CHAPTER VII

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SHIKSHAN PRASARAK
MANDAL, GAUDGAON
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SOLAPUR DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA)

1 Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Gaudgaon (Barsi) 1943

2 Shri Barshi Gorakshan Mandal, Barshi (Barshi) 1891
7.1 INTRODUCTION

The Solapur district is situated on the eastern border between Maharashtra and Karnataka States. It is known as the area of industrious and hard working people. It is famous for the birthplace of the well-known saints like Damaji, Saint Chokhamela, Saint Kanhopatra, Saint Sawata Mali etc. The history of Solapur district is well known for its freedom fighters, who became martyrs during the independence period of the country viz. Jaganath Shinde, Mallappa Dhanshetti, Kisan Sarada and Kurban Husen. Their names have been cut in gold in annals of Indian independence movement.

According to 1981 census, the population of the district was 26 lakh, out of which 13.44 lakh were males and 12.66 were females. The district consists of 11 Talukas. There are big Municipal cities like Solapur, Barshi, Pandharpur, Akalus, Sangola, Kurduwadi etc. The district has good transport and communication system of the roads, railways and airways. The national high-way viz. Pune-Hyderabad runs through this District and the district headquarter Solapur is the centre of Textile Mills.

The people mainly are the farmers. Their living is very simple. The major portion of the district is covered by hills and plateaux. The proportion of rainfall ranges between 10 to 15 inches. The area is made fertile by the well known rivers like the Bhima, the Nira, the Man, the Senna, the Bora, the Naggari, the Bhogawati etc. The climate of the district is somewhat dry and mixed. The main crop of this district is Jawar. The high quality of Jawar has made the district famous as the "Barn of Jawar."
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It is seen from the Directories of Voluntary Organisations and varied information received from different quarters that the voluntary organisations in the district are eleven. We sent the questionnaire to all these eleven voluntary organisations which are working in rural area. Only two of them responded to us. These are 11 Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Gaudgaon and 21 Shri Barshi Gorakshan Mandal Barshi. Both are important. We found convenient to select Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal (SSSPM) at Gaudgaon in Barshi taluka of Solapur district.

7.2 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF GAUDGAON

Gaudgaon is a very small village in Solapur district. It stands on the border of both Solapur and Osmanabad District. Although it is a small village, the progress done during the last four decade has attracted the attention of many scholars and researchers. Before 25 years, it was a neglected village but it has gained importance due to outstanding work done by the noble soul Late Shri Lohokare Guruji.

Gaudgaon stands on the Barshi-Tuljapur Road. It is 30 K.Ms. from Barshi, 15 K.Ms. from Tulajapur and 60 K.Ms. from Solapur. The nearest Railway station is Barshi. Now a days the village is full of buildings, Govt. Rest House, Bank Offices, wind-mills etc., which show that the village has been progressing by leaps and bounds.

As the area is drought-prone, there is a scarcity of water throughout the year. The only thing available in abundance is "the wind". The proportion of monsoon rainfall is not more than 15 to 20 inches. The climate is very dry the temperature is 45° C in summer and 35° C in winter.

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According to 1981 census, the population of this village was 2755 of them, 1495 males and 1260 females. Recently, the population has shot-up to 3500. There are 60 families belonging to backward community with the population 210. The majority of people belong to Maratha community and the rest of them are Moslem, Brahmin etc.

Gaudgaon is surrounded by small villages such as Zeregao (6 K.M.), Nimblak (6 K.M.), Mungashi (6 K.M.), Upale (8 K.M.). Within the radius of 8 K.M. where the SSSPM has implemented its activities very effectively. As well as the villages like Malegaon, Rui, Jawalgaon, Bhalgaon, Raulgaon, Sangamner, Katri, Surdi and Chilwadi etc. are within the radius of 15 K.M. These villages are also closely related to Gaudgaon. They come within the area of operation of SSSPM which has become a Central place of progress and development.

The rivers i.e. the Nagzari and the Bhogavati flow nearly 8 K.M. and 3 K.M. respectively from this village in this area. But they had been of little use to this area. Most of the villages have been supplied water with the help of tankers. And Gaudgaon has been supplied water by putting 3 K.M. long pipelines from Chilwadi.

The revenue area of Gaudgaon is nearly 1981 he. Out of which 1566 he. have been brought under cultivation. The rest of land nearly 115 he. is fallow. There is hardly any land covered by forest. There is no irrigation system and the most of water supplied to the crops is from the wells. The main crops in this area are groundnuts, Jawar, Sun-flower, Maize, Grams, Sali, Tur, and at some places sugarcane, lemon, grapes, guava, etc.
Besides these, vegetables are grown on the seasonal basis to some extent. The nearby cities like Solapur, Barshi, Vairag are the market places for these agricultural produce. There are 478 households and the number of landlords is nearly 40 and nearly 90 families are landless.

Gaudgaon is a traditionally religious village. It has four temples. The village has a primary school, Secondary school, I.T.I. and the hostel for the student. There are 35 teacher families in the village. In spite of all these facilities, the proportion of literacy is not more than 45 percent. The class of Bara Balutedars is also bigger in the population. The village has 11 hotels, 6 kirana shops, 9 laundries, 3 tailoring shops, 3 barber shops, 6 carpenters, 3 blacksmiths, one potter, one cloth shop, one readymade cloth-shop, one utensil shop, 2 Govt. fair price grain shops, one dairy society and one country liquor shop also.

