CHAPTER V

"EMINENT LEADERS OF LINGAYATA COMMUNITY
IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT"
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As Carlyle states that, "History is nothing but the biography of great men." The society is known by the work of the great men. There are great men born in every community. The great men's life is not for themselves but for the welfare of the whole society. Fortunately, Lingayat community, produced the great men right from 12th century onwards.

Shri Basaveshwar, Mahayogini Akkamahadevi, Shri Chhanna-basaveshwar being to the galaxy of the great Shivsaran saints of Lingayats. The tradition of the 12th century work was carried on by Shantling Swami and Manmath Swami belonging to 15th century. They spent their whole life for the welfare and benefit of the community. The high, noble, rich and varied heritage and tradition of Shivsharanas such as Basaveshvar still exists in Lingayat community and will last for ever. This is the pride of community of Lingayat.

In Maharashtra, Shri Chandrashekhar Swami of Kolhapur, Shri Rudrapashupati Maharaj of Miraj, Revansiddha Swami, Parandekar, Barshi, Mruhmaruttyunjay Swami, Solapur, Hatgikar Maharaj Solapur, Dr.S.B.Shivling Shivacharya Maharaj of Ahmadpur, Shambhuling Shivacharya Maharaj of Ambejogai, S.B. Siddhaling Shivacharya Swami of Paisiddha matha Sakharkherda etc. are working in the field of religion. De. Nilkanthrao Kallyani, freedom fighter, Dr.Padmashri Ratnappanna Kumbhar, Shri
S.B. Sankanwade, Shri Mallappa Solapure, Appasaheb alias S.R. Patil, Shivaraj Patil, (Chairman, Loksabha) are working in the public field. When India was under the British rule Nanasaheb Bamanagaonkar, Appasaheb Varad played an important part in the building of Lingayat community. Late Namdevrao Rukari built the organisation of Lingayats. Several others have sacrificed their lives for the awakening of Lingayats. Several others have sacrificed their lives for the awakening of Lingayat community. The number of persons working for Lingayat community in the field of religion and public field is very big. In Kolhapur district, Kumbhar (Dr.) Ratnappanna, Kore Tatyasaheb, Nasthe, Shivapadanna, Late Dr. Shreshti, Dr. Ghali, Patil Shakarrao, Malabade K.L., Patil S.P., Patil Appasaheb alias S.R., Sankanwade S.B., Kitturkar, Ravaheb, Dattwade D.B., are eminent leaders of Lingayat community. These and several others have worked for the progress of society by founding various educational institutions, co-op sugar factories, various lift irrigation schemes and banks which ultimately culminated to the all round progress of the common man. It is highly impossible to note here all the names of the leaders and notable personalities for want of space.

The study of these persons working in varied fields is essential. Therefore in this chapter an attempt has been made to show the multifarious activities of some eminent persons belonging to Lingayat community in brief.

1. LATE RAOBHADUR D.B. MALI : (1849 TO 1954).

The first noteworthy person was Late Dyanoba Balvanta Mali, who was born on 13th December, 1894 in Kolhapur city. Tarabai was his mother and Dyanoba was his father. Shankar was his brother
and Chandra was his sister. Economic condition of this family was very deplorable. During his childhood he faced so many difficulties, but he did not neglect his studies. Besides, prescribed books of the syllabus, he read other books with interest. He was a voracious reader, right from the beginning he was bright and clever student. Because of this his name was reached to Rajarshi Shahu Maharaja of Kolhapur state. He sanctioned him monthly scholarship, by which D.B.Mali was able to complete his education.

He completed his high school education at Rajaram High school and passed the matric examination. He took his college education in Poona and Bombay. He obtained his B.A. degree in 1918 from Bombay University, Bombay. In 1920 he obtained his L.L.B. degree from same University.

EDUCATIONAL WORK:

D.B.Mali played an important role in the progress of education in Kolhapur state. About his educational work at Gadchinglaj, taluka, Gadchinglaj, District Kolhapur Godhali G.S. has stated that, he founded Maharani Radhabai High school at Gadchinglaj in 1929. There was no high school at taluka place also at that time. Only government high school was there at district place. In 1921 primary school was started at Gadchinglaj. D.B.Mali and B.L.Patil gave the co-operation to this school. In 1929, D.B.Mali, B.L.Patil and Swami of Nidsosi matha raised the fund of rupees twenty five thousand at Gadchinglaj in within one day. They started their efforts to get recognition for this school from the Kolhapur state. This school was named as Maharani Radhabai High
School, Gadhinglaj. Besides this, for the progress of M.R. High School, Gadhinglaj, D.b.Mali has founded the Maratha and Lingayat Boarding at Gadhinglaj. Na. V.N. Patil, Dr. Shivaling Ghali, Appasaheb Nalavade, Dr.M.G. Mali and Dr.Sankpal took their education in this High School.\(^2\) He also co-operated Mehedale's Harihar Vidyalay, Kolhapur and D.B.Ratnappa Kumbhar's daily "Jothi" and Gokhale's "Vidyavilas".\(^3\) He tried his best to establish a primary school at every village in Kolhapur state.

**ADMINISTRATOR:**

Kolhapur state was one of the progressive and important states in India. This state was ruled by various dominant rulers. Rajarshi Shahu Maharaja ruled from April 2, 1894 to May 6, 1922. Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaja ruled from May 6, 1922 to November 25, 1940. From 1940 to 1942 Kolhapur state was under the control of British Residency. From November 18, 1942 to September 19, 1946, Shivaji V ruled over Kolhapur state. After this again from 1946 to March 30, 1947 Kolhapur state was gone under the control of British Residency. Lastly, upto the merger of Kolhapur state in India means upto March 1, 1949 Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaja ruled over the Kolhapur state. Ravasaheb D.B.Mali worked in Kolhapur state from 1921 to 1948 on various important and responsible posts. He worked on the posts like City Magistrate, Munsiff, First Class Sub-Judge, Prant Officer, Serve Settlement Officer, Sirsubhe, High Court Judge, District Magistrate and Minister of Kolhapur state.\(^4\)
D.B. Mali and Co-operative Movement:

Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaja of Kolhapur state was well known for the founder of Co-operative movement in Kolhapur state. In this connection Bhaskarrao Jadhav was the main adviser of Shahu Maharaja. Co-operative Act was introduced by Shahu Maharaja in 1912-13 in Kolhapur state. According to this Act Kolhapur Urban Co-operative Society was established by Bhaskarrao Jadhav on May 4, 1913. Because of this Bhaskarrao Jadhav was the real architect of the co-operative movement in Kolhapur district.

The number of Co-operative institutions are established in Maharashtra. These institutions have made a lot of progress today. Many devoted leaders are responsible for this progress. In Kolhapur state Bhaskarrao Jadhav started the Co-operative movement. Na. Ravasaheb D.B. Mali was attracted by this co-operative movement and established many co-operative institutions in former Kolhapur state. It was not an easy thing to establish a co-operative institution in those days. It is necessary to tell the people that the necessity of these institutions. The following co-operative institutions are founded by Na. Ravasaheb D.B. Mali.

1. RAVIWAR PETH SAHAKARI PETH SANSTHA LTD. KOLHAPUR (1924)

Ravasaheb D.B. Mali and V.G. Chavan were the residents of Raviwar Path, Kolhapur. D.B. Mali founded the Raviwar Peth Sahakari Petha Sanstha Ltd., Kolhapur on August 22, 1924. The motive of this sanstha at first was to help the poor people of the society. In 1962 under the leadership of Shri P.P. Powar this
sanstha was transferred into a bank. Today Shri Baburao Jadhav is the president of this bank.

