

CHAPTER-III

PROFILE OF THE SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY

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CHAPTER-III

PROFILE OF THE SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY

1) A Historical Sketch :

A long-cherished dream

Kolhapur, known from days immemorial as 'Dakshin Kashi' has had a long and glorious tradition of scholarly and literary activities. The city of Goddess Mahalaxmi has always sheltered the equally illustrious goddess Saraswati. To speak of the past, Kolhapur became under the liberal patronage of two of its enlightened rulers, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj and Chh. Rajaram Maharaj, a great center of education catering for all classes and communities, not only of Southern Maharashtra but also of the neighbouring regions. A university was nothing but a logical culmination of the rapid development of education in this part of the country and it naturally satisfied a long-cherished desire of the people of this region.

Thirty years ago, this University campus, with its splendid buildings, beautiful gardens, lovely scenic beauty and bustling intellectual life, was but a dream. It was Dr. Balksirhna, Principal of Rajaram College from 1922 to 1940, who first conceived the idea of a University in Kolhapur. His worthy student and a great son of India, Shri Yashavantrao Chavan, decided, while he was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, to transform the dream into a reality. He and his cabinet colleagues took all the practical steps towards the establishment of the new University. As a result, the Shivaji University Act, known as Maharashtra Act

No. XXVIII of 1962, was published on August 17, 1962 and the Shivaji University came into existence on 1st September, 1962.

Building up of a University right from scratch a gignatic task demanding the devoted services of a Vice-Chancellor who combines in himself great administrative acumen, indefatigable energy, profound scholarship and clear-eyed idealism. The Government of Maharashtra did not have to look far for such an architect and it rightly entrusted the task to Dr. A.G.Pawar, who was then the Director of Education, Maharashtra State. It was a happy choice for two reasons : one, Dr.Pawar's early academic career was intimately associated with Kolhapur, he being in the past a student, a Professor and Principal of Rajaram College, Kolhapur; two, as Principal, as Chairman of the S.S.C. Examination Board and as the Director of Education, he had acquired vast and valuable experience in academic administration. Since the day Dr.Pawar took charge as Vice-Chancellor, he has been working like a Titan to make this University the Nalanda of Maharashtra.

Towards the end of 1962, the Shivaji University was inaugurated by Dr. Radhakrishnan, the then President of India. In June, 1963, the colleges situated in the University area were colleges situated in the University area were affiliated to it. In 1964, the University started the science department in rented buildings. Soon land measuring about a thousand acres was acquired and building activities were undertaken. Eight architects contributed their ideas in giving the buildings the shape they possess and about a dozen contractors built them. The entire campus, including the stadium and the playground, was constructed at the same time. The beautiful and extensive campus, now dotted with a number

of eye-catching structures, has been the achievement of around last twenty six years. This Vidyanagar, with its majestic administrative block, flanked on one side by the huge Science Faculty buildings and on the other by the imposing Library Building, equestrian statue of Shivaji the Great standing in the front circular garden the towering water reservoir and the Humanities Block, with its hostels, both for the men and women and quarter for all sections of the staff, with its Printing Press, Guest House, Bank-cum-Post office, Pavilion and Central Co-operative Consumers Stores, looks like a new world - a dream come true. All this remarkable growth of the University in such a short time is the result of ceaseless labour and efforts of all concerned students, members of the staff and other under the inspiring and dynamic leadership of Dr. Pawar, the Architect of the University.

2) Jurisdiction :

Five districts of Southern Maharashtra - Kolhapur, Ratnagiri, Sangli, Satara and Solapur - come under the jurisdiction of the University. The total area of the jurisdiction is about 55,000 sq. kilometers and it has a population of about one crore.

Located at Kolhapur, on a spacious and beautiful campus, spread over some 341 hectares, it has 19 teaching Departments. In addition it has 199 colleges and research institutions (including 70 in Kolhapur district) affiliated to it. It catered to the needs of not only Southern Maharashtra, but also the neighbouring regions of Karnataka.