The village has one veterinary hospital and a primary Health Centre which is in progress. The medical and health facilities are made available to these surrounding villages by the Christ Seva Mandir. The village has one private oil mill and one on the co-operative basis but both them are defunct now. The Bhogawati Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana is situated at Vairag, a semi-town nearly 25 K.M. away from Gaudgaon. The village has a number of farmers, workers and labourers. The migration of labour has been stopped due to the rapid development of this area in recent years. The Benar Scheme has also been implemented in this village. Monday is a bazar-day for the public and also for cattle and as such a number of surrounding villagers crowd at Gaudgaon for marketing.
VILLAGES COMING UNDER THE PROJECT
(SITUATED IN BARSİ, OSMANABAD AND TULAJAPUR TALUKAS)
PROPOSED BY SHRI SHIVAJI SHIKSHAN PRASARAK MANDAL,
GAUDGAON,
TALUKA: BARSİ, DISTRICT: SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA,
INDIA.
The Indian history tells that whenever the people are troubled, tortured and tormented either physically or spiritually, it is said that a great man is born to try and struggle to get the people rid of all these calamities and pave the way for their progress, development and glory. One such great man was born in this area who tried all possible efforts and left no stone unturned for the development of this area. This great personality was Shri Janardan Ghanshyan Lohokars popularly known as 'Lohokare Guruji'.

Guruji was born in a poor family. He had his education in difficult circumstances up to vernacular final (V.F.) and he imparted education as a teacher to the people till 1956. Then onward he dedicated his life for the service of society. It was in 1939, that he was transferred to Gaudgaon as a primary school teacher. At that time, the village was really backward in the true sense of term. The village was totally under the control of plague epidemic. The village was deserted by the people. The people were staying in the farm-huts. There were partitions and quarrels among them. The majority of people were addicted to drinking. These circumstances had made the condition of primary school very pitiable. The classes from I to III had only one teacher with students strength of 27 only. The school was housed in a old building. The proportion of literacy was zero because there were only 12 literate people out of 1200, the population of village.

Guruji had thought of the problem. He was restlessly thinking for getting solutions to it. He started a school under a tree and imparted education. He convinced the people of the need of
education, for the development and progress through the sermon, adult education, collective discussion, etc. This made a great impact on the minds of the people. The strength of the school increased from day by day. The students from surrounding villages attended the school. And it was out of this that the Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal (SSSPM) was born on 9th August 1943.

The Guruji made the facility of education till V. F. (VIII), but problem of staying and halting became acute. The students from surrounding villages were badly in need of hostel. It was difficult task but Guruji was a man of strong will. He found out a way by collecting the contribution of Rs. 200 from each of friends and made provision for ten students for their lodging and boarding initially. This boarding was started in a small hut. In the harvest season the Guruji along with their students went from farm to farm and collected grains for the boarding. The people gave an inspiration and response to the efforts of Guruji. And in this way the first branch of SSSPM i.e. Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Boarding was opened in 1954. Up to 1950 the boarding was run out of the contribution made by the villagers. After 1951, it was recognised by the Govt. and it started getting grants regularly from Govt.

Now a days, Gaudgaon has a big complex of tall and spacious buildings erected during the last 25 years by SSSPM. More than 50 percent contribution to this work was made by the villagers by way of their labour and money. The credit of this tremendous work goes to Guruji.
The work of SSSPM is wide spread and many sided. In fact, it is a multipurpose Voluntary Organisation covering education, agriculture, socio-economic, and health services. After the passing away of Guruji on 12th August, 1989, his thoughts and ideas were to be brought in practice. So Guruji's co-workers like Daji, Dada, Appa and Bappa came forward and shouldered the responsibility of running the institute with the same spirit and speed.

7.4 INSPIRATION FROM SOCIAL REFORMS

The Indian Society was dipped in poverty, ignorance, tradition and superstition. The great social reformer like Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Rajashree Shahu Maharaj, Mahrshi Shinde and Karmveer Bhaurao Patil found out a solution to this social problem and provided education to these downtrodden sections of society. Lohokare Guruji got inspiration from these stalwarts. He attended the lectures of Gandhiji, Pandit Nehru and Sane Guruji during the independence movement. He was in close touch with Shahir Nikam, Krantisinh Nana Patil and was spiritually guided by modern national saints like Gadge Maharaj and Tanpure Maharaj. This made a great impact on the active mind of Lohokare Guruji who brought all the ideal ideas into practice through his SSSPM. Once in 1952, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil paid a visit to this Sanstha and was highly impressed by the constructive work in the rural area done by Guruji. Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil proudly said *a branch of my work is planted here by Lohokare Guruji on the barren land of Gaudgaon and I strongly desire to see it ever growing.*

* Daji - Shrirang Gunde Kakade
* Dada - Manikrao Ganapatrao Gardad
* Appa - Indrasen Ganapatrao Bhad
* Bappa - Vinayakrao Ganapatrao Garada
7.5 ACTIVITIES OF SSSPM

7.5.1 Educational Activities

7.5.1.1 Multi-purpose Adarsh New English School, Gaudgaon:
In 1950, a secondary school was opened for both boys and girls. Both of them were accommodated in the boarding. No fees were charged, hence it was known as "Free and Residential School." In 1956, this secondary school was transformed into a multi-purpose high school. The students admitted to school were the children of farmers staying in surrounding rural area. Taking into account the rural background the subjects like Tillage and soil Management and Crops and Animal Husbandry ... were introduced. From 1982 another Technical-Wing was also opened.

Today the school has 14 classes i.e. from standard V to X with the student strength of 754, in which there are 190 girls and 264 students from Backward community. The School has 22 teachers. The results of the school were quite good and they have been always more than 65 percent.

