This 'table book' is a beautiful depiction of three glorious generations of Bedekar family and its coveted history of 100 years. This is the history of a family which has been endowed with blessings of great souls and a family which believes in incessant 'Karmayog'. It represents weaving of relations that come along with social responsibilities and doctors' duties. Bedekar family has always tried to maintain devotion, affection and love very genuinely. These values have bestowed upon them happiness and prosperity. May God bless them in 'Narayanbhuwan' 'Shivshakti' forever...

Dr. Bedekar Hospital
for Women & Children

सर्वेऽपि सुखिनः सन्तु सर्वे सन्तु निरामयः

Shivshakti, Maharshi Karve Path, Naupada, Thane (W) 400 602 | Tel: 2542 1438 / 2542 3260

Ronak & Thinkers

Incredible Journey of Bedekar Family

Dr. Bedekar Hospital, Thane

स्वप्न साकारत आहे...

हे स्वप्न नव्हे एका व्यक्तीचे ! ते आहे समाजातील विचारवंतांचे,
हे स्वप्न नव्हे महंमदी मनोऱ्याचे, ते आहे श्रमिक योजनांचे
हे स्वप्न नव्हे खुशालवंतांचे, नव्हे ते आरामितांचे
नसे ते फावल्या क्षणांचे, गुलजार गादीत विसावतांचे
ते असे अहर्निश श्रमांचे, तसे ते असे श्रमोपासकांचे,
सदा ध्येयध्यासीं मग्न त्यांचे !
हे स्वप्न नव्हे व्यक्तिवैभवाचे, नसे ते आत्मगौरवाचे,
ते असे समाजोन्नतीचे, असे ते युवागौरवाचे
हे स्वप्न न दिसे एका क्षणीं, न एका दिनीं,
न एके यामिनी
दिनरात्र मानसी स्फुरे, सतत निद्रानाशही तें करी !
हे स्वप्न नसे सानुले, नसे ते चौकटी बांधिले
ते असे, भव्यता जयाची महान, सीमा जयाची अस्मान !
हे स्वप्न जसे आमुचे, असावे! तसे उपस्थितांचे,
मुदित मनीं सुस्वागत अपुलें करितां
स्वप्न दिसे साकारले
आणि हे स्वप्न कसे आहे ते पहा -
ओसाड भूमी कर्दमीं जिथे घाण
द्वीप साजिरे आज तेथे दृश्यमान
ज्ञानसूर्य येथे उगवला, अज्ञान अंधार लोपला,
दिनरात्र प्रकाश अर्पी, अस्त न जया कल्पिला,
भव्य वास्तू इथे साकारती, दृश्य जयाचें महान,
शिल्पही जयांचे विशेषज्ञान देखिती
मनीं जे सुजाण,

दृश्य देखतां जाणवे भव्यता, प्रासाद जणूं सरस्वतीचा,
ज्ञानवीणा जिथे झंकारे सदासर्वदा,
बगीचे जिथे बहरती फुलाफुलांचे रंगरंगती,
उद्यानीं बहरती ताटवे, कारंजी जिथे फवारती.
युवायुवतींचे मग्न घोळके, स्वप्न रंगवितां मग्न जे मानसी
स्वप्न तयांचे आकार घेई, अनुरागप्रारंभ येथेच होई
आचार्य आणि प्राचार्य, सदा इथें रंगती
विज्ञानसत्री सदा जयांची वाहिली मती,
कलावंत, सरस्वतीचे तन्मणी, तसे वैज्ञानिक महान्,
इथे जन्मती प्रतिभा जयांची देदीप्यमान
भूदल-सागर-सैनिक, वायुपुत्रही इथे निर्मिती
शक्तियुक्ति जयांची भारतमातेप्रती
नवमानव, नवनागरिक, प्रयत्नीं इथे घडतसे
सत्य, शिव, सुंदर जयांचे अणुरेणी वसे.
बालके तव शिशुमंदिरी दाखल होतां,
विद्यामंदिरी दौड तयाची न रोखितां
नवयुवक हा प्रवेशितां विद्येचे महाद्वार
स्वप्न आमुचे तयाभोवती होई साकार
नवयुवक हा भारतभूचा सुपुत्र व्हावा,
बुद्धि जयाची, शक्ति जयाची भारतभूचा ठेवा

- डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर

Preface

- Dr. Mahesh Bedekar

(Son of Dr. Vijay Bedekar)

"Education is the only step to progress" were the words of my grandfather, Dr. Vasudeo Narayan Bedekar (Dr. Bedekar). He strongly believed in education, which has been the driving force behind his success. Coming from a humble background, he soon transformed himself from a simple man into a successful Doctor, entrepreneur and a philanthropist. I am extremely happy to present his remarkable journey in this book - 'The Incredible Journey of Bedekar Family.'

This book is an expression of our love, regards and respect, in fact our veneration. It gives vent to our gratitude, along with proudful thanksgiving for all his struggles, trials and tribulations, of course - WITH NO REGRETS.

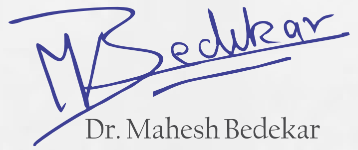
Completing this book has been an exciting and pleasurable exercise because of the sweet nostalgia of my proud and dear grandfather. Yes, a lot of effort, perseverance and continuous interaction with all members of the family has brought this work to its present stage of completion which includes a variety of inputs from different members of the family and also photographs to take us down memory lane. I am indeed very happy that my dream has now become a reality. Moreover, year 2016-2017 is a memorable year because it is the birth centenary of my grandfather. There could not be a better time than this to publish a book on Bedekar family recalling the life and times of Dr. Bedekar.

Initial Years: My grandfather was born on 17th February, 1917 in the small village of Goval in Rajapur Taluka in Ratnagiri (Maharashtra, India). Life was very simple those days. Means of communications were very primitive, there was no electricity, television and telephone. In fact, cameras were non-existent. At the tender age of seven, my grandfather lost his father. Life became challenging. However, his ambitions became stronger. Against all odds and difficulties, he pursued his dreams with hard work and determination. Soon, he completed his education till Matriculation at Rajapur, earned himself a scholarship in Pune and went on to pursue medicine at the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Government Medical College (BJMC), Pune (Maharashtra, India). After securing his degree in medicine, he settled in Thane and in 1950, he started Bedekar Hospital in Thane itself. During those days, there were very few general and maternity hospitals in Thane. Bedekar Hospital with its great facilities was loved by Thaneites. For twenty-five years, my

grandfather worked relentlessly to make Bedekar Hospital as one of the best hospitals in Thane. Soon, my father, his son, Dr. Vijay Bedekar joined him in 1973. New changes, modern methods of medicines were brought to our hospital. With the passage of time, the hospital evolved to be the best. In 2005, I (Dr. Mahesh), and my younger brother, Dr. Anand, joined (2010) as third generation Doctors of Bedekar Hospital. At present, though the trend of corporate hospitals is in vogue, Bedekar Hospital with its modern, state-of-the-art, facilities is the first choice of many patients. We believe in giving the best of treatment, ambience, homely atmosphere, fresh, wholesome, hygienic, home cooked nutritious food to our patients and their families too. As a result, the patients leave the hospital campus happy and contented. This has been the legacy of our hospital for the past sixty five years, religiously preserved by all its members, right from my great-grandmother, grandmother, my mother, my wife Aparna and my brother's wife Shruti. The two buildings of Bedekar Hospital on the Karve Path are the epitome of their success story that was not achieved in one day, one year or one decade. It is the story of three generations. Very little is known about success stories of my forefathers. Nothing is known about their aspirations, ambitions, successes and failures. Stories of our past generations are being swept away through mere efflux of time. Hence, this book is our heirloom to the present and future generations through which they can know and understand the rich heritage of Bedekar family and their invaluable contributions to the fields of medicine, education and many other social spheres. I hope and wish that the legendary history of the Bedekars' will be read and loved by all and will serve as the guiding force for many generations to come.

