

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

BIJAPUR formed the spear-head in the struggle for freedom in Karnataka when the movement was in the hands of veteran leaders like Lokamanya Tilak, Lala Lajapat Rai, Mahatma Gandhi, and others. The late Shri Srinivasa Rao Koujalgi, whose name is a household word in the districts of Northern Mysore, hailed from Bijapur town and for some time presided over the deliberations of the Municipality. He was a staunch follower of Lokamanya Tilak and spread the great leader's message in the nooks and corners of the region. In the old days, when people began to feel the urge to become free, Shri Koujalgi and his associates infused a fearless and independent spirit amongst the people. The administration of the Bijapur Municipality in those days amply reflected the nationalist sentiments of the representatives who lost no opportunity to impress on those in authority the need of the hour. Public life in those days was mainly devoted to propagate nationalist ideas as propounded by Tilak and Gandhi. This was the beginning of public life in the twenties of this century. The people's representatives in the old Bombay Legislative Council, the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of States reflected the popular upsurge which wanted immediate *Swaraj* and the unification of Karnataka.

The franchise was based on property qualifications, educational status and income-tax returns. There was no universal adult franchise nor was there any serious attempt to introduce one. The restricted franchise of the old days was made use of to reflect the will of the people and those who propagated nationalist ideas and sentiments were returned with thumping majority. The public life never suffered for want of fearless men or women. The message of the great leaders of India was carried from door to door lending a new colour and outlook to a dormant public life. The popular demand for the unification of Karnataka on a linguistic basis found its echo in almost all parts of Bijapur. Representatives who sat in Municipal Councils and Legislative Assemblies exerted their utmost to find a suitable way for the proper fulfilment of this popular need. Those who struggled and fought hard for the

linguistic State found favour with the electorate. Mahatma Gandhi's clarion call for the immediate attainment of Swaraj gripped the imagination of the people of Bijapur who left no stone unturned to achieve the goal.

With the attainment of Independence on August 15, 1947, the tenor of public life changed from an epic struggle with the British to that of reconstruction and consolidation. Welfare schemes backed by popular fervour were ushered in and social service organisations got ready to implement several schemes of public good. The First Five-Year Plan as well as the Second one gave a remarkable fillip to the all-round development of the district. Many new organisations were formed by men of calibre to work out schemes to ameliorate the conditions of the less well-to-do classes of society. Old-time voluntary organisations which could not do much for want of finance awakened to the new upsurge and strove their best to help the less fortunate. Anti-famine measures were ushered in by a band of social workers who formed a new institution in Bijapur. Village uplift, Harijan welfare and the like got ample encouragement through public funds and Government support.

In keeping with their rich heritage of public spiritedness, the people of the Bijapur district have given a good account of themselves in the national emergency. By the end of January, 1936, their donations in gold for defence efforts totalled about 1,21,850 grammes, which outweighed the contributions of all other districts of the State put together. The district had given 23,230 grammes of silver also. In point of cash contributions to the National Defence Fund, the district stood fourth in the State by giving over 21 lakhs of rupees.

After the country's Independence, Bijapur district was represented in the Bombay Legislature and also in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha till the 1st November 1956. According to the States' Reorganisation Act, 1956, the Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies were delimited to provide adequate representation for the district. On the basis of one seat for about a lakh of population, the Delimitation Committee set itself to the task of fixing the boundaries of the new constituencies. There were fourteen Assembly Constituencies, in the district, for the general elections of 1957, of which one was a double-member constituency in Indi. The other constituencies were Badami, Guledgud, Hungund Bagalkot, Mudhol, Bilgi, Jamkhandi, Bijapur, Tikota, Bagewadi, Muddebihal, Talikot and Sindgi. Scheduled Castes were provided with a reserved seat in Indi. **Elections**

The whole of Bijapur district with a population of 13,96,185 (1951) was divided into two Lok Sabha constituencies and two members were returned in the 1957 elections. The district

sent one representative to the Mysore Legislative Council from the Local Authorities' Constituency. The representation in the Graduates' and Teachers' Constituencies is determined not according to the district but the area. Out of the total number of twelve seats allotted to Mysore State, four seats were allotted to Northern Karnatak districts and members were chosen through a system of indirect elections.

Political Parties

The following political parties contested in the General Elections held in 1957 and/or 1962 in the district.

- (i) Indian National Congress.
- (ii) Communist Party of India.
- (iii) Bharatiya Jan Sangh.
- (iv) Republican Party.
- (v) Lok Seva Sangh.
- (vi) Swatantra Party and
- (vii) Scheduled Castes Federation.

The Indian National Congress had strong hold in the district. Thirteen of the fifteen seats to the State Legislative Assembly and one of the two Lok Sabha seats were secured by the Party in the 1957 general elections. The Independents won three seats, two to the Mysore Legislative Assembly and one to the Lok Sabha.

According to an amendment of the Constitution of India, the Indi double-member constituency was split up and a new Assembly Constituency was created in Baradol, reserved for Scheduled Castes. At the time of the 1962 elections, there were 15 Assembly Constituencies and two Lok Sabha seats. The Indian National Congress captured both the Lok Sabha seats, and 14 out of the 15 Assembly seats. One seat at Indi went to the Swatantra Party.