7.5.1.2 Karmveer Bhaurao Patil Vidyalay, Chikharde:
A new branch of SSSPM named Karmveer Bhaurao Patil Vidyalaya was opened at Chikharde. This branch has its own school building having ten class-rooms and std. V to X classes. The school owns nearly 42 acres of land purchased at nominal price out of the contribution made by the public. Agriculture was the new subject taught in this school. The villagers had a lion's share in
development of the school. The school has 280 students in which there are 95 girls, 35 students from backward community and 10 teachers. The results of the school are satisfactory. A boarding after the name of Gurudev Ravindranath Tagore was started for the accommodation of the students. But now this boarding is closed.

7.5.1.3 Lokseva Vidyalay, Shripat-Pimpari:

Another secondary school named Lokseva Vidyalay was opened at Shripat-Pimpari in 1969. It is 40 K.M. away from Gaudgaon. The school has six classes from Std. V to X. It has 350 students in which there are 98 girls and 50 students from backward community. The school has its own building and only the subjects of curriculum are taught.

7.5.1.4 Ramgiri idyalay, Jawalgaon

Jawalgaon is a small village 11 K.M. away from Gaudgaon. SSSPM started a new secondary school here in 1969. The school has its own building of 5 rooms and it has also 3 acres of land. The villagers contributed a lot by way of labour and money for the erection of building. Students from the surrounding villages come to the school. The school has 210 students in which there are 65 girls and 21 students from backward community. There are 9 teachers in the school but the result of the school are far from satisfactory.

All the aforesaid four schools are recognised by the Govt. and they are grantable. They have their own lands and buildings and other essential amenities like library, laboratory and grounds etc.
7.5.1.5 Pandit Nehru Balak Mandir, Gaudgaon:

The real education starts from childhood. From this point of view a K.G. (Balak-Mandir) was started at Gaudgaon. The Balwadi is named after Pandit Nehru. Generally in rural area the parents of children run after their livelihood. As a result these infants are neglected and not maintained and brought up in a way they should be. This affected badly on their minds. With this view, SSSPM opened this balak-mandir. This Sanstha incurred expenditure on its development but in 1988 it was handed over to Zilla-paraishad. Now a days more than 100 children are taking education in this Balak-Mandir.

7.5.1.6 Panchayat Raj Training Centre, Gaudgaon

The Govt. of India adopted the policy of decentralisation. The SSSPM took the inspiration and started Panchayat Raj Training Centre in 1965. After this policy was adopted, the Maharashtra Govt. decentralised its power in three-tier-system i.e. Z.P. at district level, P.S. at Taluka level and Village Panchayat at grass-root level. Then this new administrative set-up required newly trained workers, servants, officers and representatives. This newly established centre started courses educating and training to all above sections. This centre runs two short term courses i) The first course is of seven days to the members. The members are trained in conducting meetings preparing budgets, passing the resolutions, framing the policies, implementing schemes
In the second course of three days the administrative training is imparted. It consists of the subjects like education, health, the area of operation and the minute details regarding each and everything required thing for the purpose. Throughout the year the seminars are organised as and when required. The centre has one principal, two professors and the required office staff.

The Centre is recognised by the Govt. on grants in aid. An amount of Rs. 10 lakhs is spent on the honorarium, lodging, boarding and travelling allowance of the participants of the seminars. A number of members of the village panchayat, Panchayat Samities, Zilla-Parishad's have been benefited by the training. Other required implements and materials are provided by SSSPM. Nearly 8000 members have been trained by this centre till today.

7.5.1.7 Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Boarding, Gaudgaon:

After the Secondary School was opened, a boarding was run out of the contribution made by the people. In 1951 it was recognised by the Govt. and from then onwards it has been getting grants. The boarding admits both the B.C., O.B.C., & Non-B.C. Students. All of them stay, work and eat together.

This boarding admits the students from 46 surrounding villages of ten talukas. They are admitted irrespective their caste, creed and religion. In June 1990, it had 183 students. They stay there free of
charge. The rooms are bigger in size and 10 to 15 students stay in a room. There is a separate building for mess. Everyday in the evening prayers are conducted. The Govt. grants are not sufficient for meeting the full expenditure of the boarding. SSSPM suffers a loss of 5 to 10 thousands of rupees and the extra expenditure is met from the income of the agriculture.

7.5.1.8  **Brahmanand Vidyarthi Ashram, Shripat-Pimpari**:
Along with the secondary school, the Brahmanand Vidyarthi Ashram was started at Shripat-Pimpari in 1969. The students coming from surrounding villages stay here. It has the accommodation of 50 students. The equipments and materials required by the Ashram are provided by the central office of the SSSPM.

7.5.1.9  **Vidyarthi Ashram, Jawalgaon**:
Vidyarthi Ashram Jawalgaon, was started for the students of Ramgiri Vidyalaya run by Sanstha. The ashram has an accommodation of 50 students. This area is known as hilly and remote area. The ashram has only 18 students at present.

In general, the students are admitted irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. Only nominal fees are charged from EBC students. The talented, scholar but poor students are admitted at gratis. Most of the expenditure is met out of the income from the agriculture of SSSPM.
It is out of the non-stop and ambitious efforts of Guruji that an Industrial Training Centre was started at Gaudgaon in 1984. The Govt. as well as National Council for Training in Vocational Trades, New Delhi have given their recognition to it. The centre has not received any grant from Govt. and hence it is run on no grant basis till today. The SSSPM spent nearly 16 lakhs of rupees for the erection of the centre, out of which Rs. 1.5 lakh were contributed by the servants of this Sanstha. Out of these funds the required implements, tools, equipments, materials were purchased and a number of building were erected.

