CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Research in history primarily aims to study the old notions, culture, thoughts and contemporary conditions and re-evaluating its appropriation through proper analysis. This is an attempt to evaluate the works pertaining to state administration and society done by the historical figures which would provide guidance to the upcoming generations and propagate their thoughts for the formation of an ideal society.

There were several great souls having immense talents and qualities were born in the country. They possessed by the qualities like self respect for religion, politically skilled, shrewdness, farsightedness and bravery. However, they did not get the due respect and position in the history and remained a neglected for centuries. Their immense contribution towards the society must be brought before the society.

The researcher has attempted to study the contribution of great people in Berar in British rule. There were great development in Berar during British rule. While studying, it was also an aim of the researcher to shed light on various aspects of the Berar regarding socio-economico-politico and cultural concerns.

Geographically Vidarbha region is centrally located in India. Its geographical position was also vital in historical aspects. Vidarbha was recognized as the primary colony of Aryan tribes in the Southern India. The western part of Vidarbha, situated to the west side of Wardha river, was known as Varhad from ancient times.

The Aryan tribes came with Agastya rishi in pre-historic era settled in Vidarbha creating small states. Bhoj dynasty of Yadu clan of the Aryan tribes ruled over Vidarbha from its first capital Kaundanyapur. The folk life in Berar was enthusiastic and led a life of contentment from the ancient times. Similarly the region had a conflux of the culture of North with the cultures in South, creating unique culture of Berar.

Vidarbha saw significant epoch of history of 2500 years with its rich legacy of ancient culture. Different dynasties from Maurya to Yadav had their regime on Vidarbha and Varhad.

It was during Islamic rule, Varhad was called as Berar. After the defeat of Yadav dynasty, the region witnessed the rule of sultanate, Bahamani, Imadshahi, Nijamshahi, Baridshahi. After the defeat of Yadav dynasty, Muslim intruders had worked against the
Maratha. The rulers had different language, culture, religion and different system of administration. They renamed the cities and towns, destroyed the temples and religious places and forcefully converted them to Islam. Different taxes were imposed on the subject. It was a barbarous kind of rule. It was not possible for Marathas to fight against the mighty forces. Therefore, they obtained to serve as their Sardars.

Before 1802, Berar was under the rule of Bhosle. British forces defeated Maratha in three consecutive battles and gave the region to Nijam, who was the friend of the British. Later, in 1853 British demanded the region back to meet the expenses of the British contingent forces in 1853. Nizam made a treaty with the British for repaying the debt and mortgage the region with the British.

Along with Political powers, Economic, social and cultural rule was centralized. After acquiring political control on Berar, the British implemented their modern administrative system. For the purpose, they made Amravati and Akola as revenue and administrative zone. British had accepted the policy of non interference in social and religious matters and they followed it at initial stages. During the British regime non-Brahmin communities who earlier were engaged as soldiers turned back to agriculture. Brahmins and other castes had sought government services. They had cultural legacy. They were adept to education. They acquired English language and entered government services. The people who had witnessed despotic rule of Nijam thought British regime as a solace.

Despotism and anarchy were the general traits of the rule of Nijam. People in Berar had to suffer the anarchy. Therefore, they had thought the regime of British comparatively better. After the rule of Nijam people in Berar in contact with the western culture which was based on the foundation of physical sciences. Berar region closely acquainted with the western cultural which had advanced sciences, education, discipline and physical reforms. It, thus, started the wave of Renaissance. The struggle to cope with new scientific attitude, fundamental research, thought on new social system and values was started.

