CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND ITS BACKGROUND

Academic achievement is the most important value held in high esteem in all cultures, countries and times. Hence the research in this area is growing enormously. It has been important in the views of many researchers, educationists and psychologists. Number of factors influence the academic achievement of students. Marathwada is considered to be the backward region in the field of academic achievement, though the number of educational institutions and the number of students are increasing. Hence it would be notable to undertake the research in this field.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem of research is 'Study of Academic Achievement of college students in Marathwada and its relationship with their intelligence, self concept, personality adjustment, interpersonal relationship and socio-economic status'.

1.2 BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

1.2.1 Historical Background of Marathwada

Marathwada is one of the regions of Maharashtra, having seven districts namely Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Parbhani, Nanded, Latur and Osmanabad. Aurangabad district is bifurcated namely into Aurangabad and Jalna, while Osmanabad is bifurcated into Latur and Osmanabad districts. Before independence, these districts were the parts of Hyderabad State. Hyderabad
State was merged in Indian Republic in 1948. After reconstitution in 1956, the districts of Marathwada were merged in Bombay State. Thereafter, when Maharashtra State was formed on 1st May 1960, automatically, the Marathwada region become the part of Maharashtra. Total area covered by Marathwada is 66797.9 Sq. Kms., of which 63306.3 Sq. Kms. is rural. This is 21.15 % of Maharashtra's area. According to the Census of 1981, population of Marathwada is 97,26840 of which 7946295 is rural, comprising 81.69 %.

Marathwada is supposed to be the land of holy saints and Marathi Culture is supposed to be emerged in this land. It has seen many sovereigns in the ages. The contribution of Marathwada in Arts and Culture is very important. Famous caves of Ajantha and Ellora have received international recognition and have proved an attraction for tourists. Shalivahan began his historical work in this region. From the documents available regarding Marathwada it is seen that Andhra Kings were the first Kings of Marathwada. Since the third century, Chalukyas reigned Marathwada. Yadav of Deogiri defeated Chalukyas in the 12th century. In between 13th and 14th Century Allauddin Khilji attacked Yadavas and defeated them. Marathwada was under Bahamani Control from 14th to 17th Century. In the middle of 17th Century, Aurangzeb defeated Bahamanies and Marathwada was linked to Mogal regime.
Aurangzeb created a post of Nizam for the administration of Marathwada region. After the death of Aurangzeb Nizam-ul-Mulk captured the region and formed his own State. Thereafter the successors of Nizam reigned this region. Nizam was dominated by Britishers. Last Nizam Mir Usman Ali Khan was crowned on 29th August 1911. Thereafter for 37 years he was in the power, which came to an end when Hyderabad was merged in the Indian Republic.

Marathwada has got literary heritage. Famous literary works are written here. Marathi literature is said to be emerged between 1000 to 1200 A.D. However, actual literature is traced in 972 saka. Dnyaneshwari was written in 1212 A.D. At the same time Mahanubhav Sect contributed to the literature. Keobas wrote Sutrpath in 1202 saka and Murtiprakash Mahadisa Krishna in 1207 Saka. Rukmini Swayamwar was written by Narendra in 1254. Two main thoughts namely Varkari Sampradaya and Mahanubhav Sampradaya have emerged in Marathwada.

1.2.2 Education in Marathwada:

Marathwada is considered to be backward in education. There are many factors responsible for this, one of which is illiteracy. Literacy is the quality required for a modern man. It is also responsible to social as well as economic development. It helps to raise the standard of people. Dandekar Committee's (1984 P.44) report has clearly drawn the picture of literacy in Marathwada. It is seen that
Marathwada is lagging behind by 18 to 20 years. Ratio of literate to illiterate woman in Maharashtra is 1:2, while it is 1:5 in Marathwada (1981). This picture can be more clear by the following chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of literacy in Marathwada</th>
<th>Distance of literacy from Marathwada literacy</th>
<th>Distance of literacy from India's literacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>9.09</td>
<td>11.87</td>
<td>7.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>16.29</td>
<td>13.53</td>
<td>7.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>25.86</td>
<td>13.32</td>
<td>3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>32.09</td>
<td>14.12</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

