CHAPTER –I

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Introduction
2. The geographical divisions of Swarajya
3. Sambhaji’s dialogue with the times
4. The significance of study
5. Objectives
6. Hypothesis
7. The frame of study
8. Historical sociology
9. Summary
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.1: Introduction:

In the long galaxy of Indian history Chhatrapati Shivaji stands unequal and unparallel. He was a greatest commendable gems of the medieval history of India. The glorious traditions of Maratha were continued by Chhatrapati Sambhaji during the period of decade 1680-89. The period of Chhatrapati Sambhaji was mostly significant in the continuing and change of the Maratha power. The strength of Maratha Empire was continued and new spirit was infused in this period. Though numbers of research works were completed on Chhatrapati Sambhaji, yet the total contribution of Sambhaji has not been completed in a systematic manner. Here this research topic has been selected for explaining the micro aspects of the present research problem. The political, socio economic as well as cultural life of the period can be rightly studied in this work.

The study of Sambhaji’s contribution to Hindavi Swaraj can be useful to highlight the various facets of this heroic ruler who was brave and constructive to rearrange the strength of Maratha nation against the invasion of Mogul empire Aurangzeb. He not only put a strong barrier against the Mogul and foreign invaders but also governed the state with high quality performance. Sambhaji’s administrative vision was based on the principles of Shivaji and he further consolidated this empire by designing the Maratha rule and its future in a systematic manner.

The present work will try to reexamine the Maratha sources and after authenticating these sources new light will be thrown on the history of Sambhaji as a ruler and administrator. The yeoman contribution made by him for the rebuilding of Hindavi Swaraj has been properly highlighted in this research work. The reign of Chhatrapati Sambhaji was most turbulent and uncertain. After the death of Shivaji in 1680, Aurangzeb the Mogul empire was thinking that this was the most right period for attaining the Muslim state. Though Shivaji was no more, yet the Maratha system of good governance and administration provided in the western Deccan.
freedom loving people of Maharashtra were the backbone of the Maratha state and they continued to protect the value of freedom and good governance within the period of Sambhaji. He had all the qualities required for an able ruler and visionary administrator. The period of Sambhaji must be studied carefully to throw light on his contribution to the Maratha state in general and Handavi Swaraj in particular.

The period of Chhatrapati Sambhaji (1680-1689) is traced as later phase of Shiv Shahi in medieval India. However, it would be interesting enough to examine and highlight Chhatrapati Sambhaji’s contribution separately as an independent entity. It would be interesting to throw light on contribution made by Chhatrapati Sambhaji in the protection and consolidation of Hindavi Swaraja in various fields such as political, socio economic, religious and cultural. Hitherto Sambhaji’s work is examined on the basis of Chitnis Bakhar, which was written as per order of Chhatrapati Rajaram. The biased information about Sambhaji is misleading and has been described as exaggerating and imbalanced. In order to make correct understanding of Sambhaji’s personality, life and work, his successes and failures, the present research work has been planned. This study will be conducted in the historical sociology perspective by making explorations in subaltern studies.

Sambhaji’s period (1680-89) was most turbulent and conflicting and the entire Mogul army had invaded on the various provinces of South India and the masses along with the rulers were resisting the invasion with a perfect vision and mission. Historians like G.S.Sardesai, V.S.Bendre, Dr. Kamal Gokhale, Sadanand Shivde and Bahekar have focused on various dimensions of Sambhaji’s career but still the objective and critical analysis of Sambhaji’s contribution to Maratha history is lacking. While reexamining Sambhaji’s life and achievements, Dr. Bahekar has pointed that the fearless behavior of Sambhaji in Mogul camp was reflecting pride, loyalty to Swarajya and his immense dedication to the cause of independence. He never fall a pray to Emperor Aurangzeb’s promises and was devoted to the cause of freedom. He sacrificed everything for the protection of Swarajya. His sacrifice not only enhanced the Maratha pride but also it was digging of final burial of the Mogul emperor in Deccan (1)

The rise of Maratha power in the medieval India was a significant phenomenon because under the able leadership of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Marathas were able to establish independent Swarajya in 1674 and later on the sprit of the Swarajya was continued by later
Maratha rulers like Chhatrapati Sambhaji and Rajaram and Peshwas also. Sir Jadunath Sarkar has rightly pointed that “A synthesis of vast and varied mass of new materials, made available during the century following the publication of Grant Duffs book has naturally resulted in the super session of his chapters on Shivaji on reconstructed in Aurangzeb volumes 4 & 5.” (2)

G.S.Sardesai has rightly observed that “The character and achievements of Shivaji and the Peshwas’ have left a permanent mark on the history of India. They form the most recent example of our genius for nation making of which we today may well be proud.” However, history of Sambhaji has remained neglected in Maratha history. Hence his struggle and sacrifice for strengthening of Hindvi Swarajya has been subject matter of this research work.

The new sources help to reconstruct history of heroic struggle made by Marathas. However Sambhaji’s history waited for a long time to reconstruct it. Further Sarkar has rightly pointed that “Marathas were only one among the many threads in the, tangled web of Deccan history in the seventeenth century. Therefore, to understand the true causes and full consequences of Shivaji's own acts and policy, it is necessary to have detailed knowledge of the internal affairs of the Mogul Empire, Bijapur and Golkonda also.” (3) Sambhaji also depicted this Marathas struggle against all the prominent powers in Deccan to sustain the Hindvi Swarajya. Hence, the study of Maratha's both Shivaji and Sambhaji therefore can be treated as more than a mere biography of Shivaji and Sambhaji, it frequently deals with the contemporary history of three Muslim states through an exhaustive treatment. (4) Sambhaji had to continue this struggle against Moguls, Sultan's of Bijapur and Siddis of Janjira. The role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji must be examined in this context because Chhatrapati Sambhaji was able to carve and protect Swarajya by making struggle and sacrifice for protecting Swarajya which was located in the region between Godavari and Tungrabhadra rivers. (5) Krashnaji Anant Sabhasad the first biographer of Shivaji has described the nature of the Swarajya on following manners.

At the time Shivaji's Kingdom comprised of two divisions, the area lying between Godavari and Tungabhadra rivers, and secondly, the region between Tungabhadra and Kaveri rivers.(6) The first division, known as the Swarajya, had in it the areas from Maharashtra. It extended from the fort of Salher beyond the northern bank of the Godavari over the whole
country of Galghat and Varghat to the Tungabhadra. The latter division extended beyond the Tungabhadra to the banks of the Kaveri and included Kolhar, Balapur, Jinji and Vellore. (7) The Maratha Swarajya was extended to the southern India both in Karnataka and Tamilnadu. Sambhaji also held his sway over this land.

