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नव - उन्मेषी दशा - दिशा से भरा 'शोध - सन्दर्श' ।।



**“Glimpses on Various Aspects of Indian Freedom movement:**

**With Special Reference to Dr. Bapuji Salukhe &**

**Contemporary Freedom Fighters in Maharashtra”**

**1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019**



**KOLHAPUR**

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## Socio-Educational Contribution of Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe in the Formation of Modern Maharashtra

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### Abstract:-

Knowledge is the food for man because in absence of knowledge man cannot grow his food; education is the pond of knowledge. Education is the parameter that separates a man from the beast. Education uplifts the standards, promotes co-operation and maintains harmony in the society. The cognizance it instills makes every individual an intellectual citizen of the nation. According to aforesaid maxim in order to meet and overcome most of the challenges in the present education system in Maharashtra; Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha, Kolhapur (M.S) strives hard to impart knowledge in all part of society and make the Nation healthy and Sophisticate. The founder of sanstha Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe is one of the freedom fighter, and Educationist who made substantial contribution in the making of modern Maharashtra.

Keywords: Knowledge, Education, Society, Cognizance, Harmony, Nation, Modern Maharashtra.

### Introduction:-

Higher education is of vital importance for the country, as it is a powerful tool to build knowledge-based society of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Empowerment needs education in general and higher education in particular. Bapuji's vision of life, thinking and practice were the result of noble teachings considering these ethos; Sanstha is serving to ensure access and equity in higher educational opportunity to all deserving and meritorious students with a preferential option for the poor and marginalized, irrespective of caste and creed thus; becoming a bridge between the rural-urban divide. To the extent of my information, that the Sanstha, realized need of harmony through education in today's conflicted world and we are inculcating the spirit of harmony among the students by education.

### Life and Mission:-

The life and mission of Shikshanmaharshi Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe will be marked as the golden era in the educational history of Maharashtra. Bapuji's original name is Gavindrao Dnyanoji Salunkhe. It was because of the great influence Mahatma Gandhi exerted on his life that his kith and kin started calling him Bapuji' and the same nomenclature caught on in his later life.

Bapuji was born at Rampur village situated in Patan Taluka of Satara District. Deprived of both of his parents in his early boyhood, Bapuji had to acquire his education in the face of adversity. He took his B.A. Degree in 1945; and passed his B.T. in 1949. Endowed with powerful eloquence Bapuji was interested in Sanskrit and Marathi and Mathematics subject.

### Mission: Early Phase:

The starting point of Bapuji's educational career is in 1940, when he was appointed as 'Rajguru' in the princely state of Sondur. But soon the career came to an end as the electrified patriot plunged himself head long into the vortex of "Quit india Movement" spearheaded by Mahatma Gandhi. Later, during his tenure as the chairman of Satara District Students Congress, in 1947, Bapuji proved instrumental in collecting funds to the tune of Rupees one Lac in honour of Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil, the founder of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha. This great mission was recognized by no smaller personality than Mahatma Gandhi, who certified Bapuji to the effect in his own hand-writing, a proud possession still in his preserve. In 1948. Bapuji wrote a short story of freedom fighters in Satara district based on his personal interviews with the activist.

Bapuji served in Rayat Shikshan Sanstha for a decade-from 1945 to 1955; for the first four years in the capacity of a teacher and then as the headmaster of Mahatma Gandhi Vidyalaya, Rukadi which he developed with his missionary zeal and Indefatigable work. Bapuji left the Sanstha in 1955, along with a number of his colleagues.

### Establishment of Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha:-

October 19, 1954 saw the beginning at a new phase in Bapuji's career when he laid the foundation of a new educational institute in the presence of his colleagues in Murlidhar temple at



Karad. In November 1954, the proposed educational institute was named after Shri Swami Vivekanand, at the instance of Swami Ramanand Bharati, the first president of the Sanstha. Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha was duly registered on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1954 and started functioning on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1955. Bapuji and his colleagues set up highschools at Kolhapur, Tasgson, Chaphal, Tarale and Undale; a training college for women at Karad, Boys, Hostels at Kolhapur and Chaphal. This was only the modest beginning of Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha that was soon to be developed into a massive network with its 260 cultural centre's imparting instruction to 88652 students in the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka. The Sanstha has the most impressive number of 3160 teaching staff, 1221 Non-teaching and office staff. The Sanstha owns 176 buildings and 70 new buildings are being constructed along with the construction of the new Head office. The Sanstha has also opened a credit society for its employees.

#### **Motto :**

"Dnyan, Vidnyan Ani Susanskar Yasathi Shikshan Prasar " (The spread of education is with a view to diffusing Knowledge, Science and good breeding) is the motto of the Sanstha. Bapuji defines 'Dnyan as the knowledge of truth, character, integrity, demolition at exploitative tendencies, service and dedication. Vidnyan consists in the application of the aforesaid principles to life which, in turn will lead to good breeding. Bapuji's conviction is that since 'Goodness is an attribute of God, formation of good character should receive due emphasis in our educational institutes. Hence Sanstha's official prayer- 'Hare Ram, Hare Krishna', a poem composed by Bapuji himself.

