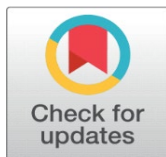
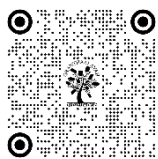


# REMINENCE OF MARATHA MANDAL EDUCATION SOCIETY IN BELAGAVI

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## ABSTRACT

The Maratha leaders analyzed the need to educate their people in order to eradicate superstitious practices and to improve community social life and behaviour. They first started a Gymnastic school to create awareness among the people regarding physical wellbeing. Further it was the Diwan Annasaheb Latthe, who inspired and guided these leaders to establish an education institution. Thus, with the strong determination of some enthusiastic leaders, on 3rd January, 1931 Maratha Mandal Education Society was established under the president ship of Laxman Hoovappa Rane. Later, in order to teach basic reading and writing to illiterate youths, the Maratha Education Society started a night school from 7th May, 1934 at Kamath Galli in Belagavi. The institute intended not only to make them literate but also to create consciousness among the youths regarding the social evil practices and to create awareness about social and political reforms. Further, from 29th September, 1935, the night school got converted into normal school. And finally, an English Medium School was started in Kanpur in June 1940 in order to impart education to the rural children.

In this paper an attempt has been made to understand the historical development of the Maratha Mandal Education Society and to assess its contributions. The scope of the study is restricted to the history an establishment of Maratha Mandal and its educational institutions

**Keywords:** Education, School, Maratha Mandal, Playground and Educational Institutions.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Indian education system is primitive one and had its traditional legacy. During early period oral instruction begun during Vedic period and got written form during the later Vedic period. In the beginning the education system was teacher centric (Gurukul System) Agrahar, Brahmapuri, Ghatikasthal and Mutts were the main centres of education<sup>1</sup>. Religious subjects like Veda, Vedanga, Purana, Chanting of mantras and Grammar were taught. Later, during the medieval period along with these educational enters, we can notice Madarasa, Masjid and Durgas as the centres of learning of Muslims. Khoran and religious leaders and of high strata society was allowed to study, overall the nature of study was traditional and religious<sup>2</sup>. During modern period because of the influence of the Marathas, Kuli schools were started. It helped early few sections of the society to get education<sup>3</sup>. It did not extend to common people of the society. Taking the advantage of this the British who had come India as traders became rulers. Hence onwards British started to impart public or universal education, so to all, it will benefit all including Ex-untouchables and Advises. Because they could get interpreters to run their trade and rule. The British were the first to impart universal education in India. Even the Christians Missionaries joined their hands with the British Government. Some Philanthropist, intellectuals from India like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Mahatma Phule, Mahatma Gandhi, Ranade, Gokhale, Dr. Ambedkar, savitribai Phule, Jyotiba pule and Pandith Ramabai were influenced by the western education and they started creating awareness about education among the Indians. They

put a lot of efforts to spread education. As a result the British decide to start English education as per the Macaulay's Minute of 1835. Then in 1854 as per the report of the Woods Dispatch, they started private Aided schools along with Government schools. The Hunter Commission of 1882 recommended that the number of Government Schools and the Private Schools should be equal. So that even the wards of backward classes, minorities and women could get education<sup>4</sup>. Thus social reformers like Jyotirao Phule, Savitribai Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Desgati families and others supported the recommendation in the interest of education of common men including women and depressed classes<sup>5</sup>. As a result the social reforms themselves established educational institutions in Belgaum district. Among them are the KLE Society established in 1916 in Belagavi<sup>6</sup>, Jadhavaji Education Society Established in 1917 in Athani<sup>7</sup> and Maratha Mandal Education Society established in 1930 in Belagavi<sup>8</sup> are important one. In this paper an attempt has been made to understand the historical development of the Maratha Mandal Education Society and to assess its contributions.

The introduction of western education was a blessing in disguise among the Indians to participate in freedom struggle as well to enter the British Schools and Colleges. Some youths had meeting on 1st January 1930 and decided to establish 'Maratha Mandal' to impart education to the Marathas community youths<sup>9</sup>. The following Maratha enthusiasts namely Dr. G.S. Kowadkar, Laxman Huvappa Rane, G.B. Desai Chitnis, D. P. Shinde, Y.L. Savant, Ananda Tanappa, Kutre, Omanna Shatawaji Sambarekar, Krishnaji A. Hannikeri, Dattaji A Savant, Barwantarao Shetwaji Desai, M.S. Muttekar, R.S. Mohite, Sadashivarao Hoovappa Rane, Maruti rao Siddhe, Apparap Kutre, Narayanrao Chavan and Shri. R.A. Savant and others. Further on every Thursday they had meeting to discuss social and political advancement of their community. They used to sing patriotic songs including Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram, Patita Pavana Sitaram song on occasions<sup>10</sup>.