P. S. Joshi has rightly pointed that “When a line is drawn on the map of India from the north to the south in order to mark the boundary of the Swarajya of Shivaji, it is seen that the western border of the Swarajya included Salher, Hanavantgad, Javalagad, Dindori, Ramsej, Songad, Pratpgad, Dehu, Alandi, Poona, Indapur, Sangali, Pavartragad, etc.”(8) This part was core of Swarajya established by Shivaji Maharaj. Sambhaji had to administer this part” in a systematic manner during 1680 to 1689 the decade of turmoil and conflict, which he marked on the pages of history of India. On this background the study of Swarajya which Sambhaji received from Shivaji can be studied in the foregoing pages.

The role, relevance and effectivity of Sambhaji’s contribution have remained neglected because of three facts which must be first cleared here:

- Firstly Sambhaji’s history is based on wrong sources, which were concocted by the loyal followers of Rajaram, Balaji Awaji Chitnis who wrote a Bakhar by the orders of Rajaram, wrongly painted Sambhaji to appease Rajaram. Most of the historical works till recently were based on resource material and kept Sambhaji also biased.

- Second factor is that Sambhaji’s heroic deeds and his struggle painted in Portuguese and English sources had not received attention for a long time. Dr. A.D.Pisurlekar first brought to light numerous facts based on Portuguese records. Further S.N.Joshi’s collection of Sambhaji papers which has illustrated number of original papers. In the quarterly magazine of Bharat Itihas Sanshodhan Mandal Pune in its annual number 117-118 issue I and II these 198 original letters throw a considerable light on Sambhaji’s period.

- The third factor is that in spite of availability of ample sources very less interpretation of facts has been made by historians exceptionally up till now.
Hence major effort of this work will be focusing on these three areas which are basically significant in the study of Maratha history. In nutshell the focal point of this study will be based on authenticity of source material and interpretation of facts. Here the social and economic history of the period of Sambhaji will be explored in the subaltern view point, in which involvement of masses, persuasion of values and transformation of Swarajya will be mainly focused. The study of Maratha history earlier was conducted only in the parts of understanding of political processes, but we have to examine facts here on the social matrix because social history is more significant than any other facts of political dynamics. The legacy of Shivaji which Sambhaji carried was value based and it was related to mission of wider horizons of nation making, which has been rightly explored here.

Historians like V.K.Rajwade, S.N.Joshi and A.D. Pisurlekar have considerably collected sources of Maratha history of the period of Sambhaji. Most of them are published and few of them still remained unpublished. However, in spite of availability of sources, Sambhaji’s period is waiting for new analysis in a systematic manner. The Maratha historiography of the period of Sambhaji thus requires a new understanding of facts, a critical analysis of sources and new analysis of entire medieval sociology of cultural dynamics. The medieval Deccan which was suffering from Mogul atrocities was made free and vibrant in favor of Swarajya by Sambhaji. On this background cultural geography of the period must be properly highlighted.

**Necessity of research:**

- The studies in historical sources are based on scientific facts and evidences. Hence in order to examine Sambhaji’s career the use of authentic source material remains significant.
- The study of Sambhaji’s complex career can help to overcome many problems in the medieval history. A new sociological outlook can help to understand various aspects.
- Much of the historical facts of medieval history are based on political aspects and less is known about social and cultural aspects. Hence the present work will be conducted in mass history view point. In such history political events, stories of king and queens, internal conflicts are not much important, but
what is significant is the social participation of people at large. It would be interesting to study how people participated in struggle, how they shared grievances and reacted against moguls and Portuguese.

The struggle of Sambhaji had left behind history of socio cultural identity. Unfortunately less is known how people could survive their life and values in the massive mogul attacks and could sustain their moral and spiritual identity. It would be interesting to study how Sambhaji organized united and provided able leadership to the southern Indian states. His naval power and his vigilant approach against Portuguese, English, and Siddhi also show his watchful policies against the foreign invaders. The necessity of study lies in understanding of Sambhaji’s abilities in the adverse situation.

Further the necessity of study mainly requires in understanding of Sambhaji’s foreign relations with Portuguese, English and French. The study of Portuguese papers, Madras papers and Bombay papers can throw a new light on the life and time of Sambhaji. Much success of Sambhaji depends on understanding of men, their loyalties and their abilities. Sambhaji was able to deploy able officers in his campaigns against Portuguese and he was able to succeed in these campaigns due to his intelligence, planning and foresight. The clear understanding of Sambhaji’s role as a soldier, general and administrator requires a more clear and effective exploration of source material. In spite of P.S. Joshi’s analysis of Sambhaji’s administration a new line of examination of facts has been followed in this study. It has been pointed that “The administration of the Swarajya was managed by Chhatrapati Sambhaji with the assistance of the Chhandogamatya and the council of eight ministers.” (9) Thus decentralization of power and peoples’ participation was a key factor in Sambhaji’s success. It is true that “The duties and the work of the ministers of that Council which were laid down during the time of Chhatrapati Shivaji seem to have been the same under Sambhaji” (10) Right men on right place as per their quality was Sambhaji’s policy and he had sound judgment of men, which provided him a clue for military campaigns. The study of power separation, religious and cultural rights, central administration and provincial as well as sound civil administration and local administration clearly show that Sambhaji had geared the state towards peoples’ welfare. Hence the governance would sustain even at the time of mogul attack on Maratha Swarajya. The mass participation against the Moguls attacks can be evidently shown on the basis of Sambhaji’s right agrarian
policy. It has been pointed that “Agriculture in the Swarajya was also affected adversely due to the famine in Chakan in 1685, in Borgaon in 1686, and the Mai Shiras in 1687. As a result, the government of Sambhaji took different measures to boost agriculture.” (11) These facts can be examined in this work to understand the mass history of the last decade of 17th century.

1.2 The Geographical Division of Swarajya

Prior to the understanding of Sambhaji's early career, it would be interesting to examine the legacy of Swarajya which Sambhaji has received from Shivaji the great the founder of Hindvi Swarajya. The Swarajya of Chhatrapati Shivaji in Maharashtra was divided into three provinces. These were as follows:

The Northern Division - Its area was between Salher and Poona and a part of Konkan, up to hundred miles roughly north of Bombay, namely, Kalyan, Bhivandi, Javhar etc.

The Southern Division - Talghat, Konkan south of Bombay up to Bhatkal including Dabhol, Rajapur, Banda, Phonda, Karwar, Gokarna etc.

