religion and temples as before. During Maratha rule and Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur(1710 to 1949) Jainism was surviving in this area.

Chhatrapati Shahu(1884-1922) and his son Rajaram Chhatrapati(1922 to 1940) were great patrons of Jain Religion. Chhatrapti Shahu started Hostels for Jain students in 1902 and Rajaram Maharaj also granted land and plots to Daksin Bharat Jaina Sabha to build Sravikashram for Jain girls. Prof.

A.B. Latthe who was a Jain leader was the Diwan of Kolhapur from 1926-30. Shahupuri settlement was started by Shahu Maharaj where Jain Traders and merchants reside even now at large scale. The Kolhapur state merged into Bombay province on 1st March 1949 and a Kolhapur became one Dist. Jain community was one of the Minority communities in Kolhapur Dist. In 1949 but leaders and their associates started some co-operative Banks and Path pedis for economic Development of Kolhapur Dist. Mention must be made of Mahaveer Bank, Ratnakar Bank, Bharat Bank, Karamveer Bhaurao patil Path Pedi and many others. These economic organizations extended monetary help to not only Jains but other needy and poor people from all castes. So these Banks rendering great service to socio-economic change of this area.

Nandani Math and Laxmisen Math Kolhapur also rendering a great service to protect Jain Religion in this area. Mathas also arranged, some religious functions, ceremonies and helped to spread Jain religion. Nandani Math started monthly 'Sarvadharm' and Laxmisen Math Kolhapur publishing 'Ratnatraya' monthly which are useful to Jain Sravakas and Sravikas. Besides this Daksina Bharath Jain Sabha has been publishing 'Pragati Ani Jinvi Jay' since 1902 which has a good circulation and read by every Jain in this Dist.

Another important Jaina organization in Kolhapur Dist. is Bahubali Vidyapeet(1934) started by Samantbhadra Maharaj which has a great impact on Jaina community. Number of poor student studied at Bahubali and later on became Doctors, Engineers, Professors, Class one Officers, Businessman, Traders, Government Official. Jain people also founded Deshbhushan education Society in Kolhapur and run Mahaveer college and some High Schools. Many students are receiving education in these institutions.

Daksina Bharat Jain Sabha(1899) is one of the important social organization and doing very good work for the development of Jain Community. This Sabha runs Hostels for poor Jain students at Kolhapur, Poona, Sangli, Belgaum, Solapur, Hubali, Ichalkaranji. Not only this Sabha gave many scholarships to poor and needy Jain students every year.

Prof. A.B. Latthe, Prof. A.N. Upadhye, Shri Shantinath Patane, K.B. Awade, Babasaheb Khanjire, Prof. V.A. Sangave, Prin. Akkole and many others were and are Jain leaders working for the upliftment of Jain community.

Co-operative movement has made rapid strides and progress in a developing economy like India. Co-Operation means working together. Some important Co-Operative organizations of Jain Community in Kolhapur Dist. have been working well and extending monetary help to needy and

poor persons not only Jain community but all other communities. Ratnakar Bank Kolhapur run by Jain leaders is one of the leading Co-operative banks in Kolhapur Dist. Having more than 71 branches. Shri Ratnakar Bank has contributed a lot for the welfare of the society. This Bank has financed and donated many social institutions and Jain organizations in the Kolhapur Dist. This bank is really a pride of Jain Community in Kolhapur Dist. Through the work of this Bank the socio-economic change has been taking place in the life of common man of this area.

Moreover Veer Seva Dal of Jain community is one of the important social organization of Jains doing very well work in Kolhapur Dist. as well as other adjoining area. Veer Seva Dal is a new force for the Jain youths. Prof B.A. Chaugule, Prof. D.A. patil, Dr. Gunde and many others rendering great service to Jain community. Veeracharya Babasaheb Kuchnure was one of the great leader who spread Veer Seva Dal movement at large scale. Again Graduate Associations of Jainas is working in this fields.

Even though Jain community is a small minority community in Kolhapur Dist. is occupying an important place from different points of view. The Jain community is one of the very ancient communities in India and Jains in Kolhapur area are founds since first century A.D. Hoary antiquity is a special feature of the Jaina community. Apart from antiquity

the Jaina community has got characteristic of unbroken continuity. Moreover unlike other religious minority communities in India the Jaina community in India is every sense of the term. The Jainas are the indigenous inhabitants of this area. The Jains in Kolhapur Dist. though small in number constitute a separate entity in maintaining their distinctive features. The entire activities of the Jains are molded by the consideration of *Ahinsa*. Thus *Ahinsa* forms the very basis of their life and to present day strenuous efforts are made by the Jainas to avoid Hinsa as far as possible, in every walk of life and in every activity. In this way the Jains though small in number have contributed a great deal to the development of Art and Architecture, Logic and Philosophy, languages and literature, education and learning, Charitable and public Institutions and political material and spiritual welfare of the people of different regions of India as well as in Kolhapur Dist. Even today Jain Community in Kolhapur Dist. is prestigious minority community and are of the Jain leaders K.B. Awate was Ex. M.P. while his son Prakash Awade is a minister. Even late Shantinath Patne was president of Kolhapur Municipal Council for some years. This indicates the social and political position of Jain leaders.

Thus Jain community in Kolhapur Dist. is rich and many families follow trading activities. Now a days some people of this community are

also pursuing academic pursuits, studies and acquiring high academic degrees in every branch of knowledge, Co-Operative Banks, educational Institutions are running by this community. There are many leaders in this community who are active in the politics of Maharashtra as well as India.. In changing circumstances while going hand in hand with other people in the main social stream of Maharashtra the Jain community has still maintained its identity.

In brief our study of Jain Community in Kolhapur Dist.-Socio-Economic study(1949-2000) is important and fascinating one and inspiring and useful to posterity to undertake such studies of other communities of other areas.