



Research Project: The Historical and Educational Study of Ashta Summary

Introduction

Ashta is one of the largest and biggest town cum city in the Sangli District of Maharashtra, Basically this town is surrounded by sugar cane belt and fertile black soil produced number of crops. Therefore this town is a rich Agricultural town and generally all farmer are rich. Now a Days Ashta city is also Educationally progressive and from senior college to primary and pre-primary Educational Institutions are working in Ashta city Not only this but there are number of credit societies and banks Which provide the needs of farmers and small scale industry holders. But the Important and vital point is in ancient and medieval period Ashta was an important political seat also. There are number of historical monuments belong to Ancient and Medieval - Muslim-Maratha Period.

Not only this, Ashta has a Municipal Council in Sangli District in the state of Maharashtra, India. This Municipality dating back to the days of the British rule from, the year 1853. It holds the second Municipality created in India after Mumbai- The local people of Ashta say that in the time of British rule Ashta was giving maximum tax to the British, Govt. and that is why the whole Maharashtra. calls Ashta as "Savvalakhi Ashta" (Marathi **सव्वालखी**) Savvalakhi means 1.25 lakh. It means Ashta people were giving 1.25 lakh revenue and tax to the British Govt. which was maximum value of tax in the whole India, at that time.

Location :- Ashta is located at 16.95N, 74.4 E, it has an average elevation of 567 metres (1860f.) Ashta is surrounded by Sangli in the east Islampur to the west, Bagni to the South and Krushna river to the north.

The high way road passes from Sangli via Ashta, to peth Naka, where it road joins to Puna Bangalore highway NH4.

This town has approximately has around 35000 acres (140 k.m.) of Agriculatureal land largest for any town in Maharashtra.

Culturally Ashta is well developed and famus for Bhavai festival as well as other religious, festivals of Jains Muslims and Hindu people.

Not only this but Ashta is also famous for prograsive farmers and well-cultivated farms producing soyabean, Sugarcane, Paan Mala (Betel nut leaves farming) flowers vegetables, ground nute and what not Ashta is majar producer of sugarcane, supplied to adjoining sugar factories as Sarvodaya (5 k.m.), Hutatma (T.k.m) Vasantdada (21 k.m) and Rajrambapu (21 k.m.) farming communitiy constitutes more than 70 % population of this farm.

Ashta is also famus for successful running of credit co-operative societies pat Sansta's and local banks. There were more than 40 credit co-operative societies operating and of Ashta. Ashta is relatively clear city and has won same awards under Sant Gadge Baba Gram Swacheta abhiyan Started by Government of Maharashtra.

No body has yet studied the historical and Education Study of this important town cum city.

This is also study of local history. Therefore I selected this topic my research project. This research project is based on original documents such as various annual Reports of Educational Institutions and credit societies as well as secondary sources for historical background. I visited **Bharat** Itihas Saushodhk Mandal. Gokhale Institution Puna, Kolhapur, Archives and collected historical information, regarding back history of

Ashta city. Not only this but I also took interviews of senior freedom fighter and Senior citizens from Ashta and trying to present this Research Project.

❖ **The importance of local history :-**

Now a days there is a new trend to study the local history. European historian concentrated their attention to study the local history of some village town and cities. The trend of showing the history of famous cities also reached to India. Many Indian historian now a days attempting to study the local history many Indian cities towns, like agra, Delhi, Mumbai, Banares, Kilhapur, Karad, Nashik, Paithan, Ichelkaranji. Therefore my study of Ashta included in local history which is the new branch of modern history.

British historian Maitland was the founder historian of local history who wrote the history of the province in 1890. Another historian Hawskins wrote "so much of the past in visibly perishing before our eyes, more and more people, have been led to take an interest in a particular place and wish to find and all about it. some shallow brained tueorist would doubtless call this 'escapism' but the fact is that we are not born intemaralists and there comes a time when He complexit and size of modern problems leave us cold. We belong to a particular palce and the bigger and more in comprehensible the modern world graws the more will people turn to study something of which they can grasp the scale and individual meaning .

❖ **Factors - responsible for the growth of town or city :-**

once Ashta was a small hamlet but now it is big town or just like moderate city with all facilities . It was also upcoming industrial town

due to urbanization for growth of town or city and for process of urbanization the following factors are responsible.

There are a number of factors responsible for the urbanization of any town or city. The process of urbanization is nothing but the growth of village into town and from town in to city.

Urbanisation in ancient Maharashtra was a gradual development of certain villages into town and cities - The main characteristic features.

Were residential houses, good streets storage of water, protection of the people and fortification of such urban centers. These all factors are applicable to Ashta city because there is residential houses. There is abundant water supply from Krishna river. There is good fertile agriculture land and in medieval period there was fortification around Ashta City. Again, There are good streets and market place.

In Ancient Maharashtra most of the famous developed either on the banks or river or near by hills taking into consideration to defence of the towns from invaders Ashta is located nearly the Krishna river.

India has primarily been an agricultural country with land as to chief source of production. Majority of people lived in the villages Ashta is not exception to this. The village was the smallest but most important unit of administration all over the country.

❖ **Research Methodology :-**

For the present study I used the historical Research method as well as survey and Interview method. There are some historical movement in Ashta and around and there movements speaks about the past glory of Ashta area. For historical background I also studies some historical documents belonging to medieval muslim period and Maratha period. For British period there are also some historical documents located in

Archives. I applied internal and external criticism of the documents and use information unbiased.