Newspapers and Periodicals

The first newspaper in the district was started in 1869-70 at Kaladgi and was issued every Sunday. This journal which was called *Hitechchhu* (well-wisher) gave weekly digest of events in and around Bijapur, and from the old records it is seen that it had a circulation of 85 copies, the subscription being Rs. 3 per annum. It is now defunct. In the last decade of the 19th century, another journal named *Karnataka Vaibhava* began to be published. Later on, with the spread of literacy and a taste for journalism, several journals made their appearance in the district. *Nava Karnatak*, *Shivanubhava*, *Kannadiga*, *Udyoga*, *Khadi Vijaya* and *Sharana-Sandesha* were some of the journals which served social, political, cultural and other causes. In 1965, the following journals were being published in the district: *Karnataka Vaibhava* (Bi-weekly), *Udaya* (Daily), *Sandarshana* (Weekly), *Nirbhaya*

(Weekly), *Deshabhimani* (Weekly), *Nava Hind* (Weekly), *Santavani* (Weekly), *Shikshana Vikas* (Monthly) and *Sukunara* (Monthly). There is also a monthly publication called *Dhanvantari* devoted to Ayurveda. Major daily newspapers come from far-off places like Bangalore, Bombay and Hubli. In all about 50 dailies, weeklies and periodicals are being circulated in Bijapur district together with the few journals which are published in the district. The Air Service which has a stop in Belgaum brings some well-known dailies from Bombay and they are quickly sent to towns in Bijapur district by transport buses. The morning daily published in Bombay reaches Bijapur by the evening. The Bangalore papers reach Bijapur by the rail route *via* Hubli. Among the daily newspapers in Kannada which are in good circulation in Bijapur district, the *Samyukta Karnatak*, *Vishwavani* and *Vishala Karnatak* of Hubli stand prominently, because the newspapers reach the people early. Hubli which is at a distance of 243 kms. from Bijapur is served both by rail and bus transport. Some of the Bangalore Kannada dailies too are in circulation in the district, though they reach the public late. The *Times of India*, the *Indian Express*, the *Free Press Journal*, all of Bombay and the *Deccan Herald* and the *Indian Express* of Bangalore are also in good circulation. Marathi dailies from Poona and Sholapur are also being read.

The desire for popular weeklies in English, Kannada and Marathi has grown of late and periodicals from Bangalore, Bombay and Hubli pour in large numbers. Film periodicals have a special appeal.

The urge to organise voluntary associations to serve a social purpose has given a richness to the institutional life of Bijapur which only Governmental action would not have imparted to it. This idea has been recognised by the State Government which has encouraged and utilised the agency of voluntary organisations for the greater good of the people. Thus, the State and voluntary organisations have for the most part been playing a mutually helpful part, and there are a few institutions doing socially useful work which for one reason or the other are still beyond the scope of State help.

Voluntary Social Service Organisations

Of the many voluntary institutions working in Bijapur, several have been noticed in the present chapter. By far the greater number are still in the stage of winning recognition. Even amongst those institutions which have attained a certain degree of stability, it is quite probable that some have not been noticed, as information about them was not forthcoming. The description given in the following pages, of several organisations, will be interesting not only in regard to the particular institutions concerned but also as regards the pattern they represent.

The years that elapsed after the commencement of this century, characterised by a spell of famines and epidemics and the outbreak of world wars, was notable for two influences, both of which helped the formation of voluntary social service organisations. On the one hand, the State itself was awakening to its positive role in promoting public welfare. While the bias was still strongly in favour of State action through departmental channels, the utility of popular associations to further the ends of State policy came to be gradually recognised. There was a strong and creative urge among the people themselves to start voluntary organisations to help the less fortunate sections of society. In Bijapur district, there are a number of voluntary institutions serving the social needs of the people in a variety of ways. They not only complement and supplement Governmental efforts in many a field but also cover fields of helpful service which even the Government by itself may not have been able to cover. These institutions have played an important role in the educational, social and cultural development of the district. Many of them are pioneers in particular spheres of social activity and on account of their constant and commendable service have won Governmental recognition, assistance and guidance. Libraries, schools and colleges are the most numerous among the voluntary institutions of Bijapur. Their usefulness as economical and effective agencies of social amelioration has long been recognised. As aided institutions receiving State support they have become as important as the corresponding departmental agencies.

**Indian
Red Cross
Society,
Bijapur**

The League of Red Cross Societies is a federation of all National Red Cross Societies and was established in 1919 to perpetuate in peace time, the momentum which Red Cross work gained in World War I. The Indian Red Cross Society was constituted under a Government of India statute in 1920 to provide for administration of various funds received from the public in order to give medical aid to the sick and wounded. The Bijapur District Branch of the Society was constituted in 1926 with the then Collector as its chairman. Now, the Deputy Commissioner presides over the institution. During the last thirty-nine years the District Branch has rendered yeoman service to the people. It has opened a family welfare clinic at the Civil Hospital, Bijapur. The society conducted a mobile dispensary during 1944 visiting various villages where lectures were given on hygiene and sanitation. The Branch took preventive steps against epidemics. It has been helping hospitals and dispensaries by supplementing their requirements. It distributed clothing to poor and deserving persons irrespective of caste or creed. A waiting hall for patients has been constructed and donated by the Red Cross Branch to the Bijapur Civil Hospital. The cost of this hall came to about Rs. 5,300. The Society undertook the work of paving the hospital with Shahabad stones. The Society is working for the relief of the suffering humanity. There were two life members, fifteen annual members

and thirty-seven annual associate members as on the 1st October 1965. The managing committee consisted of 13 members.

The District Famine Relief Committee, Bijapur, was established in 1924, with the object of relieving distress due to scarcity or famine in the district. The Society interested itself in many ways to help the needy. It undertook free distribution of milk to babies of not more than two years of age belonging to those who were engaged in famine works. It also opened cheap grain shops and free kitchens in times of famine. Indirect help was given to persons of respectable families whose status in society prevented them from receiving gratuitous help. Clothes and blankets were distributed to the needy. During floods and fires or such other natural calamities, the relief committee gave grants either in cash or in kind to relieve the distress. The Committee has been merged with the Mysore State Distress Relief Fund Committee with effect from the 1st January 1964. The Committee formed at the district level is named as "District Distress Relief Committee" with the very same objects of relieving distress. The Deputy Commissioner, Bijapur, is the Chairman of the Committee.