3) Site and Building :

The University covers an extensive area of about 854 acres to the east and west of the old Pune-Bangalore National Highway. This beautiful site on the outskirts of the city was acquired for the University by the Government of Maharashtra. It is the western side of the land that was first taken up for development and the main University buildings were built here. As one makes for the Highway leading to the University campus along the old Karad Road, the first University building that catches the eye is the Vice-Chancellor's House, over looking the entire campus, including the playgrounds, spreading down in the basin. As we proceed southwards along the old Pune-Bangalore National Highway, we see a semi-circular array of buildings each with its own architectural design. The order of these buildings. From left to right is : 1) the Chemistry Building, 2) the Zoology Building, 3) the Botany Building, 4) the Physics and Mathematics Building, 5) the Central Workshop, 6) the Statistics Building, 7) the Cafeteria, 8) The Administrative Building, 9) the Library Building and 10) High-level Reservoir.

In the year 1980, two new Departments have been started, namely Department of Education and the Department of Marathi. The former has been housed in the newly constructed building off the Highway and the latter is housed in the new extension of the Humanities Building. In 1983 two new constructions were undertaken : a) the Geography Building and b) an extension of the Library.

The opening ceremony of the Department of Statistics was held on 6th August, 1982 at the hands of the Chancellor of the University and the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri I.H.Latif, this specious building is situated behind the Department of Physics.

Between the old Highway and the Reservoir stands the Humanities Block. To its right, we have : 1) the Guest House, 2) the Women's Hostel, 3) Readers' and Lecturers' quarters, 4) three Men's Hostels, 5) the Printing Press, 6) the University Engineer's office and store, 7) new Professors' and Readers' quarters and 8) new Lecturers' quarters.

The grandeur of the University building is immensely enhanced by the equestrian statue of Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj installed in the circular lawn in front of the Administrative Building. In the area reserved for the residential quarters of the administrative staff near the Vice-Chancellor's House, there are a number of buildings, including the Registrar's Bungalow, the Teachers' Hostels and quarters for the clerical staff. A separate building for the Post-office and Bank has been constructed just apposite the Guest House on the otherside of the Pune-Bangalore Road. The conveniences provided through this building serve the needs not only of the University but also of the neighbouring educational institutions - Rajaram College, Agricultural College, the Govt. Polytechnic, Shahu Central Institute of Business Education and the new College of Engineering.

4) Educational-Township :

In front of the University Guest House, stand the new building of the Rajaram College, which is one of the oldest colleges in this part of the State. Adjacent to the Rajaram College, we have the Government Polytechnic and the College of Agriculture affiliated to Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri. Opposite to the tell naka, we have the building of the Chhatrapati Shahu Central Institute of Business Education and Research. It also houses, at the moment, the College of Engineering run by the Kolhapur Institute of Technology.

5) Development of the University :

Towards the end of 1962, the Shivaji University was inaugurated by Dr. Radhakrishnan, the then President of India. In June 1963, the colleges situated in the University area were affiliated to it. In 1964, the University started the Science Departments in rented buildings. A little later land measuring about a thousand acres was acquired and building construction activities were undertaken. Eight prominent architects designed the buildings and about a dozen contractors built them. The entire campus, including the stadium and the play ground came up in three or four years time. This Vidyanagar with its majestic administrative block, flanked on one side, by the huge science faculty buildings, and on the other, by the imposing library building, the towering water reservoir and the Humanities Block, with its hostels, both for men and women, and quarters for all sections of the staff, with its Printing Press, Guest House, Bank-cum-Post Office, Pavillion and Central Co-operative Consumers

Stores, looks like a new world - a dream come true. All this remarkable growth of the University was the result of the ceaseless labour and efforts of all concerned - teaching and non-teaching members of the staff, students and others under the inspiring and dynamic leadership of the late Dr.A.G.Pawar, the first Vice-Chancellor, the Architect of the University.

The University originally had under its jurisdiction five districts, viz. Kolhapur, Solapur, Satara, Sangli and Ratnagiri. The Ratnagiri district was, however, attached to the Bombay University in the year 1974.

When the University was established in 1962 it had 34 colleges affiliated to it and these had a total of about 14,000 students. It has rapidly grown to its present strength of 199 affiliated institutes with total student population of around 1,03,000 (90,000 under graduate students (25,000 women students) and 13,000 post-graduate students (3,000 women students).

