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## REMARKABLE EDUCATIONAL WORK OF RAJARSHI SHAHU

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### Abstract :

*Education is a fundamental tool for the overall development of human beings. True education is the discovery of the perfection of human dormancy. This is the real wealth of the young generation in the country. It is essential that the education system be quality and effective to make it prosperous, cultured, patriotic, non-addict, fair, humanitarian, and idealistic citizen. An ideal society is formed on the four pillars of universal life value, universal thinking, service, and sacrifice. All these values need to be inculcated in the child's mind through education. Formally the meaning of Education means change in behavior. The change which is desirable is called education. During the reign of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, many kinds of erroneous customs and traditions existed in the society. The feeling of untouchability was intense. Restrictions on illiteracy, ignorance, caste discrimination, poverty, education are very prevalent in the society especially among the backward untouchables. Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj started giving free and compulsory education to all by overcoming all these wrongdoings. He was adamant that no country could prosper without education. In his mere 28-year career from 1894 to 1922, Shahu Maharaj, with his foresight, completed various educational and other social works, which is still unmatched today. The social, political, and cultural thoughts of these great men inspire and encourage us. In the 21st century, it is necessary to give innovative ideas to our students. An attempt has been made in this paper to give a brief overview of all these matters.*

**Keywords :** *Compulsory and free Primary Education, Reservation Policy, Hostel Construction, Educational upliftment of backward untouchables, Women's Education, Educational policy, and law, Donations and Scholarship.*

### Introduction :

Chhatrapati Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj was born on 26 June 1874 in Kolhapur. He was a great Social Thinker, Social Reformer, and Educational Thinker. He was an ideal social reformer in Maharashtra. He was a public welfare king of Kolhapur state. His social and educational thoughts and actions were of high quality. His educational thoughts and work are very invaluable in society. Shahu Maharaj said that knowledge was the source of social power in those days and life was a means of truth along with prosperity. However, the current educational situation is unsettling. Efforts must be made by all parties for competent education. Shahu Maharaj has given the face of modern Maharashtra, the face of

progress, and his thoughts have taken Maharashtra forward 100 years. Education contributes to the personal, social and value development of a person. Shahu Maharaj made a great contribution in educating the people of Bahujan Samaj. The current situation in the education sector is dire and ideological dialogue is needed. Education alone has the power to shape the future of a society. Education is important to make the student think and students should be able to form opinions through the learning process.

Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj has done supernatural work in the interest of the field of education. In it mainly 1) Provided free and compulsory education to the students. 2) Emphasis was laid on giving scholarship concessions. 3) Hostel should

be arranged for students. 4) To provide various facilities to the students.

In the same way, other Educational Thoughts and Activities can be summarized as follows.

### **Compulsory and Free Primary Education:**

#### **Free Primary Education:**

Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj has been thinking seriously about making primary education free and compulsory in his state since 1912-13.

Finally, on July 24, 1917, he declared, "From the coming Ganesh Chaturthi (September 30), primary education is being made compulsory and free in Karveer area." Also, all existing primary school fees are being waived from this day. To prepare the rules of this compulsory primary education, Shri. Karmarkar, Mr. Marathe, and Prof. A committee of three Brahmin educationists, Panditrao, was appointed. Education Inspector Dongre was given the responsibility of preparing the syllabus. One Lakh (1,00,000/-) Rupees was announced to be spent on this scheme. It was decided to spend the remaining amount on Training Colleges, School Buildings and Teaching Aids.

#### **Compulsory Education:**

Under this scheme, primary schools were established in every village with a population of 500 to 1000. During the year, 96 new schools were started in the villages of the state. And over 4500 children started getting education in it. To enable the children of the farmers to learn to do their farm work, Maharaj gave them the privilege of attending school for two hours in the morning or evening. Shahu Maharaj created a separate account for compulsory and free primary education in his state. His aim was to ensure that the scheme was implemented efficiently without any paperwork. When the Primary Education Act came into force in 1917-18, there were 27 schools and 1296 children under this scheme. However, in the following five years, by 1921-22, it increased to 420 schools and 22,007 children. So, the cost of the scheme went up to three lakhs (3,00,000/-).

### **Incentives for Women's Education:**

Shahu Maharaj had adopted a very progressive policy on women's education in Karveer Sansthan. She had created a special post of female education officer to look after the system of female education in the institute. This responsibility was with Rakhmabai Kelvakar. As soon as there were schools for boys and girls in the state. But, created separate schools for girls. In order to increase the pass rate of girls, special rewards / prizes were given to the teachers in proportion to their passing.