**District
Distress
Relief
Committee**

The Bijapur Orphanage was started as an aftermath of the great influenza epidemic in 1918. A sum of Rs. 25,000 from the funds raised in connection with World War I was diverted to the institution. Further funds by way of liberal donations from charitably disposed persons were added to this initial corpus and thus a handsome amount of about a lakh of rupees was collected. The institution is a non-sectarian one. In the beginning it was thrown open only to destitute infants and illegitimate babies. Since 1943, the orphanage has been recognized as a Fit Person Institute. It has buildings of its own costing about Rs. 25,000. Children who are housed in this orphanage are sent to primary and secondary schools, while those of age are sent to learn local trades. A mat-weaving section which is attached to the institution also manufactures cloth and bedding required for the inmates. Fifteen children are working in this section. In addition, lessons in sewing, embroidery, cooking and baby nursing are given to girls. There were 113 children in the orphanage, as on the 1st October 1965. A Montessory School is also run by the orphanage.

**Bijapur
Orphanage**

The Samaj Kalyan Samithi, Bijapur, has undertaken the task of implementing several welfare extension projects and for this purpose, a committee has been formed. This committee is a district organisation of the All-India Central Social Welfare Board. The committee consists of nine members including the Deputy Commissioner of Bijapur who is an *ex-officio* member. The committee is running five centres at Honaganahalli, Sarwad, Nidoni, Kakhandaki and Arjungi in Bijapur taluk. The project area covers a population of about 21,000 and to the five centres

**Samaj Kalyan
Samithi,
Bijapur**

are attached nine sub-centres. A gram sevika and a dai work at each of these five centres. Adult education, children's recreation, medical aid, pre-natal and post-natal observations, maternity services, children's libraries and craft teaching such as needle work, embroidery, cutting and sewing, spinning and mat-weaving are some of the features of the several activities at these centres. Music and light entertainment are also provided to the rural people who attend these centres in large numbers. National holidays and Jayanthi functions of great national leaders are celebrated with a set programme. Milk powder and butter are received as gifts from the chief of C.A.R.E., New Delhi, and these are distributed to the villagers. The number of beneficiaries has gone up to 2,000. Needy women and children are given clothes and sweetmeats and some times cooked food too. The Central Social Welfare Board provides funds for running the centres and the District Committee has to raise a matching contribution of not less than 25 per cent of the total expenditure for which budget estimates are framed to the tune of about Rs. 30,000 a year. The present five centres form the first national extension project. It is proposed to open another project covering five more centres with sub-centres attached to them and catering to the masses in the other taluks of the district. A convener of the committee looks after the centres.

**District
Sarvodaya
Scheme,
Kaladgi**

The Bijapur District Sarvodaya Scheme, Kaladgi, was established in May 1949 to work for the common good of all the inhabitants of a selected area on the lines of Sarvodaya ideals as propounded by the Father of the Nation. The work is concentrated mostly on those belonging to backward communities. The scheme is conducted by a Sanchalak with a staff of some twenty persons through four Sarvodaya Sub-Centres, one each at Bawalatti, Sitimani, Murnal and Kaladgi, the central office being at Kaladgi. The Sarvodaya District Advisory Committee also helps the Sanchalak in achieving the aims of the ameliorative scheme. The Sarvodaya scheme sponsors co-operative societies in the area. As a mass movement the scheme is gathering popularity and a propagandist has been appointed to go round the area in order to explain social legislations, the evils of untouchability, Sarvodaya ideology and other subjects of cultural interest. The Sarvodaya scheme comprises an area consisting of 32 villages and seven Lambani *tandas* serving a population of 25,000. The actual work of the scheme is divided into agriculture, village industries, backward class development, health and sanitation, education, works of public utility, and co-operative movement. Appreciable work has been noticed in all these fields of ameliorative activity. The rural population has taken kindly to these ideas.

**Gandhi Tatwa
Prachar
Kendra**

Gandhi Tatwa Prachar Kendra, Bijapur, was started in 1964 under the auspices of Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Mysore State Branch, Bangalore. Propagation of Gandhian philosophy and ideology is

the chief objective of the Kendra. It arranges lectures, discussions and elocutions and holds exhibitions. It has a small library of works by and on Gandhiji. It co-operates with other institutions in carrying out the Gandhian programme. The Kendra proposes to establish a hostel for students in order to mould their career on Gandhian lines.

The Shree Basaweshwar Free Boarding and Hostel, Bagewadi, was established in July 1948 to help the poor pupils studying in schools. The institution is administered by a body of seven members with one Honorary Secretary. The hostel collects charities from the public in kind and cash to feed the poor pupils. The free boarding and hostel is run by the Basaveshwar Samstha, Bagewadi, and poor students of all communities are admitted.

**Basaweshwar
Free Boarding
and Hostel**

The St. Xavier's Orphanage, Guledgud, was established in 1928 with the aim of uplifting the poorer sections of the society, socially, morally and intellectually. The Remand Home boys were also admitted into this orphanage till the year 1958. But now only the committed girls are admitted. The Bishop of Belgaum is the president of the orphanage and the Reverend Mother Superior of Christ King Convent, Guledgud, is the manager. Besides instruction in primary stage, the girls are taught needle work, embroidery and tailoring. They also receive instruction in domestic science and household management. No Government grant is received by this institution.