The Southern Division - Varghat or Desh from the south of Poona to Kopbal near Tungabhadra. It included the southern Desh districts roughly from Poona to Dharwad and Kopbal. (12) In this third part district of Karnataka on river Tungbhadra also included in Swarajya.

P. S. Joshi has rightly observed that, As Shivaji was in constant warfare with the Moguls and the Sultan of Bijapur this territory was not always under his complete control. Though its border areas at times changed hands, by and large, the above-stated territory was under Shivaji at the time of his death. (13) Sambhaji had to undergo constraint struggle for maintaining this territory under Swarajya. The scenario of Maratha State under Sambhaji was thus full of problems both internal and external. Because the Maratha house in capital Raigad was divided and the enemies like Mughal, Portuguese, and Siddhi were also trying to revenge against Maratha's after death of Shivaji.
Establishing Hindus state and maintain it was really the challenging tasks. Sarkar has rightly pointed that the aggregate result of availability of sources changes the history and a new presentation of the history of Shivaji. (14) The same is the case with the history of Sambhaji because the availability of Portuguese sources, English sources makes us to understand Sambhaji’s history in new light of both foreign and Sanskrit sources. Sambhaji had written a Sanskrit book known as 'Budhbhushan' which is his commentary on astrology. (15) Sambhaji had mastered Sanskrit language and was able to contribute in this language in a masterly manner. Sambhaji in his early career was given special education on Indian epics Ramayan and Mahabharata and his teacher Keshav Bramhin was donated 1600 lari land in Sangmeshwar Tahsil of Rajapur district in Konkan. (16) Sambhaji was also imparted physical as well as military education like guerrilla technique of warfare. (17) This warfare was based on strategic military education, which was evolved by Marathas.

Thus Maratha Swarajya was safe, sound and secure in the hills of Sayandri, which was base of Swarajya. Both Shivaji and Sambhaji not only protected this base, but they expanded this base towards the southern states of Karnataka and Tamilnadu, which were protecting Indian culture in the period of turbulence. Every effort was made by Sambhaji to share these fruits with southern Indian states under which the Maratha influence was spread up to Tanjawar in the present day Tamilnadu. Sambhaji had to maintain the original core part of Swarajya, had to administer it, protect it, and had to initiate all reforms for smooth functioning of the Swarajya as well as its southern extension.

The study of expansion of political power of Maratha period shows that the Maratha rulers were not happy with core part of Swarajya, but they wanted to expand these frontiers of Swarajya to the southern states. First they held sway over Godavari River, later on they expanded Hindivi Swarajya up to Tungabhdra river and in the third stage, they wanted to expand beyond Kaveri river. The frontiers of Swarajya were thus ever increasing and Marathas’ had to make serious efforts for radical and effective expansion of Swarajya to the extreme corners of south India. What A.R.Kulkarni and P.S.Joshi have interpreted is absolutely true because the Maratha Swarajya was based on well organized civil and military administration and had a parallel arrangement to combat with mogul invaders.

The above geographical divisions of the state bring the following facts to light:
The entire western Maharashtra and Konkan was under Shivaji’s Swarajya.
The part of Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Andhra was also under Swarajya which was ruled from Tanjawar and Bangalore.
The Maharashtra region around the bank of river Godavari was under Moguls and partly under Adilshahi of Bijapur and Nizamshahi of Ahmednagar. Hence Aurangazeb attacked and mogual Addilshahi of Bijapur and Qutubshahi of Golkonda. For Maratha nobles these factoriss of Bahamani dynasty were the centers of political training.
The East India Company and Portoguese were adopting the policy of divide and rule to get the political power. Shivaji and Sambhaji ably fought against these powers for the protection of Swarajya. The geographical base of Swarajya went on changing as per political pressures brought by Moguls. N.S. Poherkar in his article on “Sivaji and Marathwada” has poined that even under Shivaji the great the region of Marathwada was under Mogul influence because, Godavari was the border of Shivaji and the boundries of Swarajya went on changing in the period of Shivaji and Sambhaji as well. The Marathas were trying to acquire the more parts from Moguls and Moguls were responding to them from their view point. They were pushing back Muslims and the struggle of Swaraj for Marathas was a continuous process. The sole effort was on protecting ones own Hindu state – the Hindavi Swarajya. The responsibility of protecting the Hindvi Swarajya came on Sambhaji after the sudden death of Shivaji in 1680. The Maratha Swarajya was based on the principles of Maharashtra Dharma, rooted by saints and prophets of Maharashtra and they further tried to protect these values with great decication and devotion. The study of Sambhaji’s life and work can be mainly focused on protection of Hindvi Swarajya by this brave and adventurous ruler. The entire study has been focused on the struggle made by him for infusing new spirit in the state. The historical role played by him can be very well by examining various theories by working together new facts based on new sources with primary and secondary in nature.

On this background it would be interesting to study how Sambhaji conducted dialogue with the prevailing conditions. This has been narrated in the following pages.

1.3: Sambhaji's Dialogue with the Times
Prior to the rise of Sambhaji the condition was adverse and Sambhaji had to make a struggle for his accession to throne. Sardesai had observed that “Sambhaji marched on Raigad with a force of twenty thousand men and meeting with no resistance got possession of the capital on 18th June and formally ascended the throne on 20th July after putting Rajaram and Soyerabai in close confinement. In gratitude for this easy success, he immediately made a formal grant to his family goddess, Bhavani of ten thousand gold Hons a year. The Maratha power house was divided in two parts one led by Rajaram and another by Sambhaji. But Sambhaji was senior, right claimant of the power and had a smooth succession. He was able to over come all the difficulties in a systematic manner. He maintained moral as well as equitable distance with his enemies and followed ethical regulations. His rise, success and accession is thus based on his intelligence, planning, as well as his diplomacy, which proved his metal. Sambhaji as per Hindu polity being a elder son of Shivaji was right claimant of power and had all the qualities required for an able prince.