Now a days, the following trades have been taught—fitter, welder, wireman, carpentry, draftsman (civil), draftsman (Mach.) Motor mechanical and building construction etc. There are 198 students being trained in the centre out of which 15 belong to backward communities. There are 33 Instructors and 17 administrative staff. Nearly, more than 500 students have completed their vocational training in this Centre.

Taking into account the widespread and all-round development and progress of SSSPM founded by Lohokare Guruji, it can be rightly said that the words uttered by Karmveer Bhaurao Patil regarding Lohokare Guruji have become true in the real sense of term. A sapling planted by Lohokare Guruji during the pre-independence
period has now expanded both horizontally and vertically into different branches imparting education, various types of trades and training.

7.5.2 Agricultural Development Programmes

SSSPM has in its possession nearly 485 acres of land at Gaudgaon and within the radius of 8 K.M. This land is divided at different places in the revenue areas of different villages.* Out of 465 acres, nearly 275 acres of land are under cultivation, 40 acres are under forest, 150 acres under gairan (Pasture) and out of the total lands only 100 acres are under seasonal irrigation.

SSSPM obtained this land in 1966 by spending 2 lakhs of rupees. The funds were mobilised through the contribution from individuals co-operatives, panchayat samities and from all the possible sources. The lands are utilised for new experiments in seeds, crops and variety of other things and also for giving demonstration to the farmers.

Six K.M. away from Gaudgaon, is a place called Rupadevi. SSSPM has 80 acres of land in the area of Rupadevi. This land is surrounded by a number of small and marginal farmers. There is a river called Bhogavati flowing nearby Zaregaon.

The SSSPM has dug a well (100' x 100') and laid a pipeline of 6000' long from Zaregaon Model Farm to Rupadevi. Nearly 30 small and marginal farmers having their lands in between on the either side of pipeline were benefited by the irrigation scheme.

* Nimblak, Katri, Jawalgaon, Zaregaon, Chikarde, Shripat-Pimpari, Rui, Upale.
The Sanstha obtained Rs. 5.5 lakh from the CAPART (New Delhi). The sanstha bore all the expenditure incurred on leveling and bunding of these lands and no individual farmer was required to spend a farthing on this.

SSSPM possesses 32 acres of land near Zaragaon, out of which 27 acres are under irrigation. Santha has developed horticulture of lemon and guava. There are also model seed farms. It has developed the mulberry trees required for sericulture. In addition to these, Chilli, Sun-flower, Soyabeen etc. are grown. It has obtained an income of Rs. 75 thousand to 1 lakh from this cultivation of land.

SSSPM owns the modern implements and machinery like tractor, truck, thrashing machine, sowing machine, spray pumps, duster etc. It has also maintained an animal live-stock like 18 bulls, 20 cows, 4 young bulls, 30 sheeps etc. SSSPM has implemented the following experiments and projects.

7.5.2.1 Krishi-Vidnyan Kendra, Gaudgaon:

Now a days India faces a great problem of unemployment, in rural area. The problem is becoming more and more serious day by day. Because of unemployment a number of man hours and days are spent in vain. Guruji took stock of this situation and implemented the project Krishi Bidnyan Kendra on the lands of Sanstha at Rupadevi. SSSPM purchased the required land for purpose and completed the work of leveling, bunding and fixed the electric pumps. SSSPM spent nearly 8 lakhs of rupees and brought 400 acres of land under irrigation and cultivation. After the establishment of
the required infrastructure the unemployed youths were requested to join the Krishi Vidnyan Kendra.

As per the plan, each individual was given a piece of two acres of land and he was asked to work on it. He required implements, materials, tools, seeds etc. were provided by the SSSPM. The accounts were maintained by the individuals. It was seen by the end of year after the harvest that the same individuals was able to earn nearly 700 to 2000 rupees per month. The individuals was allowed to make the use of his own skills and new techniques and ultra modern methods. They were much benefitted. SSSPM was successful in removing the educated unemployment to some extent temporarily. But unfortunately this experiment could not be continued and it had to be closed.

7.5.2.2 Wind-Mill Fabrication:

Energy is required for machines. Taking into account the shortage of sources of energy the experts are diverting to make use of the natural resources, such as wind, Solar heat, Sea-tides etc. for fuel. The SSSPM thought over this problem and implemented the project of wind-mill fabrication as a revolutionary technique, during 1976 to 1981. An American expert William W. Smith was requested to look into the matter and he implemented the scheme and number of windmills were erected in this area. The Gaudgaon area is like a flat table land. Furious winds blow at a fast speed over this area. The winds were used for running the wind-
mills for the work of fodder cutting and fetching the water.

The innovative efforts of William Smith created an atmosphere and happiness and satisfaction all over the area. The villagers try to understand the technique of windmills. After the successful attempt of windmills, it was decided to train the youths in this technique. Nearly 98 needy youths completed this course during the period of three months of course. During the course, the accommodation of lodging and boarding was given to the students in the boarding. The training of allied trades like carpentry and smithy was made available to them.

Windmills are a distinctive feature of Gaudgaon. There are nearly nine windmills erected in the area used for water fetching and fodder cutting. According to William Smith, "a small farmer can bring the material from nearby city and with the help of three assistant friends, he can erect the wind-mill within a month. A wind-mill with the diameter of 24 feet, is equivalent to 5 H.P. The expenditure spent on this is less and the recurring expenditure is also small.