**St. Xavier's
Orphanage**

The District Harijan Sevak Sangha, Bijapur, was established in the year 1932 at the time of the historic fast of Mahatma Gandhi. The actual work of the Sangha began in June 1933 when a hostel for Harijan boys was started. The aims and objects of the District Harijan Sevak Sangha are the same as laid down by the Central Harijan Sevak Sangha, Delhi, which postulates the eradication of untouchability in the Hindu fold by truthful and non-violent means, and to promote the moral, social and material welfare of the Harijans. In furtherance of this object a Boys' Hostel was started with an initial admission of thirteen boys. The present number of boys in the hostel is nearly 150. Till the year 1937, not a single matriculate was found among Harijans in the district. After that, more than 300 boys have come out successful in the Matriculation and S.S.L.C. examinations. Some of them have become graduates and even double graduates. One of the Harijan boys obtained a medical degree. In 1937, the District Sangha opened a Girls' Hostel from where four passed the S.S.L.C. examination. Two of these took their Arts degrees and are now teachers in Dharwar. One of the girls passed the M.B.B.S. and is now working as a doctor in Belgaum. More than forty girls have since passed the school leaving certificate examination and most of them have been absorbed as teachers by the School Boards.

**District
Harijan
Sevak
Sangha**

In order to eradicate the evil system of dedication of Harijan girls as Devadasis, a rescue home called the Ahalyoddhar Mandir was started in 1950. Those who were remanded and committed are housed in this home. This rescue home is run by the District Harijan Sevak Sangha.

The Honorary Secretary of the Sangha is conducting propaganda work for the removal of untouchability. Hundreds of lectures have been delivered by him.

The Sangha has built a big building called Radhabai Kabbur Kanya Mandir to accommodate Harijan girls. Shri Kabbur of Bombay has donated Rs. 25,000. The Gandhi Smarak Nidhi at Delhi have granted Rs. 25,000 to build a new rescue home. Both the Kanya Mandir and the rescue home are located just to the east of Asar Mahal. The District Harijan Sevak Sangha, though originally founded to carry on the work of amelioration of the Harijans only, has been doing the work of the amelioration of other backward people also.

**Channa-
girishwara
Prasadika
Vidya
Vardhak
Trust**

Shri Channagirishwara Prasadika Vidya Vardhak Trust, Mahalingpur, Mudhol Taluk was started in 1904 with the help of several charitably minded people. In the beginning, a Sanskrit school and also a music school were started to impart instruction in Sanskrit and music. A past student of this Sanskrit school is now the head of Sri Sarpabhushana Mutt in Bangalore. In 1913, the Trust started a primary and a middle school which later developed into a full-fledged high school. The Trust now has properties worth about a lakh of rupees and is registered under the Bombay Charitable and Endowments Act.

**Vidyarthi
Sangha
Sarvajanika
Vachanalaya**

The Vidyarthi Sangha Sarvajanika Vachanalaya, Nidagundi, Begewadi Taluk was established in the year 1952 for the benefit of the people residing in and around Nidagundi village. It had a membership of 125 on its rolls, as on the 1st August 1965. Five members have been elected to the working committee to look after the day-to-day administration of the institution. There is a collection of about 1,000 books in the library. The reading room is provided with daily and weekly newspapers. Since the institution is being managed from the past five years by the Village Panchayat, Nidagundi, it has now been proposed to change its name to "Grama Panchayat Committee Sarvajanika Vachanalaya, Nidagundi". The Vachanalaya is very popular in the area.

**Siddheshwar
Free Boarding
Home**

The Sri Siddheshwar Poor Students' Free Boarding Home, Bijapur was started in 1918 to help poor students of all castes and creeds of the district, studying in high schools and colleges in Bijapur. Provision of free boarding and lodging to these students is the chief aim of this institution. The members of the managing committee are elected annually by the general body. Shri

Sangana Basava Shivayogi Swamiji of Banthnal is its president and there are twelve committee members. There were 330 students in the boarding home, as on the 1st October 1965. Donations have been given by Shree Siddheshwar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bijapur, the District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bijapur, the District Local Board and the general public for the maintenance of this institution.

The Hindi Pracharak Sangha, Bijapur was started in 1930 to spread the knowledge of Hindi among the people. It is affiliated to the Karnatak Pranthiya Hindi Prachara Sabha at Dharwar. A library called "Arvind Hindi Library" is being run by the Sangha. A district Hindi Prachar conference was organised by the Pracharak Sangha in October 1953. The Sangha has drawn up a programme to arrange lectures, debates and symposia to popularise the Hindi language in the district. This association has no building of its own.

**Hindi
Pracharak
Sangha**

The Bhalchandra Wachan Mandir, Tikota, in Bijapur taluk, was founded in 1917 to offer facilities to the reading public. There are 60 members on its rolls. The library is housed in a building of its own worth about Rs. 5,000 mainly contributed by public donations. The State Government also gave a generous grant. In 1946, the silver jubilee of the institution was celebrated under the presidentship of the ex-Ruler, Shrimant Bala Saheb, Raja of Kurundwad. The library is named after Bhalchandra Chintaman, the late Raja Saheb of Kurundwad.

**Bhalchandra
Wachan
Mandir**

The Shrimant Ramabai Saheba Vachanalaya, Jamkhandi, styled as Taluka Free Library since 1950, was founded on 25th June 1905 by a band of selfless workers who were infused with the national spirit of Lokamanya Balgangadhar Tilak. They started a circle named "Vidyabhivruddhi Vardhak Mandali" under the auspices of which the library took its birth. Besides this, another small library named Vachan Mandir came into being by the efforts of the late Shri Shankar Balachandra Karabhari. The progressive-minded ruler of Jamkhandi, the late Shrimant Parashuram Bhau Patwardhan, amalgamated these two libraries and named it Shrimant Ramabai Saheba Vachanalaya. The present building of the library was purchased at half the cost from the Ruler of Jamkhandi. In 1923, the Vachanalaya was registered as a first grade library. Right from its inception up to the merger of the State, the enlightened Rulers of the State helped the institution with generous grants. In 1949, this library was affiliated to the Karnatak Regional Library, Dharwar, and since then, it has continued to work as Taluka Free Library with an annual grant of Rs. 550 from the Government. The library owns 8,000 books and has a reading room providing leading Kannada, Marathi, Hindi and English dailies, weeklies and monthlies. In 1952, this institution was registered under the

**Ramabai
Saheba
Vachanalaya**

Bombay Public Trusts Act. The annual income and expenditure of the Vachanalaya is about Rs. 3,000.