2. MALI PATHA SANSTHA, KOLHAPUR (1926)

Ravasaheb D.B. Mali founded Shri Veerashaiva Mail Parspar Sahayakari Mandali Ltd., Kolhapur on May 19, 1926. From the beginning of this sanstha D.B. Mali kept himself away from any post of this sanstha. He left the responsibility of this sanstha on the shoulder of other people of the society. It made clear that he was not eager for popularity or money.

3. SARVE PATHA SANSTHA, KOLHAPUR (1933)

Ravasaheb D.B. Mali has established Bhumi Abhilakh Servant's Patha Sanstha in 1933. Shri Barda Ramchandra Kulkarni, Shri Rajaram Bhapkar co-operated with him in this task. Today this has settled. D.N. Dixit is the president of the Sanstha.

4. SHRI VEERASHAIVA BANK, KOLHAPUR (1942)

Ravasaheb D.B. Mali with the help of Dr. Chikmatha, M.D. Shresthi, Shri Shivapad Virupaxanna Nasthe, Shri Mahadev Balappa Chougule, D.B. Ratnappa Kumbhar, Ravasaheb Swami and Virupaxanna Shivappa Doejad founded the Shri Veerashaiva Co-operative Bank Ltd., Kolhapur on February 21, 1942. Today this bank has fifteen branches in rural and urban areas of Kolhapur district. Nine branches have their own buildings. It has 18 thousand members.

5. GADHINGLAJ BANK (1950)

Gadhinglaj is one of the developed and major towns of Kolhapur district. In this town the Gadhinglaj Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., is one of the renowned banks. Actually, this bank was
not founded by Rav. D.B.Mali but he heartily extended co-operation for the foundation of this bank. Under his guidance this bank was founded in 1950 at Gadhinglaj in Kolhapur district.

Thus, Rav. D.B.Mali rendered a great service in the field of Education and co-operative movement in the former Kolhapur state. The assessment of the contribution made by D.B.Mali have done by some persons in the following way. Patil Rajesh, the sitting director of Shree Veerashaiva Co-operative Bank Ltd., Kolhapur said about his work in the following words, "Ravasaheb D.B.Mali was well thinker, he developed Shree Veerashaiva Co-operative Bank Ltd., Kolhapur". Gha1i, Shankarrao, Ex.General manager of the same bank has stated about his work that, "simple living and high thinking was his life philosophy, he continued the work of Namdar Bhaskarrao Jadhav," Chougule (Dr.) A.M. founder of Vadgaon Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Vadagaon remarked about his work that, "He was really a Mr.Clean." This sheds light on the character of Rav.D.B.Mali and how he was respected by the people. Like this, Dhulubulu, Shivajirao, President of All India Veershaiva Lingayat Mali Smamjonnati Parishad has stated that, Ravasaheb Mali has arrange two mali parishadas in 1936 and 1938 at Kolhapur and Mangalweda respectively in Solapur district with the help of Kudale. The motive behind this was, to awaken the people.

In brief, Rav.D.B.Mali was great figure in the Lingayat community, who did yeomen service in the Kolhapur state and prepared the ground for other leaders of the community.
DESBHAKTA PADMASHRI DR. RATNAPPANNA KUMBHAR (1909- UP TO DATE)

The great revolutionary, freedom fighter, Desh Bhakta Ratnappanna Kumbhar - the leader of the Lingayats in Maharashtra is a versatile personality. He worked not only in the political field but also in the the co-operative, education and religious fields. He is intimately related to many institutions all over Maharashtra. He is the founder of many institutions.

Desh Bhakta Ratnappanna Kumbhar was born in Nimshirgaon, a village in taluka Shirol, in Kolhapur district (Maharashtra) on 15th September, 1909 in a potter's family. Balabai was his mother's name and his father's name was Bharamappa. He took his primary education in Nimshirgaon. He completed his secondary and college education in Kolhapur. He obtained his B.A. degree from Rajaram College Kolhapur in 1933. He was the secretary of the Praja Parishad of Kolhapur sansthan when he was studying for his L.L.B. He was arrested and sent to prison for two years. This made a break in his education. In the period between 1934 to 1942 he worked as the leader of Praja Parishad and Congress. This was the beginning of his political activity in his life. He made up his mind to dedicate his life to the service of nation. In 1936 he attended Faizpur Congress as a patriot and nationalist.

POLITICAL WORK : RATNAPPANNA KUMBHAR AND PRAJA PARISHAD.

Deshbhakta Ratnappanna Kumbhar took keen interest in social and political work right since his student life. Prior to independence he launched a successful campaign under the banner of Praja Parishad against the princely state. Praja Parishad was founded on February 6, 1939 to make political awakening in
Kolhapur sansthan. Bhai Madhavrao Bagal was the President and Ratnappanna was the General Secretary of Praja Parishad.\textsuperscript{11} He was also a great organiser of Praja Parishad. As a secretary he successfully arranged public meetings and gatherings. In this connection Late Yashvantrao Chavan remarked, In Praja Parishad Madhavrao Bagal, Ratnappanna Kumbhar, Veer Mane, Shri Shresthi worked together, but work of Ratnappanna Kumbhar is very important in all of them.\textsuperscript{12} To give the guidance to the people, circulation of the bulletin of Praja Parishad, collect the people, arranging the meetings are the important works in Praja Parishad, he directed the Praja Parishad very successfully. Bhai Madhavrao Bagal wrote, about his work is very important as secretary of Praja parishad.\textsuperscript{13} In 1942 when Quit India Movement was started most of the important leaders like Madhavrao Bagal, M.D.Shreshthi, R.T.Bagade were arrested and imprisoned. Then the work of Praja Parishad went on under the leadership of Ratnappanna Kumbhar. The Kolhapur sansthan was merged in March, 1949 and attached it to Bombay Presidency. The work of Praja Parishad came to an end in the same year.

**RATNAPPANNA KUMBHAR AND QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT OF 1942.**

When the work of Praja Parishad was in full swing on 9th August 1942 saw the starting of Quit India Movement. The Quit India Movement roused people all over India against the British rule. The leaders of Congress were arrested and imprisoned. At that time Ratnappanna had gone to the Revolutionary Conference at Navalia Tank. But the very next day he came to Kolhapur in disguise and went in underground, and directed the movement very
ably and successfully. He led the movement of 'Quit India in the South of Bombay state and particularly in Kolhapur and surrounding areas. He had around him the group of faithful and loyal colleagues with their help and co-operation, he planned himself in the holocaust of freedom struggle. Arrests were being made all over the nation but the British and the state police did not succeed in arresting him with his followers he raided on Government officers like Grampanchayat, post offices, and police stations. In the villages such as Arjunwad, Dharangutti and cities like Sangli, Belgaum and Bijapur the grampanchayat and other government offices were burnt at the instance of Ratnappanna Kumbhar. Railway station of Rukadi, Hatkanangle were also burnt under his instance. Money was required for the underground movement. So they looted Barshi Light Railway and earned Rs.2000/-. Then his colleagues looted Jejuri mandir. All these movements took place under the guidance of Ratnappanna Kumbhar. The office of the Ratnappanna was at Malgoan near Miraj. Large prizes were declared for arresting Ratnappanna by the British Government, but in vain. He reappeared at Bindu chowk, Kolhapur on 9th August, 1947. Almost all the people literally carried Anna on their heads, they danced with joy and a purse of Rs. One lakh was given to him. While handling over the cash to the Congress organisation, he said, "If we had got the money in the year 1942, we would have been able to fight forcibly against the British rule."
RATNAPPANNA KUMBHAR AND THE MERGER OF KOLHAPUR STATE:

