

**“SATARA IN POST-INDEPENDENCE ERA:
A STUDY IN URBAN HISTORY”**

A SYNOPSIS OF THE Ph.D. THESIS
SUBMITTED
TO
SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY, KOLHAPUR

FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN
HISTORY
UNDER THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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June 2009

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SUMMARY

The developmental history of urban institutions is being studied since ancient times. The cities and towns came to be developed rapidly after the Industrial Revolution. Large scale increase in industrialization has correspondingly increased the proportion and intensity of the urban problems so much that the researchers, intellectuals, and policymakers all have to take note of the different facets of the urban problems. The problems of both large and small cities are escalating in intensity but these are rarely taken into consideration. The topic of administration of urban development and urban planning has remained neglected in India. In the study of urban history, it is possible to identify the present and future urban problems and their causes and it is the primary objective of the study of urban history.

Presently, the 'urban history' has evolved into a developed branch of historical research and the historians all over the world are investigating the history of the cities, towns and villages in different time periods. In India, some of the notable researchers in this behalf are J.C.Grewal, Indu Banga, Nurul Hasan, and V.D.Divekar. Some of the notable examples of urban history are B.G.Gokhale's "An Urban Historical Study of 18th Century Pune", M.D.David's "History of Bombay", and T.R.D'Souza's "Medieval Goa : A Social and Economic History".

Since historical times, the cities were important as State capitals. Cities were also reputed for power, commerce, learning, arts, and industry. The history of such urban institutions is generally studied.

Many have written the history of Satara City, but none has undertaken a consolidated study of its economic, social, educational, cultural, administrative factors. It is considered important to show through urban historical research that in the arena of urban planning, there should be a balance between economic, social and administrative factors and accordingly, to bring about a change in their mindset. The topic of the present work is the urban historical research study of Satara City in the post-Independence period. The researcher has selected this topic with a view of making an integrated study of urban factors of Satara City and thereby cast a glance on its historical development. In the medieval history of Marathas, Satara, i.e. Fort Ajinkyatara, was a place of State capital. During the British reign, Satara had a cantonment. During India's freedom struggle, Satara had become a 'Crowning Glory', because the major strategies of the struggle were being planned out of here. This land with glorious historical, political and social traditions is also known as the land of revolutionaries. The thoughts of social equity promoted by Mahatma Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Maharshi V.R. Shinde and Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj added dynamism to the social transformation movement in Satara. Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil's educational revolution era also commenced in this land. The researcher was curious about the creative traditions of Satara City.

There were abundant resources, both published and unpublished, available for accomplishing this work.

While preparing the present Thesis, annual reports of Satara Nagar Palika, reports of Government institutions, official records, reports of Census of India (upto 2001), Satara District Gazetteer (1885, 1963, 1999), Satara Nagar Palika's action plans and development plans, souvenirs, periodicals, issues of 'Itihas Sanshodhan Patrika', as well as

the interviews of various persons in different sectors from Satara City have been used to present the topic of investigation in a historical and scientific manner. A detailed list of all the documents used for the research work has been included in the Bibliography.

The present Thesis has been divided into seven Chapters, whose chapter-wise brief review is as under:

Chapter-1 : Historical Background

Satara once was a highly prosperous capital city of the Maratha Empire established by Chh.Shivaji with his extreme valour and from where all military, social and political strategies were planned. The history of Satara City, in turn, is the history of Fort Ajinkyatara. The fort is situated on the Saptarishi hills of Yavateshwar range of Sahyadri mountains, at a height of 900 ft. above Satara City. The area on which the fort stands was in the possession of Andhrabratya kings during the period from 90 B.C. to 300 A.D. The history of subsequent possession of this area is untraceable in the absence of sources. Some copper inscriptions allude to the possession of Chalukya and Rashtrakuta dynasties until 1200 A.D. Another copper inscription (1190 A.D.) mentions that Ajinkyatara fort was built by Kolhapur's Shilahar dynasty King Bhoj-II. Later on, on 27th July 1673, Chh.Shivaji Maharaj took over this fort, which then was in possession of Bijapur Mughals. Prior to his Karnataka campaign, being ill, Chh.Shivaji also stayed here for a while. In 1698 A.D., Chh.Rajaram honoured this fort by making it Maratha's capital. In 1700 A.D., Aurangzeb annexed this fort to Mughal empire during his southern campaign and named it as 'Azamtara'. In 1706 A.D., Maratha Pratinidhi Parashuram Tryambak recaptured the fort. When Queen Tarabai was ruling from Satara throne, Sambhaji's son Shahu was released from the Mughal's captivity (1707