The Maratha leaders realized that in order to eradicate superstitious practices and to improve their social life style and behaviour it was necessary to educate their people. They gave a call to work for the development of the nation rather than enmity among themselves. In order to create awareness among the people regarding physical well being they started Gymnastic schools. During Shivaji Jayanti, they used to organize various competitions like Kolata, luzim and Ring. Many influential people mallakamba used to visit Belagavi to watch these competitions. Among them Laxman Shastri Joshi, Kakasaheb Gadgil, Keshavarao Jadhe and Tofkhan. It was celebrated like Dasara Festival. Along with these cultural activities the Maratha leaders decided to establish an Educational Institute. The Diwan Annasaheb Latthe inspired and guided these leaders to establish an education institution. With the effort of some spirited youths and leaders Maratha Mandal Education Society was established on 3rd January 1931 under the presidentship of Laxman Hoovappa Rane. The name of the presidents of the Society were as follows. Laxman Hoovappa Rane, (1931-1937), Y.R. Jadhav (1937-193), khemajirao Tukaram Godse (1938-1941), B.P. Jagatap. (1941-1945), S.S. Astekar (1945-1946). S.G. Mutgekar (1946-47) and G.S. Kowadkar (1947-1949)<sup>11</sup>.

## 2. NIGHT SCHOOL 1934

In order to teach the basic of reading and writing to illiterate youths and the leaders. The Maratha Education Society started a night school on 7th May 1934 at Kamath Galli in Belagavi especially to benefit the children and the coolies. Many people were attracted towards this initiative and joined the night school. Apart from making them literate they were taught about the social evils practices and created awareness about social and political reforms with the consent of the senior member of community (panchas) of Kamath Galli and the members of the society the night school was converted into normal school on 29th September, 1935<sup>12</sup>. This school was inaugurated by Dadasaheb Savant Basle, Jahagirdar. Here they praised the work of the society and gave a call to start a school for girls and that school was started and by Dadasaheb Savant Bosle only. Shri Apapya Revanna Badamanji was appointed as the first teacher and he got 1 Rupee as honorarium. Similarly Night schools were started in other areas of Belagavi namely phulabaghalli, Bhanduregli, Tahashildar Galli and Konwal Galli. But these schools did not function as that of the night school of Kamat Galli. Ramachandra Mahadev Murakumbi, a local businessman and Narayanadas Shyamaji donated slates, pencils and one can kerosine free of cost to the night school at Kamat Galli. Even Laxman Rao Rane and Ananda Tanappa Kutre liberaly extended helping hands to Education society imparted education for two consecutive years to the children of the farmers, the coolies and girls. About 25 boys and 15 girls were admitted to school. Krishna Rao R Parashuram Saple played an important role in the overall development of this night school<sup>13</sup>.

## 3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENGLISH SCHOOL, 1936

The president and members of Maratha Mandal Education Society in June 1936 started the new English medium school. The first batch of teachers were D.F. Yadav, Shri S. M. Mohite, V. A. Narvekar, Shri K P. Suple and Shri T.P. Saple have served

in this school without any honorarium for some years. K. Sadashiv Rane, Krishna Rao Suple, S. S. Atlekar and Samijirao Godase supported the work of the society<sup>14</sup>.

The number of students increased so, they decided to Appoint Krishna Rao Sapple and shri Yalloji Rao Jadhav to get Sunthankar building which was located in Kamat Galli. He agreed to give it on Rs 40 rental basis. But they dropped this idea because it was having only one big room, then they enquired the building owned by Ramkrishna Panth Joshi's which was also located in Khadebazar in 1933. He had agreed to receive Rs. 15 as a rent for the building. But Yallojirao Jadhav suggested to shift Night English school to this building at Kadhe Bazar. After the renovation of the building they started the school on 14 th June 1937. Some philanthropic people namely S. G. Mutgekar the Deputy Director of Agriculture and N. I. Kangle donated 50 rupees each and encouraged the work of the society. Shri N.I. Chimade, Y.B. Chadgadkar, Vittal Rao kale, Krishna Rao Suple, shri Y. R. Jadhav, jyotiba Tannappa Bhosale, shri R. A. Savant, Dhondo, Vittahala Shinde and Krishna ji Annaji Mannikeri helped in admitting the students to new Englishmedium School. There were 37 students got admitted in the begging<sup>15</sup>.

#### 4. THE DONORS.

Some philanthropic people donated money towards scholarship and others infrastructures. The donors donated the following furniture and writing materials as follows: K. V. R. Kale donated 50 chairs, Ganapatirao Khannukar donated 2 chairs, Laxmanrao Jadhav donated 1 chair, a table V. K. Virupakshi donated 1 wall clock, Dattajirao Gayakwad donated Rs. 100 towards the purchase of books, S.G. Muthejar - donated Rs. 250 towards the purchase of books and a cupboard, Madhan Rao Bhatkande donated 1 smt. Rangubai Bhosle donated 16.