India achieved freedom in the year 1947. At that time there were 562 states in India. It was essential to merge them all into the Indian Union. Patel, Sardar Vallabhbhai, Deputy minister and minister for State declared at that time that, the states would be merged into the Indian Federation willingly. Some states gave response, but some refused to join. The rulers of Hyderabad, Junagad and Kashmir states were not ready to merge. It means the merger of states in India was a great problem before the Government of India. Ratnappanna made his best efforts to merge the Kolhapur and Jinji states into the Indian Union. Sardar Patel once remarked at Jaipur Congress conference in 1949 about the work of Ratnappanna, "mergers of South Indian states in India Shri Ratnappanna had played an important role." Ratnappanna Kumbhar and Lingayat Society:

As he worked for his country, he too worked for the Lingayat society. His has been a lion's share in the establishment of several Lingayat Institutions that exist in Maharashtra. Akhil Bharatiya Veerashaiva Sangh, Bombay was founded in 1954. Veerashaiva magazine was started by this organisation in 1956. The proprietors who looked after the magazine publication went to Karnataka when states were reorganised on the basis of language. To start this magazine once again was decided in the meeting between Padmashree D.B.Ratnappanna Kumbhar and late M.P.Patil. Ratnappanna had completed this work with the help and co-operation of Shri S.B.Sankanwade of Kolhapur. Even at present the magazine is being published under the names Dnyanprasad. Today it
has celebrated its Silver Jubilee. In connection with it T.N. Katkar remarked, "karmayogi Patil, D.B. Ratnappanna Kumbhar and Shri Sankanwade Patil were the "tri-murtis" of Dnyanprasad like Bramha, Vishnu, Mahesha. Hence the Dnyanprasad celebrated Rajat mahotsav year." In 1978, Maharashtra Veerashaiva Sabha was founded in Pune by the active support of Ratnappanna Kumbhar. The first conference of this sabha was held in Solapur in 1985 and Ratnappanna himself attended the conference. After the conference Ratnappanna wrote a letter to Dr. Shivmurti Shahir saying, "The atmosphere of the conference is a bright hope that Lingayats should come together society within the framework of the national unity. I wish you good luck." This letter throws light on Anna's zest for society and patriotism. He is particularly aware of various problems of Lingayat students. He worked as the secretary of Veerashaiva Samaj, Kolhapur. The Boarding is run by this organisation for the students. Akkamahadevi mantap is built for the multi-purpose use of the society. Ratnappanna had a lion's share in founding and the management of these two institutions. To meet the economical needs of Lingayats Veerashaiva Co-operative Bank was founded in Kolhapure and Ratnappanna tried his level best to foundation of this bank. Right from the beginning he guided and helped. Mahatma Basaveshvar Education Society, Latur.

RATNAPPANNA KUMBHAR AND SOCIETY:

After independence, he dedicated himself to the socio-economic uplift of the masses with particular emphasis on agriculture, irrigation, industry and education. He gave through
this co-operative institution, he played a noteworthy role in the all-round development of the people, not only Lingayat Community. In the surrounding areas of the institution. He gave financial help to the farmers, students, construction of high schools, construction of college buildings, construction of temples, purchase of science instruments and libraries. Fillip to the setting up of number of agro based industrial units in co-operative sector including co-operative sugar mill and co-operative and educational institutions. He also took great interest in the rehabilitation of freedom fighters. What he did before independence he also did most through the co-operative movement for the society after independence. He founded Panchaganga Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana on Oct 1, 1955. The first trial run of this factory was taken on March 13, 1959 and the factory was started on November 1, 1959. He completed 45 lift irrigation schemes and 35 thousand acres of land was brought under the water and remaining 54 schemes are under progress. Ratnappanna says, "As long as our farmer continues to live in huts, eats a meagre meal of 'Bhakari' with 'chatni', and has no other clothes to wear except a loin cloth, we do not have the moral right to live in well furnished bungalows and eat delicious food and wear high clothes made from synthetic fibre. Therefore I have worked hard to make this 14-1/2 crore rupees Panchaganga Sugar Factory loan-free. Further, in order to bring about an all-round development of the surrounding villages with the help of Panchaganga Sugar Factory I have arranged to spend Rs.10 crores on account of educational and cultural activities. It is
not just anybody's task to carry out such momentous work after independence and only Ratnappanna can do such miraculous deeds."  

Narubhau Limaye remarked about Anna's work, "It was the need of the hour (in pre-independence era) to struggle for Independence. After the attainment of Independence it now necessary to bring about revolution in agriculture, and to improve the standard of living of the common man in every way. In order to attain all-round growth and self-sufficiency efforts should be made in all directions. And now, in order to restructure the modern man, when he (Ratnappanna) is crossing his 75th birthday, he is still dedicated to these goals."  

He founded the Kolhapur Zilla Shetkari Vinkari Sahakari Soot Girani Ltd., Ichalkaranji on December 6, 1963. It was the first experiment in Maharashtra to join Shetkari and Vinkari together, and this experiment was successful. Today this mill became popular all over India. He founded the peoples Co-operative Bank Ltd. for the businessmen and poor people. With the aim of the common people could get good quality materials at cheaper rates he founded Kolhapur Janata Central Co-operative Consumers stores on January 24, 1963, and under the name of 'Janata Bazar' so many shops were run in Kolhapur city. With same motive he founded Ichalkaranji Central co-operative Consumers Stores Ltd., on January 25, 1963. The work of the Kolhapur Zilla Madhyavarti Bank Ltd. Kolhapur was also run under his guidance for so many years. Besides this he gave active co-operation and help in founding NaMaharashtra Mudranalaya, Vadgaon and Hatkanangle.
Spinning Mills. He extended economic help to the so many mandirs, schools and *Talim sansthas*. He worked in all the fields of society. Regarding the work of Ratnappanna, Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan remarked, "The principle of service to mankind is contained in the Co-operative movement. If proper combination of the two is achieved, as is done by Ratnappa Kumbhar, Chariman of Shri Panchaganga Sakhar Karkhana, Ichalkaranji, for the total development of society at large, there will be no work left for Sarvodaya workers like me. I am very happy to note that Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar has implemented honestly this policy of Co-Operative Movement with the help of his associated. If the example of Ratnappa Kumbhar is emulated all over India, then we will have to stop our Sarvodaya movement."  

RATNAPPANNA KUMBHAR AND EDUCATION:

Ratnappanna also took keen interest in the field of education and made effective work. COUNCIL OF EDUCATION (1951). He founded "Council of Education, Kolhapur" on February 17, 1951. He has been the Chairman of this *Sanstha* since 1951 to the present day. The history of the birth of this sanstha is very interesting. The Late Shri Rajaram Chhatrapati Maharaja of Kolhapur state acknowledging the dire need of a Law College in Kolhapur to satisfy the need for legal education of the needy residents in these parts of the country started Sykes Law College on November 2, 1933. Under the Council of Legal education Kolhapur Sansthan. In 1939 this sanstha was abolished. The from 1939 to 1948 the Law College was run by the Kolhapur Darbar. After the merger of the Kolhapur state, the then Bombay
Government run the college for about two years and then made up its mind to close down the Law College in Kolhapur. But as the need of legal education was genuine, pressing and urgent, the council of legal education, with its new constitution, founded under the presidency of Shri Ratnappanna Kumbhar, came forward to shoulder the responsibility of the management of Sykes Law College with its building and paraphernalia from the Bombay Government in 1951 and as the then Shahaji Chhatrapati Maharaja of Kolhapur readily agreed to be its foster father, Sykes Law College was renamed as Shahaji Law College. Today this college has its own two storeyed building at Rajarampuri. Near about 1000 students are taking law education in this college. The course duration is three years leading to L.L.M. and five year new law course is also being taught in this college. Since 1984-85 as per the scheme of the bar council of India the college has established its own Legal Aid Clinic. College has latest library with its 14,000 books. At present Kurane D.B. is working as Principal of this college.

