



## Relations of Dr.Panjabrao alias Bhausahab Deshmukh and Nizams of Hyderabad (1939-1947)

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Mahatma Jyotirao Fule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj and others started the era of social revolutions in Maharashtra was continued and enhanced in Vidarbha by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh. Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh was a real social worker and revolutionary in origin.

**Preface :**Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh born in a poor farmer family in village Papal in Amravati district of Maharashtra. He had seen and experience of poverty and sorrows in the life of an Indian farmer. He in his later life became the first Agriculture Minister of Independent India. He knew that education has no alternative, if India wants to eradicate basic problems like illiteracy and poverty. Educational revolution is the beginning of social revolution. Dr. Deshmukh used to believe that education will give birth to the generation with rational thinking which will help to remove poverty, blind faiths and sorrows of the society. With this thought process, he created a network of education institutes in Vidarbha and created affection and love for education in Bahun and downtrodden communities. Taking the responsibility on his shoulders, he started Shri Shivaji Education Society in 1932. After this, Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh came in contact with Hajrat Nizamshah of Hyderabad and much hullabaloo was done by supporters of Hindutva in during 1939 to 1947. I have tried to throw light on these incidents in the history through my dissertation.

**Financial Help by Hyderabad Nizam in educational work :**After the start of Shri Shivaji Education Society in 1932, donations from various persons and from various places was the real source of income for the society. The society which was in financial trouble was strongly needing big help from somewhere. Though the Warhad (Berar) was in the kingdom of Nizams, actual rulers were Britishers. Nizams used to give Rs 35 lakhs every year to Britishers as administrative revenue for Warhad. Taking benefit of this some Muslim leaders in Vidarbha were trying to get some benefit for propagation of Urdu education in Warhad from Nizams. A meeting of executive body of Anjuman Urdu Highschool in Khamgaon (M.S.) was organized.

In the meeting it was decided to send a delegation to Hyderabad lead by Adv. Khansaheb Raufshah of Pandharkawada (M.S.). Accordingly this delegation met the Prime Minister of Nizams and told about their motive of meeting. The delegation was told that their Nizam is unable to consider their demand as the delegation is entirely mad of Muslims and it do not have any Hindu representative. This has created some tension among Hindus and Muslims during those days. At that time, Nizam was trying to recapture Warhad from British rulers and hence his insistence on combine delegation of Hindus and Muslims had come from the thought that Muslims will need help of Hindus in achieving what Nizam was wanting.

### **Meeting of delegation with Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh: "Donation of Nizam" :**

A delegation lead by Khansaheb Raufshah met Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh when he was education minister in then Madhya Pradesh government. Bhausahab was a mirror image transparent humanity and he never used to make any differences due to caste, religion or party. After hearing the delegation, Dr.Deshmukh visualized backward and deprived Muslim community on one side and rural, illiterate community in villages of Vidarbha in similar situation. Hence, Dr.Deshmukh immediately gave positive nod to the delegation (1). In December 1939, Dr.Deshmukh personally did the correspondence with Nizam. Checked demands of the Muslim delegation and finalized a programme to go to Vidarbha. Accordingly, President of Shri Shivaji Education Society, Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh, Pandharinath Patil of Chikhali, N.B.Patil Yavatmal were taken into the delegation which made it representative. When this delegation reached to Hyderabad, many government officials and people's representatives welcomed them. An honour letter was given to Hajrat Nizamshah and he was requested to provide facilities for the education of poor people in Warhad. Nizam welcomed and felicitated this delegation and it was a memorable incident in the history of Nizam rule. While leaving Hyderabad, Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh invited Prince of Berar, i.e. Prince of

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Hyderabad to visit Warhad. Hajarat Nizamshah also accepted and supported this invitation. In the same meeting, Nizam donated the first installment of Rs 20,000 to Shri Shivaji Education Society and to Anjuaman Highschool. He also promised to give second installment during the visit of Prince to Warhad<sup>(2)</sup>. This help of Rs 20,000 gave rise to new dawn in Shiv Pariwar. But Dr.Deshmukh was unhappy seeing that people close to him were opposing him due to propaganda of opponents. Sahakar Maharshi Laxmanrao Bhokare took a meeting against Dr.Bhauasaheb Deshmukh in Brahma Vidya Mandir. He started criticizing Dr.Deshmukh for organizing felicitation ceremony of Nizam Prince<sup>(3)</sup>. As soon as Dr.Deshmukh reached in the meeting, Bhokare ran from there. An another meeting was organized at same and Communist leader Madhavrao Deshpande presided over it. Speakers like Bhai Shankarrao Dighade criticized Dr.Dshmkh in their speeched. Neglecting all those criticisms, Dr.Deshmukh deposited the money in society.Total 16 classrooms and two big halls were constructed from this fund on Morshi road for the college of the society and the building was named as ‘**Prince of Berar Hostel**’<sup>(4)</sup>.