Modern age began with the British regime. The old values, traditions, customs, etc which had no relevance with the modern sciences were obliterated. A new process of change began with advent of the British regime. The present research aims to study the thoughts and the institutions and the movements in historical point of view.
1.1 Objectives Of Research:

1. To study the Historical background of Berar.
2. To study the social condition of Berar during British Rule.
3. To study the economical Condition Berar during British Rule.
4. To study the cultural Impact on Berar during British Rule.
5. To study the size of population & availability of facilities Berar during British Rule.
1.2 Need For the Research:

The basic aim of a research is to study the old notions, culture, thoughts and situations and to rethink and re-establish the proper and improper facts. The work, thoughts and stature of the historical personalities should be brought in front of the society which will prove to be a guidance and ideal for the upcoming generations. These facts can be reinstated before the society through the medium of research.

Research has been done on political history of Amravati district. Researchers have been work done on social and economical on this district level in limited scale. They reflected torture of British. Indian leaders through their worked influenced the people of Amravati. In Amravati various organizations were established. Representatives of Amravati attended the conferences of Indian national Congress.

Researchers have been done on political history of Yeotmal. They have been done worked on social field in brief on district level. They reflected torture of British. Indian leaders through their worked influenced the people of Yeotmal. In Yeotmal various organizations were established. Representatives of Yeotmal attended the conferences of congress.

While commencing study to write the impact of British rule on Berar, a importance has been given to the political, social, economical and cultural events and activities of that period. The social, economy and religious activities during this span has was taken into due consideration. Details about the historical events of Akola, Amravati, Buldhana and Yeotmal are available with us, but we find that the personalities commencing commendable achievements during the concerned period have been put in fore. Very less attention has been paid to highlight Berar.

The policies of British with respect to political, social, economical and cultural which left a deeper impact on Berar. Berar assimilated the administrative staunchness, and internal managerial system and policies of the British. This helped in development and awakening of region. Similarly, Berar also had a greater impact of this ancient history, society and culture. Up till now, we have seen that only the political history. British had been given the inferior status to the Indians.

During the British regime, the complete changes were brought out in Berar. They made administrative and physical improvements. During the British regime, the impact of Western
culture felt. Roads, railways, postal services including telegram were launched. The people had a curiosity about these new modern facilities. Keeping this aim in mind, the research in this regard has been initiated.

Research has been done on social, political and economical condition of district of Berar. No one has done on Berar region. The basic aim of research to study social, political, economical and culture condition of Berar in British rule. It reflected culture of Berar region. It should be brought in front of society as our heritage for future generations. It also helpful for researchers. Local people will know culture of their region. Because of that they will maintain their heritage. They will take of their culture. It will preserved for next generations. They will also culture impact of British rule on Berar region.
1.3 Research Methodology:

A historical research procedure has been implemented while studying the culture impact of British rule on Berar region. A scientific method has been used to examine the historical documents. Letters and others documents by internal and external criticism. Whenever there would be any controversial issues, stress was laid to study the views of various historians and to co-ordination over the issue.

Identify an idea, topic or research question. Conduct a background literature review. Refine the research idea and questions. Determine that historical methods will be the method used. Identify and locate primary and secondary data sources. Evaluate the authenticity and accuracy of source materials. Analyze the date and develop a narrative exposition of the findings.

The recognition of a historical problem or the identification of a need for certain historical knowledge. The gathering of as much relevant information about the problem or topic as possible. If appropriate, the forming of hypothesis that tentatively explain relationships between historical factors. The rigorous collection and organization of evidence, and the verification of the authenticity and veracity of information and its sources. The selection, organization, and analysis of the most pertinent collected evidence, and the drawing of conclusions; and the recording of conclusions in a meaningful narrative. Resources used in historical academic research and used to write historical academic research papers generally fall into one of two categories: primary and secondary sources. The difference between them is the reference point of the source’s creator.

Primary sources are works created by a person or persons involved in an event, movement, battle, etc. or in newspapers, journals, or other media contemporaneous with the event. Thus, they are first-hand (or primary) accounts of the event and they provide first-hand evidence of what happened. Another way to think of primary sources is as “original.”

