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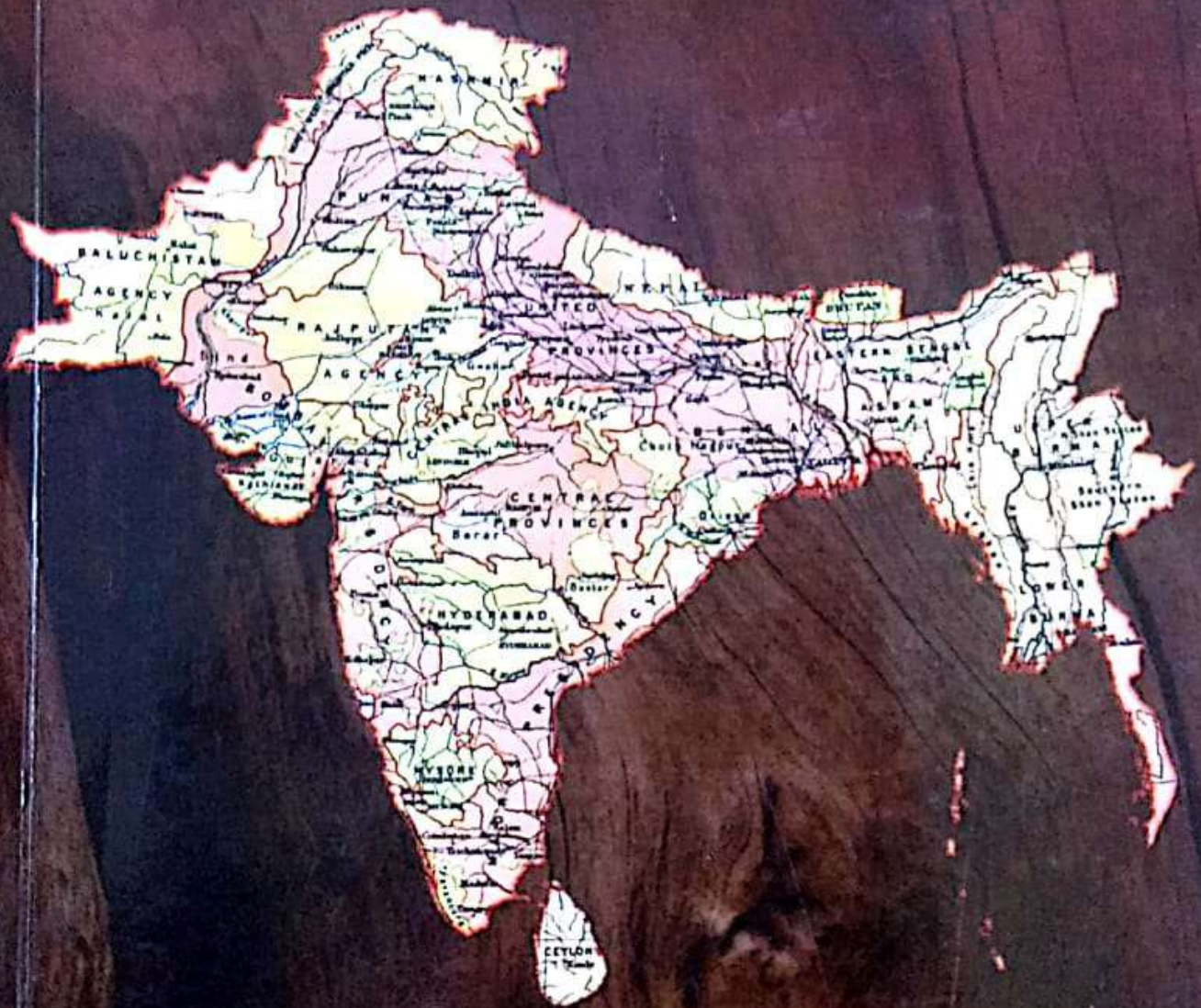
# **COLONIAL IDEOLOGY AND PRINCELY STATES IN INDIA**