History of higher education goes back to 1918, when there was only one college at Hyderabad. This college was affiliated to Nizam College, Madras. After the establishment of Osmania University, Colleges upto intermediate level were started at Aurangabad, Varangal and Gulbaraga, medium of instructions of which was Urdu. Four Colleges upto degree level were started in Hyderabad. Institutions of other faculties and postgraduate level were also started at Hyderabad only. There were very few opportunities of higher education except for Urdu language students. In 1948, Marathwada was freed from the region of Nizam and a new era started.
in education of Marathwada. In the changing situation in 1950, prominent leader Swami Ramanand Tirth started a college at Nanded, and in 1956 at Ambejogai. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, at the same time in 1950, started Millind College at Aurangabad. Demand of public for colleges of law, agriculture and other faculties was honoured when college of education was started in Aurangabad in 1954. In 1956, law college was started at Aurangabad. In the same year Marathwada received its first Medical College. Marathwada University came into existence in 1958 which was inaugurated at the hands of late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 23rd September 1958. There were four Arts, Commerce and Science colleges and one each of education, law, Medical and Agriculture in 1958. Foundation of education was laid in the period between 1948 to 1958. However after establishment of the University, there was rapid growth of education in the period between 1958 to 1975. Number of colleges increased from 8 to 84 and the strength of students of higher education increased from 3069 to 78519. Number of middle schools increased from 100 to 850 and students from 50,000 to 3,00,000. Number of primary schools increased from 4000 to 8500 and students from 3 lakhs to 9.50 lakhs. The contribution of the people of Marathwada was not less than that of the people from other parts of Maharashtra. Certain steps were also taken for general educational development. Establishment of 18 departments in the university, post graduate
level education facilities at certain colleges, sub-centre at Nanded, Institute of Science at Aurangabad are some of them. Besides this, M.B.A. classes, various diploma courses, journalism, Pali and Buddhist departments were established. Government established engineering college in 1955. In 1983-84 another technology college started at Nanded. Colleges on non-grant basis are started at many places. Government Ayurved College was started in 1967 at Nanded. Agricultural University was established in 1972.

Vocational Education:

Before 1948, no vocational education was available in Marathwada, with the exception of diploma in education and technical schools. Agricultural college at parbhani started in 1956, which caters training up to Ph.D. With the opening of Agricultural University, veterinary college was started. Recently, courses in food technology have been introduced. At present, at almost all places, industrial training institutes, polytechnics and engineering colleges are available. On demand of the public, government has opened another medical college at Ambajogai. Facilities of M.D, M.S. are available in Marathwada. After 1960 diploma course in commerce was started, which conducts G.C.D. as well as ICWA and other related courses. Institute of Management and Training Research (IMTR) conducts certain courses. M. B. A. Course is run at Aurangabad and Nanded. Government ITI are started at 21 places and
seven private ITIS are present in Marathwada. There are 12 B.Ed. and 17 D.Ed. Colleges. After the new pattern of education i.e. 10+2+3, 38 colleges have started vocational courses at +2 stage. At present there are 193 colleges affiliated to Marathwada university. Growth of education at degree level can be observed by following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1958-59</td>
<td>2912</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>3069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959-60</td>
<td>3415</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>3664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-65</td>
<td>11444</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>12216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-70</td>
<td>25047</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>27063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>64936</td>
<td>6896</td>
<td>71872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>15298</td>
<td>2818</td>
<td>18116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td>28416</td>
<td>5704</td>
<td>34124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(13.36)* (5.16)* (10.55)*

* indicates the percentage of Marathwada college students to Maharashtra students.
It is seen from the table that the number of students at degree level up to the establishment of Maharashtra State was very low. During the period 1960-1975 the number has increased rapidly. It was maximum in the year 1974-75 while minimum in the year 1979-80. New pattern of education started in the year 1975-76 and the number increased rapidly. From 1979-80 it increased steadily and the number has been equal to that of 1970-71 in the year 1984-85. Percentage of college going students has always been remained less in Marathwada in comparison with that of Maharashtra, though the population of Marathwada is 15% Maharashtra's population the percentage of college going students is only 10.5%. However this situation is changing with the opening of new colleges and educational facilities being made available.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

As mentioned earlier, the Marathwada region is under-developed and lacks in many things. There are many factors responsible for this and will need several research projects to study the problem in its psychological aspects. Only few researchers have touched this problem. The present research is undertaken with the view to investigate the intelligence, self-concept, personality adjustment, interpersonal relationship and socio-economic status of boys and girls and urban and rural students. The research is limited to Marathwada region. As Aurangabad is an
important place with regards to education major portion of students from all over Marathwada is found here. Students from all the six districts, namely Jalna, Parbhani, Latur, Osmanabad, Beed and Nanded come to study to the Aurangabad, which is supposed to be the headquarter of Marathwada. Hence, the main sample was chosen from Aurangabad colleges. The remaining sample of males and females and urban and rural, students form other districts were taken into consideration. The sample studied, consists of the students of senior colleges i.e. first, second and third year of arts, Commerce and Science faculties. The variables studied were the intelligence, self-concept personality adjustment, interpersonal relationship and socio-economic status.

Major Objectives of the study were:

1. To investigate into the academic achievement of the College students of Marathwada region.

2. To determine the relationship of academic achievement to intelligence, self concept, personality adjustment, interpersonal relationship and socio-economic status.

1.4 Definitions of Terms: Definitions, which apply to this particular research, are as follows:

College students: Students of senior colleges studying in first, second and third year classes of Arts, Commerce and Science faculties.

Urban Students: Students studying in colleges and residing in the area coming under municipality, municipal corporation or cantonment area.
**Rural Students**: Students studying in colleges and coming from villages or gram panchayats.

**High Achievers**: Students, who achieve 50% or above marks in aggregate in the last three consecutive examinations.

**Low Achievers**: Students who achieve below 50% marks in aggregate in the last three consecutive examinations.