



“PERSPECTIVES OF MAHARAJA SAYAJIRAO GAIKWAD ON SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY-SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HIS PRIVATE LETTER”**Dr. Sunita Santosh Khadase****Smt. C.B.Shah Mahila Mahavidyalay, Sangli. Maharashtra , New Membersh.**

INTRODUCTION :-

Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad was the Maharaja of princely state of Baroda. He was a great social reformer among the Maharajas of princely states of India during the British Era. Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad was born on 11 March 1863 and ruled during the period from 1875 to 1939. He was notably remembered for reforming much of his state during his rule. Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad was a well known social reformer as well as a great thinker and genius scholar. In the historical evidences of his various kinds of private and confidential letters it had proven that he was a person of versatile personality. A latter from his private and confidential records has shaded the lights on his deep thinking and concern about the importance of study of the history. In this research endeavor I would like to shed some light on the Perspectives of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad on significance of Indian historiography with the Special Reference to his private letter.

**KEY WORDS :-** *Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad, History , methodology , perspectives***OBJECTIVES :-**

1. To understand the perspectives of His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad on the importance of History.
2. To focus on the discussion of His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad on the Research Methodology of Indian history.
3. To know the deep concern of His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad about the history writing style.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:-

For this research endeavor I have adopted the historical and Analytical methodology. This research paper has based on the primary source of a letter which is written by His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad himself.

Hypothesis:-

1. His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad had the deep study as well as concern about the systematic and scientific study of Indian history.
2. His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad was the great historian among the contemporary Ruler of Princely states.

His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad's letter – brief information

His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad's crucial later regarding his deep insight, concern and vast understanding of history had written by him during his Europe tour in 1894. He had written that interesting letter to his friend on 19th October 1894 during his stay at Paris in Grand Hotel du Louvre. At the very outset of letter he had addressed 'my dear young friend'. "My dear young friend, It has long in my mind to address to you a few remarks upon your studies; but in the present instant, I shall confine myself to few short observations on what I consider to be the most important of them all, viz. the systematic and scientific study of history"¹ The young friend whom he had addressed that letter might had been studying somewhere or had engaged in historical research. He wanted to express some remarks on his friends entire study but he had focused only on the topic which he had thought very important rather than other subjects, 'systematic and scientific study of history'.

That letter was a part of His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad's private and confidential letters Vol IV, supplementary division, letter no 1966. It was one of the best letters which was written by him. But the person whom he was addressing is unknown because he had not mentioned his name anywhere in the letter. "This is an excellent little harangue on the conception of History showing how deeply His Highness has studied this subject. Unfortunately we don't know who the young friend is, to whom it is addressed. Can he be Mr. Weeden?"² He had discussed very generously about some facts regarding History.

OUTLINE OF THE LETTER:-

In that letter His Highness Maharaj Sayajirao Gaikwad had discussed very deeply on the following points

1. Inception of writing History.
2. Ability of History to forecast.
3. Reconstruction of History.
4. Study of primitive societies by studying the existing savage communities.
5. Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire
6. Importance and of history research and investigation.
8. Qualities of good history researcher.
7. Collection of facts, methods and approach.
8. Theory of causes and effects.
9. Need of social History more than political one.
10. Importance of History writing style.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF TOPIC:-

History is a social science; it has its own research methodology which has been developed through the centuries. During the last decade of 19th century there was no sufficient awareness of education among Indian people, at that time His Highness Maharaj Sayajirao Gaikwad had discussed various points like importance of history, writing of history, Inception of writing History, ability of History to forecast the future, Reconstruction of History, Study of primitive Societies by studying the existing savage communities, Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Importance and of history research and investigation, Qualities of good history Researcher, Collection of facts, methods and approach, Theory of causes and effects, Need of social History more than political one, Importance of History writing style, Jems Mills History writing, Darwin's Origin of the Species and Encouraging support for History research were really revolutionary thing regarding Indian historiography.

1. Inception of writing History.

He had seen towards history as a common platform for mankind's development " ever since men have committed their thoughts to records it has been a common place, which may fill us with satisfaction or regret according to our temperament" ³ he believed that history writing is as old as inception of mankind .