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Sr.	Name of Author	Title of Paper	Page
18.	Dr. Naik C.M.	Baroda Crisis	239
19.	Dr. Pawar Prakash	Modern Concepts & Princely State of Kolhapur	246
20.	Dr. Pawar Vaishali	Public Policy Of Princely State Of Kolhapur	250
21.	Dr. (Mrs.) Srinivasulu Prabha	The formation Of Maratha Princely States In Malwa & Their Cultural Legacy	255
22.	Dr. Ransure Vilas	British Educational System In India	275
23.	Dr. Shende Sopan	Chhatrapati Shahu And Modernization Of Kolhapur State	279
24.	Dr. Desai Achala A Dr. Surebankar Smita P	The Humanities Education : Still a Colonial Agenda Examining the Place and Scope of Sanskrit in Defining a Relevant Humanities Consciousness	288
25.	Dr. Suryavanshi N. B.	The Role of Vatandari System In The Nizam Administration : A Review	296
26.	Dr. Tike Anil Shivaji	Administration Of Phaltan Municipality During Phaltan State	301
27.	Dr. Maitree Vaidya Sabnis	Police Administration In The Princely State Of Baroda In The 19 <sup>th</sup> And 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	308
28.	Dr. Vidyasagar Amol	A Socio-cultural Analysis Of Marathawada Region Under The Rule Of The Nizams	318
29.	Dr. Waghmare M. B.	The Educational Status And Development of Dalit In Princely State Of Hyderabad	328
30.	Dr. Waghmare Nalini	Popular Up-Rising In The Bidar District During Colonial Period	339
31.	Prof. Khodade Suvarna	Colonial Ideology And Standardisation Of Marathi Language	348

## The Educational Status And Development Of Dalit In Princely State Of Hyderabad

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There were nearly 563 kingdoms and princely states in India during the British rule. The administration of these kingdoms and princely states was looked after by the native rulers and princes. Travankore, Baroda, Kolhapur, Nagpur and Hyderabad were the important states in South India. Hence they were important. Out of them, Hyderabad was second in terms of size. The Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> of February 1707. His successor Mughal Emperors were weak and incompetent. Taking advantage of this, Mir Kasim Bin Kulij Khan Nizam Ul Mulk established an independent kingdom in the south on 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1724. Hyderabad was the capital of this kingdom. The dynastical successors to this throne were known by the titles of "Nizam" and "Asafzah". The regional divisions of Marathwada, Telangana and Karnatak were included in the Hyderabad State.

### Dalit Castes and their Population

The Dalits Constituted 18% of the total population of the Hyderabad State. AS per the 1941 census the Dalit population was 29,28,040. It is expected that the financially and socially oppressed and suppressed castes should be included in the term "Dalit".

The Hyderabad State contained the following Dalit Castes. They were known by different names in different regions. The information is as follows :

### Name of the Region

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1. Hyderabad  | Mal, Mala, and Malla <sup>1</sup>      |
| 2. Andhra     | Mal, Mala, and Malla <sup>2</sup>      |
| 3. Telangana  | Mal, Madiga <sup>3</sup>               |
| 4. Marathwada | Dhed ( Mahar), Mang, Dhor <sup>4</sup> |

The Dalits in the Hyderabad state were recognized by the names of Untouchables, Aadihindu<sup>5</sup>, and Harijan<sup>6</sup>, Ambra, Adidraavid, Pancham, Adinivasi, Mulbharati, Mahanti, Shabri, Arundhati, Chokhamela, and Bramho etc. Bramha means Mala or Matiga. The population of the Adihindus<sup>7</sup> in the state is 19,84,600, in percentage terms their proportion with the Hindu Population is 20% and that with the entire population is 19%. They have 34 sub-castes. As per the 1931 census report, the population of Aadihindus and Harijans i.e. Dalits in the state was 24,73,230<sup>8</sup>. The number of Dalits per thousand was 171. As per the 1921 census this proportion was 188 per thousand. As per the 1941 Census Report, the population of the Dalits<sup>9</sup> was 29,28,240.