Primary sources can come in many formats – they can be published or unpublished, a printed text or a text that has been digitized, an artefact, a recording, a painting or an image. They can also be reprinted or issued for publication or made accessible to the public long after their creation. For example, government documents may be classified for many years before these primary sources can be used by researchers. Oral histories may be recorded many years after the events about which the person is being interviewed took place. Because of this, primary sources can be found in all sections of the library.
Secondary sources are more critical analyses of events, movements, battles, etc. They are created by a person who has the necessary distance in time and involvement from the event, movement, battle, etc. to write a less personal account. Secondary sources build upon and interpret primary sources, as well as secondary sources created by others. Thus, secondary sources are second-hand accounts because their creators are one-position removed from first-hand accounts.
Statement Of The Problem:

The researcher has selected the following problem for his study: The present study is related to the Cultural Impact of British Imperial Rule on Berar Region (1853-1947). This title of the problem can be illustrated as given below:

1. The study will cover social condition in Pre British Period and British rule.
2. The study will cover economical condition in Pre British Period and British rule.
3. The study will cover political condition in Pre British Period and British rule.
4. The study will cover cultural condition in Pre British Period and British rule.
5. The study will lead to understand the impact of British rule and changes in the Berar.
1.4 Significance of Study:

The present study is related to the Cultural Impact of British Imperial Rule on Berar Region (1853-1947). It is not only important from the historical point of view but also cultural impact on Berar in British rule. History is being studied for the guidance of the future. Similarly, this historical study will guide for the better cultural heritage being imparted at present. There are different problems of social not in the Berar but also throughout the India.

Various great personalities were inspired by the personalities of Berar who brought great changes in social and economic fields of Berar. Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, first great man who worked for dalit he followed the philosophy of Mahatama Jyotirao Phule based upon justice, equality, liberty and fraternity. He was follower all his suggestions given by Jyotiba. He observed the Indian class and caste system minutely and produced scientific and revolutionary thoughts. He was of the view that all the people in this nature are born equal and they have every right to have the equal opportunities in every field. Every discrimination and inequality is brain work of man and therefore, they are children of God. He also emphasized that the social systems are brainwork of man.

He revolted against the tyranny of the upper castes. Under caste system millions of people had suffered for centuries. He discussed dominant role of Brahmins in his articles. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule was the dominant social reformer of the Indian. He led the movement against the prevailing caste restrictions in India. He revolted against the existing rigid caste system and for the rights of peasants and low caste sections and women.

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule had encouraged the individuals to develop the inventive powers among themselves as by research only one can achieve something new and different from others. He said that man is not helpless like other beings. He had got certain inventive and creative powers. Through these powers and skills, he can make change. Mahatma Jyoti rao Phule stressed on universalization of education i.e. education for all irrespective of caste, colour, creed, sex and poverty. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule had done a lot in his life to reform society, to fight for establishing equality in society.

Great leaders of Berar encouraged the individuals to develop the inventive powers among themselves as by research only one can achieve something new and different from others. He said that man is not helpless like other beings. He had got certain inventive and creative powers. Through these powers and skills, he can make change.
The social problems of caste system, women, and lower caste, and some other problems are the problems of education. These problems are invariably connected with development. The development problems are, in turn, connected with social problems. If one wants to minimize the problems of life, one must study education will be definitely helpful. The present study will contribute in the field of education by making good suggestions. Therefore this study will encourage all types of people engaged in different developmental activities and especially in the field of education. Equality of opportunity and quality of education have been the problems our country is facing for years. Stagnation and wastage also are all-pervading problems. Thorough research on all such problems may bring out solutions to such problems.

In this research topic, it focused which many social movements in Berar in British rule in broad spectrum which never explained ever. Social movements are important agents of social transformation and new vision. It also correlated with other province.

In this topic, it reflected geographical condition. It has been given according to district level wise. It discussed chronological order up till now none has been focused on this facts. It was first time mention in specific manner by each every step. In historical study, geography of every region is important. According to that there were consequences of events. British knew physical, topographical and climatic features of Berar. Then they came to know has some mineral. It has production of cotton.