COLLEGE OF COMMERCE (1957). From June 1957 College of Commerce was opened. At that time from Poona to Belgaum there was not a single Commerce College. It is a need of society to start a commerce college. Seeing the situation Commerce College was opened in June 1957. Today the classes from 11th to M.Com are run by this college. Nearly 2500 students are taking education in this college. It has its own building. College has a huge library with its 40,000 books and 160 magazines. This college has its own hostel. 200 students are accommodated there. M.B.A. course is also started since 1971. At
present Koshti P.B. is working as Principal of this college, and college was renamed as Deshbhakta Ratnappa Kumbhar College of Commerce, Kolhapur.

NIGHT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND COMMERCE, KOLHAPUR:

From 1971 Night College of Arts and Commerce was started by the Sanstha. It was first experiment in Shivaji University area and even in Maharashtra state. At first there were so many problems before the college such as students strength, rail, bus passes. But today this college is well settled. From 11th to graduate level Arts & Commerce education is available in this college. Post graduate Marathi, English departments are also run by this college. Today about 800 students are taking education in this college. It is rare opportunity given by the sanstha to the students. At present Gaud L.M. is working as the Principal of this college. The Sanstha has built up its own multi purpose hall also.

These three colleges are running under the able guidance of Ratnappanna Kumbhar. Besides this he gave economic and hearty co-operation to the establishment of several educational institutions. He took keen interest in establishing the Jaisingpur College, Jaisingpur.39 Primary school high schools and hostel for backward class students at Umarkhed, high schools at Ganganagar, Ichalkaranji, Sangaon. Tal. Kagal, Gangapur, Tal. Hatakanangle were also founded by him.30 He is the vice president of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Education Society, Pune. The secondary school and the boarding are run by this institution. He gave hearty co-operation from the beginning to the Mahatma Basaveshwar
Education Society, Latur. Thus Ratnappanna Kumbhar is a living example of constructive work in the educational field.

Ratnappanna was a member of Constituent Assembly and of Parliament from 1950 to 1952 and a member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1980. He was the Home Minister of Maharashtra from November 1974 to February 1975. He was the Food and Civil Supplies Minister of Maharashtra state in 1975 and Urban Development Minister of Maharashtra from May 1977 to March 1978. He successfully handled the departments. He received "Padmashri" from Government of India in 1985. Poona University conferred on him honorary D.Litt. Thus Shri Ratnappanna Kumbhar worked in political, social religious and educational field. Mahatapaswi Kumarswamiji wrote about him, "He has several achievements to his credit in the field of co-operation, of education, of social welfare and of the struggle for country's freedom. He fought against British valiantly and in a spirit of self sacrifice along with his comrades till Mother India became free in 1947." Elacharya Muni Vidyachand wrote about Ratnappanna, "Shri Kumbhar is a disciple of the old Gandhian philosophy who truly adopted non-violence. And he devoted all his life in the service of the country." In the words of B.D.Jatti, "After independence he dedicated himself to Co-operative movement and organised many co-operative institutions. Even though he is now 86 years old (on 15 September, 1995) still he has urge to work for his society and the common man of Kolhapur as well as other areas.

- 130 -
3. VISHANATH ANNA ALIAS TATYASAHEB KORE (1914-1994)

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION:

The next important leader of the Lingayat community was Vishanatha alias Tatyasaheb Kore. He mainly worked in Co-operative field. He was the founder of many institutions in Warna area situated in taluka Panhala, district, Kolhapur.

He was born on October 17, 1914 in village of Pargaon, taluka Panhala, dist. Kolhapur. His father's name was Anna and Bhagirathibai was his mother. Kashibai was his sister and Dinkar was his brother. He was admitted to primary school, Kodoli for his primary education in 1921. He passed VIth standard in 1927. He married Savitribai on December 22, 1934. He entered in Sarvodaya Vivid Karyakari Sahakari Seva Society Ltd., Kodoli, taluka Panhala, dist Kolhapur in the year 1935. It was one of the old and popular Co-operative Institutions of Kolhapur which was founded in 1918. He worked in this co-operative society for fifteen years from 1935 to 1950. He took his co-operative education from this institution. He elected as a president of Kodoli Municipality in 1940. As a president he developed education, roads, and medicine facilities for the people.

TATYASAHEB KORE AND PRAJA PARISHAD:

The years 1938-1939 were the memorable years in modern history of Kolhapur state on account of Praja parishad activities. Bhai Madhavrao Bagal, Desai, Dinkarrao, Kumbhar Ratnappanna, Minache Ravba, Jagadale Ravasaheb were called a public meeting on November 14, 1938 at Dhamani in Satara district. In this public meeting Tatyasaheb Kore was selected to
the post of Vice President of the Praja Parishad. Bagal Bhai Madhavrao was the President and Secretary was D.B. Kumbhar Ratnappanna. Praja Parishad movement was really a freedom movement against the princely state of Kolhapur.

The farmer's morcha was organised in 1939 against the princely state. Bagal Bhai Madhavrao was arrested. People became angry about the policy of Princely state. Tatyasaheb Kore arranged a meeting at Kodoli. Ghatage Rambhau, Kulkarni R.B., Mirgunde S.A. attended the meeting. They all delivered the speeches to explain the policy of princely state on account of their speeches they all were arrested by princely police force including Tatyasaheb Kore after some time he was released.

TATYASAHEB KORE AND QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT OF 1942:

All India Congress Committee's annual session was held at Gavaliya tank ground at Bombay in 1942. Tatyasaheb Kore was present for this session in Bombay "Quit India resolution was passed in this session. Slogan of "Do or Die" was given to the people by Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of All India Congress. According to this situation "Quit India" movement was started against British rule all over the country. This movement spread in "Warna Khora" (valley) in Kolhapur district also. Movements like raids on Grampanchayat, post offices government offices, rail and police stations were started in Warna Khora also. In order to discourage the movement, arrests were started by the British Government. At this time many freedom fighters took shelter in the 'Dag mala' of Tatyasaheb Kore. One underground revolutionary, freedom fighter Shihasane Gourihar was given
shelter by Tatyasaheb Kore in his own home. He stayed one year under the protection of Tatyasaheb Kore in their home. Another underground revolutionary Shri Vale Gajananrao was also given protection by Tatyasaheb Kore. Thus he took part in the freedom movement of India.