After this successful attempt of erecting windmills and training the unemployed with skills, it was thought that the trained manpower could be use for the maintenance of them but unfortunately after the return of William Smith to his country, no windmills were erected. There was no demand from the farmers for the
The reason, according to the farmers was that a windmill cannot supply water to not more than 10 guntha's (R) everyday and hence it was not useful for the big farmers. So they did not demand it. As a result, the trained youths did not get an opportunity to test their knowledge. There was no follow up programme. The windmill was better than the traditional method. The financial help was needed for this but Bank did not take an initiative in this. It was the duty of SSSPM to find out one or the other way to help the farmers erect the windmills but it did not happen.

7.5.2.3 Goat and Sheep Project:

There are a number of allied and secondary occupations which can be done by common men to improve their standard of living. With this point of view, the SSSPM undertook the scheme of starting the Goat and Sheep project. In this area a number of farmers both small and big keep a flock of goats or sheeps as a secondary occupation and business to the farming. This business is on increase as the area is quite congenial for maintenance of goat and sheep. In this area the barren land is more and such type of land is very useful to these animals.

Local varieties of goats and sheeps are not profitable due to less milk, wool and weight. In this respect,
one of the veterinary doctors instructed Guruji to purchase best quality male and female goat for local breeding.

To help the goat keepers in this area SSSPM brought 20 male and 10 female Jamanapari goats from Chambal (M.P.). A central unit of 1 male & 10 female Jamanapari goats was kept on the farm of the institution, with view to keep the pure variety for future use. The remaining 19 Jamanapari male goats were distributed among the sheep keepers for crossbreeding the local variety. The local male goat weighs nearly 15 to 16 Kg. in one year, while the cross-bred one gives the weight of 25 Kg. The local variety gives no wool, while the cross bred gives very fine and superior quality of wool. Same is the case of milk.

On the same guidelines the sheep project was undertaken by SSSPM in 1982. Five farmers were given 20 sheep each with one Marino ram. The institution maintained one such farm for breeding the local sheep on its model farm. It also showed the fruitful results as above.

In 1988, SSSPM tried to help the farmers through the Govt. plans IRDP and CAPART. 10 sheep and one ram were allotted to one individual. CAPART offered Rs. 2000/- per individual for shed. In this way the SSSPM obtained an assistance of an amount of Rs. 2.38 lakh from Govt.
It is worth noting that there was "All India Live Stock Exhibition" held at Udgir in Maharashtra, the SSSPM sent one male and one female goat for participation in that exhibition and got the first prize for male and second prize for female. This project is well maintained even today.

7.5.2.4 **Intensive Agriculture Project**

Nowadays there is a good deal of research in agriculture but the experience tells that this research has not gone to the grass-root level of farmers. The SSSPM always keeps close contact with the experts and scientists working in this field. As a result, Sanstha has much progressed in seed farming crops and crop patterns. The SSSPM developed the Model Seed Farms producing the better varieties of Jawar, Maize, Sali, Sunflower, Jute & different types of vegetables. SSSPM has provided hybrid seeds to the Govt. and other private institutions as well. Other farmers followed the model seed farms of the sanstha and developed their own hybrid seed plots. All of them were benefitted by this. In addition to these, the SSSPM has also developed better hybrid varieties of grapes, pumpkin, pomegranate and guava etc.

7.5.2.5 **R.C.F. Krishi Seva Kendra**

With the initiative of Rashtriya Chemical Fertilizers (RCF), SSSPM has opened a new unit i.e. 'Krishi Seva Kendra' in 1988 to provide different fertilizers to the farmers. The required fertilizer were provided to
the farmers from R.C.F. branch at Solapur and its godown at Kurduwadi through this Krishi Seva Kendra. Today the centre supplies fertilizers like Ujwal Urea, Jaykisan, 15x15x15, 10x26x10x26, 19x19, Sardar Amonia Sulphet, super Phospet, D A P etc. on the 2 percent commission basis.

On an average, 100 bags of fertilizers are sold every month by the Centre. There are two servants in this centre. SSSPM has erected a big godown on its farm at Rupadevi. Sanstha spent nearly one lakh rupees on it. The RCF fertilizers are purchased on the credit basis by this centre. The Centre also gets the benefit of the subsidy from the Govt. More than 150 farmers have taken the benefit of this centre in 1990. The Centre has proved to be an asset for the development of farmers as well as area.

Taking into account all the above points, it is seen that SSSPM has done all possible efforts i.e. Wind-Mill fabrication, Krishi Vidnyan Kendra, goat and sheep project, intensive agriculture and RCF Krishi Seva Kendra etc. and allied projects for the development, improvement and betterment of the farmers and area as well.

7.5.3 Socio-Economic Development

Gaudgaon was facing a number of socio-economic problems. Lohokare Guruji understood these problems very well. He tried to find out the solution to these. Most of the families in the area of operation of SSSPM are below the poverty-line. These circumstances made Guruji to start some projects for the better
living of common man and woman in the society. Guruji used to say "Training is an important part of the man's life and it must become a major instrument for his income." From this point of view, the SSPM implemented the following projects.

7.5.3.1 National Training Centre for Women, Gaudgaon

The Centre was started with the help of Social Welfare Department, Govt. of India, in 1981-82. The scheme was undertaken to fulfill the following objects, (i) The women who could not complete their education should complete by it passing the required examination (ii) Women should be trained to depend on their own (iii) To help the needy and helpless women etc. The centre undertook the scheme of starting a course of secondary education for women who left their education in between. They were made to study and appear for the S.S.C. examination. Those who passed, were employed in the different departments of government. Only 5 out of the 20 could pass the examination and they got good services. Those who failed were encouraged for the training of tailoring and typing classes.