**Bijapur
Sarvajanik
Vachanalaya**

Prior to 1890, a public library called the Native General Library, Bijapur, was being run in a portion of the Taj Bavdi arches which were in possession of the Municipality and used for office work. In 1890, the Municipality gave a free site, on which the Sarvajanik Vachanalaya building now stands. The building was constructed with the help, partly of Municipal contribution and partly of public donations. Separated from the main building and to the north of it, a hall has been constructed wherein is housed the Muktheadwara Vachanalaya or the Free Reading Room. The library has over 21,000 books on various subjects and subscribes to 78 newspapers and periodicals. In September 1965, the average number of readers per day was 750 and the number of members was about 440.

**Basaveshwar
Vachanalaya,
Kondgili**

The Basaveshwar Vachanalaya Kondgili, Sindgi Taluk, was started in March 1932 with the object of spreading reading habit and knowledge among the population. The library is financed chiefly by well-to-do cultivators. The library is housed in its own building.

**Kalmeshwar
Library,
Huvin-
Hippargi**

Shri Kalmeshwar Library at Huvin-Hippargi was started in 1942 with the object of spreading knowledge among the rural population. The number of members on its rolls is more than 100 and there is a good collection of books on various subjects.

**Sharada
Vachanalaya,
Hire-Kodagali**

The Shri Sharada Vachanalaya, Hire-Kodagali, Hungund Taluk, was started in 1941 with a membership of 75. There were 365 books in the institution as on the 1st October 1965. The reading room is well supplied with newspapers and periodicals. About 800 villagers make use of the library and reading room. The day-to-day administration of the library is vested in a managing committee. The library is very popular among the village-folk.

**Maratha
Hitachintak
Sangha,
Bagalkot**

The Maratha Hitachintak Sangha, Bagalkot, was started in 1941 with the object of achieving all sided progress in the educational, social and economic fields of the members of the Maratha community. The adult male members of the Maratha community in Bagalkot town take part in the annual general body meetings. There is a working committee of 35 members for carrying out the aims and objects of the Sangha. The managing body has nine members. The Bagalkot Municipality has given a free site on which a fine building has been constructed. It is proposed to start a free boarding house shortly.

**Brahmana
Sabha,
Bijapur**

The Brahmana Sabha, Bijapur, has been running a Vidyarthi Nilaya since 1939 to provide free boarding and lodging to poor students. It is also helping them to buy books and pay their

school fees. This institution has no building of its own but is housed in a rented building. The number of boys admitted every year ranges from 25 to 30. They collect *Mushti* once a week and mostly prepare their own food. The hostel is being maintained by subscriptions from the public, both in cash and kind. The students who reside in the hostel are encouraged to do manual labour and grow their own vegetables. The Sabha is striving hard to secure admissions to students in educational institutions and also employment to the unemployed. There were about 100 members in the Sabha as on the 1st October 1965.

The Sarvodaya Vachanalaya, Bagalkot was established in 1949 with a membership of 150 persons. It was formerly known as Hardinge Library which was functioning since the year 1868. The organisation is managed by a committee elected by the members. A nominee of the State Government is also on the committee. A sports section is attached to the library. There are about 3,000 books in the library in English, Kannada, Marathi and Hindi. A children's library consisting of about 500 books is also functioning. Distinguished people who visit Bagalkot are invited to address the members on social and literary topics. The institution is getting an annual grant of Rs. 550 from Government.

**Sarvodaya
Vachanalaya,
Bagalkot**

Shri Siddheshwar Samstha, Bijapur, was established in 1898 with the object of inculcating a spirit of devotion among the people. There are more than 100 members now on its rolls, who elect a managing committee. The institution has built the famous Shri Siddheshwar Temple and a conference hall for holding religious discourses. The institution also provides free boarding and lodging for poor students and also looks after their welfare.

**Siddheshwar
Samstha,
Bijapur**

Many educational institutions are being run in the district under its auspices. A big hall called "Shivanubhava Mantapa" has been constructed at a cost of about Rs. 40,000, by the side of the temple. Public meetings and religious discourses are held there. People coming from the mofussil to celebrate marriages are also accommodated here.

The Shri Sangameshwar Free Boarding House, Amingad, was established in 1951 in order to help and encourage poor students, irrespective of caste and creed, to pursue their studies and also to undertake social work in the locality. The free boarding house is being conducted by Shri Sangameshwar Educational Association, Amingad. The number of inmates in the free boarding house has been raised from year to year so as to facilitate the poor and deserving pupils.

**Sangameshwar
Boarding
House,
Amingad**

The Bagalkot Pinjarapole Samstha, Bagalkot, was established in 1925 to prevent cattle, especially cows, from falling into the hands of slaughterers and also to feed the old and decrepit cattle.

**Bagalkot
Pinjarapole
Samstha**

There were 125 members on the rolls as on the 1st October 1965 with a managing committee of 15 members. The Pinjarapole is housed in a building with accommodation for more than 100 cattle. About 30 acres of dry land have been purchased to grow fodder. The president with the assistance of the secretary looks after the day-to-day administration of the institution which has an annual income of about Rs. 5,000 including donations from the public.

**Silver Jubilee
Maternity
Home,
Bijapur**

The Silver Jubilee Maternity Home and Child Welfare Centre located in Bijapur City came into being in the year 1934 through the efforts of Dr. R. V. More, a retired Civil Surgeon. In 1936, a substantial grant of Rs. 6,000 from out of King George V Silver Jubilee Fund was received which, with further financial aid from local institutions and individuals, enabled the welfare centre to have its own building constructed at a cost of Rs. 11,000. Extensions to the building costing about Rs. 25,000 were made with further financial aid, in 1952. The number of members of this institution was 40 including six life members. The centre is devoting itself to several activities such as provision of outdoor clinic for women and children, free distribution of milk and cod-liver oil to needy children, training to midwives and dais, provision of recreation ground for children, and holding children's day, staff day and the like. A family planning clinic has been opened and a Honorary Medical Officer is in charge. The institution is progressing day by day and is very popular in the district.