In 1919, a special gazette order was issued for adult and backward class women to provide free accommodation to such educated women. The court placed special scholarships to encourage smart girls in further education. For the marriage of Princess Akkasaheb Maharaj, a total of five scholarships of Rs.40. Shahu Maharaj also took a liberal approach towards higher education of girls. He provided free education to all the girls studying in Rajaram College. Rakhmabai's own daughter, Krishnabai, was sent by the Maharaja to the Grant Medical College in Mumbai for medical education and became a doctor. And on his return was appointed Senior Medical Officer at Edward Memorial Hospital, Kolhapur. Thus, Krishnabai became the second Maharashtra girl to return home after completing her medical education abroad. The first, of course, was Anandibai Joshi. Shahu Maharaj overcame the bitter opposition of the royal family and by educating his widowed daughter-in-law-Indumati Devi, expressed the idea of development of female personality. Indumati Devi's life was a great laboratory for implementing Shahu Chhatrapati's ideas on women's education.

### **Efforts to educate the untouchables:**

In the time of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, the feeling of untouchability was intense. Therefore, the schools of the untouchables and the untouchables were independent everywhere. The law could not immediately remove this feeling. Awareness was needed to create favorable conditions for this. Until then, however, it would be wrong to deprive the

untouchables of their basic right to education. Therefore, Shahu Maharaj adopted a milder policy in this regard and gave priority to creating educational awareness among the untouchables, giving concessions, increasing the number of their schools and students. As a result, at the time of the accession to the throne in 1984, there were only five schools for the untouchables in the state and it had 168 students. However, in 1907-08 this number became 16 and 416 respectively. And in 1912 it increased further to 27 schools and 636 students. Shahu Maharaj started special eligibility classes for untouchables to bring the level of education of untouchables and untouchables to the same level and to make untouchable students eligible to go to high school. Maharaj also gave great encouragement in teaching English.

Maharaj gave some special orders for the education of untouchables during that period. In 1906, there was a night school for untouchables like Chambar, Mahar etc. in Kolhapur. By the order of 28th November 1906, Maharaj established the school. Order dated 4th October 1907 approved the school for untouchable girls of Chambhar and Dhor in Kolhapur. For this, Rs. 96 crore was provided in the women's education budget of the institute.

Shahu Maharaj for the education of untouchables on 24th November 1911 On September 28, 1919, two especially important orders were issued. On November 24, 1911, the Maharaja issued a particularly important order, which was to provide free education to all the untouchables in the Sansthan. In addition, the clergy adopted a policy of awarding special scholarships to untouchable students from time to time. In view of the plight of the untouchables, Rs.2500 In the same month, special scholarships of Rs. 60 per month were

#### **20 Hostels of different castes and religions:**

Sr. No.	Year	Name of the Hostel	Sr. No.	Year	Name of the Hostel
1	1901	Victoria Maratha Boarding	11	1915	Indian Khrichhan Hostel
2	1905	Jain Boarding	12	1918	Arya Samaj Gurukul
3	1906	Muslim Boarding	13	1918	Vaishya Boarding
4	1907	Virshaiv Lingayat	14	1919	Dhor-Chambhar Boarding

announced for the untouchables in the Talathi class.

After this, on 28th September 1919, Maharaj issued another important order. Accordingly, it was decided to close independent schools for the untouchables in the state. 'In the Karveer district, there are separate schools for untouchable children. All those schools should be closed from the coming Dussehra, and the children of untouchables should be admitted in government schools just like the children of other people. Children of all castes and religions should be accommodated together in government schools as there are no restrictions on observing Shivashiv.

#### **Hostel construction initiatives:**

Shahu Maharaj tried his best to complete the education system in the Sansthan by setting up dormitories for the students of Bahujan Samaj in the village, so that there would be no hindrance for their education. The first hostel 'Victoria Maratha Boarding' was established in Kolhapur on 18th April 1901.(Recent Shri. Shahu Chhatrapati Boarding) It was during this period that Jain Boarding was established. And after those 20 hostels of different castes and religions like Lingayat, Muslim, Untouchable, Sonar, Shimpi, Panchal, Gaud Saraswat, Vaishya, Dhor-Chambar, Carpenter, Nabhik, Koshti were established with the inspiration and help of Shahu Maharaj. Each dormitory was provided with buildings, open space, and permanent sources of income for the welfare of poor students. In the society of that time, caste was really frightening. The caste hierarchy was deeply rooted in the mind. Against this background, Shahu Maharaj had decided to set up caste-wise hostels keeping in view the social conditions prevailing at that time.