Under the scheme, 20 women were admitted. Among those 20 women, 3 were widows and 12 deserted by their husbands. The remaining 5 married. The only attraction for the women to join the course was the hope to become self dependent to the possible extent.

Another feature of this centre is that there are number of helpless women in society. They were given the training of weaving of woolen clothes. They were
supplied with the required machines. Now they are self-dependent and self-employed. Centre has tried to give a certain status to such helpless women in the society but today this scheme is closed for want of Govt. financial assistance.

7.5.3.2 Tailoring Unit:

SSSPM has recently undertaken a new impressive programme of tailoring and cutting. The main object of this training is to make the helpless women self-dependent. There are a number of needy, downtrodden and helpless women in society. This programme was launched with the help of financial assistance from OXFAM (Nagpur) and Bank of Maharashtra.

This course is of one year duration. Sanstha conducted this course for five years. Every year 25 women were admitted. The salient features of this programme are:

i) many of the participants have been deserted by their husbands leaving them in crippling dependence on parents or brothers,
ii) all of them come from poor families,
iii) women belong to different castes and religions,
iv) they opted to stay together.

This centre has 12 sewing machines. Out of them 8 are donated by OXFAM, 3 are purchased by SSSPM and one was presented by an industrialist. Bank of Maharashtra played an important role by giving machines to the needy women during the training period. The participant was given a separate new sewing machine during the period of first five months, on the basis of loan of
Rs. 825/- made available by the Bank of Maharashtra. In addition to this, the amount of Rs. 250 was given as subsidy. The SSSPM was the guarantor to all these loans. The next part of the programme was that the amount received from the sale of the ready-made clothes was given to the bank for the repayment of the loan installment. And that is why it was possible for every participant woman to repay the loan in full within the stipulated period of one year. The SSSPM has so far trained nearly 120 women in tailoring and cutting but today this programme is closed for want of financial assistance.

7.5.3.3 Carpentry and Blacksmithy:

The training programme in carpentry and blacksmithy was adopted from the TRYSEM scheme.* SSSPM with the help of this scheme decided to introduce jointly for the self-employment of rural youth surrounded by Gaudgaon. The need of rural area was taken into consideration and traditional methods of cultivation were to be improved with the help of new scientific methods. From this point view, SSSPM sponsored a six month course for youth in rural area. Nearly 25 students were admitted at a time. Both the courses had to be completed simultaneously within one year. Ultimately, it became an year long course. The trainees came from different

* TRYSEM: Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment. This programme is introduced as a part of IRDP. The objective is to improve the quality of manpower in the rural areas by imparting training skills in agriculture, allied activities and rural industries. Ref. Govt. of India. TRYSEM hand book published by Ministry of Rural Development. New Delhi - 1982.
castes, creeds and religious. The provision of lodging and boarding was made by the SSSPM. Besides this, the stipend of Rs. 150 was given to each trainee. After training the loans for self-employment were made to be available by KVIC.

As a matter of fact, these courses were not new in the rural area but Guruji tried to give a new turn to traditional method with the initiative of SSSPM. Four trained youths from Zeregaon were given Rs. 5000 each as a loan from the bank for their self-employment. Some of the students obtained loan from the IRDP scheme. But afterward SSSPM came to know the limitations of the course. Because it was not possible to make the loans available to all the students every time. The reason was that the markets were not available for the finished goods. Considering the various points the training was controlled and regulated. As a result only two students from each village were given admission to this course. Thus, the training became more and more impressive.

For this purpose of training the SSSPM invested an amount of Rs. 80 thousand in tools, machineries and equipments useful for welding and bending, drilling machine, air compressor and two lathes etc. The equipments, implements, the spare parts of a cart manufactured by the students are still utilised by the farmers. In this way the training programme proved to be quite useful as it paved a way for modernisation.

But today this training course stands closed for lack of proper link and co-ordination.
7.5.3.4 Brick and Lime Making:

In 1985, the SSSPM undertook another adventure programme of manufacturing of brick and lime. The nature of programme was "training-cum-production." It was started on a piece of land owned by sanstha at Rupadevi, which is 6 K.M. away from Gaudgaon. This programme is still in progress as there is no brick making business in the area nearby.

The training programme of brick and lime making was of six months. A number of adults especially women have been trained so far. Most of the women are landless. They came here for work from different surrounding villages. Formerly, they used to get Rs.3/- as daily wages but here they got more than Rs.10 on an average. In the same way a male labourer used to get Rs.5/- as daily wages but here he gets Rs. 20/-. Now they are happy but the wages depend upon the quantity of work done by them. After completion of the training period they are fully competent to start their own business independently.

Today there are 7 women and 2 men working in this unit. The raw material - clay and water are available from the land owned by sanstha but the coal, ash are brought from the area of Hyderabad, Shahabad and Pangaon.

The work is being done on the contract basis at rate Rs. 40/- for manufacturing of 1000 bricks. A women labourer can make 500 bricks in a day. After 15 days the bricks become dry and they are put in an oven for
baking. One oven contains nearly one lakh bricks. Within a period of one year five such ovens are arranged for baking bricks. There is big demand for bricks from the surrounding villages. This unit is going on well.