Only during last year i.e. 1991-92 19 new colleges were started.

The University imparts instructions in the faculties of Arts, Social Science, Science, Commerce, Education, Fine Arts, Law, Medicine, Ayurvedic Medicine and Engineering.

The University has encouraged research in all fields, as is evident from the fact that during the first twenty five years of its existence over 500 Ph.D. degrees have been awarded, and a large number of papers and books have been published by its staff. At present the faculty of the University is undertaking research in practically all fields. However, greater emphasis is being laid on research work directly related to national needs. An interdisciplinary approach to various problems has

been adopted and interdisciplinary schools in Energy Studies, Environmental Sciences and Western Maharashtra History and Culture have been established. The work undertaken in the field of Non-conventional Energy sources has been appreciated all over the country. In order to study the use of biomass as an energy source the University has undertaken tree plantation over an area of nearly 100 hectares. About 3 lakh saplings have been planted with the assistance of the Department of Social Forestry, Government of Maharashtra and the Department of Non-conventional Energy sources, Government of India. Likewise, in the field of Environmental Sciences research on various aspects of the environment of the Western Ghats has been taken-up with special efforts being concentrated on the Koyna river valley. An integrated study of the social, cultural and historical aspects of Southern Western Maharashtra has also been undertaken. The research programmes of national relevance include those of super conductivity and Pest Control.

The teaching programmes in the University have been expanded recently keep in view the requirements of the next 25 years. Thus programmes at the Master's level have been introduced in Electronics, Computer Application, Polymer Chemistry and Geology. Short-term courses having a vocational bias have been introduced and these, especially those related to Computer Studies, have become very popular. Courses in Journalism and Library Science have also been started. The cultural aspects have also been kept in view and Post-graduate programmes in Music and Dramatics have been implemented.

The University, as started earlier, caters to an essentially agrarian region. Many of the students come from economically deprived classes and for their benefit, the University has been implementing, right from its inception, an 'Earn and Learn' programme. Every year about sixty students take advantage of this scheme. They provided with free board and lodging and exempted from fees, in return for which they work for about 3 hours every day in the rice or mulberry tree plantations of the University, or in its flour mills, Canteen, Press, Hostel messes or library.

Keeping in view the dictum "Taking University to the people, making them education minded and educating the parents," the University has been organising various activities for the rural masses under the Board of Extra Mural Studies for the last 24 years. It has made efforts to reach the rural masses with a view to orient them and help them in solving their day-to-day problems campaigns such as those on Anti-addiction Anti-dowry, Removal of illiteracy, Eradication of social evils etc. have been undertaken.

The N.S.S. is being implemented successfully in the University since its inception in our country i.e. 1962. Presently the scheme covers 104 affiliated colleges, institutes involving a student strength of 13,041. (9,791 male students and 3,250 female students) and 145 teachers keeping in view the primary objectives viz., "Education through community service"

the University has been implementing the N.S.S. Regular programmes as well as the special camping programme through meaningful activities such as Environment Enrichment and conservation, Health, Family Welfare and Nutrition, Improvement of the status of women, Institutional Social Work, Production oriented programme, Programme for facing emergencies, Education and Recreation, including Mass Programme of Functional Literacy etc. Besides these programmes such as Anti-addiction, Anti-dowry, Population Education and Tree plantation, Programme of waste land development, Programme for drought affected area are being sponsored. Most of the N.S.S. programmes are taken up in rural areas. The programme for Functional Literacy has been implemented in a big way during this academic section.

The University has traditionally supported sports activities and sportsmen. It has a fairly well developed sports complex with a modern Gymnasium Hall and play grounds for Cricket, Football, Hockey, Volleyball and Indian games including athletic tracks. About 15 hectares of land on the University campus has been utilised for developing sports complex. Under the National Coaching Schemes SNIPES Field Station Center of Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala has been started in the University. The University honours meritorious sportsmen by awarding them colours every year. It has so far produced sportsmen who have represented the State and the country especially in wrestling, athletics, shooting, table-tennis and Indian games.