### The Educational status and Development of the Dalits

Education is an important tool for social awakening and Change. The society comes out of superstitious beliefs slavery and ignorance due to education. The Nizam of Hyderabad always tried to ensure that the society remains ignorant. This was the very reason they were enjoying power as per their whims and fancies. No Nizam tried to develop the state educationally for the benefit of the common people. They ensured that not more than 10% of the people get educated. Hyderabad state was educationally very backward.

There were very few government schools in the state. More than 3000 private schools<sup>10</sup> were compulsorily closed. The higher education in the state was upto Inter only. Colleges imparting higher education were located at Warangal in Telangana, Aurangabad in Marathwada and Gulbarga<sup>11</sup> in Karnataka only. Rest of the colleges were at Hyderabad. 7615 students studied in these colleges. Post intermediate education had to be taken at Pune, Hyderabad or Nagpur. The prime minister of Hyderabad Salarjang I first



established the education department due to which education gained momentum.

There were eight government schools in Marathwada. Others were some private schools. The medium of instruction in the state was Urdu. In 1884 Urdu<sup>12</sup> was recognized as the official language of the state. Prior to that Farsi was the official language. In 1923, the medium of instruction was changed to Urdu only. It was difficult for those whose mother tongue was not Urdu to take education. Generally there were 3333494 children in the age group of 5 to 15 in the state. Out of which only 110998 children were literate. i.e. only 4 students in 100 were taking education. In 1941 the number of students eligible to go to school was 24 lacs. Out of which four and half lakhs children went to school. Similarly students taking admission in first standard dropped out considerably till they reached the fourth standard<sup>13</sup>. This was the condition of the non-Dalit students.

Since the rulers of the Hyderabad state were Muslim, they tried to benefit the Muslim populace. They dominated every sector in the state. Only Muslims got educated due to Urdu medium of instruction and the government also desired that only. Since the social and economic condition of the Dalits was not good, it was not possible for them to take education. Further they did not have any right to education. Only well off Dalit mothers and Fathers sent their children to school. There was no school imparting education to Hindus<sup>14</sup> before 1880. The curriculum was also not similar in the existing private schools.

Subsequently the Nizam started the government schools. In 1911 there were 100 government schools<sup>15</sup>. In 1940 the number of primary schools was 4000. In such schools persons having Urdu as mother tongue only were appointed as teachers. Of course he used to be Muslim. Dalits did have admission in government schools. But very few children took admission. They sat with higher caste children but had to sit separate since they were untouchables. Hindus and Muslims both avoided contact with untouchables.

Initially Christian Missionaries started imparting education to the Dalits. They started the work of spreading education and religion

simultaneously. They first baptized the dalits and then imparted education to them. They carried out educational awakening. They established first missionary school<sup>16</sup> in Aurangabad in 1914. Dalits were admitted in this school. M V Bhagireddy carried out many reforms by submitting memorandums to the government from time to time. The annual conference of the Aadi Andhra Mahan Sabha was held at Vijjaywada in 1917. M V Bhagireddy passed a resolution in this meet that if dalits are not admitted in schools run on government aid in this state, then the financial aid to that school should be stopped and separate schools for the dalits should be started<sup>17</sup>. This resolution was submitted to the government in the form of a memorandum. A copy of this memorandum was submitted to the Madras Presidency. As a result the British government took action as per the memorandum and issued an order on 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1922.

The first Dalit awakener in the Hyderabad state M V Bhagayareddy Verma collected funds from the people. He established 40 primary schools for the dalit children in 1936 from these funds only. This work was revolutionary. But subsequently shortage of funds was felt to run these institutions. So he handed over all these schools to the education department of the Nizam Government.

The government run these schools approved and some educational concessions for the Dalit Children. In 1937 the government provided for expenditure of Rs 3.00 lacs for education of Dalit children in its total annual expenditure. 200 schools were started as per this provision<sup>18</sup>. These schools were mentioned as "Madarse-e-arnalekham."<sup>19</sup> The meaning of this urdu word "Madarse-e-arnalekham" means "School of the Mean people." B S Vyankatrao the education minister in the cabinet of the last Nizam Mir Usman Ali Khan Bahadur renamed them as "Madarsa-e-Pastanekham"<sup>20</sup> which means "School of the dalits". In these schools only dalit teachers and inspectors<sup>21</sup> were appointed. K Jagannathan<sup>22</sup> the leader of "Anjuman-e-Pastaakhm" (DCA) was appointed on the gazetted post of school inspector by the Nizam government. In 1931 the dalit population was 2543230 and in 1941 it was 2928040.