**TATYASAHEB KORE AND CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT:**

but the work of Tatyasaheb Kore in the Co-operative movement is noteworthy and important. He established many co-operative and other institutions in Warana and brought economical development in the surrounding areas of Warana. At first in 1935 he entered the co-operative field. He worked many years in Sarvodaya Vivid karyakari Sahakari Seva Society Ltd., Kodoli. It was one of the best and oldest co-operative society which was founded in the year 1918. He actually worked as a secretary of this society in the beginning. But after this he founded many co-operative societies in Warana valley. The following are some of the institutions started by Tatyasaheb Kore:

1. **WARNA SHETKARI SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LTD., WARANANAGAR.**
   (1955)

Warana Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karakhana is one of the leading Sugar factories in Maharashtra. Tatyasaheb Kore took great pains to establish this factory. In 1952 at first time he tried to establish a sugar factory in Warana, but he failed at this time. After lapse of two years, he again started efforts to establish a sugar factory. In this connection the first meeting was held on July 9, 1954 under the leadership of Dr. Shaikh, Collector of Kolhapur District. For this meeting Shri Kumbhar
Ratnappanna, Shri Mohite Tatyasaheb and Kallyani, Nilkanthrao were present. Besides this 231 farmers from 22 villages were also present. In this meeting the proposed "Warana Co-operative Sugar Producers' Society" was founded. The proposal of sugar factory was submitted to Bombay state government on July 16, 1954. They received sanction from the government after many efforts on September 27, 1955. The first trial season of the sugar factory took place on November 1, 1959. At present in this area nearly six thousand people are staying. Many buildings, godowns and offices have come into existence rapidly after 1960, under the guidance of Tatyasaheb Kore. Factory main building and Warana Kamgar Vasahat is erected up to the year 1960. Shri Warna Sahakari Bank building is constructed in the year 1966. Building of Warana Mahavidyalaya, which is one of the ideal building is constructed in the year 1966. Lal Bahadur Shastri Bhavan building is constructed in the year 1969. Professor's colony is constructed in the year 1970. Account office building which is popularly known as 'Warana Shetkari Building' is erected in the year 1974. Thus the campus of Warana Sugar factory is now beautiful and fine. Many foreign and native tourists visit this Warana factory and witness the socio-economic change of the area. The following are the offshoots of Warna Sugar factory:

1. **SHRI WARANA POULTRY SAHAKARI SANGHA, WARANANAGAR (1963):**

   Shri Warana Poultry Sahakari Sangh, Warananagar was founded on December 27, 1963, under the guidance of Tatyasaheb Kore. By this experiment small farmers have a subsidiary profession by which he adds to his earnings.
2. SHRI WARANA SAHAKARI BANK LTD., WARANANAGAR. (1966):

To finance the poor farmers from Warana area he established Shri Warana Sahakari Bank, Ltd., Warananagar on February 28, 1966. The head office of this bank is located at Warananagar in its own attractive building. This Bank has 10,944 members in the Kolhapur district upto the year 1990. This bank has nine branches including one extension counter. These branches are as follows:

2. Laxmipuri Kolhapur, Taluka: Karveer.
5. Ichalkaranji, Taluka: Hatkanangale.

At present one more branch is added. It is opened at Shirol Pulachi, Taluka: Hatkanangale. Within these branches upto 1990, Head office, staff quarters at Warnanagar, Bhavani Mantap Kolhapur, Kini and Ichalkaranji have their own nice buildings. After 1990, branches of Bagal chowk, Kolhapur and Laxmipuri Kolhapur have constructed their own buildings. At present, including all the branches this bank has 14,105 members.

This bank has played an important role in agricultural and industrial field of the Kolhapur district. This bank has given the loans to the needy agriculturist to purchase the bullock, bullock carts, tractors, trucks and other agricultural equipments. This bank provided finance to some irrigation
schemes, and land about 1500 to 1800 acres brought under irrigation. Loans were given by the bank to the farmers for the purpose of electric motors, oil engines, pumps and pipes also.

Minache Savarde water supply scheme Minache-Savarde, taluka: Hatkanangle Dist Kolhapur is one of the co-operative scheme of the surrounding farmers. It consists of 650 acres of land. Warna bank has sanctioned loan to the concerned farmers, for this scheme. Some loans have been given by the bank to the farmers at village Bhendvade, taluka: Hatkanangle dist: Kolhapur. The turnover of this bank was Rs.2,18,71,402/- and net profit was Rs. 12,29,038/- in the year 1990.

For the progress of this bank, Tatyasaheb Kore founder of this bank, Ghorpade Nivarthi Vitoji from Satave, Naik Nandkumar Kashinath, Managing director of Warana Sugar factory, Bachhe V.T. from Savarde, Powar A.R. from Bhadole, Ladage Shrikant Dada from Peth Vadgaon, Doejad B.S. from Chikurde took great pains. Kore, Nipurnrao Vilasrao is the president of this bank at present.

The Warana Bank is fulfilling the needs of farmers of Hatkanangle, Panhala and Shirol talukas in Kolhapur district. This bank is working as a part and parcel of Warna Sugar factory.


This is an ideal co-operative product Dairy complex in Western Maharashtra aimed at socio-economic upliftment of small farmers, landless labourers and other weaker sections in Warna area. Warana milk is popular in Maharashtra. This Sangh was founded on July 20, 1968 under the able guidance of Tatyasaheb
Kore. The total cost of project is Rs.15 crores. This project is situated in its 50 acres of own land. Warna Dairy is designed to process 2,00,000 litres of milk and manufacture 5 tonnes of milk powder and 3.5 tonnes of butter ghee daily. Its other products are Warna whole milk, Warna skinned milk powder with ISI mark, Warna pure Ghee, Warana Shrikhand and Warana lassi. This Sang has 12,150 members in the year 1990. Daily milk collection average is 86,983 litres. Warana milk Sangh sends milk and milk products to Western Maharashtra, Konkan, Bombay, some parts of Marathwada, Goa and North Karnataka. Sangh has its own 5 sales centres at Bombay, 5 centres at Kolhapur and five at Ichalkaranji. Besides this they appointed so many agents for the purpose of selling milk and milk products on daily basis. The employees of Warna milk sang have founded some co-operative societies for the fulfillment of their own needs.

4.1 AMRUT SEVAKA SAHAKARI SANSTHA AMRUTNAGAR:

It is founded for the fulfillment of the needs of Warana milk Sangh's servants. Annual turn over of this Sanstha is Rs. 2,25,00,000/-. 

4.2 SAVITRI MAHILA AUDHAGIK SAHAKARI SANSTHA AMRUTNAGAR:

This Sanstha is established by the ladies members of Servants of Warana Milk Sangh. Sanstha produces plastic shrikhand cups, spoons, polythene bags etc. The Annual turnover is Rs.55,00,000/- in the years 1990.

4.3 AMRUT KAMGAR KALYAN MANDAL AMRUTNAGAR:

This mandal was established by servants of Warna milk Sangh. Programmes like to give financial help to the concerned family of
dead servant of Warana milk sangh. Blood donation are carried on by this mandal every year.

Kore, Dinkar Anna, from village Kodoli, taluka Panhala is acting as president of this sangh at present, Madhuswami J.C., M.L.A. and Chairman, Karnatak Milk federation has remarked about the work of the Sangh in the following words, "Sangh has developed rural area and become an example of ideal model."

5. SHRI WARANA VIBHAGA SATKARYA SAVARDHAK MANDAL, WARANANAGAR (1969).

Shri Warana Vibhaga Satkarya Savardhak Mandal was established on June 11, 1969 under the guidance of Tatyasaheb Kore. The aim of this mandal is to make all round development of the people living in Warana area. The commanding area of this mandal is 64 villages situated in Kolhapur and Sangli districts. The funds were raised from the farmers of this area who supply sugarcane to this factory.