The main component of brick is the clay which is limited on the farm of Rupadevi. As a result, the problem of getting required clay is becoming more and more serious. There is a dilemma before the SSSPM, whether to use the land growing crops can be used as a raw material for bricks. Of course, considering the cost of cultivation of land the brick business is more beneficial than the taking the crops.

It is seen that no trained student started his own business of brick and lime making for want of huge funds. It required of Rs.40 thousand. The problem is that who is going to provide funds? And a newly trained student cannot raise such a big amount for this business. Consequently, this business was not started at different places by the participant people.

The lime making unit is defunct today. Therefore, the detailed information was not made available for study.

7.5.3.5 Modern Wool Work Centre:

Sheep keeping is a main business in this area. A number of families are maintained on sheep-keeping and wool production. The SSSPM thought of creating new opportunities of employment and so it sponsored the modern wool work centre in 1985, on the lands of
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Rupadevi. The machines were erected and useful things like blankets, jeans, sweaters were manufactured at this centre. Some women were deputed for training and detailed study at Ambajogai. Now there are only two female servants working here. They are making the yarn from wool. A worker can make 3/4 Kg. yarn every day. Three workers are required for weaving a blanket. A worker can make nine blankets in a month. The blankets are sold at the rate of Rs.250/- each in the market. As there is no large-scale demand for woollen things, the unit is working on a small-scale basis.

7.5.3.6 Silk Production Centre:
Silk production is one of the many successful experiments done on the Model Farm of Zaregaon. This programme was launched by KVIC. The required raw material of mulberry (Tutu) plants were grown on the 2.5 acres of land. The mulberry leaves of also provided at the rate of Rs.2/- a Kg. to be outsiders. The centre gets nearly Rs. 20 thousand from this unit. This centre produces 80 Kg. sheath (Kosh) and it is sold at the rate of Rs.65/- Per Kg. All these sheaths (Koshes) are purchased by KVIC. At present there are five workers in the centre. In short, the silk production unit is profitable to SSSPM.

7.5.3.7 Inland Fishery Project:
The SSSPM was started another impressive programme of "fish production cum-training." For this, the SSSPM obtained the financial assistance of Rs. 67 thousand from PAD (M). This programme was implemented on the
model farm of Zeregaon. It required nearly four acres of land. The main object of this programme was to make available the fish of good quality and the latest technical know how of fish production to the people.

A tank of 70'x40'x40' was dug for the stock of water and various kinds of fish-seeds nearly 2000 (Roha and Mrugal) were released in the tank water. The small hall was built nearby for training of students and keeping the implements. One instructor was also appointed. This programme was continued for a long time, but now it is closed.

7.5.3.8 Poor-Grown Children Training Programme:

It was a peculiar and novel scheme. Those who could not continue their education and had to leave it in their childhood due to poverty and ignorance of the parents, were admitted to this scheme. The object of the scheme was to collect such boys of age-group of 10 to 12 years and train them and make able to depend on their own as far as possible. The scheme was promulgated in 1983-84 with 10 boys and 25 girls with their accommodation in the SSSPM's boarding.

All these boys and girls belonged to different castes and creeds. They were driven out of their homes and had to work in the kirana shops, and hotels. Such boys were collected in the centre. Two teachers were appointed for the purpose. One of them imparted (taught them) the subject and gave practical knowledge by demonstration. The other teacher, taught them the
three R's (Reading, Riting and Rithmatic. These learning grown-up children were given some part-time work. They were engaged in sheep and goat keeping. Every student was made incharge of three goats. He was made responsible for their keeping and maintenance. The scheme was not only theoretical but practical also. There were 25 girls in the Centre. They were quite illiterate. They were trained in the basic education and poultry-keeping. Each girl was made incharge and responsible for keeping 25 birds.

The scheme was quite useful to many students. They are all now earning their bread on their own. The course was of one year duration. The scheme remained only in the four corners of building, as no body was there to make such pioneering efforts. This scheme is now closed.

7.5.3.9 Typing Class:
The SSSPM started the typing classes in 1983 with the strength of 30 in which there were 20 girls. The trainees haild from different classes of society. It was not necessary for them to stay in the boarding. The basic qualification was only SSC. The course was of only six month duration. From 1983, to 1988, a number of students obtaining typing training and got the employment in different departments of both public and private sector. No student started his own business for want of funds. Afterward, the demand for typists was very low and as such it is seen that the typing training centre was closed.
7.5.3.10 Grain Bank:

It is altogether, an innovative programme launched by the SSSPM. There are many rich villagers, who produce surplus grain every year. It was decided that they should deposit the surplus grains to the grain bank which could be useful in the rainy season to those who are below the poverty line. The scheme was limited for Jowar only.

In the rainy season, many times, people do not get employment and hence they are ill-fed or low-fed. As a result, they fall a prey to different diseases. SSSPM launched this programme and it became very beneficial and useful. The modus operandi of the scheme was 50 Kg. Jowar was given to each family on demand and the same was to be returned during the harvest season with the addition grain of 15 Kg. (i.e. 5 Kg. as a membership fee and 10 Kg. as an interest). Thus, the family had to repay 65 Kg. of grain to this grain bank. In this way, a number of landless labourers, marginal farmers, poor farmers from backward community were much benefitted by the bank. The only condition was that they had to make an application for the same with one guarantor.

The following table No. 7.1 shows the progress and development of Grain Bank.
Considering all the aforesaid projects, it appears that the SSSPM launched a number of schemes only to make the unable to fit for survive. The schemes launched were quite useful but they had their own limitations both financial and administrative. That is why some scheme had to be closed but it can be said that the SSSPM tried its level best and made all the possible efforts to increasing the standard of living of surrounding villagers.