He was politically matured, socially well aware and economically sound enough to administer the state. His cultural vision was very right and bright because he had a clear understanding of the surrounding conditions. A letter which Ramdas had written to Sambhaji makes him to remember all the ideals and missionary contributions made by Shivaji for the betterment of Swarajya. He appeals to remember both Pratap (bravery) and Sakshep (balance) in his administration. He further appeals him to follow aggressive policy of Shivaji to provide right direction to the warring moguls. His right line of action was aimed to free the Maratha people from the colonial clutches of moguls, which would empower people at large for their betterment and welfare. This genius tradition was not only up-held but rightly continued by Sambhaji. Sambhaji’s brave struggle finally shows that he not only remembered Ramdas’s counseling for the protection of Maharashtradharma but he cherished it, followed it, and made it to prosper. The total welfare of people and all-round progress of subject was sole of his Swarajya and he took every step described by Kautiliya in Arthashastra. He tried to strengthen all seven organs of the state, like swami, durg, kosh, and dand etc. Sambhaji’s micro study of Hindu polity had largely benefitted him for the protection and implementation of Rajdharma in a systematic manner.
As pointed by Lord Krishna in Geeta, Sambhaji constantly and continuously sacrificed for the molding of Swarajya. He had to make a total struggle and sacrifice without expecting the fruit. *Karmane Va Adikarsya Ma Faleshu Kadachan* is the essence of karmayoga of Geeta. One has to make continuous struggle for performing the Karma for the sacred deeds. Sambhaji performed this Karma theory while fighting with Moguls, Portuguese and Siddis. However he never expected instant fruits out of it. Sambhaji’s grand alliance with Akbar was a part of diplomatic move against the mogul king. Had Sambhaji been successful in this move, he would have turned the pages of history. It has been pointed that Akbar Sambhaji alliance was ahead of his times. The factory records of 16th July, 1681 stated that Akbar’s force increases daily. He hath now 1500 horse and five or six thousand more at Trimbak. Sambhaji is daily expected to wait on him and conduct him to Burhanpur. From these they intend to march for Delhi (18)

Thus the planning of Sambhaji was right but it was not properly implemented. We can understand the foresight of the king to change the central power in alliance with prince Akbar, who was son of King Aurangzeb.

The study of all these facts clearly show that Sambhaji was genius, sound administrator and diplomat of high class. He had every time moved properly to use and exploit the prevailing political conditions in an effective manner. His abilities show his strength, power, and his vision to look at the time and to shape it. Being a Sanskrit scholar Sambhaji had grass root understanding of Geeta, Upanishad as well as Kautiliya’s Arthashastra and Dandsanhit to manage and operate the state effectively.

In Indian polity there are two theories ‘Raja Kalashya Karnam’ or "Kalo Rajyashya Karnam". Sambhaji’s history can be described in this dialectics. There are two possibilities king shapes the time or the time shapes the king. In case of Shivaji he was able to shape the time but in case of Sambhaji the time was so tuff - full of natural adversities like drought and foreign invasion by Moguls and Portuguese. Hence, Sambhaji had to fight against these enemies and he had to make a sacrifice in this struggle. Shivde has rightly pointed that “The administration of Sambhaji was based on peoples’ welfare he implemented number of policies for the betterment of people. (19) He tried to avoid peoples’ harassment during the war campaign and the
Murtijabad koalname of 1687 is testimony of this. (20) Sambhaji tried to help was affected and draught affected farmers by making many plans of their developments. The Kanandkhore koalnama is example of his remedies. (21) The Moguls were destroying peoples’ farms burning crops and looting people by collecting excess revenue. The Portuguese and French policies were also responsible for people's exploitation. (22)

All these evidences show that Sambhaji was facing tremendous adverse conditions. P. S. Joshi has observed number of such examples.

After the death of Shivaji, his eldest son, Sambhaji, became the Master of the Svarajya. (23) Sambhaji had both the advantages and difficulties due to tremendous expectations from his fellow country men. He had a challenge who shape the time which was adverse due to foreign aggression, drought as well as lack of resources and due to lack of different types of facilities, which he was not able to generate due to internal differences. Joshi has observed that Sambhaji continued peoples war during 1680-1689 A. D. with varying fortunes. Finally, in that war, he was captured alive by the Moguls, and Aurangzeb put him to a cruel death. (24) In this work different aspects of peoples struggle under Sambhaji have been explored Bahekar has observed that, due to his unparallel behavior and unique achievement. Chhatrapati Sambhaji was able to continue basic principles of Rajdharma inspired by his father. He continued moral, spiritual, administrative and political policies of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He not only fostered but also continued it with great zeal and will power. (25) Sambhaji thus conducted effective dialogue with the contemporary period. He was able to carved out the history of Maharashtra by fighting against the circumstances which were mostly adverse. Sambhaji had mainly thre enemies during his period:

- The moguls: The Moguls were rulling from Delhi. King Aurangzeb had made Aurangabad as a second capital of South India to fight against the waring Marathas. After death of Shivaji, Moguls attacked on Svarajya to bring it to dust. Sambhaji tried to establish alliance with Akbar, son of Aurangazeb.

- English: The East India Company which was established in 1600 AD durignt he period of Jahangir had established its influence on the west coast. They were trying to capture Mumbai and its periphery and they had an ambition to conquer coastal area of Konkan.
Under Shivaji the great and later on during the period of Sambhaji the Maratha navy had strong hold in the Konkan area and the East India Company.

- Portugues: In the 13th and 14th century the portuguese had stepped in Goa Wasco and Panjim with their headquarter and they were trying to expand their power in the Konkan area. After the death of Shivaji, they were creating their influence zone to cross Maratha borders. Hence the clash with Marathas was most inevitabl. Sambaji fought against Portuguese power and pushed back them. The portuguese power tried to establish good relations with the Marathas. However, they were ale to put strong opposition to the Portuguese power by fighting against them. Portuguese papers have described Sambhaji as “War like Prince”. It seems the coastal power of Portuguese was highly influenced by the strong navy and army of Sambhaji, who pushed them back to their original borders of their power.

- Siddies of Janjira: The Siddies had established their power on fort Janjira and they were often attacking the Maratha territory and naval clash with them was mostly inevitable.

Thus all these four powers were against the Marathas. Sambhaji had to fight with them one after another. The Marathas under Shivaji were diverting their powers but now in the period of Sambhaji they had to fight these powers directly. The Moguls being the number one enemy of Marathas, Sambhaji tried to divide English and Portuguese against each other and by conducting dialogue with these powers he tried to protect Hindvi Swarajya. The Maratha efforts of protecting freedom were strongly based on divide and rule. The Portuguese papers have described different qualities of Sambhaji and thee sources have further described the strategic moves conducted by Sambhaji during his period.

On this background it would be interesting to highlight the significance of study of this topic in new angle In the history of Marathas, which is underline in the following pages.

1.4 The Significance of Study
The study of Chhatrapati Sambhaji in Maratha history has been conducted mostly in political history angle but now the present study will be conducted in new sociological perspective. The following points can be highlighted as significance of study.