6) The Structure of University Finance :

As things stand today the broad structure of income and expenditure (roughly the budget) can be given in four parts.

Part-I : Non-Plan Account :

This constitutes the main part of the University finances. The main sources of income on this account are (i) Examination fees, (ii) Tuition fees, (iii) Other fees and receipts (mainly library, hostel, publications, services etc.). It is to be noted that receipts under salary grants (from the State Govt.) are also a component here, but they are fully cancelled out by an equal amount of expenditure on salary of approved staff for which the State Government has accepted the on-going liability.

On the expenditure side in non-plan account we have following items (apart from staff salary) : (i) Common services, (ii) Academic departments, (iii) Library, (iv) Maintenance, (v) Developments of marginal nature (related to roads, buildings, electricity, water supply etc.)

In other words, the difference between total non-plan expenditure and salary grants is to be covered by the universities from their own incomes, mainly - examination fees and tuition and other receipts. It is a general experience that most of the universities in Maharashtra tend to have a significant surplus on the non-plan account, mainly emerging from the examination section due to last quarter restraint on expenditure.

Another important dimension of the non-plan account receipts would be, at least theoretically, interest income generated from Depreciation fund as also Research and Development Funds for which the

universities have to allocate (spend) a certain amount every year from their funds. In case the University wants to undertake major developmental activity, with prior permission of the State Government and part of these fund or capital expenditure of the development project.

It is also to be noted that the universities have to meet expenditure on non-approved, temporary non-teaching staff from their current receipts only. Such staff is required mainly for examination work, during the actual conduct of examination and declaration of results, maintenance of hostels, press, security, laboratories and libraries.

Part-II : Plan Account :

At present, the universities in Maharashtra as in the case of other States, get developmental finance (under five year plan schemes) from University Grants Commission. It is mainly because of these U.G.C. plan grants that regional universities are enable to finance their development both academic and infra-structural. The U.G.C. gives grants for following purposes.

- 1) Increase in academic staff required for new departments, new specializations in existing departments research projects, research publications, research grants etc.
- 2) The increased requirements of building for departments hostels, libraries, laboratory and other equipment and library books (but not journals).

The U.G.C. grants for academic staff are on a 100% basis whereas grants for infrastructural facilities are on matching basis ranging from 25% to 80% the remaining

amount is to be raised either through internal resources or to be given by the State Government.

It is to be noted that plan commitments of the U.G.C. are restricted only to a period of 5 years beyond which the entire liability is to be shouldered by the State Government. It is only after the written concurrence and commitment of the State Government to accept the entire liability is to be shouldered by the State Government. It is only after the written concurrence and commitment of the State Government to accept the entire liability after 5 years, that the U.G.C. plan funds are released to the Universities after submission of compliance or utilization statements.

In the recent past, particularly during 6th and 7th plans, the State concurrence for U.G.C. plan programmes and commitment for accepting subsequent liability, were released very belatedly and reluctantly consequent upon lots of permission by the concerned Vice-Chancellors, Registrars and similar demands expressed by the University teachers organizations. This experience led to a critical change in the submission of University plan schemes to the U.G.C. Earlier the plan schemes prepared by the authorities of the University and directly submitted to the U.G.C. These plans were finalized in the U.G.C. in meetings involving representatives of U.G.C. University and concerned State Govt. generally in the person of Secretary/Director of Education. But now, the plan schemes are, as before, prepared by University authorities but are required, to be submitted to the Director, Higher Education, for his

security and approval, which further needs to be accepted by the secretariat of the Ministry of Education, prior to submission to the U.G.C.

Although this was done in respect of 8th plan U.G.C. schemes the universities in Maharashtra have not invited action for implementing the 8th plan schemes despite U.G.C. approval, because of what they all now the lack of financial confurrence, of the State Government. In other words, the State Govt. have come to a stage where they are finding it unmanageble, to finance the development even of the universities because of the unsustainable burden of salary grants of affiliated colleges, where number has increased beyond what is reasonable and required at location where they are located.