### 7.5.4 Medical and Housing Development

The village Gaudgaon is far from city, and so the medical treatment facilities are very limited and in primary stage. The SSSPM thought over the problem and a scheme was brought into practice to provide medical and health facilities at primary level. Initially, Guruji brought the doctor, built the separate house for him and gave him the another room for the medical-check-up and treatment. But this was not enough for him.
Guruji was willing to build an ideal hospital for all the people in this area. Fortunately, a voluntary organisation - CHRIST SEVA MANDIR, SOLAPUR came forward. SSSPM assisted CSM for this work both in cash and kind. Now the hospital provides medical and health facilities to the nearby villages.

Now a days Christ Seva Mandir provides the medical service to nearly 30 villages. For this purpose the society selected one woman workers from each village. These women were trained in medical services at Jamkhed under the expert guidance of Dr. Rajnikant Arole. They completed their course of month and were given the placing in their own villages. Every trained worker has to go round the village and provide the medical service to the needy people. If a particular citizen is seriously ill, he is brought to the hospital at Solapur with the help of ambulance provided for the purpose by the Christ Seva mandir.

In addition to this, the SSSPM conducted a number of health camps for the diagnosis of cancer, eye illness, and family planning. As a result, the health of the people is improving.

SSSPM undertook another activity of housing development for downtrodden sections of the society. Sanstha built 27 blocks and handed over to them. The financial assistance to this was extended by CASA project. Among the beneficiaries of housing development, there are 19 landless labourers and 8 marginal farmers. Beneficiaries did not spend a single pie for these houses. Now they have grown trees on the either side of houses and it has become a model colony. Those who were staying in huts, formerly, have now became the owners of the nicely built blocks. Gaudgaon is the only village in Solapur district which has the model colony of the downtrodden at its entrance.
In addition to these aforesaid schemes, programmes and projects, the SSSPM tried directly or indirectly contributed its efforts for the canvassing of anti-dowary movement, untouchability, anti-addiction movement, renovations of old temples, road making etc. and the establishment of Govt. rest house, S.T. Stand, Bank branch and post-office and water supply scheme etc.

7.6 FINANCIAL POSITION

Late Lohokar Guruji was a man of action. He was another Karmveer Bhaurao Patil. He tried all possible efforts to collect the donation and build the fund of SSSPM for its multifarious activities. There were financial difficulties but there were very few. All the expenditure was met from the donation from the public, the contribution from the individual, hands and donors.

The second source was from the income obtained from the different agri-farms conducted at different villages. The income accrued from nearly 465 acres of land owned by SSSPM goes into lakhs annually, Major portion of this income is spent on running the hostel.

The third source of income was the Govt. sponsored autonomous institutions and projects such as PAD (M), CAPART, CSWB. etc.

Last but not least was the source of income of SSSPM from foreign agencies such as ASA, OXFAM, TDH, Action Aid etc.

It was possible only through the sincere, honest and non-stop constructive efforts of Guruji, that these agencies flowed their money to SSSPM. Now a days, the assets of the SSSPM are more than 30 lakhs of rupees and annual income from all sources is more than 4 lakhs of rupees.
7.7 CONCLUSION

Lohokare Guruji followed the path in the light of guidelines given by Karmveer Bhaurao Patil. Many times he found new ways and means and paved a road of development. For this purpose the establishment of SSSPM was just beginning. But through the non-stop efforts and far-sightedness of Guruji, this tree of SSSPM grew into different branches of various kinds providing multitudinous services to the farmers and workers in the area. Now the SSSPM has developed into a fully grown tree providing different services to the people.

The SSSPM opened its branches of services in various fields like
(a) development of agriculture, irrigation, fertiliser and seeds
(b) training and education
(c) medical and health services
(d) establishments like post office, branch of bank, rest house
(e) industrial activities like manufacturing and production

Social activities like adult education, anti-dowary movement, untouchability drive, anti-addiction etc. Through all these activities the SSSPM has been successful in creating an awareness of self-employment and self help, standard of living and attitude of the people. The SSSPM tried all its efforts and left no stone unturned for tapping different sources of income. Both domestic and foreign to build its fund for the development of the people and the area as a whole. The tall and spacious buildings erected for different purposes at different places are the witness to indicate the all round development of activities undertaken and sponsored by the SSSPM.

As far as the office management is concerned, it is seen that the filling system, and the accounts are well maintained. The meetings are regularly conducted, the reports taking the stock
of situation and the work done are prepared and sent to various agencies. New policies are framed for its development and followed up for their implementation. The SSSPM has a separate office and separate staff for all the branches.

The followers of Guruji are in the Board of Management. They are running the SSSPM on the guidelines given by Late Lohokare Guruji. They try to follow the aims and objects sat forth by the Guruji.

It appears from the record that for the last 25 years there were no election for the board of management and hence the same people are seen continuously occupying the membership and the different chairs of the Sanstha.

After the death of Guruji the second line of leadership has not been created and hence the old people follow the same beaten path, try to stick to old routine work and do not venture to find out new ways and means leading to new horizons of progress and development of the area.

Looking back at the history of the epoch making work done by the SSSPM, it can be concluded that the SSSPM has done a lot to transform the area and people. What the SSSPM has done is worth mentioning and commendable.

Taking into account the faults, failures and successful experiments, it can be rightly said that SSSPM is one of the ideal voluntary organisations devoted and dedicated to the task of upliftment of the masses of area.