- The struggle of Sambhaji was against Moguls and their socio religious atrocities: After death of Shivaji in 1680, Sambhaji felt that Maratha Swarajya can be protected by raising peoples’ morale. G. S. Sardesai has pointed that “Sambhaji was able to infuse a new spirit among the people for fighting against Moguls and Portuguese.” (26) The study of Sambhaji’s decade 1680-89 was full of fluctuations, turbulence and both internal and external conflicts. Sambhaji had to imprint his personality on history with adverse conditions. Sambhaji’s whole efforts were to fight with moguls with spirit, sacrifice and success. He had to strengthen centrifed forces and he had to fight against centrifugal forces from beginning to the end. What Sambhaji preferred is to be the hero of struggle and a martriyer for the sake of inspiration for the next generation.

- The Maratha power under leadership of Chhatrapati Sambhaji made a heroic struggle for independence. After 1674 coronation of Shivaji Maratha state was a sovereign state and Sambhaji wanted to continue this sovereignty. V. S. Bendre has pointed that, war was essence of Sambhaji’s career but he was equally competent in politics and people welfare. (27) The efforts made by Sambhaji to fight against drought and famine show his welfare approach. Sambhaji in his letter of 3rd June, 1684, addressed to Hari Shivadev the Subhedar and Karkun of Tarf Chul, Peshwa Nilkantaha Moreshwar directed him to bring under cultivation the agricultural land of the villages which were confiscated by the government and which otherwise would have remained uncultivated. For that reason he also asked Hari Shivadev to distribute to the cultivators of the area fifty Khandis of grains which were being sent to him from Sagargad. (28) Further more facts can be drawn and analyzed to understand Sambhaji’s agrarian reforms in a systematic manner.
Sambhaji was facing war on every forefront against Mogul and Portuguese. He was a war like prince. The entire career of Sambhaji was devoted to struggle against Mogul attack and Sambhaji was ready to face any kind of situation created by enemy. His will power was strong and he was able to fight against the Mogul, Portuguese and Siddhis. His crusade against socio religious atrocities of moguls and Portuguese proved his abilities in favor of Hindvi Swarajya. The Europeans also appreciated Sambhaji's efficient administration and his strategic intelligence. (29) On the basis of careful analysis of original papers Dr. Kamal Gokhale has rightly observed that Sambhaji had passed important grants to sacred religious places of all religions which have been described as Sanadas. Like his father, Sambhaji had great respect and reverence towards saints and prophets. He had given sizeable grants for the celebration of Rama Navmi Festival at Chafal in Satara district. (30) Such references can be explored on large scale to understand Sambhaji’s religious policy which was free, fair and balanced. He was not against the Islam religion, but he was against the Aurangeb’s approach towards the propagation of Islamic religion. One Gangadhar Ranganath Kulkarni of Kasabe Harsul, district Aurangabad was forcefully converted in Islam religion. However, Sambhaji after his appeal allowed him to get entry in Hindu religion. (31) It has been further observed that he went to Raigad, met king Sambhaji and appealed him to get confession to reenter in the Hindu religion. He had spent five years in Mogul service. However, he was allowed by Maratha king to perform his duties as a Hindu. (32) and his name Gangadhar was reinstated as per his original religion. This Sambhaji’s policy was rightly in favor of Hindus' reaction to moguls. His Shudhi movement can be further endorsed with some more examples. Sambhaji’s progressive socio religious policy can be well examined in this work.

Protecting freedoms was final mission of Sambhaji and he at every movement tried to protect freedom at every juncture. Bendre had pointed that, the value of freedom was soul to his efforts and Sambhaji embraced it from his birth to death. (33) Sambhaji’s mission was to maintain freedom and
independence of Swarajya. Sambhaji’s historical role can be studied by reinterpreting Maratha sources of his period. It has been pointed that English and Portuguese travelers had recorded Sambhaji’s abilities and they noted that he not only continued but established tradition of his father Shivaji by embracing values of freedom and self respect. His soldiers equally respected him like that of Shivaji. They often like to fight any campaign under his able leadership. He also used to respect and honor brave deeds of his soldiers and generals. (34) Thus as a soldier and able general Sambhaji had established his super qualities in a systematic manner. His abilities as a general were shown by him at every critical war. The Portuguese archives describe him in high words as war like prince. Sambhaji’s military campaigning and his able leadership can be witnessed in his operations against moguls as well as against Portuguese. Sambhaji wanted to protect political sovereignty and freedom at any cost. Even he preferred embraced death for his own pride. He never surrounded or never made any compromise against the moguls because like his father he was able to make a crusade against the foreign powers. His perfection of freedom and his dedication towards Swarajya was essence of his life. Few more points and analytical evidences will be drawn to strengthen these arguments in this work.

- Welfare of people was both aim of Shivaji and Sambhaji. Shivaji was a greatest constructive genius and Sambhaji continued his policies of social reconstruction by helping poor farmers and war affected common men. He constructed a dam at village Mogul in Solapur district for storage of water in the draught situation. (35) His approach against famine was very constructive and he provided solutions to many complicated problems. His policy of water storage, irrigation, and developing crop patterns show about his progressive policies. It has been pointed that “Peshwa Nilkantha Moreshwar also gave a kaul (a written assurance of the government) to the people of Chaul, who were avoiding to undertake the work of agriculture, and asked them to undertake the cultivation of the lands without any doubts and suspicion in mind as the government had decided to grant all the things...
they had desired. (36) The study of Sambhaji’s agrarian policy show that he was progressive and he provided necessary help to the poor farmers to continue their farming in the adverse situation. Necessary concessions were given to the farmers to avoid complications. Special Fodder grants were given and irrigation tanks were constructed for supporting effective farming. It has been observed that “The government of Sambhaji gave promises of safety to the Marathas who had returned to the Swarajya from the mogul side and asked them to carry out the work of cultivation in their territories. It also called back the people who had absconded because of their inability to pay taxes, and asked them to carry out their previous work of cultivation.” (37) Thus all these progressive policies of Sambhaji amply testify his mass based and welfare oriented activities which were conducted by him in a systematic manner. His agrarian reforms were so smooth so efficient and so clear cut that the farmer was epicenter of his all economic reforms and he was protected during famine and drought situation by providing him necessary grants and relief measures. All these aspects can be carefully examined in subaltern study angle.