**Akkana
Balaga,
Bijapur**

The Akkana Balaga, Bijapur, was established on 14th May 1948 and is at present located in Barid-Bavadi Oni. The institution aims at all-round progress of women in all spheres of activity, and provides instruction in sewing, nursery, embroidery and the like. The Akkana Balaga is a popular women's organisation in Bijapur. It is managed by a working committee consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and eight other members.

**Vanita
Utkarsha
Mandal,
Bijapur**

The Vanita Utkarsha Mandal, Bijapur, was established in June 1926 and was then called "Ladies Health Union", but later, the name was changed to Vanita Utkarsha Mandal. The institution aims at all-round progress and development of women in the social, cultural and educational spheres, without any restriction of caste, creed or religion. The Mandal is conducting craft classes for the benefit of women, and instruction is imparted in cutting and tailoring, dress-making, and embroidery. It is also conducting adult literacy classes for women and a Sishuvihar for children of the age-group 3 to 6. A condensed course of instruction for ladies appearing for the S.S.L.C. examination in private, has also been arranged. A social worker attached to the Mandal is engaged actively in family-planning work.

The institution is housed in a spacious ground opposite to the Netaji Park. The central building was constructed at a cost of about Rs. 13,000 with the aid of liberal donations from the public. There are also separate buildings for the Sishuvihar and craft classes, for which donations were secured from the Central Social Welfare Board, the State Government, and the local Municipality. The Mandal has provided a large playing ground for children and has also laid out a beautiful garden. The Mandal library is equipped with useful books for the benefit of the members and the public alike.

To combat leprosy and to render medical and surgical aid to the ailing leprosy-patients, a committee of 12 members was formed on 15th August 1928 with the then Collector of Bijapur as *ex-officio* President, the Civil Surgeon as *ex-officio* Chairman and the Health Officer of the Municipality as the Secretary. Relief work was started in 1928 by giving outdoor treatment to leprosy-patients within the Municipal area. As the number of patients increased, the idea of having a leprosy asylum gained support. The committee then collected Rs. 10,000 for the construction of the asylum near Rukmangada Pandit Samadhi on Bijaur-Kamatgi Road. The District Leprosarium buildings now consist of four residential blocks for the inmates, one building for the dispensary, one compounders' quarters and one weaving block. The committee has opened a small dispensary in the heart of the town, where outdoor leprosy-patients receive treatment. The Leprosarium has provided accommodation for about 120 leprosy-patients. The inmates are given occupational training in poultry, goat and sheep farming and gardening. A primary school for the children of patients with residential hostel facilities is also functioning.

**District
Anti-Leprosy
Committee**

The Basaveshwar Vidya Vardhak Sangha, Bagalkot, was established in the year 1906 with the object of affording to the youths of the country in general and of the Lingayat community in particular facilities for collegiate, technical and agricultural education. The Sangha is a registered body having its own constitution. The managing committee has eleven members. Separate sub-committees have been set up to manage the various institutions started under the auspices of the Sangha. In 1907, the Sangha started a Sanskrit Pathashala which has produced many learned scholars. In 1911, the Sangha started a free boarding home called the Warad Free Boarding. About 100 students are now being given free food and lodging. As the Sangha felt the need, a library called the Guru Basava Vachanalaya was opened for the benefit of the reading public. In 1907, a secondary school was started which became a full-fledged high school in 1923. In order to provide primary education, the Sangha started a primary school in 1939. It also took under its management about 150 voluntary schools in the neighbouring areas of Badami, Hungund, Ramdurg and Mudhol.

**Basaveshwar
Vidya
Vardhak
Sangha,
Bagalkot**

In 1942, the Sangha started a Teachers' Training College to provide trained teachers to take charge of these primary schools.

In 1944, the Sangha started the Basaveshwar Arts College at Bagalkot. This was an important event in the history of the Basaveshwar Vidya Vardhak Sangha because the college was the first of its kind in the whole of the Bijapur district. In 1946-47, the college became a full-fledged Arts College. Science sections were added in 1951-52. At present the Basaveshwar College is a full-fledged Arts and Science College. A Polytechnic was started in 1958 and in 1963-64, the Sangha started an Engineering College at Bagalkot.

After the merger of Mudhol and Ramdurg States in 1948, the Sangha took over the management of King George High School, Mudhol, and the State High School, Ramdurg. These two institutions are now amongst the leading higher secondary schools.

**Anjuman-e-Islam,
Bijapur**

The Anjuman-e-Islam, Bijapur, was started on 1st January 1901 for providing educational facilities to the Muslims of the district at all levels and in all branches, viz., primary, secondary, higher, technical and vocational education. The institution is also working for the social, moral and religious uplift of the community through cultural activities. Any one who is a Muslim and pays an annual fee of Rs. 4 becomes a member. The general body elects the President, the Vice-President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and members of various committees. The Anjuman-e-Islam is giving scholarships and fees to deserving Muslim students studying in schools and colleges. Almost every Muslim house in the town is provided with a bag in which at the time of grinding jowar or wheat, a handful is put for the Anjuman. These bags are collected every week. The Anjuman is running one higher secondary school and also a girls' high school. In 1944, the Anjuman opened a credit co-operative society, which is now converted into an Urban Bank called the Deccan Co-operative Urban Bank, Bijapur.