Part-III : Agency Accounts :

In this third part of the budget of the universities, the specific grants from various agencies like Indian Council of Social Science Research and also U.G.C. (so far as outside the plan schemes are concerned) are shown as receipts, and expenditures on the specific programmes balance out the receipts. This part of the University budget is direct function of dynamism initiative and imagination of the researchers in the University departments on one hand and allocation by the Central Government Ministries for such funding agencies, every year on the other hand. The only important thing to be practised by the University Finance, is to ensure that sanctioned amount are regularly received and utilization of such grants punctually reported. This, however, necessiates a highly motivated and efficient academic personnel coupled with disciplined non-teaching staff. However

this part of the account does not essentially affect the fiscal efficiency of the University.

Part-IV : Debt Account :

This part of the University finances deals with advances received and advances made from the various University funds. It is essentially that part of the University finances, wherein is reflected the efficient management of funds for purposes for which they are meant and the time perspective in which they are to be used. In efficiency in this section will cause the University a significant losses in terms of interest receivable or a burden of interest payable.

It has now become quite evident that the State Government has already taken a policy decision to gradually reduce financial responsibilities for higher education. If that means, reduction or avoidance of unjustified duplication of grantable agencies (Arts, Commerce, Social Sciences and General Sciences Colleges) as reflected in poor standards, admissions without merit reference, very poor infrastructural facilities, substandard academic staff etc. than it should be welcome. Here again, there is a need for a selective approach for funding in order to protect and develop centers of quality and excellence locations which are inherently sustainable. But if, the recent of State policy imply a restriction even on the intensive growth of existing universities (neglecting conveniently the permissions to start new universities, open or traditional) under compulsion of political/regional pressures or for adjustments of convenience of politi-

cally influential academicians) then it is a serious issues, which needs careful, responsible reconsideration in the context of long term perspective of social, political and economic development of Indian society.

7) Legal Provisions Regarding

Univeristy Finance :

In this section we briefly state the provisions in the University Acts which regulate University finances. The universities have (Section 70) what is known as the University fund to which shall be paid contributions/grants from C.G./S.G./U.G.C. all income from trust, donations, endowments, sub-ventions etc. and borrowings from Banks with the permission of the Government and borrowings from University and College Development F.C. as and when established.

Though there is a provision for maintaining a contingency fund with the grants/contributions from the State Government no such funds exist at present. The purpose of such fund is to make advances for meeting unforeseen expenditure. According to the provisions of Section 70, the University authorities can divert a part of University funds for specific purpose funds with the prior permission of the Government. Inter head transfers of a temporary nature can be made by the E.C.

According to the provisions of Section 71, the annual accounts and financial estimates are to be prepared by the Finance Committee (Section 66). The accounts are to be audited within six months of the close of the financial year, and submitted to the Senate.

Financial estimates prepared by F.C. and approved by E.C. will have to be presented and approved by the Senate.

