Kolhapur was a princely state governed by its own native ruler functioning under the British Paramountcy during the British rule in India. The Kolhapur state had fallen on evil days until chh. Shahu became the de-facto ruler in 1894. Kolhapur suffered in its administration for many years before chhatrapati Shahu because its rulers were short lived. Some of them were either diseased persons or were incapable and lived the life in captivity. But with the advent of chh. Shahu Kolhapur State appeared on the proper line of administration.

Chh. Shahu had received a good training in administration in the schools in which British Government had kept him while he was a pupil. Fortunately for Chh. Shahu he had very liberal minded teacher in Mr. Frazer, who made on him the lasting impact. The advent of Chhatrapati Shahu inaugurated the age of reform and revolt against the supremacy of age old Brahmin orthodoxy that had imposed religious and cultural slavery on the minds of Non-Brahmins.

After 1902 Chh. Shahu became an advocate of casteless society in India. He stood very firm against the practice of untouchability. He appointed many untouchables in his palace services and dinned with them openly to show the people that the practice of untouchability was wrong. Shri Chh. Shahu did not confine his activities of liberating the socially suffering people to the Kolhapur alone. But he carried his massage of mass education to many parts of the country telling to the non-Brahmins that they were socially enslaved only because of their illiteracy. Shahu Championed the cause of education not only by opening schools and hostels in his state but he also actively supported those who were carrying on such activities even outside his state by giving financial support. This being the situation he stood as a source of inspiration for the future generation with his ideals.
Naturally educated young men in Maharashtra in general and in Kolhapur in particular were inspired by his social idea that education is the panacea on all Social evils. Shahu died in 1922 & immediately after his death in 30's & 40's a galaxy of great young men emerged on the scene of Kolhapur in the background of shahu’s teaching. Notable among them were shri Bhaurao Patil a reformer & a doyen among the educationists, Bhai Madhavrao Bagal a rational minded reformer & a great politician with his wide fame in Maharashtra, Deshbhakta Ratnappa Kumbhar a great patriot & a national level politician who played a great role in the merging of Kolhapur State and also a great name in the history of Co-operative movement in Kohapur, Bhaskarrao Jadhav a Chairman of SatyaShodhak movement, Shri P.C. Patil a scholar politician and a satyshodhak, Shri Tatyasaheb Mohite a big name in the history of Co-operative movement in Kolhapur, & last but not the least the hero of our theme shri V.T. Patil who was pioneering person in many areas of progress and advancement. He championed the cause of education for the rural masses & women. He was the Vanguard in the Co-operative movement and helped establishing many factories in the Co-operative sector. He was a great administrator who introduced many reforms as a chairman of Kolhapur municipality. He was a reputed lawyer and was successful in legal practices for 20 years until he retired in 1950. There also he rose to the position of occupying chairmanship of Barr Council. He had occupied the chairmanship of Ilakha Panchayat of Kolhapur state & repaired roads, constructed new roads, repaired school Buildings & constructed new school buildings. He founded two great educational institutions 1) Shri Mouni Vidyapeeth at Gargoti and 2) Tararani Vidyapeeth at Kolhapur. In these institutions education facility is provided right from K.G. to Post graduate Courses like M.A and Ph.D. He founded the Kolhapur Maratha Bank Ltd. Kolhapur, which is not only surviving but is flourishing even today. In the last phase of his life he entered politics & won the seat of Bombay Legislative assembly in 1952 and in 1962.
he became the member of Parliament by winning the seat of Kolhapur. Thus tremendously a multifarious career shri V.T. Patil had. He was also a great journalist & Journalistic writer. He founded News paper ‘Pudhari’, which is today a very widely read news paper in southern Maharashtra.

Kolhapur is a seat of Shivaji University. In its post graduate departments research leading to M. phil and Ph. D. degree is done by the researchers both is sciences & humanities. In social sciences the research work for M. Phil degree and Ph. D. degree has been successfully carried out on the life of 1) Karmveer Bhaurao patil 2)Shri Madhavrao Bagal (Ph.D.) 3) Shri Annasaheb latte (Dr.P.A.Patil), 4)Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar are(sou.Adisare ) 5) Bhaskarrao Jadhav, 6)Dr. Appasaheb Pawar and such others. But unfortunately no reseacher has yet turned towards the work of Shri V.T. Patil. Why the work of this brilliant son of Kolhapur, who influenced by his honest work the every field of public life of Kolhapur, is not unter taken is difficult to understand. It is because of this reason the research work on Shri V.T. Patil leading to Ph. D. degree has been taken up here. The public work he did in his life from 1930 to 1968 has been discussed in this work in seven chapters which are as bellow:

1) Dr. V.T. Patil: A biographical sketch -from 1900 to 1995.
2) Dr. V. T. Patil and Rayat Sabha.
3) Dr. V. T. Patil and his Educational work.
4) Dr. V. T. Patil and his Social Work.
5) Dr. V. T. Patil and his work in Co-operative Movement.
6) Dr. V.T. Patil in Politics, and
7) Epilogue.