**Tilak Kanya
Shala,
Bijapur**

To satisfy the long felt want of a primary school with Marathi as the medium of instruction, the Tilak Kanya Shala was started in 1921. This institution is run by the Tilak Mahila Samaj. The school is conducted in two shifts for want of accommodation. The strength of the school at the beginning was only ten, but it has risen now to 200. In 1947, the Mahila Samaj started a Balak Mandir for young kids. Eighty children are now attending the classes. Distinguished persons including the late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. M. R. Jayakar and others have visited the school.

**Vidya
Vardhak
Sangha,
Bijapur**

The Vidya Vardhak Sangha, Bijapur, was started in 1932 to promote the cause of education in the district. Soon after, it took over a proprietary high school and renamed it as Vidyaranya High School. But due to various circumstances, the school changed hands

and was again handed over to the Sangha. The school was renamed as V. B. Darbar High School in 1937, and converted into a higher secondary school in 1965. It had a strength of 1,040 students as on the 1st October 1965. There is an influential committee to manage the affairs of the Sangha.

The V. M. V. V. Educational Association, Hungund, was established in 1945 to encourage education among the Lingayats and also others in technical, commercial and agricultural fields. It has a full-fledged higher secondary school housed in a nice building costing about rupees two lakhs. A free boarding house costing Rs. 40,000 is also attached to the institution. The Association derives its finance by way of donations, subscriptions and charities. There are 38 members in the general body of whom seven are chosen to serve on the managing committee. Sub-committees consisting of five or six members look after the various educational institutions and also conduct of festivals. The Association celebrates Shri Sangameshwara, Shri Basaveshwara and Akka-Mahadevi festivals and undertakes to repair temples, mathas and other buildings connected with Veerashaiva religion.

**V.M.V.V.
Educational
Association,
Hungund**

The Veerashaiva Vidya Vardhak Sangha, Talikot, though very old, was registered only in 1946-47. The aim of the society is to spread education and create a cultural atmosphere in the rural areas by providing educational facilities. A high school under the name of Shri Khasgatesh High School is being conducted by the Sangha. The teaching staff of the high school consisted of 23 members with a total of 840 students as on the 1st October 1965. There is also a Hindi and Sanskrit centre which conducts examinations. A music class is also being conducted, where pupils are taught classical music. A free boarding hostel is also run by the Sangha.

**Veerashaiva
Vidya
Vardhak
Sangha,
Talikot**

The District Lingayat Education Association, Bijapur, was established in 1910 in order to spread education in various parts of the district. A scheme has been sponsored to train primary school teachers in a rural setting. The Association has the laudable aim of establishing higher institutions of learning with a view to giving an impetus to the "Go back to the village" movement sponsored by the Father of the Nation. This institution is a district-wide educational organisation with its headquarters at Bijapur. There are about 500 members with an elected managing committee of fifteen persons. The Association is running a teachers' training college in Lachyan, the Vijay Arts college, K.C.P. Science College and a Commerce College in Bijapur City and a first grade high school and a full primary school. An Arts and Science College at Jamkhandi is also being run since June 1963.

**District
Lingayat
Education
Association**

The Taluka Shikshan Prasarak Sahakari Mandali Ltd., Sindgi, is an important non-governmental social service agency in the Sindgi taluk. It was established in 1944 and registered under

**Shikshan
Prasarak
Mandali, Sindgi**

the Bombay Co-operative Act VII of 1925. It is a charitable institution financed by the sympathetic and generous public of Sindgi taluk. The aims and objects of the Society are the spread of education in all its aspects and the physical development of the masses in general. The institution is running a higher secondary school and a free boarding house in Sindgi.

**Shikshana
Prasaraka
Sangha,
Basavan-
Bagewadi**

The Karnataka Shikshana Prasarak Sangha, Basavan-Bagewadi, Bagewadi taluk, was established in 1941 to spread mass education by running private primary schools and allied institutions. The association is registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and also under the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950. It was first started and registered as "The Bagewadi Taluka Saksharata Prasarak Sangha" in 1941, but in 1955 its name was changed to "The Karnataka Shikshana Prasarak Sangha" with a view to providing it a wider sphere of activities. The association was running 25 private primary and middle schools with allied institutions like social education classes, village libraries, etc. These 25 schools were divided on the basis of proximity into six groups, and these group schools were developed into central schools for higher studies. The schools are provided with all the necessary materials, equipment and suitable accommodation. Besides the curriculum and purely educational work, the association is, side by side, doing constructive work of great value and importance. As an illustration, mention may be made of some groups of villages viz., Hanchinal, Mattihal and Unnibhavi in Bagewadi taluk where all round village improvement works have been done on a purely voluntary basis. In the field of social work, the association is playing a notable part and has earned the encomiums of one and all as a pioneer social service institution, doing good work especially in rural areas.

The association has started a Teachers' Circulating Library and six pupils' libraries to improve the knowledge of both the teachers and the students. A number of schemes have also been brought into force providing bonus and gratuity to teachers and attractive prizes to students.

As stated above, the association has done good service in improving the lot of villages. As a result of its efforts, Hanchinal village was awarded the Divisional Shield for all-round village improvement work and Unnibhavi, a certificate of high commendation. It is also conducting social service camps for students and training camps for teachers, during the vacations.

All the schools run by the Sangha have since been handed over to the control of the District School Board (in 1964) as a result of the decision taken in consultation with the Government.

The V.V.V. Association, Muddebihal, was established on 6th June 1947 for the promotion of education in the taluk. There are nine members in the working committee who are elected by the general body every year. The Association secures its funds by collecting donations from the philanthropic public. In 1951, the Association opened a secondary middle school which later on became a full-fledged high school in 1955, giving education to more than 200 students.

**V.V.V.
Association,
Muddebihal**

The Association is running a free boarding hostel for students of all castes and creeds. It has secured a plot of 16 acres of land for construction of the high school. Proposals are under way for starting a college also.