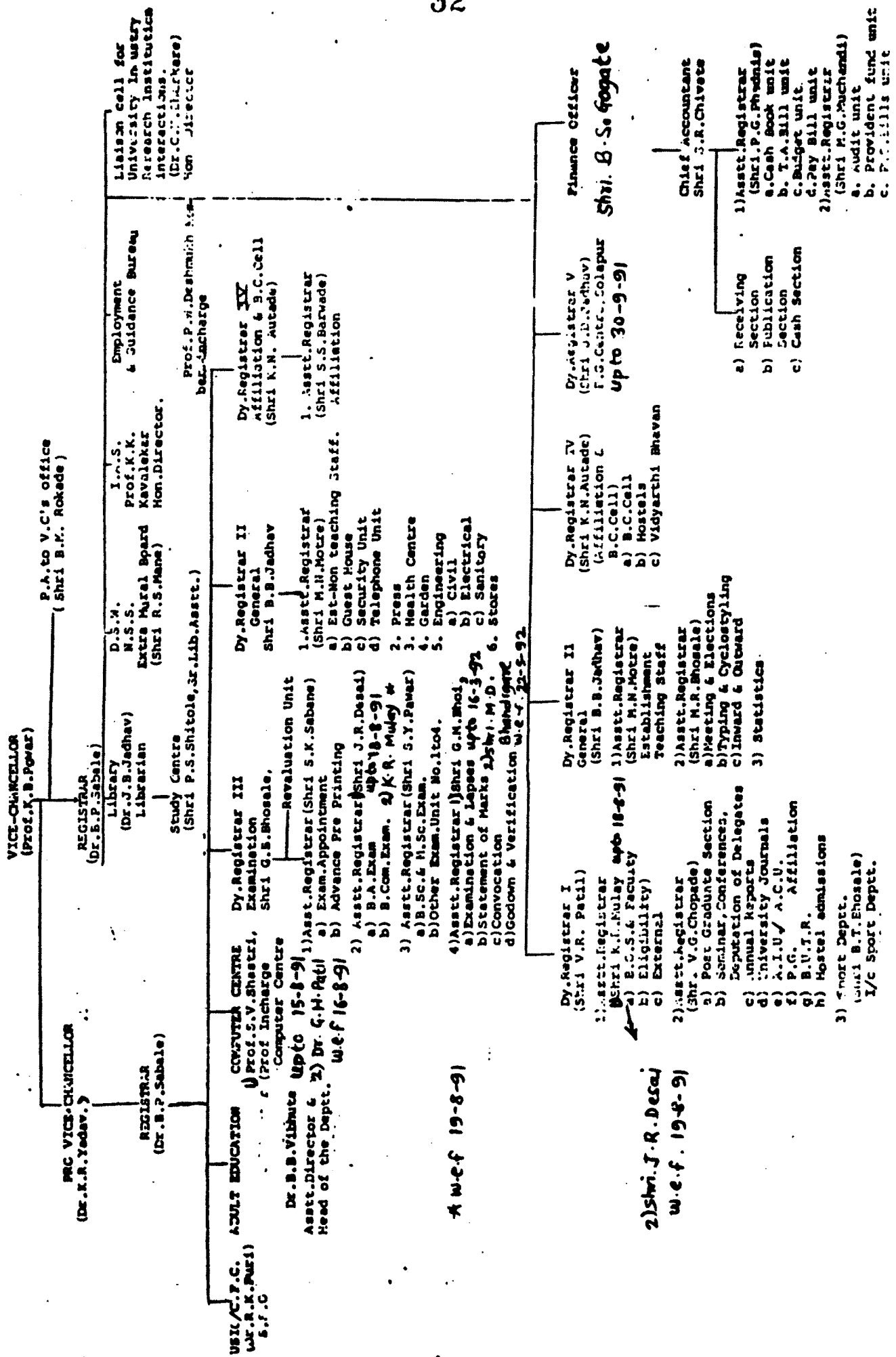
The most important financial provision of the Shivaji University Act, 1974 is that of Section 77-B. There were similar sections in the case of other University Acts also. It is in a way a blanket restriction on the financial powers of the so-called autonomous universities. Section 77-B explicitly states that the University should not -

- i) Create any new posts of officers, teachers or other employees.
- ii) revise pay, allowances, retirement benefits and other benefits of its officers, teachers and other employees.
- iii) grant and special pay, allowances, or other extra remuneration.....etc.
- iv) divert any earmarked funds for any other purposes.
- v) incur any expenditure on any development work.