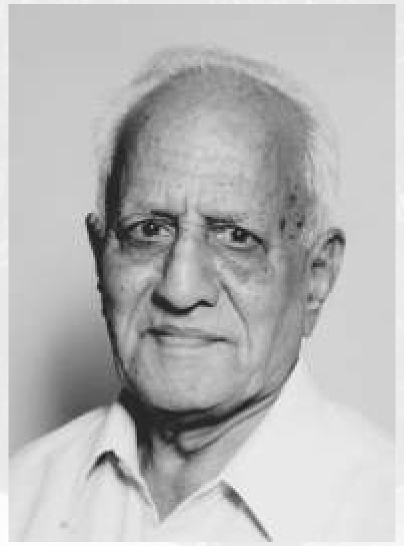
I earnestly thank all those who helped me in this endeavour to publish this book. Firstly, I thank my parents, Dr. Vijay Bedekar and Sou. Sumedha Bedekar who always encouraged me with my new ideas. Special thanks, to my paternal aunt, Manik Aatya (Sou. Alpana Bapat) this book's biggest contributor. This book would not have seen the light of the day without Manik Aatya's insights and guidance. I also thank all my family members, artist Kulkarni Sir for creating amazing cover design and artworks, photographer Shri Mangesh Naik for capturing all those beautiful moments of my family, Ronak&Thinkers for an attractive representation of our words and memories, Shri Vilas Sangurdekar of Perfect Prints. Last but not the least my sincere thanks to Dr. Guruprasad Murthy for his valuable help for making this book impeccable and one and all who helped me to complete this book.

Happy Reading!



Dr. Mahesh Bedekar

C o n t e n t s



Dr. Vasudeo N. Bedekar
(Founder of Dr. Bedekar Hospital)
20/02/1917 - 14/04/2004

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Dr. Vasudeo Bedekar

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Dr. Vijay Bedekar
(Son of Dr. Vasudeo Narayan Bedekar)
09/10/1947

Dr. Mahesh Bedekar
(Son of Dr. Vijay Bedekar)
18/09/1974

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Dr. Anand Bedekar
(Son of Dr. Vijay Bedekar)
09/09/1980

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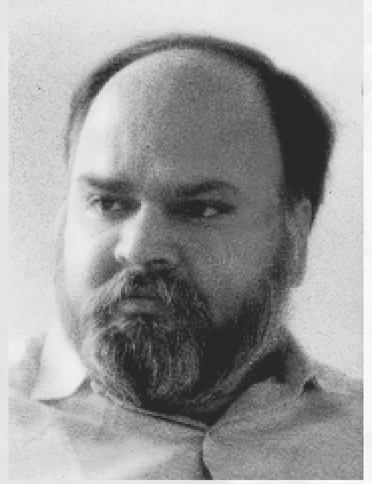
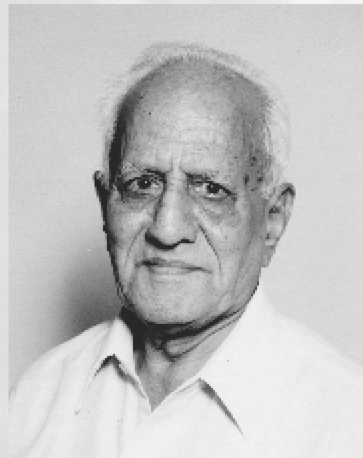