The study of welfare activities of Chhatrapati Sambhaji are related to his administrative reforms P. S. Joshi has observed that the agriculture was the main source of income of the Swarajya. (38) Hence every care was taken by Sambhaji for protecting farmers. The Maratha government then prepared a record of the arable land in the Swarajya and the land divided in four categories. (39)

The government of Chhatrapati Shivaji used to levy many direct taxes on incomes of persons, professions and property. Since some of those taxes were collected by the Government of Sambhaji, it is probable that the remaining taxes were also in vogue during his reign. (40)

The study of Chhatrapati Sambhaji must be conducted in new angle. There are many aspects of Sambhaji’s life, which have not been properly highlighted. It has been pointed that “The final aim of Shivaji was to fight with Moguls and to establish Hindvi Swarajya. Sambhaji continued it but his son Shahu tried to establish Hindupadpadshahi not destroying the Mogul legacy.” (41) Sambhaji never adjusted with Moghal but bravely fought with them. The study of
Sambhaji must be conducted on the basis of original papers. Sardesai has further observed that “Sambhaji’s struggle inspired the later Maratha for strengthening Swarajya.” (42)

Sambhaji was neglected by senior diplomats but he had a clear graph of political situation and he handled it very carefully. The later Maratha sources like Chitnis Bakhar have made injustice to Sambhaji. Hence research with fresh angle is required to make a correct analysis of the Maratha Chhatrapati who ruled for ten years and protected Maratha Swarajaya. V.S.Bendre has rightly observed that Sambhaji had to spend much of life in wars and conflicts and he could not spare time for constructive work. (43)

Thus through all these points attempt has bene made to highlight significance of the study of the research problem. The prime focus of this study is baedon the understanding of the contribution made by Chhatrapati Sambbhaji for the protection of Hindavi Swarajya which was established by Chhatrapti Shivaji, the Great visionary in the medieval period. The subject matter of the study is life and work of Chhatrapati Sambhaji in general and his contribution to protect Hindvi Swarajya in particular. A totally new approach has been adopted here to reexamine the role played by Chhatrapati Sambhaji in a systematic manner. The review of source material and reunderstanding of Sambhaji depends on three following facts:

- The earlier presentation of Sambhaji as a extravagant and vegebond ruler seems wrong because theeis need to represent Sambhaji in an objective manner.
- The study of both Sanskirt and Portuguese can be reviewed to present Sambhaji in new angle based on newly available source material which has been used here for the first time.
- The totally new approach has been adopted here to highlight the career of Sambhaji. The role of Sambhaji as a king, scholar and as an administrator can be conducted by using other foreign sources like Portuguese

The concept of Handavi Swarajya is a solid base of the present resrach work. A decade of Sambhaji not only marked the spirit of freedom and values of Swarajya, but also it can be described as a bridging phase. This period has bridged the gap effectively by strengthening the national values of freedom and self respet

1.5 Objectives
In any social research specific objectives are vitally significant and due to assigning of well designed goals one can arrive at proper point of fulfillment. Bhandarkar and Wilkinson have observed that “Serious difficulties may arise, often preventing a successful completion of the study, if the researcher has not taken into active account the subsequent procedures during the initial stages of the inquiry. Thus, the researcher has to be constantly anticipating at each step in the research process, the requirements of the subsequent steps.” (44) It has been further observed that “The practical rationale makes out a case for the question by pointing out that its answers will help people achieve practical values i.e. health, comfort, productivity etc. “(45) Wilkinson and Bhandarkar truly observed that “Changes in the pattern of social life may give a new or renewed significance to a broad subject of sociological inquiry.”(46)

In view of this the following objectives can be set forth here:

(a) To evaluate Chhatrapati Sambhaji’s role in new historical perspective

(b) To review political, social, economic, religious and cultural facets of Sambhaji’s period

(c) To understand mass history of the period and to highlight welfare measures adopted by Sambhaji

(d) To highlight sound Maratha administration under Sambhaji which combated drought, adversaries of nature and the problems created due to Mogul invasion on Deccan. To reexamine Sambhaji’s relations with Mogul, Portuguese and Englishman and to evaluate his geo political strategies

(e) To eradicate injustice made to Sambhaji by Chitnis and other Bakhars in a new subaltern history perspective.

(f) To focus Sambhaji’s achievements and contribution to Maratha history based on new historical sources and archives in a systematic manner.
Thus all these specific objectives have been examined and testified in this research work. There is a need to explain various facts to fulfill these objectives in a neat way. The proper goal setting has helped to navigate the research subject out of turbulent weather of controversy. It becomes rather more difficult to arrive at clear cut viewpoint when there are many ideas and views on any subject in history or philosophy of history. Divergent views have been explained about personality and achievements of Sambhaji, the fact finding becomes more challenging. Hence to arrive at rational focus has been possible on the basis of opinion formation. The noting of clearcut objectives and their analysis has been developed here to formulate s---- of objectives. Thus the study of all these objectives has been possible in this work. All these objectives have been reexamined at the end of the research work in the part of epilogue on conclusion. The major findings have been presented on the basis of reexamination of objectives.

All these objectives can be testified in this research work by gathering of sources of Sambhaji’s period ranging from 1680-89. However social and economic conditions of pre and post Sambhaji period will be explored to strengthen the hypothesis noted in this research work.

**Hypotheses:**

All these hypotheses have been verified at the end of the work. Being raw st---about results to examine these properly was possible on the basis of correct examination of facts. The collection, coraboration, assessesment at evaluation of facts has helped to examine these ideas together. The synethses and examination of facts has been benefiting for proper line of thinking. These ideas have been turned in to findings after cross examination of these facts together. All these efforts of correlations are based on development of the philosophy of history. E.H.Car’s book “What is History” has been very much benefiting for throwing proper light on the research problem. This correlation of all the facts and figures have helped to find out new ideas and new opinions about the research problem. The turning of hypotheses into major findings is a mos challenging phenomenon and this has been developed in the last chapter of this research work. The norms and conditions of primary reports have been strictly followed here in research problem.

**1.6: Criticism of source material**
Coming to the medieval history of India there is availability of source at large, but the problem arises regarding authenticity of sources. It has observed that scholars like D.B.Parasnis had published a magazine “Ithihas Sangraha” in 1908 and edited and published papers of Maratha history. Sarkar has noted that Parasnis was not a historian but mere a collector of rare documents and a publisher. (47) Among the annals of Maratha historians, V.K.Rajwade was first to published number of Marathi papers in a systematic manner. He felt that one original paper can destroy raw information provided by Bakhar as a source. (48) In case of Sambhaji’s history this is absolutely true, because the new sources are presenting new facts reflecting history of Sambhaji based on Chitnis Bakhar, Keshav Pandit’s Rajaram Charitra, available from Tanjawar papers and published by V.S.Bendre also thus throw light on the political aspects of Maratha period. (49) Sanskrit sources also provide some significant details which were not known up to present times. (50) These serious work also include folk sources like Powada or Ballad sung to inspire future generations. (51) Kelkar has edited these ballads. They also describe political, social and cultural life of the period.