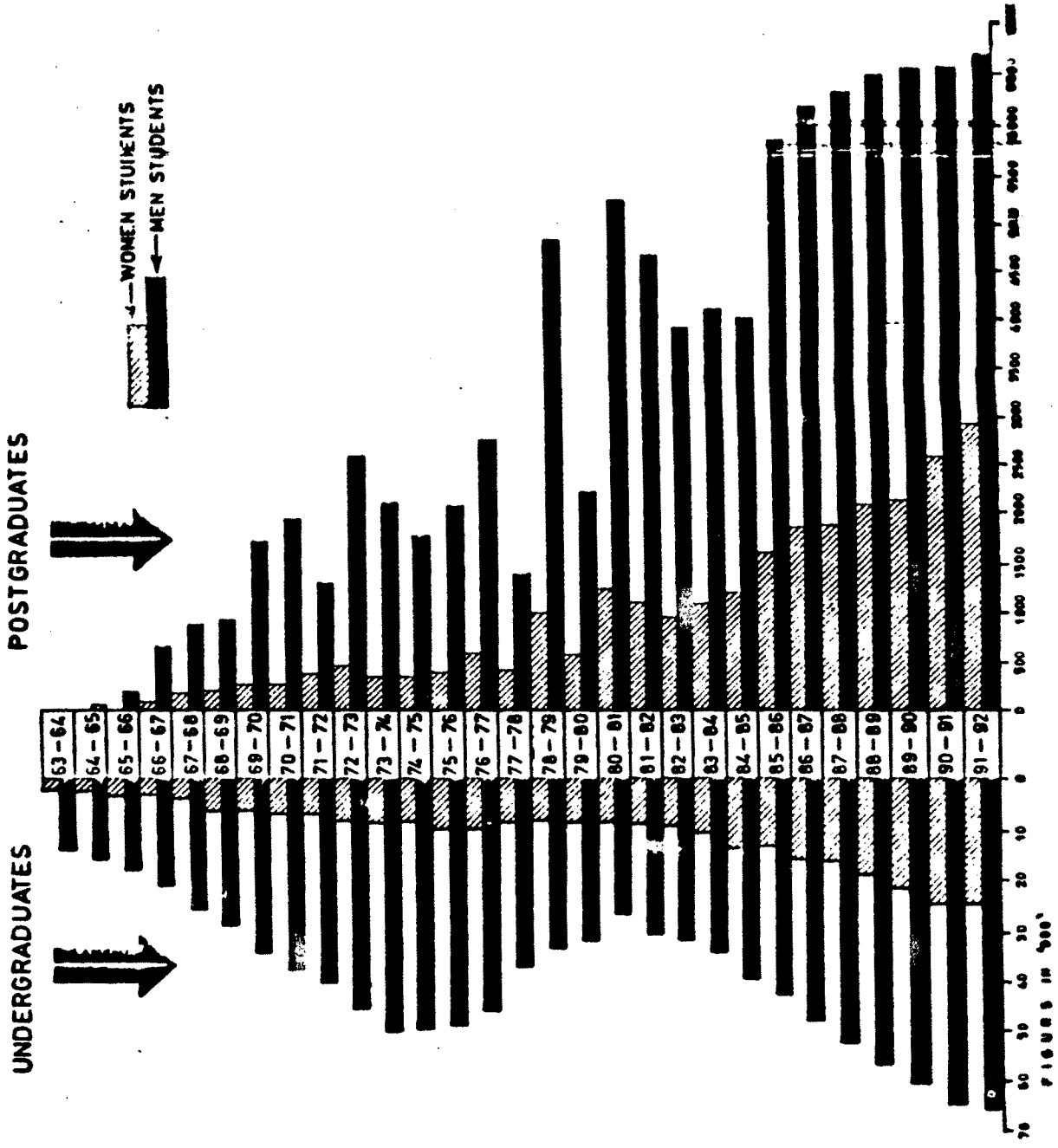
In other words, the provisions of the Section 77-B clearly negate the autonomy of the expenditure decisions of the Universities. It is to be noted that the section was introduced only when the Govt. adopted the system of salary grants to the universities. Every decision including expenditure, whether from its own funds or requiring additional funds from the State Govt. will have to seek prior approval of the State Government. Moreover the restriction applies to both non-plan, committed non-developmental expenditure also, without in any way accepting the responsibility of financing a part of developmental expenditure as a matter of routine affair.

Finally, Shivaji University Act makes a provision for the appointment of a Finance Officer, whose job is to see that financial administration of the University is done efficiently within the strict limits of legal provisions discussed above, F.O. is supposed to be working under the general control of the Registrar. However maintenance of accounts and day-to-day supervision of inflow and outflow of funds is entrusted to a Chief Accountant who reports to F.O. and the Registrar.