2. Ability of History to forecast.

He had written that it is impossible to predict the future but there were lot of examples throughout the history about successful as well as failure forecasts made by men. by the successful examples of forecasting future we can justify in assuming that there is a limited power in history to forecasting the general direction of human progress ,general characters of direction, towards which we are drifting in political and social life; and if we cannot absolutely change our destiny ,we may ,at least, adapt ourselves to it and make it endurable. ⁴ He was very hopeful that history will ever be brought to such perfection that we shall be able to forecast the future in more than a very general way. ⁵

3. Reconstruction of History.

He was aware about the ability of History to Reconstruction the past "But it seems beyond dispute that it may reconstruct the past in a manner, that was not even hoped for a century ago". ⁶ He had described that understanding the nature of primitive societies is possible by studying the existing savage communities.

4. Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

He was too much impressed by the great historical research work done by famous historian Gibbon, entitled 'Decline and fall of the Roman Empire'. He had very strongly recommended that book for reading to his young friend. Personally he had realized that, that work was afforded him the great pleasure and profit. Further he had written the unfavorable conditions among which Gibbon had done his great work, there were no easy availability of sources if the sources were available to him just think how great work than this might have done by him. ⁷ " he was the first to write the true history of Christian Church; but never claim to be considered an ecclesiastical historian" ⁸

5. Importance of history research and investigation.

As per His Highness Maharaj Sayajirao Gaikwad's opinion history has vast filed of past which is remain unattempted, that fresh domains are being added in every generation, that the subject matter is as wide as human nature itself and that nothing is so small as to be despised, nothing is so great as to be uneassayed by the historian, it is surely to be anticipated that history is bound to occupy more and more thought and to be more clearly and fully understood as time goes on. ⁹

7. Qualities of good history researcher.

His Highness Maharaj Sayajirao Gaikwad had believed that research of history is very difficult task. It is not a royal road, so patience and labour are major qualities to walk on that road. ¹⁰ So every researcher has to developed those qualities.

8. Collection of facts, methods and approach.

"The first and the most important step is the investigation and the collection of facts and that you may know which to receive and which to reject. You will have to learn how to balance them accurately and how best to cultivate the critical faculty. ¹¹ he had suggested the diary method for the collection of facts, which was quite difficult but very useful as per him. "It is the beginning of all important habits of accurate observations, which is the basic of all true learning." ¹²

9. Theory of causes and effects.

A very important theory which have been developed in history writing and among historians Was the theory of causes and effects. His Highness Maharaj Sayajirao Gaikwad was fully aware and studied about this theory . "Facts are not everything; each fact is the cause or effect of some Other and in most cases, both cause and effect" he said that in the historical research it is very Important to balance this theory.¹³

10. Need of social History more than political one.

Basically His Highness Maharaj Sayajirao Gaikwad was a social reformer more than a king, so he looks at everything through the social perspective, obviously history was also not exceptional. "Record of defeat is not so important, also record of victory is not important" but the a feminine a war ,or a pestilence in one century may be fraught with gravest consequences on the common men's life therefore social history is more important than political history . "It is also most useful to accustom oneself to the study and comparison of statistics, especially in a country like India , where differences of class are numerous and sharply defined." ¹⁴

11. Importance of History writing style.

At the end of his letter he had described the importance of style in history writing, he had elaborate his views by giving the popular example of Mill a well known historian of Modern Indian history . He had also quoted the examples of style by Plato and Buffon . " the instantaneous success of Darwin's Origin of the species was very much due to the admirable simplicity and sustained interests in narrative , which even general public could follow sufficiently to understand. It must remembered that style after all can only be defined and effective if it express dignified and effective thought"¹⁵ It is very useful advice to every researcher of history that make the history writing simple , effective and non technical which can easily understand by reader.

CONCLUSION:-

His Highness Maharaj Sayajirao Gaikwad was a really a scholar who knows the research methodology of history very well. In his perspective history was the most important subject which influence a lot on the entire nation and mankind . Therefore study and research of history should done very promptly. He had described various prose and crones regarding the research of history, but at the end of his letter he had assured his friend that he should not discourage by his letter but he should make fresh efforts to acquire perseverance and patiences"¹⁶ he had concluded his letter by the very thoughtful and inspiring sentence that " The more glorious the end is , the greater are the difficulties ,that lie in the way , but all the greater will be honour for him , who successfully overcomes them."¹⁶

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