



SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION OF MORYA GOSAVI DEVASTHAN TRUST

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INTRODUCTION:

Maharashtra is a land of Saints.Morya Gosavi was a great devotee of Lord Ganesha.His 'Sanjeevan Samadhi' is at Chinchwad. He was devotee of Ganesha right from his childhood. He brought Morya from Morgoan to Chinchwad and Chinchwad became one of the'Teerthakshetra'.In this land, the great mother of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Jijau brought Shivaji,Shivaji received blessings, Peshavas had given the inspiration,Saint Tukaram and Saint Ramdas joined Santmela (Congregation of Saints) with Chintamani Maharaj. This temple trust received donations from Malik Ambar to Peshvas and from Chhatrapati Shivaji to Shinde Holkar.Though Chinchwad was very near to Pune nobody touched it in political turmoil.(1)Temple Trust became more and more developed.Southward flowing river Pavana is flowing near Chinchwad in Pune district. There were many trees of Chinch (tamrind) and Wad(banyan) in large number.Hence the name of the village became Chinchwad.Exact date of the temple is not known but the saint Morya Gosavi born in Shak 1297(1376 A.D.) Magh Chaturthi is noted in the information published by the temple trust.Morya Gosavi was ardent devotee of Lord Ganesha.(2)His father Waman Bhatji Shaligram came from Karnataka to Morgaon and was engaged in ardent penance of Ganesha.Waman Bhatji and his wife Parvatibai were not having child for long time, but after penance they got baby boy in form of Morya Gosavi.Many people think that Morya Goasvi was an incarnation of Morya of Morgaon. While in Morgaon Yogiraj Nayan Bharati came and blessed Morya.As per order of his Guru Morya came to Theur and for long time have penance.He was possessed by Chintamani. He faced many problems, suffered severe pain but he completed the penance and became Mahasadhu Morya Gosavi.(3)Many miracles were in his name like giving eyesight to blind, transferring non cultivated land into cultivated land, blessing childless couple with son.Even today,hundreds of people visit Morya Gosavi Samadhi in Chinchwad and they fulfill their vows at the Sanjeevan Samadhi.Morya's ancestral chart contains seven ancestors like Chintamani Maharaj(1),Narayan Maharaj(1),Chintamani Maharaj(2)Dharanidhar Maharaj(1),Narayan Maharaj(2)Chintamani Maharaj(3) .Morya Gosavi Temple trust maintained the record of various donations received from royal families. Dr. Anuradha Kulkarni wrote a book named Property titles received by Morya Gosavi. In the book,340 titles are mentioned from 1610 AD to 1852 AD about 250 years duration. This temple also existed before time of Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.Shahajiraje has given 15



donation titles, Shivaji Maharaj has given 42 donation titles. These letters explain the tax regime of that time, cultivation, transport arrangement, Roads in Ghat area and how they are interrelated. The load of expenses of free lunch at Chinchwad temple should not come on people hence Shivaji Maharaj ordered to meet the expenses through Government treasury, this explains the policy of religion of Shivaji Maharaj. Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj also has given 8 donation titles to this temple. He used strong words about not to trouble temple property and people of Chinchwad should not be harassed by his military. The donations given by Shivajiraje, Sambhaji raje, Rajaram Maharaj also continued afterward also. Balaji Vishwanath, Bajirao Peshwe senior, Nanasahab Peshwe, Sawai Madhavrao also donated titles to the temple and they are available today. (4) Peshwe also ordered to his military not to harass Chinchwad village and people living there. Muslim Rulers also donated this temple. We find farmans from Nizamshah, Adilshah, and letters from officers like Haibat Khan, Yakut Khan, Shamsher Khan, Saif Khan, Rustume Khan, Siddi Hilal, Mirzaraje Jaisingh. Morya Gosavi Temple is having great history from time before Chhatrapati Shivaji Raje to British era about 350 years. All this correspondence indicates the problems of that period. The temple had provided food to many people for long time and it is a very important work. To provide this food, land for cultivating grains, land for cattle, land for fruit and flowers, permits for grain and oil transport are mentioned. We understand the economic and religious conditions of that time and the policy of the rulers of that time due to this record. Morya Gosavi Temple also observed cultural heritage like daily worship of Lord Ganesha, Aarti and other related rituals. In the month of Bhadrapada, Ganesh Chaturthi festival is conducted on grand scale and with great devotion. The temple is conducting many social activities like food for all, free lodging (Dharmashala), dispensaries etc

Morya Gosavi temple, Chinchwad is a very significant religious place where Ganesh Pooja and Upasana (prayers and worships) is a characteristic feature. (5) The temple and the trust has preserved the religious tradition of Morya Gosavi and saints coming from his tradition. Seven men from Morya Gosavi's religious tradition have retained and preserved the religious tradition festivals. However changes to go with the times have also been made but the basic nature is maintained. Thus the trust have done a valuable work of preserving Indian Culture.