If this is considered, 200 schools also were not sufficient for the education of the Dalits. But this activity of the Nizam government to impart education by establishing 200 schools was worth praise. Because that only brought an awakening amongst the Dalits. But the politicians and Anti Dalits criticized this good job of the Nizam government. The government established schools for the Dalits at Nanded, Parbhani, Beed, Aurangabad, Usmanabad and Latur. In 1942, Advocate Sopanrao Dhanve (Beed) established an organization of Dalits at Latur and established a primary school for the Dalit students by the name "Madars-e-Arjalekham". Revan Waghmare motivated the Dalit boys and girls to take admission in this school and imbibed on them the importance of education<sup>23</sup>.

#### **Harijan Hostel 1939**

The Nizam government started 200 schools for the dalits and opened the doors of education for them. But since the economic condition of the Dalits was not good, it was difficult to send the children in school. So some social reformers felt the need for a hostel for such students. Harijan Sevak Sangh was established in British India under the presidentship of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya in 1932. A meeting of the Harijan Sevak Sangh was organized in Mumbai on 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1932 in Mumbai to think about education of the untouchables. Two resolutions were passed for liberation of the Dalits in this meeting

1) The public wells, watering places, schools, ghats, roads, Dharamshalas, and cremation places may be thrown open to the Dalits.

2) All the Hindu temples be thrown open to the Dalits.

These resolutions passed by the Harijan Sevak Sangh for the liberation of the Dalits are significant. The implementation of these resolutions would have helped abolition of untouchability. But no concrete decision was taken for implementation of these resolutions.

The Harijan Sevak Sangh was established in Hyderabad state in 1933. Subsequently in 1939 separate hostels for Dalit students were established. Same year the Nizam government sanctioned Rs 1.00 lacs<sup>27</sup> for the education of the Dalits. Its provision was as follows:

- 1) For backward castes and communities - Rs 25000/-
- 2) For medical expenses of the Dalit children - Rs 20000/-
- 3) For the education of the Dalits - Rs 55000/-

#### **Dalit Delegation**

The Dalit leaders were trying to bring about awakening amongst the Dalits. They were also submitting memoranda to the Nizam Government for educational facilities for the Dalits. In 1939 a delegation of the Dalits met the members and director of the education board. Following persons participated:

- 1) Raosaheb B S Vyankatrao 2) P R Vyankatswami 3) J H Subaiyya 4) Tukaram Gade (Parbhani)

This delegation held detailed discussion with them and submitted a memorandum of their demands. They made following demands<sup>28</sup> in the memorandum

1) Dalit students are not admitted in schools since they are untouchables. Hence the director should issue an order that Dalits should be admitted in schools.

2) Dalit students should get reserved seats in the technical institutions. The government should appoint an inspection team to see whether the facilities given to Dalit students are implemented properly.

3) The members of the inspecting team and the inspectors should be Dalits.

#### **Organization of Dalit Students**

##### **The organization of Dalit Student**

An organization of students in the colleges in Hyderabad and Usmania University was established under the guidance of B S Vyankatrao. The main objective of this organization was to handle the educational problems of the Dalit students. Following leaders were included in this organization.

- 1) Gaikwad K Govindrao 2) Premdas B K 3) Gautam M B (Son of Bhagyareddy Verma) 4) Veeraswamy K R



This students organization brought about an awakening amongst the Dalit community. Due to this the Dalit parents began sending their students to school. This organization made following demands in the memorandum submitted to the government.