A.D.) and a conflict flared up between the two, in which Shahu captured Satara City and became the ruler of Maratha empire. He accomplished his coronation on this very fort. But as the hill-top capital proved inconvenient, he established a town named 'Shahunagar' at the northern foot of the fort, which is today known as Satara City. Chh.Shahu encouraged people to settle this new town. He also constructed a water tank atop Yavateshwar Hills to provide water to the township and named the lanes therein after the days of the week. Today, his reign is remembered by the historical structures, layout and areas. Thereafter, during British period, Pratapsinha introduced numerous improvements in the township for which he belaboured very much. His administration has been highly praised even by the British officers. In 1848, Satara came under the British rule. They raised various institutions in the city, which included a municipal office, schools, government hospital, town library, etc. Thus, Satara became the foremost city in the district. The district has made a valuable contribution to the freedom struggle also.

Many historical structures in the city bear witness to the fact that it indeed was a capital of Maratha empire. These include Adalatwada, Rangmahal, Old Palace, New Palace, old and new Jalmandir, Charbhinti, Arthajalchhatrapa Vachanalaya, Chh.Shivaji Maharaj Museum, etc.

The meaning and etymology of the term 'Satara' has been variously explained. For example, it is associated with words like 'Sat Dara' (seven valleys), 'Maha Dara' (great valley), 'Saptatara' (seven stars). Some state that the name 'Satara' has come into being after the Saptarishi temple within Ajinkyatara fort or that it is the degenerated form of a single term referring collectively to the seventeen gateways of Ajinkyatara fort. In olden days, 'tara' meant a fort. There are seven forts

around Satara City, from which the term 'Satare' emerged. The fort is referred to as 'Satare' in Shahu-time correspondences. 'Sat Satar' also means expansion and the adjective 'Sitar' means one who expands; hence, linguistically, the proper noun 'Satara' is proved. This proves the concept of 'Sat-Satar-Satara'.

Chapter-2 : Growth and Expansion of Satara Municipality

Municipal councils and municipal corporations have an important place in local urban administration. These local bodies endeavour to resolve various problems arising out of urbanization. Municipalities play an important role in solving urban problems in the areas of water supply, health care, cleanliness, security, education, housing, transportation, recreation, etc. Satara municipality is more than 150 years old. Its jurisdictional area is 8.16 sq.km., together with a population of 1,08,048 and it is progressing with a specific purpose. The establishment of the municipalities was the first step towards decentralization by handing over the power to the local people's representatives through a democratic process through the medium of local self-government bodies, so as to resolve the local level problems through them. Satara Municipality came into being on 1st August, 1853. At that time, its total annual income was Rs.11,000/- which has now gone up to Rs.24 crores. According to amended bye-laws of 1994, the total number of elected representatives on Satara municipality is 39 and it falls in 'A' category.

Earlier, there was a military cantonment in Satara Camp area, which was dissolved later on. In 1889-90, a separate sub-urban municipality was established for the benefit of the civilians in this area. The areas of Godoli and Sadar Bazar were attached to this new municipality. In 1961, the sub-urban municipality was dissolved and its area was included in the city municipality. Today, there are 27 Peths in

the municipal jurisdiction and numerous suburbs and settlements are coming into being.

It is evidenced that since its inception, Satara municipality was attempting to beautify the city. Also, since beginning, it has been facing important problems like assured water supply. The municipal income mainly includes taxes, cesses and duties, such as property tax, octroi duty, entertainment tax, special educational tax, advertisement tax, vehicle tax, and other taxes. The municipality also receives grants from the Government for implementing various town development plans. Satara City receives water supply from Kaas Tank, Mahadare Tank, and Shahpur and Krishna schemes.

It is very necessary to improve Satara Municipality's supervision of urban cleanliness and environment. Because although the roads have been built according to plans, the construction design is very inadequate and the maintenance is very insignificant. There is a large difference between the size of the city and the area under roads. The municipality has organized waste-water disposal through underground gutters at some places, while there are open gutters at some other places. The arrangement for the disposal of solid waste has been made at Songaon which is very near to the city and since it is a hilly area, it is affecting the environment. The quality of the primary education being imparted in the municipal schools is much lower than that in other educational institutions. The awareness of going beyond the traditional municipal tasks is not seen in the municipality.