4.4.1 Management in the temple

In 1744 a Trust deed was made for the management of the temple. The worshipping (pooja - archana) has as independent management. In 1805 Chintamani Maharaj III died. He had adopted a son named Sakharam. Who was the son of Siddhatek's Govind Dev. His son Chintamani died early (1822). The Dev family made a claim in the high court and a new management was formed. A trust of three people was formed to carry out the management of the establishment, a constitution was written, a three member's trust was formed, Ozar's Dhunduraj Ganesh Dev was appointed as the chief trustee. He managed the work from 1890 to 1923. He was followed by the following trustees-

1. Shri Dharnidhar Alias Taty Maharaj Dev (Siddhatekhar) 1923 - 1936.
2. Shri Chintamani Alias Baba Maharaj Dev (Siddhatekhar) 1936 - 1955.
3. Shri Vakratund Maharaj Dev (Aundhkar) 1955 - 1957.
4. Shri Gajanan Maharaj Dev (Wakadkar) 1957- 1964.
5. Shri Dharnidhar Maharaj Dev (Siddhatekhar) 1964 - 1981.
6. Shri Vaghnahari Maharaj Dev (Wakadkar) 1981 - 2001.

7. Shri Surendra Maharaj Dev (Siddhatekkar) 2001 onwards.

Thus the Morya Gosavi Devasthan Trust has preserved its tradition. The trust's contribution in Maharashtra's religious life is immense.

4.4.2 Contribution in the Social Field

The contribution of the Morya Gosavi Devasthan Trust in the social field is also remarkable. Some students are taught the Vedas, in the Mangalmurti Wada. The establishment has made arrangements of their lodging and boarding. (6) A VedPathshala is run by the trust where not only Vedas but also Pious and righteous way of life is taught. The students come from poor as well as rich families. Moulding good and worthy students is the main contribution of the establishment. Scholarly Brahmins, Kirtankars, Pravachankar (People delivering religious narration and sermons) are provided with food and monetary gifts (Dakshina) for a day.

On the day of death anniversary of Morya Gosavi there is a 'Paksiddhi' ceremony carried out in Morya Gosavi's Samadhi Mandir.

"Annachatra" or place where charitable food is distributed. Morya Gosavi's starting annachatras at Chinchwad for the devotees was a revolutionary act in those times because in annachatra people belonging to different religions, caste, creed, sex, etc. sat together to eat. In those days the caste system was strictly followed and such an act was definitely unspiring. Initially only Brahmins used to take food there but later it became public. This tradition is continued even today. The ruler then had given grants which throws light on their policies. More over, these annachatra achieved national integration.

4.4.3 Ganesh Granthalya (Library), Chinchwad -

This is also one of the ventures of the establishment.

There are religious as well as general books in this library.

4.4.4 Morya Hospital

The Morya Gosavi temple runs this hospital. The medical service provided is free of charge. Health camps are arranged and guidance and treatment on a variety of diseases is given to the patients. People from all the classes of the communities come to this hospital.

4.4.5 Dharamshala Chinchwad or Charitable Rest House for Devotees

There is a dharamshala run by the Morya Gosavi Devasthan Trust in Chinchwad. Lodging arrangements are made of the devotees especially on Ganeshotsavs, during Bhadrapad and Maghi Yatras, on the Death Anniversary day and at various other celebrations.

It is clear that there was a strong bond between Shiv Chatrapatis Samrajya and the Devs from Chinchwad and the temple in Chinchwad held a very significant place.

The Devasthan manages the temples in Morgaon, Theur and Siddhatek. A VedPathashala is run in Chinchwad's Mangalmurti wada for the past 150 years as per the Gurukul system. Free services and education is provided to twenty students. Religious functions are held at all the three places throughout the year. Parayana (Repeated and thorough reading) of the Gita, the Dyaneshwari Devi Bhagwat, Tukaram Maharaj Gatha, Bhagwat Puran, etc. is done throughout the year.

Many social projects are also undertaken by the trust. Grants are given to many educational institutions. The Trust has also donated computers to schools in Siddhatek, Morgaon and Theur. Land for hospitals and parks is given to The Nagar palikas at at these three places. Famine Relief fund of 10 lakhs was handed over to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra two years back.

Thus the contribution of the Morya Gosavi Trust in the social and cultural field is praiseworthy.

GRANTS AND CHARTERS RECEIVED BY MORYA GOSAVI

Morya Gosavi and his descendants received 344 letters from 1610 to 1852, a period of 256 years. (7) These letters throw light on the social problems of those times. These temples were the centres of distributing affordable food. The grants received were used mainly to run such charitable homes. The land gifted was used as pastures, or to grow fruits and flower beds. The cash was used for daily expenses and to buy oil for the lamps kept burning day and night before an idol. Licence were given for transporting grains. The Maratha politicians had donated generously .these charters were donated in Pune and Supe Parganas. These letters also gifts from Kharnarangi Bhiwandi and Chol villages on the western banks.