In the beginning works like irrigation schemes, land development schemes, technical help to the farmers for loan sanctioning, establishment of monastery, opening of rural libraries, adult education are taken down by the mandal and completed successfully. Rs.6,50,000/- were given by this mandal to the farmers for the digging of wells and for the purchase of pipes and pump sets. This mandal has played an important role in implementation of Savarde and Latawade irrigation schemes. Talsandhe, Pargaon irrigation schemes were also implemented by this mandal. This scheme benefited to 200 farmers. In education field 54 Montessories (Balwadi) were run by this mandal at
various villages situated in Kolhapur and Sangli district. Shri Warana Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana has sanctioned grant of Rs. 2,70,000/- in the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 for these Montessories.⁵³

Besides this for the intellectual development of the people in surrounding areas 29 rural libraries are started by this mandal in the villages situated in Kolhapur and Sangli districts. Shri Warna Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana has sanctioned grant of Rs. 28,500/- in the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 for these libraries. Gulavani S.A. from Talsande, taluka Hatkanangle is the president of this mandal upto 1990.

TATYASAHEB KORE & EDUCATION:

Knowledge is power. The Warana area was backward in education before 1949. Therefore he established educational institutions in Warana area. For the cultural change of Warana area Shri Warana Vibhaga Shikshan Mandal was founded on June 26, 1964. The work of this educational institution was started by the hands of Late Dr. Bhyange B.S., Ex.Vice Chancellor, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.⁵⁴ on the same day. The educational facilities provided by this institution is as follows:

1. SHRI WARANA MAHAVIDYALAYA WARANANAGAR: (1964)

Warana Mahavidyalaya is a first offshoot of this educational institution. It is started form June 1964 with 150 students only.⁵⁵ Today it has become one of the well established and leading college in Shivaji University. After ten years in 1974 students strength was 970. Teaching staff was 45 and non teaching staff was 50. In the year 1990 students strength was 1790 and
teaching staff was 91 and the non teaching staff was 60. Educational facilities of Arts, science, commerce and vocational are made available in this college. College has its own huge and attractive building which was newly constructed in the year 1984. Rs. 16 lakhs were expended by the institution on this building. Besides this, hostel facilities are provided for 600 students in new hostel building. Teachers are accommodated in the quarters especially built for them by the institution. This college was renamed in 1990 as Yashvantrao Chavan Warana Mahavidyalaya, Warnanagar.

College has a separate building for library purpose construction of this building was completed in the year 1989 with financial assistance from the University Grant Commission, New Delhi. The total cost of this building is Rs.11 lakhs.

Shinde M.R., librarian of this college has maintained this library in a very good manner. In this library the total number of books are 32,583 and total cost of the books is Rs.7,30,986.92. Number of periodicals are as follows:

Weekly : 08
Fortnightly : 38
Bimonthly : 01
Quarterly : 18
Half yearly : 04
Yearly : 01

Newspapers:
Marathi : 05
English : 02
Many students of this college popularised their college name by their academic record. All India Vice Chancellor's conference was held in Shivaji University, Kolhapur in the year 1972, and all the Vice Chancellors form India paid a visit to Warna at the request of Tatyasaheb Kore. They were very much pleased after seeing this rural college. All the visitors expressed satisfaction.  

2. SHRI WARANA SHISHUVIHAR, WARANANAGAR (1966).
Shri Warana Shishuvihar was started from June 1966. In the beginning 95 children were admitted in this school. In 1990 the strength increased to 150. This school has its own magnificent building.  

Shri Warna Vidya Mandir is established in the year 1969. In the beginning students strength was only 154. But it increased gradually and 605 students were admitted in this school in 1990. Special efforts were made for deserving students who are appearing for IVth standard scholarship examination.
Total 24 students have passed the examination and received scholarships from the year 1978 to 1983. Many important persons visited this school and remarked about the educational work of this school. Shri Choudhari, Madhukarrao, Ex-Minister of Education, Maharashtra state has remarked in the following words, "The success of this school has been the result of the efforts of teachers and directors of the school." Shri Patil B.R. a educationalist and director of Education, Maharashtra state, has
remarked, "The school has played an important role in the development of students."  

4. **SHRI WARNA VIDYALAYA, WARANANAGAR: (1969)**

Shri Warana Vidyalaya was established in June 1969 by the institution. It was started with 130 students only in the beginning. Khochikar V.S. was the Head Master of this school in the beginning. At present, this is one of the ideal residential school in the Kolhapur district. In the year 1990 student strength went up to 765 with 282 ladies students. This school has its own attractive building. The first hostel of this school was constructed in the year 1981 and the second was in the year 1982. Total 234 students are accommodated in these two hostels. The following students received national merit scholarship on their result of secondary school certificate.


Besides this, the following students learning in this school from the year 1977 to 1982 have passed the VII standard scholarship examination and received the scholarship.


Besides this, Joshi Abhua Bindumadhava in the year 1978 stood 15th in the merit list and Chougule, Anupama Dhanpal in the year 1983 stood 17th in the merit list of Poona Division at Secondary school certificate, examination taken by the Poona Board, Poona.\(^66\)

This indicates the educational quality of this school.

5. SHRI WARANA BAL-VADYA-VRUNDA, WARNANAGAR. (1969)

This is one of the new and unique experiment made by Shri Warna Vibhaga Shikshan Mandal, which stood successful and popularised the name of Warna throughout the world. It was established in the year 1969.\(^67\)

In this *Bal-vadya-vrunda*, children belonging to the age group 4-11 were admitted. They had no tuition fee. Shri Kulkarni, Shankarrao, a popular music director, is a music teacher of these students. Rs. 50 thousand were expended for the purchase of music instruments. The programmes of the *Bal-vadya-vrunda*, were broadcast and telecast on All India Radio and Television many times. It performed its programmes at many places in India and abroad also. It took part in music competition held at Sibenick in Yugoslavia and stood first in the competition.\(^68\) Besides the music, departments of dancing and singing are started by the institution. Many great personalities have expressed their satisfaction about the *Bal-vadya-vrunda*. Shri Jitendra Abhisheki,
popular name in music world, visited Warananagar. He remarked, "I travelled throughout the world, saw many musicians, saw many music institutions, saw many music programmes but I never saw or heard any programme like Warana Bal-vadya-vrunda, in the world." Madgulkar G.D., a great poet of Maharashtra, has remarked, "If only I was a small child.." Deshpande P.L. has said, "I would have considered myself blessed if I was born in Warananagar and had undergone education in music here."


Under the guidance of Tatyasaheb Kore this institution was founded on August 5th 1983. In the beginning 80 students were admitted for 4 trades. In the year 1990 totally 143 students were admitted for 11 trades. 17 teachers and 6 non-teaching staff are working in this institution. This institution has its own workshop and library.


This institution was founded on September 5th, 1983 under the guidance of Tatyasaheb Kore, with the aim of making Engineering and Technical education available to the students of Wanriia area. They demanded courses like construction Engineering and management, chemical engineering, electronics, dairy technology and paper technology are started by the institution. This institution has a proposal to start additional new courses, viz, B.E. (Biochemical Engineering) B.E. (Mechanical Engineering) M.E. (Chemical Engineering) and M.S. (Consultancy). In the year
1990 total 656 students were admitted for different courses. At present 883 students have been admitted to degree classes from F.E. to B.E. in all branches. This institution has its own huge, attractive and separate building. Library is housed in a spacious hall situated on the first floor of old college building having a large number of text books, reference books and books on general interest. In the library, at present there are 13,000 books. Institution has subscription for 81 journals and 10 dailies out of which 6 are foreign technical journals, 49 are Indian technical journals and 32 are Indian general magazines.