Chapter-3 : Social -Cultural Movements

The history of Satara City and districts have various facets. The city may be cited as having a creative legacy. Many philosophers, historians, literateurs, journalists, poets, dramatists, musicians and sports

persons were born here. Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil's propagation of education as an effective means of social transformation and Maharshi Vitthal Ramaji Shinde's work are the crowning glories of the city as well as the district. The land blessed by the treads of Chh.Shivaji Maharaj and Samartha Ramdas was ruled over by Chh.Shahu Maharaj, Chh.Ram Raje, Chh.Pratapsinha. Chh.Pratapsinha Maharaj was the architect of the modern-day Satara and a social reformer, while Queen Mother Sumitra Raje Bhosale was the mainstay of numerous social, educational and cultural institutions. Ramshastri Prabhune, Nana Phadanvis, Vedshastra Sampanna Anantacharya, Narayanacharya Gajendragadkar, social reformer Agarkar, literature laureate N.C.Kelkar, Lokhitwadi, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil, Maharshi Shinde, Tarkateertha Laxmanshastri Joshi, ex-Chief Justice Gajendragadkar, Achyut Kolhatkar, Chitaman Kolhatkar, S.G. Gupte, Shri.Mate, poey Yashawant, B.S.Mardhekar, Prin.Shivajirao Bhosale, Barr. P.G.Patil and many others have contributed a lion's share to the social and cultural moulding of Satara.

For nearly two decades after Independence, there was no trace of any movements in Satara city as well as the district. In the last 2-3 decades of the 20th century and at the beginning of the 21st century, the roles enacted by various social movements are certainly adorable. The movements being conducted by the organizations like 'Shramik Muktidal', 'Samajwadi Muktidal', 'Dalit Hakka Parishad', 'Maharashtra Rajya Dharan va Prakalp-grast Shetkari Parishad', 'Saman Pani Vatap Chalval', 'Andhrashraddha Nirmulan Chalval', 'Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Academy', and 'Bhatkya Vimukta Jati Jamati Chalval' have proved to be path breaking not only for Satara city and district but also for other rural areas. These movements are belabouring for sustainable

development and striving to ensure that no factor should be involved in human exploitation. Through the medium of these movements, many renowned persons like Prof.Dr.N.D.Patil, Dr.Narendra Dabholkar, Dr.Bharat Patankar, Laxman Mane, and Dr.A.H.Salunkhe have come on Maharashtra's platform. Through these movements agricultural labourers, workers, women, Dalits, Adivasis, Paradhis, and working classes have become united. The thoughts of Mahatma Phule's Satyashodhak Samaj have indeed proved useful to these movements.

'Raanvata' Nature and Environment Circle, R.N.Godbole Public Trust, and Balaji Trust are working towards "New Satara, Prosperous Satara'. Similarly, City Dailies like 'Aikya', 'Gramodhar', 'Mahasatta', 'Jivhala', and 'Ajinkya Press' are attempting political and social awakening and present the social woes. The literateurs here are presenting a picture of the city's traditional life-style and culture. The writers like V.V.Hadap, N.H.Apte, A.B.Kolhatkar, Shri.Mate, Pandit Sapre, K.P.Kulkarni, and B.S. Mardhekar received both Government and public recognition. In recent times, Satara City-based writers like Prin.Shivajirao Bhosale, S.S.Bhave, Shankar Sarada, R.G.Jadhav, H.V.Inamdar, Deepa Govarikar, Sharad Chirmule, vasant Joshi, D.T.Bhosale, and Jayawant Gujar have rapidly come into limelight.

Satara city has so far hosted three annual all-India Marathi Literature Meets, in 1905, 1962 and 1993; then there were two dramatists meets in 1957 and 1990. Satara Town Library and Shahu Kala Mandir are the two centres of Satara's social and cultural movements. The City has maintained its unique identity in music, arts and sports. Many Marathi feature films have been produced by the cine producers in the City. Some City sportsmen also have made a name for themselves at national and international levels.