Shahaji raje had donated 15 grants to Morya Gosavi in 1625 and 1651. 260 letters of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj are available of which 42 letters are directly addressed to Morya Gosavi these letters are of during the period of 30 years. These letters throw light on the Tax System and matters related to the land and farms during the Shivaji's era .we also learn about an important stage , the treaty of Vasai of the economic system of Shivaji , we come to know about the revenue system , licence, transport system , the passages in the ghats and its relation to the state administration .The grants given by Shivaji Raje to Morya Gosavi were permanently maintained. The grants given by Dadoji Konddev also exists till date. Every village of Paund Tapyas each and every Deshmukh and Deshkulkarni, every Khot ,Patil used to donate half a Mann rice . maharaja said, " The Rayat (subjects) donate willingly . why do you object ? Morya Gosavi had used these revenue licence of Konkan and Ghat from Shivaji Maharaj himself .some letters reveal that some 50,000 bundles of grass were given to Chinchwad Devasthan each year. (9)

There were 8 letters from Chatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj addressed to Morya Gosavi. A letter by Sambhaji Maharaj dated 4th August 1687 orders the army not to harm Chinchwad and the grants to Shri Moreshwar .there was a strict warning that 'Swami', Sambhaji raje will hang the guilty. There were 15 Charters handed over by Chatrapati rajaram maharaj between 1691 and 1699. in one of the conveyance of gift , Rajaram Maharaj had donated land in Kelvade, Hingwadi, Jamb and Pune . Vinayak Dev was the grandson of Chitamani Dev.(10)

Chatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj's son,Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj had gifted 41 charters between 1701 and 1741. In addition to this Shivaji Maharaj II and Shambhu Maharaj II had also gifted the charters . Even Balaji Vishwanath Peshwe, Thorale Bajirao Peshwe, Madhavrao Peshwe, Sawai Madhavrao Peshwe had gifted grants and charters to Shri Devswami Chinchwad and had also given strict warning to harm no one. There are also royal orders from Nizamshahi and Adilshahi , Haibat Khan , Yakut Khan , Samsher Khan , Saifer Khan , Rustum Jaman , Siddhi Malal , Mankoji Ballal , Mirjaraje Jaisingh and other Mughal officers .

There are also documents on a judgement passed , a land survey of temple and a record of the temple's construction.The study of the documents of 350 ranging from a period before the reign of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to the British rule reveals the historical importance of

Chinchwad's Moraya Gosavi. They also throw light on the language, customs and traditions and economy of those times.

Grants and title deeds of grants received by Moraya Gosavi Devasthan

1. Title Deeds of Grants given by Shahaji Raje to the Moraya Gosavi's temple.

2. Grants and Charters gifted by Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
3. Title of deeds of grants from Chatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj.
4. Letters from Maharani Yesubai.
5. Title of Deeds of Chatrapati Rajaram.
6. Donation letters of Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj.
7. Donation Letters of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj II.
8. Donation letters of Chatrapati Raja Shambhu II.
9. Donation letter written by Nanasahib Peshwe.
10. Donation Letteres of Swai Madhavrao Peshwe.
11. Miscellaneous Letters for Donations
12. Charter Received by Shri Dev From Mavad Village

Sources:

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- 3) Shri. Mangalmurti Morya, R.C. Dhere, Vora and Company, Publishers, Mumbai, 1958.
- 4) Shriman Mahasadhu Morya Gosavi Yanche Sanadapatre, Anuradha Kulkarni, Ajit Patwardhan, Chinchwad Devasthan Trust, Chinchwad, 2014
- 5) Shivcharitra Sahitya Khand-1, Sampadak, Krushnaji Purandare, Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Pune. Granthmala No.50
- 6) Bharat itihash Sanshodhak Mandal, Tremasik year – 11, Ank – 3.
- 7) Marathyanche itihashachi sadhane, Rajwade Khand- 6
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- 9) Shri. Shivaji Pratap, Shiv Chatrapati chi bakhar, Prakashan, Puratan Itihas
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- 14) Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal, Tremasik Varsha 2, Anka 1 to 4.
- 15) Shri Mangalmurti Ganesh, S.D. Satwalekar, Prakashak, Swadhyaya Mandal, Ibid paradi, Surat, 1950.
- 16) Shri. Chintamani Maharajanche Ovibaddha Charitra, Prakashak, Pramukha Vishvasta, Shri. Devasthan, Chinchwad.
- 17) Shri Morya Gosavinche ovibaddha chatritra, Prakashak, Mukhya Vishvasta, Devasthan, Chinchwad.
- 18) Shri. Morya Gosavi Yanche Charitra, Vishnu Khedekar.
- 19) Shriman Mahasadhu Morya Gosavi Yanche Charitra, Shankar Swami, Prakashak, Dattatraya Tambe, Kolhapur, 1969.

20)Mahasadhu Morya Gosavi,Charitra ani Parampara,K. D.Bhingarkar, Prakashak,Vishvasta Chinchwad Devasthan Trust, Chinchwad, Pune ,1996.