The District Probation and After-care Association, Bijapur, was established on 17th August 1936 and was affiliated to the Bombay State Probation and After-care Association, Poona. The Association has a District Committee with the District Magistrate as *ex-officio* President and the District Judge as Chairman. The Association is running a Remand Home to admit socially handicapped children. The daily average of the inmates ranges between 50 and 60. The staff is headed by a Resident Probation Officer who is also the Superintendent of the Remand Home. The Home is largely financed by Government grant-in-aid, local contributions and donations. The Remand Home is housed in a governmental building on a nominal rent.

**Probation and
After-care
Association**

The Bharat Seva Dal is an off-shoot of the Hindustani Seva Dal founded by Dr. N. S. Hardikar in the year 1923. The Seva Dal came into existence in 1928 in Bagalkot, as a non-political, non-party youth organisation. The objects of the institution are :—

**Bharat
Seva Dal,
Bagalkot**

(1) to instil the qualities of self-discipline, self-reliance and service in the youth of the country,

(2) to improve the health and physique of the youths, and

(3) to promote national development and social reconstruction by rendering service.

The Seva Dal is managed by a local committee of four persons. One of its chief activities is the holding of training camps for both students and teachers during the vacations. All-India training camps were held in Bagalkot during the years 1928-31 when almost all the States sent their representatives. After the attainment of Independence, the Seva Dal was merged with the Congress. But its activities still continue on a non-political and non-party basis. The volunteers belonging to the institution render help at public functions or meetings.

**Bharat
Scouts and
Guides,
Bijapur**

With a view to spreading the Scouts and Guides movement throughout the district and having as its aims, self-sacrifice and service to the country, the Boy Scouts Association, Bijapur was established on the 6th June 1922. It was inaugurated by the then Collector of Bijapur. Sardar S.J. Deshmukh of Almel who is the pioneer of the Scouts and Guides movement in Bijapur was its first District Commissioner. In 1927, a Scout camp-fire was held under the presidentship of the then Governor of Bombay, with the motto—"World Brotherhood". Like all other Scouts Associations, the local association was also merged in the "Bharat Scouts and Guides Association" in the year 1950. The District Association has its own building called "D.B. Sardar S.J. Deshmukh's Scout and Guides Pavilion."

**St. Anne's
Church,
Bijapur**

The Catholic Charities in India with their headquarters at New Delhi are distributing foodgrains and other articles received as a gift from America, among the orphanages and other needy institutions in the country. Thus, large quantities of American wheat, wheat flour, cornmeal, butter oil and rice are periodically received by St. Anne's Church, Bijapur and also by the church at Guledgud and distributed among the orphanages and free boarding institutions in the district. There are 15 institutions in the district which received such aid from the Catholic Charities. This scheme was started in 1956 and the present number of beneficiaries in the district is about 1,000.

**Rotary Club,
Bagalkot**

The Rotary Club, Bagalkot, was started in the year 1960 through the initiative taken by the Rotary Club, Dharwar. Its primary object is to encourage and foster the ideal of service, and in particular to attend to club service, vocational service, community service and international service. The affairs of the institution were managed during the year 1965 by a president, vice-president, secretary, joint secretary, treasurer and a sergeant-at-arms. Besides, there were directors for each of the four avenues of services. There were 31 members on the rolls during that year.

The Club sponsored two Book Banks, one in the Polytechnic and the other in the Engineering College. It is conducting essay-writing and elocution competitions every year for students studying in colleges and high schools, and awarding prizes. Handsome prizes were also offered to students who took first ranks in the B.Sc., P.U.C. (Science) and S.S.L.C. examinations held in the district. Poor and deserving patients suffering from T.B. were given all help to undergo treatment.

The Club was awarded a rolling trophy for youth service, during 1961-62. It was awarded a rolling shield during the year 1962-63 for the best club service. In the year 1964-65, it was awarded the rolling shield as the best club in all the four avenues of rotary services.

The Club has an ambitious programme and it proposes to implement the following projects, shortly :

- (1) starting a children's library
- (2) constructing bus shelters for passengers
- (3) donating dresses to all poor and deserving children studying in schools, and
- (4) awarding prizes to the cleanest hotels in the area.

The Rotary Club, Jamkhandi, was chartered in the year 1960 and is affiliated to the Rotary International. The club is essentially a service organisation, covering three avenues of service, namely, service to members, vocational service and community service. There were 28 members as on the 1st October 1965. It is holding free eye and dental camps regularly and arranging for the free medical examination of students. It is also holding essay, elocutions and drama competitions among the students and thus creating a spirit of friendly rivalry among them to exhibit their talents.

**Rotary Club,
Jamkhandi**

The Lions' Club, Bijapur, was inaugurated on the 28th April 1965. It is primarily a service club. Its main objects are :—

**Lions' Club,
Bijapur**

- (i) to take an active interest in the civic, social and moral welfare of the community,
- (ii) to unite the members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding,
- (iii) to provide a forum for a full and free discussion of all matters of public interest,
- (iv) to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in business and professions, and
- (v) to promote the theory and practice of the principles of good government and good citizenship.

There were 34 members in the institution as on the 1st September 1965. Inspired by a healthy motive of improving the lot of the student community, it intends to undertake the following measures through its education, social and health services :

- (a) organisation of Book Banks to help the needy students,
- (b) institution of scholarships to enable poor students to prosecute their studies,
- (c) provision of facilities for free medical check-up and treatment,
- (d) organisation of vocational guidance, and
- (e) conducting lectures for the benefit of the students.

**Tourist
Association,
Bijapur**

The Tourist Association, Biapur, was started in 1955. This body aims at promoting tourism in the district and other parts of the State. It disseminates information about places worth seeing and strives for provision of better facilities to tourists and for better up-keep of monuments. The Association tries to render voluntary service to the visitors.