Chapter-4 : Educational Developments

Satara City's and the district's educational tradition is very long. Satararians have the legacy of 'Gurukul Education'. Because of the promotion given by Chh.Pratapsinha Maharaj to education and the efforts made by social reformers like Mahatma Phule, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil, and Bapuji Salunkhe for the propagation of education Satara has a good educational tradition. Realizing the importance of education for masses and women, Chh.Pratapsinha Maharaj started the first-ever Marathi-medium primary school in the royal building constructed as Ranivasa (Queen's Residence) and known as 'Ranga Mahal' in 1829. The school provided instructions in Sanskrit, Persian, Marathi, English, Astrology and physical education. In 1851, the school was converted into a high school and was named as Pratapsinha High School. In 1855, Satara Municipality took over the primary education and started some primary schools in Satara City. In 1899, the Deccan Education Society established its New English School in Satara City. With this school, educational development began in a real sense in Satara. In 1907, Rudrajiraje Mahadik established Maratha Vidyaprasarak Samaj; while in 1933, Aryangla Vaidyak School was established on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti. For the propagation of female education and drawing inspiration from Maharshi Karve, Kamalabai Deshpande set up a girls' school in 1922 in the City. In 1919, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil established his Rayat Shikshan Sanstha and ushered in a revolution in the educational field. In 1924, he established a students' hostel at Satara to further promote education among the masses; in 1940, he established Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad High School; in 1935, he established a teachers' training college and in 1947, he established Chhatrapati Shivaji College.

Today, there are 25 municipality-run Marathi-medium primary schools, 19 private Marathi-medium and 13 English-medium primary schools, 17 Marathi-medium and 9 English-medium high schools, 14 junior and 14 senior colleges in Satara City. Among these, Pratapsinha High School, New English School, Kanya Shala, Satara Sainik School, Maharaja Sayajirao High School are recognized as renowned schools. The educational institutions like Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Samata Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Sainik School, Swami Shikshan Sanstha, Satara Ayurvedik Prasarak Mandali, Maratha Vidya Prasarak Mandal are enacting an important role in an important role. Today, Satara City has the very good facilities for providing education from primary to higher education and the students of professional education like medicine, engineering, management, etc., do not have to go outside.

Chapter-5 : Economic Progress

Because Satara city is the district and taluka headquarters, there are various types of administrative offices. There has been a notable increase in the employment in service sectors like industrial estate, government offices, educational, health and commercial establishments, agricultural produce market, entertainment and recreation, transport, banking, commercial shops and hawkers. The concept of a city's economic structure is dependent on its industrial and commercial functioning. In the study area, it has been found that 91% of Satara City's population is engaged in the tertiary sector (e.g. communication, insurance, banking, commerce, transport, education, health, etc.) and only 6% population is engaged in secondary sector (e.g. industry and professions). As Satara is the district and taluka headquarters, sectors like government offices, commercial complexes, industrial trade and transport have become highly developed and 97% population is engaged

in secondary and tertiary sectors. Only 3% population in the City's southern, western and northern areas is engaged in the primary sector activities like agriculture and mining.

The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation's industrial estate was set up in 1971 near Satara City. On the arrival of numerous large industrial companies, it once was quite prosperous. Today, after 35 years, with about 620 large and small industries, the City's industrial field has stabilized quite well after overcoming numerous difficulties. The industrial estate contains factories of engineering goods, processed foods, non-metals, minerals, chemicals and chemical products. The solid existence of companies like Cooper Foundry, Ajit Mutha group of industries, Paranjape Autocast, Maharashtra Scooters, Alfa-Laval Company, Onkasa and Medioral drug companies of Cipla, Crystal Granites of Goenka group, Palekar Foods, Katdare Spices, Mala's Jam Jelly Group, etc., may be taken as the success of proper planning. It is likely that depending on the availability of land, more and more industries would come to the City. Presently, it is seen that about 60% industries are functioning well, while 40% are tending towards sickness.

It is also seen that during the post-Independence period, the banking facilities in the city have come to be developed to a large extent. Presently, there are 28 banks, which include 5 nationalized banks, 3 scheduled banks, 20 cooperative banks, making a significant contribution to the economic development of the City. Along with these, there are 72 functional credit cooperatives in the City, whose role is also proving important in the economics of the City. The Satara District Central Cooperative Bank and the United Western Bank Limited (presently merged into the IDBI) have also made significant contributions to the development of the City.

Life insurance, milk union, agricultural produce market committee, weekly markets and commerce also have made a significant contribution to the economic development of the City. The distinctness of Satara's 'Kandi Pedha', 'Ibrahim Jarda', 'Bhave Badishep' and 'Palekar Bakery' is well-known in Maharashtra.

Chapter-6 : Administrative Centre

Administration is the main stanchion of Satara City. As it is the headquarters place of the taluka and the district, numerous government administrative offices at different levels have been established here. The City contains the District Collector's office, District Police Superintendent's office, District Courts, Zilla Parishad's offices, offices of the leading district cooperative institutions, District Civil Hospital, Social Welfare Office, District Employment Exchange, etc. Naturally, the role of these institutions in the development of Satara City has remained important. The Government employees, judges and lawyers, doctors, teachers, etc., live in the City.