- 1) Educational concessions should be given to Dalit students.
- 2) Scholarships should be given to Dalit students.
- 3) Dalit students should be sent to foreign countries for medical, scientific and technological education.
- 4) Hostel should be built for Dalit students at the district level.
- 5) Aid should be granted to the existing hostels.
- 6) Primary education should be made compulsory.
- 7) Dalits should be given priority in civil and military services.
- 8) A committee of official and non official members should be appointed to advice the government about the development of the dalits. The non-official members should be Dalits.
- 9) Adult education classes should be started.
- 10) separate schools should be started for Dalits in rural areas.
- 11) The appointment of inspection and checking officials of the schools should be made from Dalit community.

The students organization made tremendous efforts for the educational development of the Dalits. They submitted memorandum of demands to the Nizam Government from time to time and got their demands approved. The government started a scholarship of Rs five for the Dalit students. This was the effect of submitting memorandum to the government.

#### B S Vyankatrao

The constitution was amended in 1937. Accordingly the cabinet was also expanded. The Iyengar committee divided the total seats in the Bab-e-Hukumat equally into 50% for the Hindus and 50% for the Muslims. Krishnaswami Iyengar drafted a constitution for the Hyderabad state. According to this constitution, a cabinet of 80 members was formed. At the same time, B S Vyankatrao submitted a memorandum to the government. He submitted in the memorandum

that Dalits should not be considered amongst the Hindus but separately because the status of the dalits in the society was separate. They are Aadi Hindus meaning that they are before the Hindus and original sons of the soil. Hence the Aadi hindus should be considered separately and they should be given 5% seats in the Bab-e-Hukumat. Accordingly the government considered the Aadi Hindus separately and gave them 5% seats from the 50% seats for the Hindus.

Considering the political situation in the state B S Vyankatrao made a political alignment with the Ittehadul Musalmmeen. Before that he got the following demands accepted by that organization.

- 1) Separate secondary schools should be started for the boys and girls of the Dalits.
- 2) Sir William Burton school should be declared a free school for all the students.
- 3) Hostels should be started for the Dalit students at the district level and 10% scholarships should be sanctioned for Dalit students in the state and in foreign countries. The Nizam government started hostels and schools for the Dalit students but did not send the Dalit students in foreign countries.

#### Educational Fund

There were special provisions for the liberation of the Dalits in the Bombay and Madras Presidency. With an intention that the Nizam government should also make such type of provisions in the Hyderabad state, the Dalit member in the executive council of the Nizam government Palam Pillai introduced a bill for the liberation of the Dalits on 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1948. The bill had provided that the government should constitute a corpus fund of Rs 20.00 lacs by the name "Depressed classes welfare fund". B S Vyankatrao strongly demanded that this amount should be Rs 1.00 crores as against Rs 20.00 lacs as provided in the bill. The Nizam government also approved the suggestion of Shri B S Vyankatrao and approved constitution of a fund of Rs 1.00 crore for the liberation of the Dalits. Similarly the government constituted a board of trustees in May 1947. Following leaders of the Depressed classes association and government officials were included in the board of trustees

Leaders of the Depressed class of association

- 1) Raosaheb B S Vyankatrao 2) B Shamsunder (Aurangabad)
- 3) D Rajayya 4) Palam Pillai Ex-officio Government officers

1) Finance Minister of the state

2) Director of the Revenue Department

3) Secretary to the Education Department

4) Secretary to the Commerce- Telegraph- Labor department.

The Nizam government raised a fund of Rs one crore by the name Depressed Classes Welfare trust. This fund was used for the educational development of the Dalits in the state. Schools were started for the Dalits in the state. Similarly there was increase in the scholarships for Dalit Students. In 1945 Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar established the Peoples Education society in Mumbai. This institution started higher education for the dalits. The last Nizam Mir Usman Ali Khan<sup>3</sup> had given a donation of Rs 5.00 lacs to this institution. Babasaheb started the Siddharth college at Wadala on this donation only. Later on when the Nizam regime in Hyderabad came to an end, the Depressed Welfare Trust was renamed as Scheduled Classes Welfare trust. Because subsequently the Depressed Classes Association was wound up and all its workers joined the scheduled caste federation. In 1948, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar decided to start Milind College at Aurangabad and for that he demanded a loan of Rs 12.00 lacs in Indian currency. Terms were discussed between the finance minister of the then Hyderabad state Shri C V Rao, Chairman of the Scheduled Caste Welfare Trust and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. After that, on 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1949 the Scheduled Caste Welfare Trust sanctioned a loan of Rs 12.00 lacs to PE society. Babasaheb started the Milind College on this loan only. Education of the students of all caste and community was facilitated. And mainly the educational development of the Dalits took place.