In Tarekhe Dilkusha written by Bhimsen Saxena has also depicted socio cultural life of the 17th Century Maharashtra. (52) Sethu Madhavrao Pagadi has translated this work into Marathi language. This work has portrayed number of neglected aspects of the period. It has also described Sambhaji’s attacks on Aurangabad city and social life of the sub capital of Mogul in South India. It has been pointed that Persian sources require a critical examination of facts because these sources are biased towards Maratha history and they require a fresh look for their objective assessment. (53) Such care will be taken while describing Maharashtra under Sambhaji’s rule, which was witnessing struggle and sacrifice not only by king but also by the entire masses and society.

The original documents regarding 17th Century Maratha history are well spread at different places in South India in general and Maharashtra in particular. (54) The critical approach to the sources of the period of Sambhaji will be adopted in this study because of three factors as noted below:

- The earlier studies were biased and prejudiced about Sambhaji because they were based on exaggerated anti Sambhaji stories as developed in the sources like Chitnis Bakhar, Balaji Awaji Chitnis wrote this Bakhar by the orders of
Rajaram and he in order to please his master depicted Sambhaji in an unjust manner, because Sambhaji was not alive at that time.

- The Portuguese and English Factory sources have brought to light new facts about Sambhaji. The credit of collecting editing and publishing Portuguese sources must be given to A.D. Pisurlekar who has collected Portuguese papers about Sambhaji in two volumes along with a critical note written by him. (55)

- Coming to Sambhaji the Maratha papers loom large in comparison to Shivaji’s period. In total there are more than 4 Crore Maratha papers in the Pune Dafter of Peshwas and they are classified in four types. (56) Further in Satara Dafter there are 2944 Rumals and 150 English papers spread in various files. (57) Further there are some valuable English records of the Sambhaji’s period in Bombay Archives. These sources are also useful for rewriting 17th century Maratha History under Sambhaji (58)

The social value deeply rooted in the social psychology and cultural system is also narrated in Kaulnamas and religious donations given by Sambhaji during this period. (59)

Thus sources about Sambhaji’s period must be critically examined and properly discriminated to find their authenticity. Bendre has described it as Sadhan Chikitsa, based on both internal and external criticism.

The source material available of the Sambhaji’s period requires a special attention on the basis of three points:

- The Maratha sources are very limited. There are 298 published papers by S.N.Joshi and few of them are still unpublished. S.N.Joshi has rightly observed that there are 120 administrative letters, about Vatnas 82, religious 75, political 28, other misc. 25, trade and commerce 12, Jahagirs 9. This classification shows that religious papers are more prominent than the political papers because in the mogul period due to religious atrocities Maratha king had also to take care about the welfare of their subjects.

- The source material required to be counterchecked. The material contents of the Bakhar like Chitnis Bakhar which was defaming Sambhaji can be given
justice to the Sambhaji’s works. Portuguese and English papers can help to reestablish Sambhaji’s image as welfare ruler.

- Sambhaji’s working was in favor of agrarian reforms. Maharashtra being a land of agriculture, Sambhaji helped farmers to purchase fodder in the drought situation. He also promoted them for the cultivation of land.

All these policies of Sambhaji can be studied in view of providing new light on Sambhaji’s papers in sociological perspective. To understand mass history of Sambhaji’s period, a new cultural look of historiography must be examined keeping subaltern studies as a base of this study, so that hopes and aspirations of common man can be reflected and analyzed properly for re-understanding Sambhaji’s historical role.

1.7 Future line of study:

Thus the entire research work is divided in the seven chapters which are linked to each other. The clear cut distinction of facts and figures has helped to explain facts properly. There is a close link between all the chapters and the ideas have basically a new perspective to throw light on the research problem. In the first chapter background to the research problem was presented. In the second chapter research design has been described to explain the entire problem. The third chapter has unfolded the life and work of Sambhaji in the light of new source material. The social and economic aspects of public life have been reexamined on the basis of new sources and they have been thoroughly explained in new angle in the forth chapter. The fifth chapter is based on re-understanding the different dimensions of religious and cultural life. Sambhaji’s role in strengthening of Hindvi Swarajya has been reexplained in the sixth chapter, which is core of the entire exploration. In the last chapter epilogue has been provided to record all facts together in a new sociological angle. Thus well planned chapter scheme is the focal point of this study.

In this study the main focus is on contribution of Chhatrapati Sambhaji, with special reference to his struggle and sacrifice made by him for sound establishment of Maratha state. The first three chapters of this study provide historical background, research design, life and work including review of literature and in the second part of the thesis research have been conducted on the lines of subaltern studies. Ranjit Guha has described that when we write mass history, subaltern consciousness is a key factor to examine mass participation in political and social movements. Here in the three chapters mass participation is focused on three major assets
such as Sambhaji’s efforts made to involve people in Swarajya on large scale and secondly his persuasive technique to infuse new spirit in the Swarajya and finally it would be reviewed and re-enlightened by underlining Sambhaji’s efforts for the transformation of Swarajya based on eternal values, which were spiritual and religious. Three different aspects such as social, economic conditions, religious & cultural life and the renovation of Hindvi Swarajya will be dealt with properly. The last chapter will be epilogue the final discourse based on new theoretical framework.

Re-understanding Sambhaji in the light of new sources in new angle will be the final thrust of this research work. About Bakhar as a source material and success of Sabhasad, Sarkar has rightly pointed that there are many lacunas in Bakhar as a source, “but the Sabhasad’s book is still the most valuable source of information on the national hero from the Maratha side. The proof of it is that most of the later Bakhar writers who could find no other source of such usefulness have borrowed extensively from it.” (60) However, Sambhaji had no such faithful biographer of his times or later times. On the contrary many early historians based their writings on Chitnis Bakhar and continued biased and prejudiced with many flaws. In this work attempt has been made to provide justice to Sambhaji’s career.

There are many manuscripts available on medieval Maratha history, which are unpublished and unexplored. (61) These manuscripts are in old Marathi, written in Modi script and some others are written in Kannada and Tamili languages. These sources also can found useful for the reconstruction of 17th Century Maratha history. (62)

The Tanjawar Saraswati Library also contained many details which have been unexplored will also be used for this study. On the basis of critical study of above sources, Sambhaji’s struggle and sacrifice can be reexamined and properly highlighted by adopting following three new approaches noted below:

- The new source material published from Portuguese papers and English Factory records broght to light by Dr. Pisurlekar and Dr. Ravindra Ramdas help us to reconstruct Sambhaji as a just ruler and sound administrator
• Re-examination of earlier sources in new perspective will help to understand injustice made by early historians to Sambhaji’s career based on Chitnis Bhakar. This can provide a new more balanced approach to the study
• Critical analysis of facts in new light of evidences will present portrayal of social life based on new theories of mass history.