ORGANOGRAM

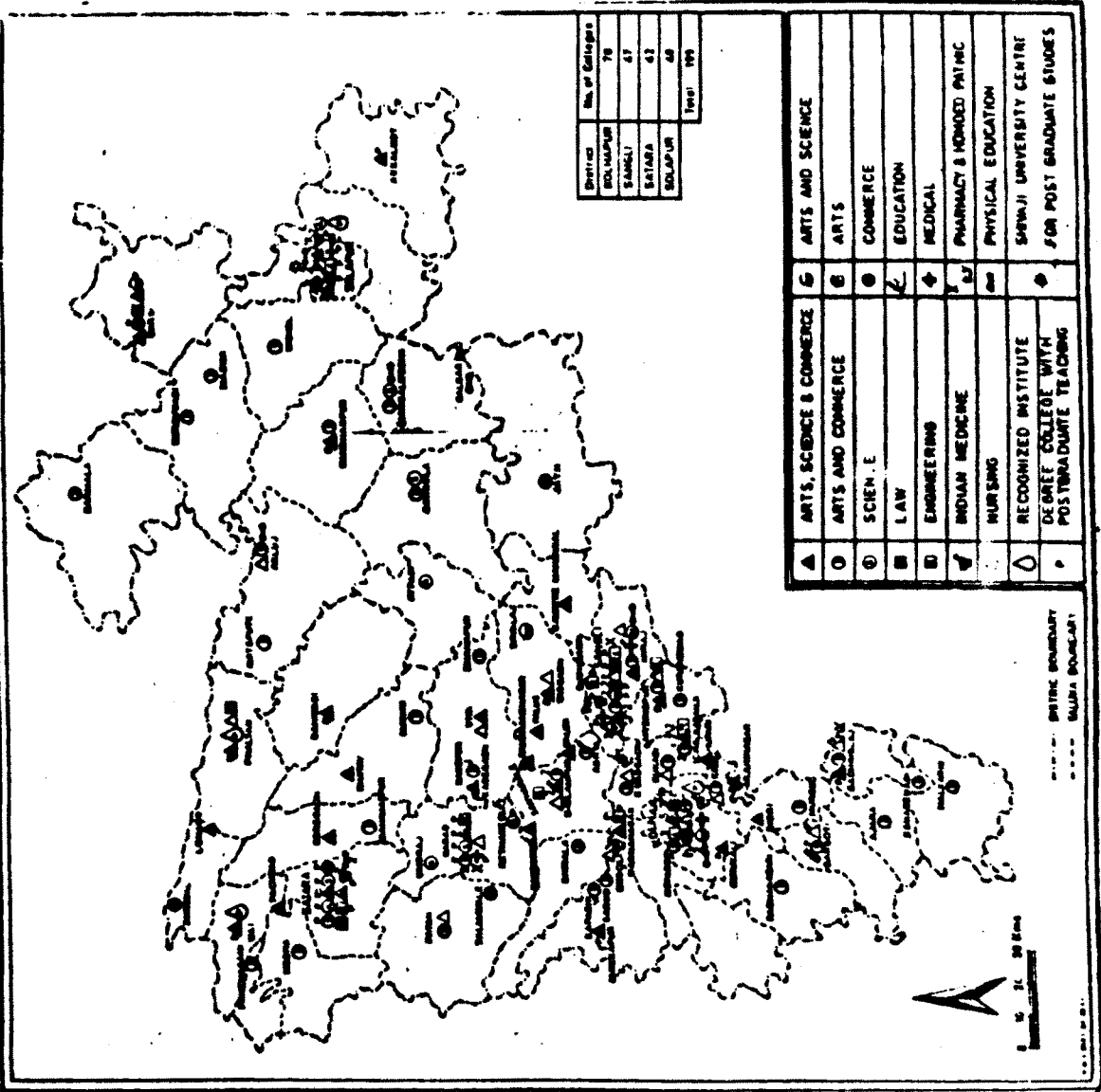


SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY AREA GROWTH IN NUMBER OF STUDENTS 1991-92



SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY

**SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY AREA
AFFILIATED COLLEGES, RECOGNISED INSTITUTES AND
SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR POST GRADUATE STUDIES 1991 -**



SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY AREA
DISTRICTWISE DISTRIBUTION OF
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.
1981-82