The most important feature of research, it focused on social condition of Berar in Pre British and British period. It gave comparative reflection of social condition of Berar. The society got changebility and variblity of features.

Islamic rule in the Deccan was challenged by the rising powers of the Marathas. Under the leadership of Shivaji, the Marathas revolted against the Deccan Islamic powers and gradually established their rule in the region. The Marathas ruled over most of Maharashtra from the mid 17th to the early 19th centuries. Their religious movement took full shape and soon indo Islamic style exist. Old forms returned with this of Hindu architecture, influenced by Sultanate and later the Mughal architecture.

In this topic, it discussed a wind of reform was blowing due to Western education. Due to the improvement in the condition of lower section of society the established order was getting hard blows. It was getting crippled and the work of missionaries also enhanced the effect. The missionaries criticized the lacunas in Hinduism which greatly stirred the lovers of existing
traditional caste- ridden society. An English educated youth had to ponder on the critique of religion by missionaries. It is quite natural with us people who get angered with the missionaries in context of their work of conversion. But it should also be considered that it is very difficult to remain away from homes for so many years to live, serve and work among people different in castes. This kind of sacrifice is expected from hundreds of youths in Hinduism without which the religion which is otherwise shattered hundreds of the time by discriminations of race, castes, untouchability and barbarity etc will not gain its vigour until the integration the religion.

In this research topic, it reflected broad view of educational system though their outlook was different. But their consequences as follows; in British rule the western education indirectly helped to create the spirit of nationalism. National Congress was immerged as the political institution. Organized efforts were started to bring social and political reforms. Satyashodhak Samaj, Brahmanetar and Dalit Movements gained momentum to replace the rotten values with the new modern outlook. The women empowerment through her education was gained momentum. It changed of scenario of region with spirit of enthusiasm.

In this research topic, it reflected the Library-movement, literary conferences and journalism that changed face of Berar. It was explained in elaboratative manner. Each these consequences of events mentioned. It shows vivid picture of Berar. Newspapers, books and libraries took a major share in the task and propagated new thought. Different temples, fairs and other religious institutions cherished legacy of cultural development.

In this research topic, arts, sculpture and architecture reflected in realistic way. By their description, they brought the real images of their arts, sculpture and architecture. It showed great realistic approach of research. It maintained rules and regulations of histography in disciplined manner. It is specific and related to topic.

The present aims found the impact of the British regime on the socio-cultural aspects of Berar. The researcher honestly attempts to present her research output through the present treatise

1.5 Scope of Research:

While considering contemporary condition of Berar. Berar has area of 175000 sq miles. East West average distance is 150 miles and the region is spread North South at around same distance. Population of Berar was 10,75,442 in 1867. Satpuda ranges are towards north of Berar
while Ajanta ranges are to South. Rain water accumulated on both the ranges flows north south in numerous tributaries through the valley and reach to river Purna. It flows down from East to West and concedes into Tapi River. Wardha River flows towards east. In the south, a famous Lonar salt water reservoir is at Lonar.

By discussing this topic, Weather in Berar is hot and dry. Narnala, Chikhaldara and Budhana are at higher altitude from sea and therefore are cold destinations. There is comparatively less rain fall in Berar. Traditional crops include sorghum, wheat, cotton, sugar cane, sesame, tur, mug and harbara etc.

Limestone, soft stones, coal, iron etc minerals are found in Yavatmal district. The water at Lonar Crater lake includes sodium, carbonate of soda and insoluble matter with minutes quantities of other substances. Other agents, carnelians and calcite (double refreshing spar) etc is found in the southern parts of Buldana district.

Iron ore, sand stone etc minerals are found in Amravati District while Basalt and sandstones are in Akola district. Along with rich mineral wealth, Berar has wild life including rich fauna and flora to some extend. Saline water belt covers the parts of Akola and Buldana district.