Institution has provided hostel facilities also for the students. There is a new building for this purpose. In a very short period it has become popular as one of the well established institution. At present Santpure (Dr.) S.S. is the principal of this college.


To promote the facility of experience to the I.T.I. passed students, this centre was established in the year 1984 under the guidance of Tatyasaheb Kore. Production of furniture and repairs of electric pumps are the main jobs of this centre. In 1990 furniture of Rs.20 lakhs was sold by the centre. It is the first experiment in Maharashtra introduced by Warna Vibhaga Shikshan Mandal, Warananagar. At present Padavl D.T. is the principal of this centre. The brain of Tatyasaheb Kore was behind all the above mentioned educational and co-operative institutions.
Tatyasaheb Kore passed away in 1994. He is regarded as the architect of Warna area. He played an important role in co-operative, social and educational field, which has led to the all round socio-economic development of the people of all the communities not only Lingayat people in the surrounding area of Warana. He infused a new vigour and spirit in the life of common man of Warana area.

4. SHRI S.B. SANKANWADE PATIL (1920 UP TO DATE)

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Another important man who has been devoting his whole life for the spread of the tenets of philosophy of Lingayats is Shri Sankanwade Patil. He was born on Monday 19, January, 1920 in Valaki Taluka Chikodi, dist. Belgaum. He received his education in Valaki, Pattankudi, Nipani and Bombay. He obtained the degree of textile technical diploma and served in Bombay and Kolhapur on the post of weaving master, from last 25 years. He is working as editor of Dnyanprasad, magazine which is published from Kolhapur at present. BIRTH OF DNYANPRASAD: In 1954 Akhil Bharatiya Veerashaiva Sangh was founded under the presidentship of Ex.Minister and leader of Congress, late M.P.Patil. He with the help of Shri B.D.Jatti, Ex.Vice President of India, late S.R.Kanthis, late Dr. Pavate, late Judge M.S.Patil, Dr.Nandi math and Shri P.D.Palkandwar registered the association in Bombay. In beginning Veerashaiva magazine was started by this association. But in 1956, linguistic states came in to existence on account of this the leaders of this association went to Karnataka as a minister. After two years the magazine came to an end. To start
the Veerashaiva magazine once again Shri S.B. Sankanwade made hard efforts and continued the magazine for some years. At that time he was in service in James Finale Mill at Bombay as a textile officer and Joint secretary of Akhil Bharatiya Veerashaiva Sangh and one of the writer of magazine. But subsequently due to financial difficulties the publication of this magazine ceased. Later on, in 1959 Shri Sankanwade arrived in Kolhapur for permanent staying and assumed the duty of weaving master in Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Mill, Kolhapur. By the blessing of Late Shri Nirvan Rudra Pasupati Swamiji, he started the new weekly 'Divvyaprasad' in 1960. Next year in 1961 meeting was held between Shri D.B. Ratnappanna Kumbhar, Late Shri M.P. Patil and Shri S.B. Sankanwade and decided to start the 'Dnyanprasad' magazine from Kolhapur regularly. Thus the birth of 'Dnyanprasad' magazine took place. The founder members and editor committee is as follows:

1. Late M.P. Patil.
2. Shri Ratnappanna Kumbhar.
3. Shri S.B. Sankanwade Patil.

After passing away of M.P. Patil in 1971, the whole responsibility of editing Dnyanprasad magazine fell on the shoulders of Shri S.B. Sankanwade. He carried out this responsibility successfully. Through the writing of 'Dnyanprasad' magazine he has been preaching the Lingayat philosophy among the Lingayat community in Kolhapur and surrounding area. Since August 1977 to October/November 1977 he wrote a series of articles on 'Veerashaiva Dharma.' He devoted last 24 years for this mission.
and because of this at present circulation of 'Dnyanprasad' is increasing day by day.

The issues of this magazine reach all over India from Kanyakumari to the Himalayas and the Arabian sea to Bay of Bengal. At present 'Dnyanprasad' not only goes in India but also it goes in Europe, Asia and America. At present 2000 copies printed monthly of 'Dnyanprasad' magazine.

PUBLICATION OF BOOKS:

Sankanwade is not only running the magazine but also wrote some following independent books on Lingayat religion and published by Akhil Bharatiya Veerashaiva Sangh. With this help S.B. Sankanwade published the following books:

1. Lilavishvambhar alias Prabhulinglile (Marathi) (1965)
3. Basava Natak Charittra Male Housbelku (Kannada) (1967)
5. Sidhantsikhamani, (Marathi) (1975)
6. Akkamahadevi Charitra (Marathi) (1975)
8. Geet Basaveshvar (Marathi) (1985)

Now he is engaged in writing the biography of Dr. B.D. Jatti, ex-Vice President of India. Veerashaiva Dnyankosh which will be published soon. This mission of S.B. Sankanwade under the name of Sangh is useful to all the society and also welfare of the country. He is a prolific writer and propagator of Lingayat philosophy.
PROPAGATION OF LINGAYAT RELIGION:

To reach the life and teaching of lord Basaveshvara upto the common man he exerted utmost efforts. In 1965 Akhil Bharatiya Veerashaiva Sangh performed the drama 'Mahatma Basaveshvar'. This drama was performed successfully in Keshvarao Bhosale theatre, Kolhapur. Famous literary writer Acharya Atre was the president, and the drama was accomplished in the presence and with the blessings of Balasaheb Kharade, S.B.Sankanwade played an important role in organising and performing this play.

RELIGIOUS DISCOURSES:

There is an important place given to religious discourses in religious field. But at present the popularity of religious discourses is lessening day by day. This is the fact. On behalf of Akhil Bharatiya Veerashaiva Sangh Shri S.B.Sankanwade continued this mission continuously from beginning. He not only speaks Marathi, Sanskrit, Hindi, Kannada and English but has command over all these languages. At present religious discourses which are based on religious, cultural and historical information are delivered by him from village to village. At present he is 82 years old and devoted all his time for spreading Lingayat philosophy. He is the authority on Lingayat philosophy.

5. SHANKAR BABAJI PATIL (1926 TO 1994).

Shankar Babaji Patil was one of the noteworthy persons in the Lingayat community in Kolhapur district. He devoted his whole life for creation of literature. He was popular among the people as a rural story writer.
He was born in the village Pattankodoli, Taluka: Hatkanangle Dist: Kolhapur on August 8, 1926. He completed his education at Pattankodoli, Tarda1, Gadhinglaj and Kolhapur in the Kolhapur district. After completing his education at B.A., B.T. level, he acted as a head master at Sangli High School, Sangli for some years. In 1957 he was appointed at the All India Radio Pune. Here he started and broadcast a new programme namely "Nabhovani Shetkari Mandal" which became popular among the farmers in the Maharashtra. Shankar Patil was the President of 59th Marathi Sahitya Sammelan held at Nanded, district Nanded in 1985. His contribution in the field of literature was as follows:

STORIES:

15. Shriganesha.

NOVELS:
1. Tarfula.
2. Shapit Vastu (Translation).

VAGHANATYA
2. Lavangi Mirachi Kolhapurchi.
4. Hikmati Hitler.

LALITA LEKHA:
Pavulavata.