Again for modern period I took interviews of Senior persons from Ashta and collected some information about my Research project. In Ashta there are some freedom fighters who furnished important account regarding freedom movement in and around Ashta area.

I also personally visited Ashta city and surveyed the historical movement and old temples existed in Ashta city. I collected some information from old temple records.

❖ **Sources for the Study :-**

For present study I study original and secondary sources old records of Ashta Municipal Council, various annual reports of educational institutions and credit societies. I also visited Bharat Itihas sanshodhan mandal, Poona. Gokhale Institution Poona and collected some historical background regarding history topic.

The biography of some freedom fighters and Ashta Municipality century issue are also important sources for my study. I also studied the issues of some newspapers which published special issue on Bhavai Festival of Ashta and Panch Kalyani Puja of Jain Temples. There are special issues published by some educational institutions of Ashta. Which are useful for my study.

❖ **Chapterization :-**

For the systematic study of the subject the present Research project is following 'Seven Chapters'

- **Chapter I: Introduction:** - The first chapter deals with a brief introduction about the study objective of the study need for the study

source material used for the study, scope, and usefulness of the study etc. and factors responsible for the growth of Ashta town.

• **Chapter II: Historical Background of Ashta City and Freedom Movement** : In this second chapter Historical Background of Ashta city is narrated and freedom also included. In Ashta and around there are some old monuments belonging to Ancient medieval and modern period which furnish the information regarding back history of Ashta. There are Eight lingas form which the city bears name of Ashta for medieval muslim period, There are some old mosque and Durga which tell about muslim period of this area. Again there are some temples, Hindus, Jain Lingayat and Dhangar community which show the religious glory of Ashta in medieval period.

Again during Maratha period, the area was the battle field of Kolhapur chatrapati and Satara chhtrapati shiddhoji Thorat was Maratha Sardar of Ashta. Which was his seat power i.e. Then finally it went under the control of parshuram Bhau patwardna of Tasgaon.

In the second part of this chapter an attempt has been made to study the contribution of freedom fighters of Ashta in the freedom movement of India there are.

• **Chapter III: History of Ashta Municipality :-**

Ashta is not a Taluka or District but it has old municipality established by British period in 1853. This is a unione feather in India more than 160 years Ashta Muncipal Council is providing all facilities to the citizen of Ashta not only this but Municipality was visited by eminent leaders like Late Yeshwantrao Chavan ex-Deputy Prime Minister of India. Late Vansantrao Dada Patil, ex-chief Minister of Maharastra Ashta

Municipality gave them etc. Man patra at various time this account has been included in this chapter.

- **Chapter IV : Cultural Study of Ashta City :-**

There are number of Social Mandals, Talims sport Club, various festivals, Libraries in Ashta which developed the culturale aspect of this city. The most important festival is 'Bhavai' which celebrated every year with great excitement and show more than are lack people gathered and took the part. Pancha kalian puja was also celebrated by Jains, Biroba yatra is also celebrate by Hindus and other people at large scale every year. All these aspects are studied in this chapter and the part of cultural atmosphere here is co'mmunal harmony. There are no conflicts among various castes. All lived in peaceful way and developed societies.

- **Chapter V : Educational Development of Ashta City :-** Ashta is progressive in Education field. There are college Highschools, Primary schools, Engineering college, and medical college (B.A.M.S). Basically it was Agricultral city but number of students are learning and served in various, fields. In this chapter an attempt has been made to take the survey of Educational Institutions located in Ashta and their contribution to spread the Education.

Karmveer Bhaurao Patil the founder of Rayat Education Society also founded the Highschool and Junior college in Ashta, Rajaram Babu Patil, the ex-minister of Maharashtra also established senior college in Ashta. Ashta Muncipal council is running after primary Education in Ashta city.

- **Chapter VI: Economic Development in Ashta City :-**

In Ashta city, there are number of credit societies and Banks which fulfill the needs of farmers traders and small scale industries, Ashta peoples Banks, Branch of Rajarambapu Co-Operative Bank, Branch of sangli District Bank are well working in Ashta City. More than 26 Co-Operative credit societies are working in Ashta and financial sound.

In this chapter, an attempt has been made to study the role of Banks and credit Societies, to the Development of Ashta city. The following credit societies, Ashta Lokmanya Nagari Sahakari Path Sanstha, Chwandeswari, Rajarambapu -Patil, Panchsheel mahila, Karmaveer Bhaurao patil credit Society etc. are note worthy.

- **Chapter VII: Conclusion :-**

This is the last chapter in which conclusions are drawn. This study is a model to other scholars in future to undertake. Such types of other towns citites or even big villagies. In Maharashtra and even in India, there are number places towns villages cities, once glorions in past but now a days neglected therefore my attempt is useful to others to concertate neglected historical places.

Annexure – IV
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Utilization Certificate

It is certified that the grant of Rs. 55,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) sanctioned to Smt. K.R.P. Kanya Mahavidyalaya (Arts, Commerce & Science), Islampur, Tal. Walwa, Dist. Sangli 415 409 by University Grants Commission vide their letter No. 23-2748/11 (WRO) dated 12 Jan. 2012 towards Financial Assistances to college teachers for undertaking Minor Research Project Release of first installment has been fully utilized for the purpose for which it has been sanctioned and in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down by the University Grants Commission.

If as a results of check or audit objection, some irregularity is noticed at a later stage action will be taken to refund regularize the objected amount.

Total actual expenditure incurred for this project is of Rs. 56,438.00

**SIGNATURE OF THE
PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR**

REGISTRAR/PRINCIPAL

AUDITOR