		Boarding			
5	1908	Miss Clark Hostel	15	1920	Shivaji Vaidya. Vidyalaya Boarding
6	1908	Daivadnya Boarding	16	1920	Pric.Shivaji Free Maratha Boarding
7	1911	Namdev Boarding	17	1920	Somwanshiy Arya ksatriy Boarding
8	1912	Kayastha Prabhu Boarding	18	1921	Sutar Boarding
9	1912	Panchal Brahman Boarding	19	1921	Nabhik Boarding
10	1912	Saraswat Boarding	20	1921	Shri Dewang Boarding

He was of the view that children from all levels of society should be educated. Once she learned, she was sure that this feeling of caste-religion discrimination in her mind would automatically disappear. Another result of Shahu Maharaj's hostel movement was that through this movement many social workers established hostels for the backward community in education. The most notable achievement in this was Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil, a disciple of Maharaj, who established 'Rayat Shikshan Sanstha' and took the river of knowledge to the villages of Maharashtra. He also set up hostels for poor students in various places. The work of Karmaveer is Shahu Maharaj was given impetus by giving the mantra of 'Earn and Learn' to these students.

#### **Sanskrit College, Scholarships for Higher Education, Donations:**

In 1917, Shahu Maharaj under the guidance of Karveer Shankaracharya conducted an innovative experiment of setting up a Sanskrit College. The Sanskrit College Chhatrapati Mahavidyalaya was started on July 29, 1917. The surrounding space and building were donated for the expansion of this college. But Maharaj's attempt to teach Sanskrit to the children of Bahujan Samaj was not successful. Shahu Maharaj donated Ru.5000 in memory of Dr. Nair. 'The Dr. Nair Memorial Scholarship' was donated. Also, strong financial assistance was given to many non-state organizations (Pune, Nashik, Nagpur,

Kashi etc.). In Pune Shahu Maharaj Donate 2000/- to Nutan Marathi Vidyalaya, 1000/-to Maratha Free Boarding House, 25000/- to Shivaji Maratha Highschool,10000/- to Shivaji School, 22000/- to Chhatrapati Tarabai Boarding School. In Nashik donate the 15000/- to Udaji Maratha Boarding, 5000/- to Sant Seanaji Nabhik Boarding, 5000/- to Dispersed Class Boarding. In Ahmednagar 3500/- donate to Shivaji Maratha Boarding. In Nagpur 5000/- donate to Dispersed Classes Boarding House etc.

It is seen that Maharaj made all kinds of efforts to contribute to the education movement in the country with enthusiasm and devotion to his goal.

#### **Consequences of Education work in Maharashtra:**

Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj has done a remarkable and effective work in the field of education. His vision was to formulate any policy with foresight and strictly implement it. This had a far-reaching effect on the Bahujan Samaj. Inspired by this achievement of Shahu Maharaj, many leaders from Maharashtra established independent educational institutes in backward and remote areas and provided all convenience and facilities up to higher education to the students from backward, neglected and Dalit communities. Inspired by the educational work of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, many leaders set up various educational institutes.

Sr. No.	Founder	Name of the Educational Institution
1.	Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil	Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara
2.	Karmaveer Bhausheb Hire	Maratha Shikshan Sanstha, Malegaon
3.	Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh	Shri Shivaji Education Society, Amravati

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4.	Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar	Peoples Education Society, Mumbai
5.	Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe	Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha, Kolhapur
6.	Dr. V.T. Patil	Tararani Vidyapeeth, Kolhapur
7.	Dr. Balasaheb Khardekar & Desai	Janta Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Kolhapur
8.	Karmaveer Mama Saheb Jagdale	Shivaji Shikshan Sanstha, Barshi

In this way the network of education sector was formed all over Maharashtra and due to their diligent educational work for the general public, modern Maharashtra began to take shape and move towards its progress.

#### **Constitution and Right to Education:**

Dr. Bharat Ratna has done an excellent job of reimbursing the educational work started by Mahatma Jotirao Phule and Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj through the Indian Constitution. Performed by Babasaheb Ambedkar. In Article 45 of the Constitution, Babasaheb made provision for compulsory and free education for all boys and girls in the country. Similarly, as per Section 46, provision has been made to provide equal opportunities for the educational, socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the society. The 86th Amendment incorporates Article 21-A [13] into the Constitution, which gives the basic right to free and compulsory primary education to all children between the ages of six and fourteen in India. On The Right to Education Act was established in the country on April 1, 2010, making it mandatory for the Central and State Governments to strictly enforce it. Later, the rules of execution were determined accordingly and finally Mahatma Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision of imparting education to every child in this country was established. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar insisted on establishing the right to education at the national level. It finally took shape in 2010 in the form of the Right to Education. However, the importance of both the vision and the educational work of this Lokraj, who effectively enforced this law in his state on July 24, 1917, almost a hundred years ago, was further emphasized here.

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#### **Conclusion :**

Thus, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj's educational work inspired progressive thinking as well as the tendency to uplift the Bahujan Samaj and inspire constructive schemes. Educational Institutions were established in various places in Maharashtra Got it. Due to all these duties, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj is said to be the 'Originator of Social Revolution' and 'The Fortune teller of Maharashtra. Naturally, due to Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj's immense and progressive educational work, Kolhapur city became the Birthplace of Innovation, Home of Knowledge, and Culture. As a result of this work, Shivaji University was established in Kolhapur.

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