The Nizam Government tried to bring about educational development of the Dalits due to the efforts of the Dalit leaders. 200 schools were started. But the children could not attend the school due to poverty. Dalit students were given discriminatory treatment in schools. They had to sit separately in the schools. They were not

allowed to drink water and had to bring their own seating. The medium of instruction was Urdu. It was difficult for Dalit children having Marathi mother tongue to complete education in Urdu medium of instruction. The upper caste Hindu teachers use to demean the Dalit students. They were treated with demeanor. They got a beating for small mistakes. Hence the students ran away from school and never returned to school. Education was not appealing to them. Hence the literacy rate amongst 40 lacs untouchables was negligible. Only one youth (J H Subaiyya) amongst the Untouchables was B A degree holder in the state till 1939. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar tried to secure a job of a tehsildar in the Hyderabad state for this graduate student only. But he could not secure the job. Sunderanath Gaikwad was a worker of the Anjuman-e-Pastakhamin Parbhani District. He had two daughters Yashoda and Shakuntala. These two girls stayed at girls hostel Balikashram of Mahrashi Dhondo Keshav Karve at Hingne near Pune and completed their education upto Matric. These were the only two educated Mahar girls in entire Marathwada. It can be judged from this, how meager was the proportion of education amongst the Dalits. Similarly educated Dalits were not assured of any job. They could not get the job of even a peon

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## **Maharashtra Education Society's Institutions**

- 1860 MES Boy's High school, Pune-30  
1896 MES Bhave Primary School, Pune-30  
1906 MES Waghere High School, Saswad, Dist-Pune  
1911 MES High School, Baramati, Dist-Pune  
1922 MES Bal Shikshan Mandir, Pune-4  
1925 MES Smt. Vimalabai Garware Prashala, Pune-4  
1935 MES Renuka Swarup Memorial Girl's High School, Pune-30  
**1945 MES Abasaheb Garware College, Pune-4**  
1958 MES College Student's Hostel, Pune-4  
1967 MES Garware College of Commerce, Pune-4  
1979 MES Pre-Primary School, Pune-30  
1979 MES Shishu Mandir, Pune-4  
1979 MES Bal Shikshan Mandir English Medium School, Pune-29  
1979 MES Pre-primary School, Baramati, Dist-Pune  
1983 MES Institute of Management and Career courses, Pune-4  
1986 MES Bal Vikas Mandir, Saswad, Dist-Pune  
1986 MES Pre-primary School, Saswad, Dist-Pune  
1986 MES Balak Mandir Baramati, Dist-Pune  
1989 MES Renuka Swarup Institute of Career Courses, Pune-30  
1996 MES English Medium School, Shirwal, Dist-Satara  
1996 MES Shakti Gymnasium, Pune-4  
1997 MES Rani Laxmibai Girl's Military School, Kasar Amboli, Dist-Pune  
1997 MES Dyan Mandir, Kalamboli, New Mumbai  
1999 MES Adhya Krantiveer Vasudev Balwant Phadke Vidyalaya, Panvel  
2000 MES Vidya Mandir C.B.D, Belapur, New Mumbai  
2000 MES Shikshan Prabhodhini, Pune-38  
2005 MES Renawikar Secondary School, Savedi, Dist-Ahmednagar  
2005 MES Late.Damodar Shankar Renawikar Vidya Mandir, A'nagar  
2005 MES Pre-primary School, Savedi, Dist-Ahmednagar  
2005 MES Personality Development Centre, Pune-38  
2007 MES Academy of Shooting Range, Pune  
2009 MES Health and Service Department, Chiplun, Dist-Ratnagiri  
2009 MES Academy of Career Excellence, Pune  
2010 MES Community College, Pune-30  
2011 MES Night College of Arts and Commerce, Pune-4