#### **Sacrifice:**

Bapuji has dedicated his whole life to the cause of Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha. He used to receive only the merge salary of an assistant school teacher right from the inception at the Sanstha. In 1962, he bequeathed his inherited property to the Sanstha at the inauguration of late Dnyanojirao Salunkhe High-School, named after his father, at Patan. In addition to this, he has donated large amounts of money to the Sanstha from time to time. He diverted the sum of Rs.1,37,000/- he had received as 'Gurudakshina' in 1973 towards the expenditure at the Sanstha. Again, in 1981, he handed over the amount of Rs. 5 lac, collected by the employees of the Sanstha in honour of Parampuiya Bapuii on the occasion of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, with an addition of Rs.101 /-of his own, to honorable Vasantdada Patil, the president of the Sanstha for its due utilization towards the development schemes.

#### **Recognition and Gratitude :**

Bapuji's contribution in the national and educational field has been recognized by the Maharashtra Government by bestowing upon him the honour of Freedom Fighter and the title of Dalit Mitra. But the true recognition of his services comes from the people who have always held him in high esteem by acclaiming him as Shikshan Maharshi. The Sanstha too has shown its deep sense of gratitude by naming a recently started college at Karad alter this Shikshan Maharshi who has dedicated his entire life to the cause of education and enlightenment amongst the masses. Later, Chancellor of Shivaji University, Kolhapur has consented to confer on him an honorary D.Lit., which comes as the befitting culmination of his career as an educationist. It must, indeed, be a unique example of how a humble teacher can build up an edifice of learning with a huge network of educational centres all over the Western Maharashtra and North Karnataka by dint of his missionary zeal, organizational capacity and indefatigable labour, and therein indeed lies the crowning glory of his life.

#### **The Essence of Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe:-**

Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha, Kolhapur (M.S) is one of the leading educational institutions, imparting quality education across diverse verticals for over six decades with the motto "Education is for Knowledge, Science & Culture", given by founder Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe. "The Teacher in all Sanskar Kendra celebrate Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe's birthday every year on 9<sup>th</sup> June by taking stock of our achievements during the previous year and rededicating ourselves towards our mission oriented tasks related to the development of Educational quality and quantity". Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha, Kolhapur (M.S) , which has carved a name and place for itself in the Maharashtra State, is a result of a dream envisioned by our dear Bapuji. While dreaming of changing the society through spread of education, Bapuji has given a major contribution in shaping of our Maharashtra state, and the society has very rightly engraved his contribution in their hearts.



Our institute is continuously carrying forward Bapuji's idealism and his philosophy through its 385 *Sanskar Kendras* and along with almost 9000 *Gurudev Karyakartas*.

The ethnic diversity in India poses challenges to implement consistent education nationwide. There are different languages spoken in the country and which makes it difficult to offer education tailored to specific social segment. Educating women in some societies is a big issue. Children of poor families are forced to work and miss out the learning opportunities. Illiterate adults have very limited opportunities to get educated at later age in their lives. But Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha, rendering its valuable services in the field of education, is based on the values of love, unity and peace. This institution provides holistic education and is the pioneer in blending school education with a spiritual curriculum to help every student reach his highest potential intellectually, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

#### Conclusion:-

Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe always walked on the path of eradicating darkness from the life of the poor, downtrodden and weaker section through the spread of education. He decided to dedicate his entire life for the upliftment of the country through working in the education field. For this purpose, he even donated his personal property. The difficult task of nurturing and running the Sanstha was made easy due to the dedication shown by all the *Gurudev Karyakartas* working relentlessly for the Sanstha.

The seed sown by Bapuji has now grown into a big tree. In the initial days, with the help of people having concern for the society and also through public donations; Bapuji could develop the Sanstha and its various branches. It is only through donations given by large-hearted donors from the society that Bapuji could complete various projects like construction works and repair, renovation of buildings, land purchase, buying of educational material, developing library and other such important works for the Sanstha. It is only due to the society and nation building work done by Bapuji that a whole generation got the opportunity to get literate and educated. The people who made progress in their life due to the education provided by Bapuji always fondly and respectfully remember him and his work. Due to Bapuji's tireless efforts and endeavors many family stand and flourished. So all the members of *sanstha* has this right opportunity to commemorate gratitude. In conclusion we may say that Socio-Educational Contributions of Shikshanmaharshi Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe are very crucial in shaping and formation and of Modern Maharashtra.

#### Views of Some Eminent Personalities on Our *Sanstha*

- 1) "The work of Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha is spread all over Maharashtra. Parampujya Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe has taken education to the doorsteps of the poors in the rural area." – Hon. Shri Yashwantrao Chavan (Former Deputy Prime-Minister of India)
- 2) "Bapuji is tirelessly pulling this 'Jagannatha Ratha' ahead. His work is so immense, that history will have to make a note of it. His work has come as blessing to the Bahujan Samaj." – Hon. Vasantdada Patil (Former Chief-Minister of Maharashtra State)
- 3) "I have visited many educational institutes in my life, but has never seen any institute campus ornate with outer as well as inner beauty." – Hon. Manohar Joshi (Former Chief-Minister of Maharashtra State)
- 4) "I feel blessed by visiting the institute of Dr. Bapuji"-  
-Hon. Sharad Pawar (Former Central Govt. Minister of Agriculture)

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