On 16th May, 1849, the English Government annexed the Princely State of Satara and brought into being a district of the same name. Today's Satara district contains 11 talukas divided into 4 sub-divisions. For law and order, the district is divided into 6 sub-divisions together with 25 Police Stations. Along with a District Court, there are 13 other Courts of Law functioning with 35 presiding judges. There is a two-layered arrangement for administration of justice. The Satara Zilla Parishad and 11 Panchayat Samitis were constituted on 1st May, 1962, under the provisions of the Maharashtra Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samit Rules, 1961. There are 66 constituencies of the Zilla Parishad in the district.

The Krantisinh Nana Patil General District Hospital is playing an important role in delivering health services to the city and the district. Today, there are 28 departments in this hospital and it is looked upon as one of the modern hospital. The District Employment Exchange was established in 1961 to secure employment for the unemployed. For the convenience of the candidates, the representatives of the Employment Exchange personally visit the smaller taluka headquarters once in a month and larger taluka headquarters twice a month for the registration of new candidates and the renewal of registration of old candidates.

Satara District Central Cooperative Bank is functioning as the mother institution of Satara district's economy. For six consecutive years (1996-97 to 2003-04), it obtained national level first prize for its strong financial position. The other institutions that have played an important role in the administrative development of Satara district include Satara District Cooperative Sales and Purchase Sangh (estd.1962), Land Development Bank (estd.1935), as well as post, telegraph and telephone offices, television relay centre, radio station, State transport. The administrative centres have added to the convenience of facilities in administration, education, health, recreation, etc. As a result, in-migration from the rural areas of the surrounding talukas is on the rise. In short, administration is the mainstay the City and in its urbanization, the influence of the administrative centres has remained large.

Chapter-7 : Epilogue

The conclusions derived from the preceding six Chapters have been discussed in this Chapter.

The development of a city is a process, which is associated with its historical, social, economic, cultural, administrative and

environmental realities. The present work titled “Satara City in Post-Independence Period : An Urban Historical Study” has shown that these factors are interrelated for studying a city’s urban development. In the post-Independence period, political, social and educational changes continued to come about in Satara City. Factories, industries and the residential settlements around the City are growing in numbers. Hence, it is necessary to initiate remedial measures against the problems of health, education, water supply, industries, pollution, etc.

For resolving the various problems of urbanization, the Municipality can play an important role. Under the 74th Amendment to the Constitution of India, it is mandatory for the Municipality to shoulder the responsibility of the City’s social and economic development. It is necessary to take efforts to enhance the employment opportunities for the City’s residents as well as to raise new industries. But it is noticed that there is no sense of responsibility about these, which go beyond the traditional municipal work. Presently, the task of town planning is within the purview of the State Government. But it is not sufficient to make only physical plans. It is necessary to undertake comprehensive town planning, taking into account the social, economic and administrative needs of a city. Satara City’s municipal administration does not seem to have the capacity to regulate and control the town planning. The State administration has unjustified control over the municipality’s financial and administrative matters. After the withdrawal of the octroi duty and in the absence of the regular income generated therefrom, the municipality has to largely rely on the State Government grants for its expenditure. The grants given as compensation for the octroi duty collection is neither sufficient nor received in time. As such, the municipal finances have been affected

adversely. Considering the infrastructural facilities, there is a dearth of roads, water supply, waste-water disposal, solid waste management, electricity supply, etc., in relation to the population of Satara City.

Although the industrial sector has stabilized after overcoming numerous difficulties, it is necessary for the Government and the State Industrial Development Corporation to take policy decisions about providing lands for ancillary and small scale industries. The investments in various sectors is rising, employment in service sector is growing, and also there is an increase in the administrative works. The banking sector in the City has developed very well. Being an administrative centre, there is a large sale in-migration into the City from the nearby rural areas.

In short, cities play an important role in the sub-regional development. Moreover, even though it has been generally accepted that the cities are the engines that provide energy to the regional development, the awareness, information and the knowledge about it has not reached the concerned elements. The rights conferred by the 74th Amendment to the Constitution of India have not been implemented. It is very necessary to comprehensive planning for the future of Satara City by considering its economic, social and administrative potentials.

After taking into account the civic amenities available in Satara City, it has been classified as 'C' class town and for improving this grade, it is necessary to further enhance the scope of its urbanization.

A Bibliography is annexed at the end of the Thesis.

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