By understanding all the three approaches we can provide a new dimension of Sambhaji’s history. Scholars like Joshi have put in judgment about Sambhaji’s career in this manner. He has pointed that “Taking into account the data given earlier it is clear that even though Sambhaji was a good administrator and a skilled general, who gave impartial justice to the subjects, his reign ended in a tragic manner. “ (63) We have to look beyond this perspective to understand cumulative effect of various factors such as mogul invasion, conflict with Portuguese and watchful struggle against Siddhi and Englishmen, clearly state that Sambhaji was ahead of his time and he tried to reestablish Maratha Swarajya on the basis of sound values. Sambhaji’s entire career has to devote to fight against the mogul emperor Aurangzeb, who wanted not only to oust Marathas but to provide an end to the said Power. But his designs miserably failed and Sambhaji was successful in creating a tempest of Maratha war of independence after his death also. Thus in this study attempt has been made to examine to illustrate and to high light Sambhaji’s career in a systematic manner. Sambhaji’s personality, his character and his achievements can be reestablished in a new frame of social history in subaltern perspective.

Social economic and cultural aspects of Sambhaji’s period will be carefully presented and further it would be proved how Sambhaji provided a new strength to Hindvi Swarajya for its future sustainability.

The values of freedom, carelessness and sacrifice not only maintained Hindvi Swarajya but fostered values of struggle and sacrifice which fostered strength for Maratha nationalism in the Maratha war of independence.

All these new sources will be examined in subaltern studies perspective to bridge the gap between political and cultural history on one side and political and socio economic history on the other side, both leading to understanding of mass history which was based on values championed by Sambhaji due to his sacrifice.
Finally this work will prove that Sambhaji’s sacrifice never went in vain but foster values of freedom to maintain the Maratha state up to 1818 till the fall of Peshwas.

1.8. Historical sociology:

The encyclopedia of word has focused social history as (64) The study of history in recent few years has been conducted in sociological perspective. The spirit of sociology in the understanding of historical facts has been described by scholars in an interesting manner. It has been observed that the promise of sociology (Berger 1963) is to illuminate the social world such that people can understand it and help themselves to a life lived with greater efficacy, a greater ability to understand and control their lives.” (65) The study of Sambhaji period cannot be exception to this phenomenon. Further it has been noted that “ Society holds for us these paradoxical opposites: it nurtures us and frees us to attain full potential as human beings while it creates a prison of rules to follow that take away our ability to be free at all.” (66) The study of social life of period can be examined on three lines. The history of medieval Deccan was full of social display and exploration. It has been observed that “Any intellectual activity derives excitement from the moment it becomes a trail of discovery. In some fields of learning this is the discovery of worlds previously un-thought and unthinkable.” (67)

Thus the study of social history is an intellectual exercise to understand three aspects – how the people at large were involved in problem of Swarajya, how they were persuaded to protect it and how they were finally transformed safely towards the change. The entire analysis would be based on micro understanding of social facts.

It has been rightly observed by Pitman Sorokbn that social and cultural aspects of life are totally inseparable. Hence in this study by adopting the principles of historical sociology attempts have been made to unfold social history the period of decade 1880-89.

The period of decade during Sambhaji’s period was of uncertainty and struggle. The Mogul army was almost at the door steps and the society was trying to face numerous problems such as forced conversion, planning of farm and agriculture, as well as destruction of national resources by invaders.
Along with these problems the society at large was undergoing through many difficulties. The famine, drought and scarcity of water were other allied problems, which the local society was facing. Hence on this background the study of social history can be carefully conducted here in this research work.

The science of historical studies is now based on different sociological facts. Mr. Car has rightly pointed that the sociological approach is a new phenomenon being debated by scholars to divergent controvertial issues in new perspecrive. The study of the period of Chhatrapati Sambhaji has benefited the researcher to develop new angle in a critical manner. The following five points have been followed here while explaining and ilucidating the present complex issue. The review of facts described by Balaji Awagi Chitnis in the Chitnis Bakhar on the life os Sambhaji has been reexamined to throw light on controvertial issues at the time of the accession of the ---.

The sanskrit and Portuguese sources which were not used by earlier scholars have been used here for the first time to explaine facts. The study of Budhbhushnam, a Sanskrit work written by the --- revealed about this maturity of Rajdharma.

The different aspects of good governance can be studied on the basis of source material being explained in this work. Sambhaji’s impage as a progressive administrator has been presented here.

The study of the source materials in new light has helped to throw light on social, economic as well as religious and cultural way of life at the period.

The social and cultural aspets of life are closely relared to each other and they cannot be separated from each other. Hence the historical sociology approach ahs benefited a great deal to evaluate the lacunas in the earlier resrach works and a new path breaking viw point has been evolved in this research work for better understanding of facts.

1.9 Summary

Thus in this backdrop chapter, a new backgroud to the research problem has been presented to look at the research problem. The nature, scope and significance of the research
problem was studied in nutshell and new dimension to the reunderstanding of facs was explained in a new perspective. The success of any research problem of this type depends on correct focus of a research problem. All the aspects of historical sociology reveal that new approach requires to explain such complex issues of medieval history. The study of the various sources which are available newly on the time span of history can enrich the fact sheet. Hence every possible effort is made here to throw light on many neglected areas like Maratha’s social and cultural life, art and architecture as well as the efflorasance of literature in the decade of struggle and sacrifice. The dedication and devotion of Chhatrapati Shivaji has been brought to light in many new angles in this chapter by providing a new sociological base to the entire analysis in a systematic manner.

In this chapter the Swarajya and its divisions prior to the rise of Sambhaji were highlighted properly. Further significance, objectives as well as new sociological perspective have also been studied. The authenticity of sources has been examined and new light has been thrown on different sources for re-understanding Sambhaji’s struggle and sacrifice. In this chapter future line of action has also been examined.

Thus in this chapter in the beginning historical background was presented, along with significance and necessity of the research work. Objectives of the present study were also described. Later on criticism on available source material was interpreted and authenticity of sources was examined and new outlook has also been presented. In the next chapter research design of the subject has been sharply focused.

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