**Visit of Prince of Berar to Shri Shivaji Education Society:** On the invitation of Dr.Deshmukh Price of Hyderabad finalized to visit the society and preparation to welcome the Prince was started with all fervour. On the other hand of activists of Hindutva organizations started preparations to oppose this function. Meeting against Deshmukh were organized and he was criticized by many saying that he sold Warhad to Nizam. Veer Wamanrao Joshi also participated in it and presided over a meeting held on Marc 20, 1945<sup>(5)</sup>. Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh also remained present in this meeting and answered to all allegations made on him. “I am not the owner of Warhad so that I can sell it nizam. Who am I to sell Warhad? I may be good for some and bad for others. I may be nationalistic for some and anti-nationalistic for others. But whatever I do, is always is for the development of Berar. Fundamentalists people express their love every now and then but they should remember I love Warhad and people of Warhad more than anybody else,” said Dr.Deshmukh (6). But opponents did not stop on this and they sent messages to Prince of Hyderabad that his life has threat in Warhad.

On March 20, 1945, Dr.Dshmkh got the telegram that Prince will not come in Warhad. He immediately took out his car and reaced to Hyderabad alone in one night. He promised Nizam that nothing will happen to Prince and again decided the date of Prince’s visit. On

March 23, 1945, Prince was welcomed in grand fashion and volunteers of Bharat Sevak Dal keep tight vigil which gave no chance to opponents to do anything. Every programme was performed according to protocol. Amazed by this grand welcome, Prince declared the another donation of Rs 30,000 to society. Dr.Deshmukh spent Rs 3,000 for the function and did not take a single rupee from the society. This made it clear that he had no personal interest in taking money from Nizam. He had accepted the help for educational development of Warhad and welfare of backward communities in the region<sup>(7)</sup>. Sardar Wallabhbhai Patel had expressed concern over the visit. Prince during this visit also went to Anjuman Highschool and gave donation. During this visit, V.G.Deshpande and Shekdar brothers shown black flags to Prince. They also shouted slogans that they do not consider Prince as the Prince of Berar and Berar will be the part of independent India (8).

**Prime Minidyr Sir Mirza Ismail’s visit to Shri Shivaji Education Society :** On April 10,1947, Prime Minister of Nizam, Sir Mirza Ismail visited the society. He gave help of Rs 2 lakh to society as promised by Prince. Installation of a new building was done at hands of Sir Mirza Ismail and it was named as Hyderabad house. Many students at Hyderabad took efforts for the construction of this building. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Warhad;s political existence will remain intact if it keeps attachment with Hyderabad. Similarly, education development of Warhad also become possible by keeping relations with Usmaania university. As Ismail gave the help of Rs 2 lakh to society, opponents started propagating that Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh has connections with Nizam. But, the newpapr ‘Hindusthan’ lauded the efforts of Dr.Deshmukh in education. “Dr.Panjabrao has brought one canal towards Shri Shivaji Education Society, from the flow of fund by Nizams to Aligarh Muslim University and Banaras hindu University. We don’t believe that Dr.Panjabrao will comprise with his values for this fund and will make people slave of Nizams. In fact, we know that how is aspirations are strong about the freedom of people in Warhad,” said Hindusthan. This gave a proper slap to opponents of Dr.Panjabrao Deshmukh.

**Individual Intellect of Bhauasaheb :** Marathi conference was organized in Nizam state in 1947. In his presidential speech, Bhauasaheb criticized the Hyderabad state’s method of ruling. “ Even though Muslims are very few in Warhad, we are running separate Urdu schools for them. We are doing expenditure

of separate schools just for even 20 students. In Marathwada, Marathis are in large numbers and even this state is suppressing them. Why should they remain loyal to Nizam state? What Nizam has done for them?," he said. Nizam state was later abolished and but due to his donations, Shri Shivaji Education Society got important financial help. This fact can not be denied

(12).  
**Bhauasaheb's Love for Education:** For education of people, Bhauasaheb had lended his bungalow thrice to bank to satisfy financial needs of the society. Due to his consisten efforts, district wise population of eight districts in Vidarbha according to 1951 census was as follow:

These figures tell that the percentage of literacy was highest in Amravati district. This also tells that the fund from Nizam was utilized for right purpose. Bhauasaheb was a noble son of Vidarbha and really a Shikshan Maharshi. The education revolution occurred in Vidarbha due to his efforts and social revolution got boost in this region. One administrator of then Madhya Pradesh government Sir Henry Greenfield also helped the society. Greenfield gave 21 acre land which was of cost of some lakhs as an aid to society. Buildings of Arts, Commerce and Science Colleges are now constructed on this land. Greenfield also gave buildings of government staging camp to the society. In this premices, the society has now expanded.

Sr.No.	District	Percentage of educated population
1	Buldana	20.8 %
2	Akola	23.2 %
3	Amravati	24.5 %
4	Yavatmal	14%
5	Wardha	21 %
6	Nagpur	24.4 %
7	Chandrapur	10.7%
8	Bhandara	15.5 %

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