Besides this, he wrote many stories for cinema. Among them the state prizes earned cinema's were as follows:
1. Vavtal.
2. Yuge Yuge me vat Pahili.
4. Ek Gav Bara Bhangadi.
5. Ganghaulan.
7. Dongarchi maina.
10. Hi Nar rup Sundari.
11. Ashicha Ek ratra Yete.
12. Pinjra.
15. Asia Navara Nakoga bai.
17. Sushila.
18. Pahuni.
19. Laxmi.
22. Duniya Kari Salaam.
23. Savat.
24. Galli te Delhi
25. Don bayaka fajiti aika.
27. Are sansar sansar.
28. Choravar Mor.
29. Farari.
30. Aai.
31. Totya Amdar.
32. Chandala Chowkadi.
33. Pacha rangachi pach pakhare.
34. Kulswamini Ambabai.
35. Tadjod.
36. Vahini.

This is an unique literary personality that was produced by Lingayat community in Kolhapur district. His stories, novels, cinema stories generally depicted the real culture of countryside that prevailed in Maharashtra.
6. **SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR DEVARU: (1938 - UP TO DATE)**

Karnataka Rambhapuri Ptithas Chitradurg matha in Kolhapur is a branch matha. Shri Chandrashekhar Devaru is the Mathadipati of this matha. He is the third mathadhipati of this matha. He was born in the village Belanki in district Sangli, taluka: Miraj on 12th July 1938. His mother's name is Nillamma and she is the sister of shri Gurushant Swami who is the Guru of Shri Chandrashekhar Davaru. His father's name is Virupaksh Hiremath.

Shri Chandrashekhar Swami has a command over Marathi, Kannada, Sanskrit and English languages. He took his Kannada and Marathi education upto VIIIth standard in Belanki and had passed matriculation and learnt Sanskrit in the part of Mysore, in Sanskrit 'vaidic pathashaala', Titpur. Then he left for Kashi to take higher education. He spent thirteen years in Shri Jaydev Jagadguru Hostel. There he obtained his M.A. Degree in Hindi and Sanskrit. After completing his education, he returned to his native place. He worked as professor of Hindi and Sanskrit in Sangli, Jaysingpur and Ratnagiri. Then he was appointed as a Mathadhipati of Chitradurga Matha, Kolhapur in 1980. Mathas are the centres for meditation and culture and religion, they must be aloof from luxury merry making and material pleasures. Shri Chandrashekhar Davaru strove hard to keep up the heritage and tradition of the Matha in the field of religion. Chitradurga matha celebrates religious programmes such as Shravanmas, Mahashivaratri and birthdays of Prabhudev Akkamahadevi, Shri Jaydev Jagadguru, Basavjayanti. He also organised religious, cultural and social programmes, lectures, public lingpuja,
prayers and prasad etc. in this matha. Matha is not only the seat of his activities but he travels from village to village for preaching religion.

He celebrated the birth centenary of Shri Jagadguru Jaydev Murudhrajendra Mahaswami and organised Shivanbhav camp from 21st May to 29th May 1981. On this occasion following famous religious personalities were present. Shri Mudhol Mruttyanjay Mahaswami Kirit Matha Solapur, Shri Ashok Devaru, Virakta Matha, Miraj, Shri Basavaraj Shastri Hiremath of Solapur, Shri Mallikarjun Swami, Adi Matha, Shri Nilkanth Shivacharya of Kupwad etc. Veerashaiva in Kolhapur and its surroundings had a golden opportunity to listen to the lectures of above noble persons right from the establishment of Chitradurga matha (1906) it occupied important position and the Mathadhipati is honoured, respectfully by all Lingayat community in Kolhapur city as well as district.

The role of Mathadhipati is to generate religious feeling among new generation, which is largely influenced by materialist happiness and neglected the spiritual happiness of the soul.

Besides this some Lingayat persons have done notable work in connection with political and social field. Dr. S.S. Ghali of Gadlinglaj, Tal. Gadlinglaj was one of them. He was born in the year 1921. He was Doctor by profession. After completing the medical education, he spent some years in the beginning of his career in Government service. Then he started his own profession in 1956. He took keen interest in social work. He was the president of Gadlinglaj Municipality, district Kolhapur for 22
years from 1960 to 1981. He was elected twice as MLA from Gadhinglaj Taluka, district Kolhapur. He was selected a senate member of Shivaji University, Kolhapur in the year 1963. He worked as director of Gadhinglaj Urban Co-operative bank Ltd. Gadhinglaj. He worked in education also. The educational institution, namely Vidya Prasaraka Mandal, Gadhinglaj was established by him in 1964. He worked as founder president of this sanstha for some years. Today, this educational institution became popular. Jagriti Balwadi, Jagrati Prathrana Vidyamandir, Parvati Highschool at Auranal, S.D.Highschool at Mutanal, Jagrati Highschool at Gadhinglaj, Jagrati Jr. and Sr. College, Jagrati B.Ed. College were run by this sanstha. Today Ratnamala Ghali, wife of Dr. S.S. Ghali is working as president of this sanstha. Dr. S.S. Ghali become director of Shri Veerashaiva Co-op. Bank Ltd., Kolhapur from 1958. His efforts were responsible for the establishing of Veerashaiva bank's branches at Gadhinglaj and Halkarni. Today, these two branches of Veerashaiva bank got sound economic position and became popular in surrounding area. He died in 1987. Besides, above important personalities there are other persons, who did a lot for the progress of community as well as other sections of the society. It is injustice if we did not mention their names. Shankarrao Appaji Patil - Chandurkar was one of the important person of Lingayat community of Kolhapur district. Chandur, tal. Hatkanangle, dist Kolhapur was his native place. He worked in political and social field. As political field is concerned, he was freedom fighter. His work in co-operative field is noteworthy. He worked as a president of
Kolhapur Janata Consumers Stores Kolhapur. His efforts were responsible for the progress of this Sanstha. He worked as Director and Vice President of Kolhapur District Central Co-op. Bank Ltd., Kolhapur. He worked at state level also. He worked as director of Maharashtra State Co-op Consumers Federation Bombay and Maharashtra state Sahakari Bank Bombay. He worked as a president of Shri Veerashaiva Co-op. Bank Ltd. Kolhapur from 1965 to 1981. He made hard efforts for the progress of this bank in his 15 years of service. The branches at Rendal, Ichalkaranji, Shahu Market Yard, Halkarni and Rashivade of Veerashaiva Bank were established in his period.

Besides this, many Lingayat leaders at district, taluka and village level are engaged in the social work which cause the progress and development of the community. Shri Patil, Appasaheb alias S.R. from Jambhali, Tal. Shirol, Dist, Kolhapur is working as a chairman of Shri Datta Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Ltd., Shirol, district Kolhapur. Shri Chougule, Mahadev Balappa of Kolhapur was working as president of Shree Veerashaiva Co-op. Bank Ltd., Kolhapur. Shri Sanghavadekar, Vasant is working as an editorial member of "Veerashaiva" magazine which is circulated from Poona city.

The representation of Lingayata community in the Maharashtra state Government is also seen to some extent, from Kolhapur district. At present Shri. D.B. Ratnappanna Kumbhar is a MLA from Shirol Taluka.

The Lingayat community has a pride to produced a galaxy of great persons, who rendered great service not only to their
community but to the whole society of India, and even played a very important role in the freedom movement of India. Their service to the community and nation will not be forgotten by the posterity in future.
REFERENCES:


7. Detailed account of this bank is given in the next chapter.


10. Ibid. p.9.


- 161 -