With regarding above these facts are important economically point of view. It will helpful in future. People will utilize this fact in real life. It is helpful to economy. Hence economical important was identified, it will helpful for future generations to gave right way for their career and professions.

Various union organizations arose in Berar. It worked for upliftment of labour. Labour get some benefits for their hardwork. It will inspire in future of region do something for labour. It will change scenario of industrialization. Because labour union and trade union are the part of Industrilization.

Many famine occurred in Berar. People suffered from this. British established many famine relief committees though it was not fruitful. People worked for relief of their people. As considering in Berar there many social movements took place in British rule such as Satyashodhak Samaj, Brahmanetar and Dalit Movements. Social movements display much variety and changeability it was different from previous condition in Berar. The strength and importance of social movements were related to long political-economic factors. When the
conditions that give rise to the condition change the movements tend to disappear. It is important to distinguish between the condition of Pre British period, and in the British period.

These social movements to abolish the rotten evil customs and tradition in society. Because of these movements people aware evil custom what they were maintaining from centuries. Then they were paying attention to education. They also participating in social movements.

From these movements in future people will inspire, they will also take decision. They will get ideas from these movements. These movements became ideal for future generations. They enhance experiences of people. They will guide people to combat with situations. They will show pathways. They will overcome their problems. They will not shake from their decisions. They will chase their goals. Social movements play great role in shaping society.

During studying this topic Berar region has great monuments. British paid attention to the maintainance of architecture. This will gave us thoughts of preservation of arts, sculpture and architecture. If we will maintain properly it will not only beneficial to the future generations to know history of their region. But also sustain our heritage.

Secondly government nowadays only paying attention to national monuments. So if local people will aware of their regional arts, sculpture and architecture, then they will come forward. They will responsible about preservation of arts, sculpture and architecture. Nowadays they are problems of employment then local youth will get employments tourism. Only when they knowledge of local places. Arts, sculpture and architecture taught variety of arts and sculpture present in region. They will feel proud of their region. It enchances to liking of their region.

In present research reflected culture of Berar region. In ancient period, Berar rulers gave patronage to art and culture. They gave patronage to different poets and erudite scholars. Their influence was invariably fell on Vidarbha. A stock of 1200 coins during Satavahan regime was found at Chanda and Akola districts of Vidarbha.

In medieval period it pointed out that the great development in art, literature and architecture. Pilgrimages, Fairs and festivals brought the two communities little closer. The credit of uniting them go to the religious teachers. Several sects gave impetus to the spirit of tolerance. Along with thought and customs, art, architecture also had influence of Hindu and Muslim style. The impact of Muslim regime thoroughly touched the social, religious, economical and political existence of the Hindu. There was formation of indo islamic style.
It should be brought in front of society as our heritage for future generations. It also helpful for researchers. Local people will know culture of their region. Because of that they will maintain their heritage. They will take care of their culture. It will preserved for next generations. They will also know cultural impact of British rule on Berar region.

By commencing this research, in British rule there were many intellectual movements arose such as Library-movement, literary conferences and journalism it will inspired generations in future. It will show right pathway when such invasion of foreign on any region. People of Berar took right route in British rule. They learnt from policies of British. They aware from education and also work of contemporary national leaders in the India. They took responsibility by their own. Then they awakened the people of Berar by their social movements. Such lesson will take generation in future.

Library movement, literary conferences, journalism and establishment of varied clubs shows realistic approach life. They changed according to time. It will teach realistic approach to future generations. They will think to start different activities that will helpful for development of their region.

While studying this topic, Berar is land of saints. It has great various sects seen in Berar province. It has been seen that due to various cultural and political reason the rise and decline of many sects. The various sects contributed to retain progress of social life in Berar province. From ancient to modern period many saints were given same teaching to society. Till as period took turning in every walk of our life we need treasure of teaching of saints. Various sects in every religion got moral and ethical thoughts to get moral and ethical values. Then only will follow the right path. Then they will hurt to anyone in the society. This study will always help to get inspirations and motivations from great work of Saints.