1 table and 1 chair, N.I. Chimade - furniture with the liberal help of such philanthropists and teachers the number of students increased to 65 and school extended to four classes.

The registration of school was done on 30th September 1937. Shri Yallojirao Jadhav, the then Chairman of Maratha Mandal Governing Body assigned the work of registration of the school to Shri D. F. Yadav along with himself. With the effort of these two persons and the co operation of then education officer the school got permission to run classes up to 3rd standard. Subsequently in a few days Noorullasaheb, the Education Officer of the Southern Part visited the School on 5 th January 1938. Then the school got permission to run up to 4th standard also the school got registered. Many philanthropists came forward to donate to the cause of development of the society<sup>17</sup>.

After successfully over coming from hurdles of registration and permission from the school administration, there arose one problem. Now Sri. Krishnapant Joshi informed the president Khermajirao Godase of Mandal on 8th may 1938 that he has decided to build a school building. Further, in this regard Joshi has received Rs. 50/- advance from Aralikatti. As a result, Sri. Aralikatti issued a notice to vacate the school building on 30th July, 1938. But due to the efforts of the leaders they were successful in convincing Sri. Joshi who later cancelled the earlier bond with Aralikatti and agreed to sell the building for Rs. 3000/-. As per this, on 13th December, 1929 an agreement was signed by the parties and agree to pay Rs. 500/- as an annual instalment. Till 1944 they paid totally Rs. 2800/- and at last the remaining unpaid amount of Rs. 200/- was considered as the donation from Sri Joshi himself<sup>18</sup>.

During L.S Patil's tenure as the headmaster of the school, V.M. Bakre an engineer visited the school on the April 1938, he too appreciated the development of the school in short span of period. And also he appreciated its the teachers for their selfless service. On 18th April 1938 District Local Board Chief officer M.P. Wali and its member K.T. Godase also visited the Maratha Mandal Institution and appreciated its progress and said that it was because of the Maratha youths and leaders, the philanthropist institute has achieved the great height of progress<sup>19</sup>.

Dewan Anna Saheb Latthe, then Finance Minister of Bombay Presidency, visited the Institute on 5th August, 1938 and appreciated discipline and spirit of the students Mr P.K. Shinde visited the school and appreciated its rapid progress Mr B.P. Jagatup on executive engineer of Bombay presidency also visited the school on 8 th April 1939 and praised the youth and teachers for their selfless service to the society because the school impacted education to the people of all classes.

#### 5. ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL AT KHANAPUR .1940

An English Medium School was started in Kanpur in June 1940 in order to impart education to the rural children. The resident of Kanpur Mr Ramrao Desai, Gopal Rao Desai, Appasaheb, Balwant Rao Desai, Raosaheb P.H. Wagale, Shri Habbalkar, M.S. Hosamani, Appasaheb Nandgadi and Shri L.B. Birje who made efforts to established the school in Khanapur and were finally successful.

The Director of Agriculture S.G. Mutgekar and Tahsildar N.L. Kangule mentions, that this institute was the product of the sacrifice of the young teacher send the members of the Maratha Mandal Education Society. Mr Y.B. Yaragal Assistant Dy. Inspector of P.E (S.D) visited the school and has appreciated Knowledge and behaviour of the students<sup>20</sup>.

## 6. PLAYGROUND

There was a need for playground for the benefits of the students. In this connection the institute submitted application to the collector of Belgaum on 7th June 1940 and requested to allot 8 acre 33 grant land from the survey number 981, which was situated in the southern part of police headquarters. Then the Collector informed the institute to pay Rs 2050. Further he ordered that this space should be used for play ground only and not to build any building as this area belongs to Central Government.

For 7 years it was use it on Re 1 rental basis later on the institute got 6 acre and 18 guntas land from survey number 94/1 for RS 322 on 24th March 1945. The foundation stone lying ceremony for Khanapur High School was held on 6th November 1946 by srimanth Shivram Raje Bhosle.

Maratha Mandal Central School, Belgaum was handed over to the institute to run by Mudalagi and Sri Shri B.R. Sunthakar in 1944 later on even the teachers of the Hosur School continues to work in this school. Then the Maratha Mandal Education Society purchased the school. Then this high school was turned into full pledged High School in the year 1949-50.<sup>21</sup>

## 7. CONCLUSION

The Maratha Mandal Education Society was started in 1931 in Belgaum with the soul purpose is to impact education not only to the Marathas but also other communities as well as the weaker sections of the society. It has contributed much to the field of education in this Belgaum region. At present it has about 35 branches including nursery to degree courses apart from professional courses. At present more than 10000 students are studying in its allied branches and institutes in and around Belgaum.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

None

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