Foreword

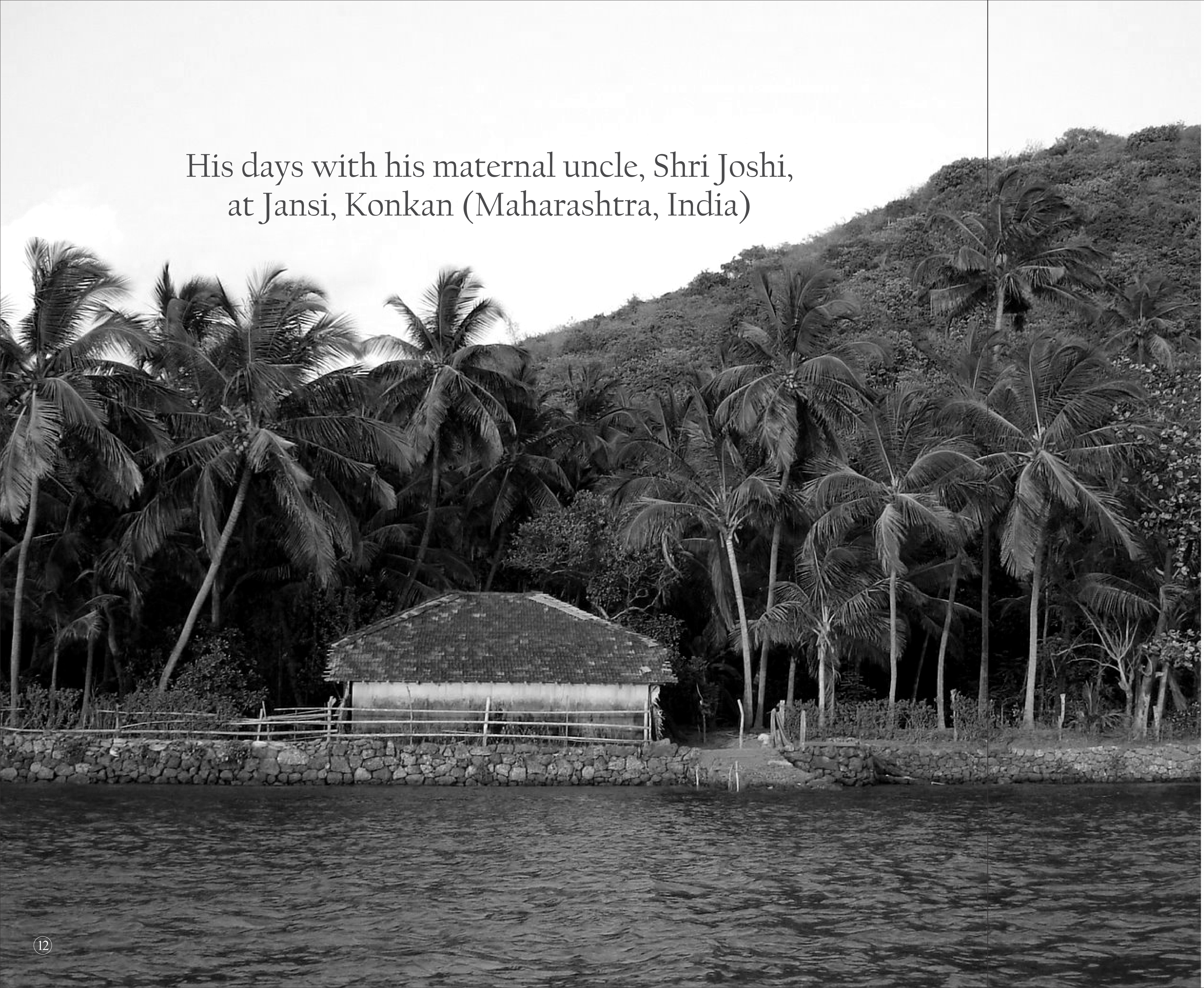
- Dr. Vijay Bedekar

(Son of Dr. Vasudeo Narayan Bedekar)



My father Dr Vasudeo Narayan Bedekar was born on 17th February 1916, on the day of Mahashivaratri. He lived a long, healthy and fruitful life till the age of 88. Recently we have celebrated his birth centenary. It is unbelievable that so many years have passed! In his life span he witnessed a great change in every facet of life, be it science, technology, medicine and also in our life style. Only thing that remained constant was his energy and enthusiasm. Dr. Bedekar a veteran in field of medicine, education, social work made an indelible mark on society. He was devoted and committed towards his work and patients, and would attend to them at any time of the day or night.

His days with his maternal uncle, Shri Joshi, at Jansi, Konkan (Maharashtra, India)



At the age of seven, he lived in one of the chawls (a large building divided into many separate tenements) in Mumbai with his parents. His father sent him to Jansi, in Konkan, to stay with his maternal uncle, with the idea that pollution free fresh air and food, especially fresh milk, will improve his health and stature.