By discussing this topic, from literary point of view, it will helpful the tradition of development of literature in the province. Various sects deserves the place great important. It will be literary in future in Berar.

By studying this topic, These sects taught to devotion this will inspire generations. They taught the Karmayoga (a way of life) which harmonies between family and spirituality. They had given special emphasis on mercy, peace, liberalism, Charity, welfare of others etc., ethical values, spread equality and fraternity in society. The various sects in Berar brought awareness among Bahujan Samaj (general mass) of society. The sects generated confidence in them and
made them creative. They freed the society from the clutches of casteism, false rituals, and certain evils in religion and made them alert and rational. Consequently there was rapid cultural, social and political transformation in the society of Berar.

While discussing this topic, there were many saints of varied sects and denominations in the Province, so also there are Majaras, Samadhis, Mathas etc of saints. These saints taught to lead the life of virtue. All these people stressed on the devotion. They did not rely on any particular form or incarnation of God, on the contrary they believed on the concept of God. They asserted that in the domain of His worship there cannot be discrimination of superior and inferior. Also, the Shudras, women, etc should have the opportunity of salvation.

On the one hand the saints taught righteousness and on the other hand they reduced the discrimination in society. They provided the right of worship and also made the light of knowledge available for the folk. They organized the common folk and generated their self-confidence and self-esteem. And generating their self-confidence and self-esteem was the appropriate path to banish the authority of Shastra- Pramanya (authority of scriptures).

We will learnt following facts, the saints believed on Dharma (right path of duty), but theirs concepts were not based on obstinacy or a sort of orthodox. They desired that none should exploit the others on the pretext of religion, none should propagate false rituals, and there should not an arbitrator between God and man. Saints diverted the minds of peoples from the evils like addiction and demonstrated the way of virtue. The saints taught such virtues as observance of duty, good conduct, and mutual love etc. to society. They had modest dislike of Sadhus who deceive simple folk. The saints attempted to manifest successfully the principle in philosophical books, the asceticism of saints, the worship contained in Bhagwat and Puranas. That is why they did not need to rely on false rituals.

While commencing this topic, it will helpful in spreading thoughts of equality. By ignoring these following facts cunning pundits had created the false rituals and beliefs by adulteration of fasts, rules of worships, Smruti- puranas etc. The devotion was lost in false rituals. Those pundits exploited the common mass by taking undue advantage of their ignorance. The saints in Berar did not observe the false notions of superiority- inferiority of the castes. They also propagated the equality of sexes.

By their own transparent conduct they put an ideal before the society. They have shown the virtue of simple living and high thinking. All this generated awareness among the people in
Berar and they unitedely began to participate actively in freedom movement. Many have sacrificed their lives out of love for the nation. We will take lesson from this study.

Education system outlook during British rule changed of people. They will know from this. Education is remedy to cure evil and rotten values in the society. It will help to broaden our aims and goals. It will be turning point of region. That will show great pathways of success.

6. Limitations Of research:

The present aims at finding out the impact of the British regime on the socio-cultural aspects of Berar. As the researcher honestly attempts to present her research out put through the present treatise. Research is limited to the Berar. It is specific area. Research is limited to Berar region. Time period of research is 1853 AD to 1947AD. So again time is also limitation.

The researcher discussed about A Historical Study into the Cultural Impact of British Imperial Rule on Berar Region (1853-1947). So, the researcher took into consideration these ninety four years. The investigator has been collected political, social, economical and cultural and hence the work related to it.

Berar province is the only geographical area of the present work in British rule, economical, cultural, social and political, was spread all over India. Thus, there would be limitations of time and place for this research work and the researcher tried to find out facts within this framework.