Shri V.T. Patil like Annasaheb Latthe, Dr. Appasaheb Pawar & Bhai. Madhavrao Bagal was also a great writer. In addition to this he was also a journalist like Annasaheb Latthe. His basic temperament was not suitable to politics but he was made to enter politics where he remained sober. Both he
and his wife served the cause of education particularly the female education even by surrendering their entire property to the women's educational institution founded by Kaka.

The factories, the banks, the educational institutions founded by him, and the public works that he did when he was the chairman of the so many public bodies such as Municipality, Ilkha Panchyat, Bar. Council, Panhala hill station committee etc. Speak for his work in addition to some writing work done by him.

There are a good number of original sources found useful while preparing this work. To name some of them were the yearly Judicial report of the Kolhapur Court from 1932 to 1950. The Administrative report of Kolhapur princely state from 1932 to 1949. The Administrative report of Kolhapur Municipality from 1930 to 1948. The annual administrative Reports of Public Administration of Bombay presidency from 1932 to 1960. The Annual administration reports of Kolhapur district School Board from 1932 to 1949, Kolhapur District Gazetteers from the proceeding of the meeting of the bank like urban bank & the Maratha bank, proceedings of the meeting of the Bidri Sugar factory early phase from 1957 to 1960, Annual reports of Tararani Vidyapeeth from 1952 to 1995, Annual Reports of Shri Mouni Vidyapeeth from 1933 to 1975, and Mouni Vidyapeeth Publications and his speeches made on various occasions.

In addition to these sources the contemporary news papers like dailies, quarterlies, weeklies, Magazines and interviews with his families and other family members have also been extensively used and books like

1) Patil K.R. and others, Shri V.T. Patil Gaurav Granth, 'Haa Gandha Chandaacha', Tararani Vidyapeeth's Publication Kolhapur,

2) Patil D.D. 'Shikshan Maharshi Vishwanath Tukaram PatiT, Tararani Vidyapeth's publication, Kolhapur,
Thus it will not be wrong if it is said that this work makes a contribution to the history of modern Kolhapur to the extent that for lack of the study of Kaka's work there had remained some void in it.

While preparing this work I received guidance at every stage of this work from my research guide Dr. B.R. Kamble, former head of History department Shivaji University, Kolhapur. I express my gratitude towards him deeply.

I would also like to record my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. Dr. Bhosale A.R. head, Department of History, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for his words of encouragement. I would also like to thank Dr. B.D. Khane, Dr. M. P. Patil Dr. M.N. Lohar and all other member of the teaching staff of the University Department of History for their help and Co-operation.

I am very much thankful to Dr. Krantikumar Patil, Secretary of Tararani Vidyapeeth Kolhapur and Shri R.K. Kanbarkar, Executive chairman of Tararani Vidyapeeth Kolhapur for having given me their invaluable guidance and Co-operation. I must also thank Sou. M.R. Mandare, Principal, Junior college of Education, Tararani Vidyapeeth, Kolhapur and all my colleagues and staff members who extended their full co-operation in my research work and helped me and encouraged me sincerely.

I am also grateful to shri Laxman Bhosale, the Director of Kolhapur Archives, for his Valuable co-operation in providing me the necessary records whenever I visited the Archives. I also thank the Director and staff of Bombay Archives for their co-operation.
My special thanks to principal, Librarian and library staff of Rajaram College for permitting me to use the reference section whenever I visited the College library. I had to visit Barrister Balasaheb Khardekar Library of Shivaji University, Shahu Research Center of Shivaji University Kolhapur, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Resarch Institute in Social Growth Library, Kolhapur, library of Kolhapur Municipality, Archives Department of Shivaji University, Parulekar library of Shri Mouni Vidyapeeth, Gargoti, Library of Vidhan Bhavan Mumbai, Library of Parliament of India, New Delhi, Offices of the Local dailies, ‘Satyawadi’, ‘Sakal’, ‘Tarun Bharat’, ‘Pudhari’ etc. From each of these centers I received valuable co-operation and encouragement towards the completion of my work. I would like to thank the workers in charge of these centers.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my good friends and colleagues, namely, N.I. Divathankar lecturer in Shivaji University, Shri Bupusaheb Mane & Sheffi Desai Archives Department Shivaji University, Babasaheb Kamble, Sanjay Potdar & Ananda Gangadhare Tararni Vidyapeeth, Rangrao Mandare Kolhapur, Dr. Arjun Suryawanshi Aurngabad, Shri Dattatray Chavan and Shri Kiran Gavali for their encouragement and moral support.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my wife, Sou. Sanyogeeta Landage for her forbearance. She kept me free from domestic work and encouraged me from time to time. She remained a great source of inspiration to me. I thank my brother Namdeo Landage for his encouragement and good support. I am greatly indebted to my loving parents and relatives who stood behind me all through my educational endeavors especially during my research work. I Pay may obeisance to them for their encouragement and blessings.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to Shri Anil Rabnde (Kolhanur) who did a neat and fine job of computerized typing and to the proprietor, Gorkshanath Printers, Kolhapur who did a good work of binding the report.
To all these people, once again and to many others as well, whose suggestions, advice and encouragement find reflection here, my warmest thanks.

Kolhapur:  
Date: 28/12/2008.

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