> He was fondly called 'Vidhyadhar' by his mother and his uncle

Every day 'Vidyadhar' (learned man-one who adorns knowledge), as he was fondly called by his mother and uncle, would go to hillock before sunrise. The sun rise used to be most spectacular. The fiery ball with its golden glow slowly rising on horizon from behind the vast sea, his uncle worshipping the rising sun, the huge waves dashing against the Vijaydurg Fort, were his most cherished memories. The memories of the scenic surrounding nature, chirping birds and the bellowing of the cattle would also mesmerize him.

Worshipping rising sun from a hillock - At day break

Memory of his loving aunt

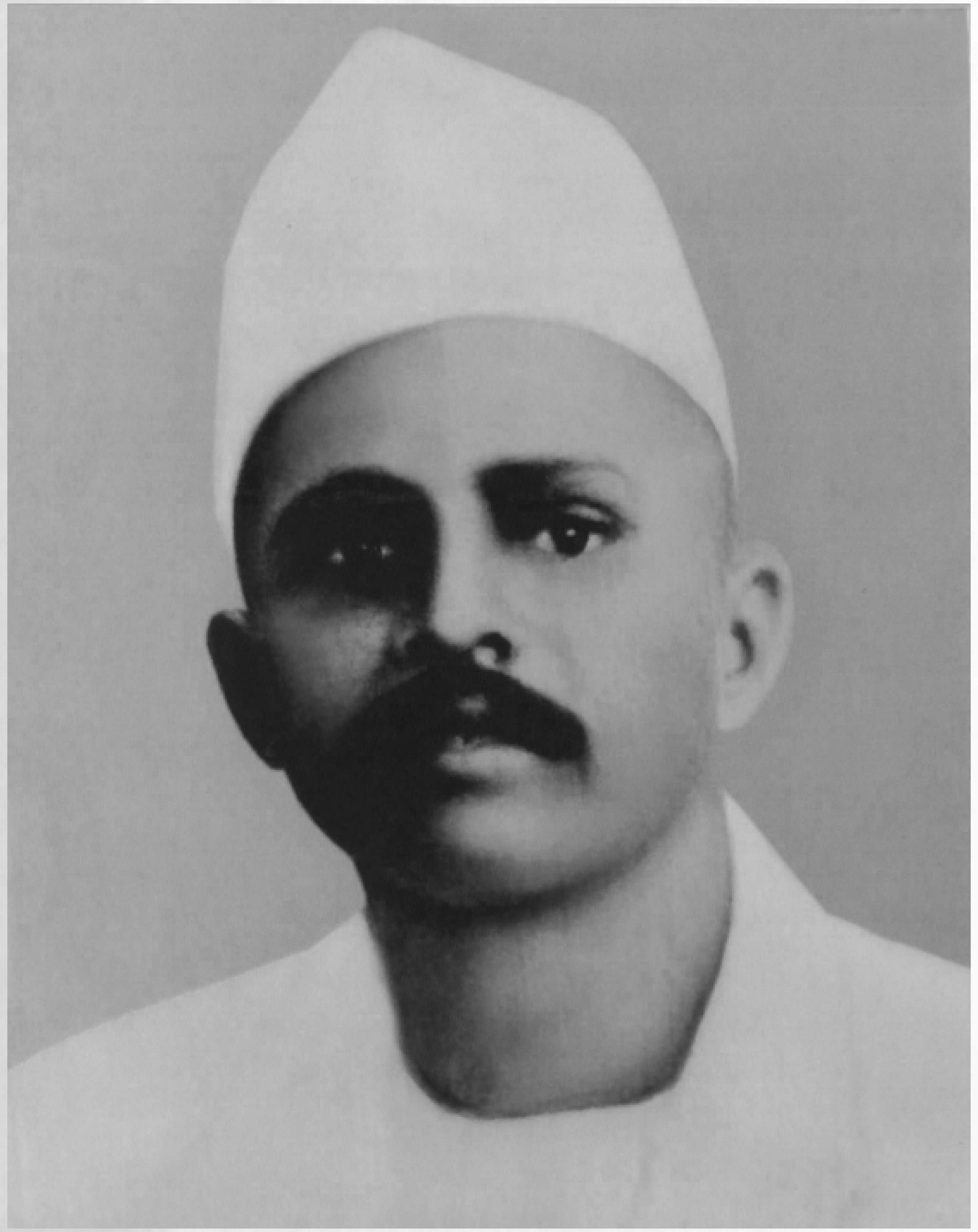
Unforgettable memories

After the daybreak, they would descend the steep and come down in the cowshed, his loving aunt would milk the cow and call the little boy to relish the raw, fresh, frothing milk. The memory of the fresh milk's taste, its fragrance and his aunt gently caressing the cow, who used to lick her hands, were very dear to him. He always felt that the fresh, raw milk was a good tonic to growing children, which his children and grandchildren missed.

Budding aspirations

Vidyadhar's uncle would start his workshop at 8:00 am in the morning. He forged objects like knives, scissors and razorblades in large numbers. He was a hardcore patriot and refused to use any foreign articles. In the afternoon, he would teach Vidyadhar 'Mathematics' and 'English'. In those days, he loved and adored his uncle very much and dreamt of becoming an industrialist like him in future. The little boy would narrate his dream to everyone at home.

"Vidhyadhar adored his uncle very much"


Shri Narayan Bedekar

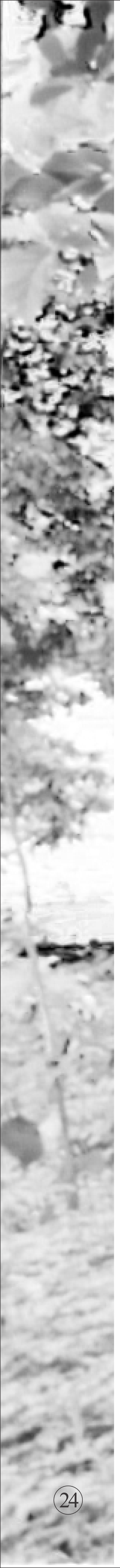
Untimely death of father

Vidyadhar'a father had a very impressive personality – he was six feet tall, dressed in khadi and a Gandhi cap. He was a sun worshipper. In their double room house at a chawl in Mumbai, there was a photo-frame of Sun God sitting in a chariot driven by twelve horses. Vidyadhar's stay of six months with his uncle was cut short due to a telegram at Jansi, **"Nana is serious, send Vidyadhar immediately"**. Vidyadhar arrived in Mumbai by boat. He was shocked to see his father's condition. He was critically ill, skin and bone. He later on felt that his father was suffering from either bacillary dysentery or infected diarrhea. He did not respond to both, ayurvedic as well as allopathic treatments. Other things like pujapath (daily worship and adoration of God) at Maheshwar temple (a temple of Lord Shankar) in Goval, and various other places also did not help. He left for his heavenly abode, battling death for forty to forty-five days, on Datta Jayanti (a Hindu holy day, commemorating the birth day celebration of the Hindu god Dattatreya (Datta)).

Back to goval

After Vidyadhar lost his father, he was sent back to Goval, with his mother and younger brother Vyankatesh. At Goval, the house was big with two storeys; it was a joint family. Due to love and care of other members in the family they could sustain the shock of loss of their father. Soon they were assimilated and mingled in new surroundings.

House in Goval



A well with eight revolving earthen pots

The system of joint family had an advantage; nobody was left to vagaries of nature. Vidyadhar enjoyed his stay in Goval. His health too improved amidst the natural surroundings and pollution free atmosphere. All members of Bedekar family would gather in Goval for Ganesh Chaturthi (festival worshipping Lord Ganesha regarded by the Hindus as the God of New Beginnings and the Remover of Obstacles), Diwali (hindu festival of lights) and Marriage Ceremonies. Soon, Vidyadhar and his younger brother Vyankatesh were enrolled in Rajapur High School, like other young children of the family. Vidyadhar loved to come back to Goval to meet his mother. He enjoyed roaming around in open fields and on the sea shore. During summer season, children would gather in Goval and feast on mangoes, jackfruits, karvand (a berry like fruit), cashew nuts and jamuns (edible fruit of the Myrtle family). Being a joint family, the elders in the family treated all members equally. For Vidyadhar, the childhood days in Goval were filled with happiness and content apart from being the most enchanting and alluring days.

Childhood days in Goval

Child is the father of man

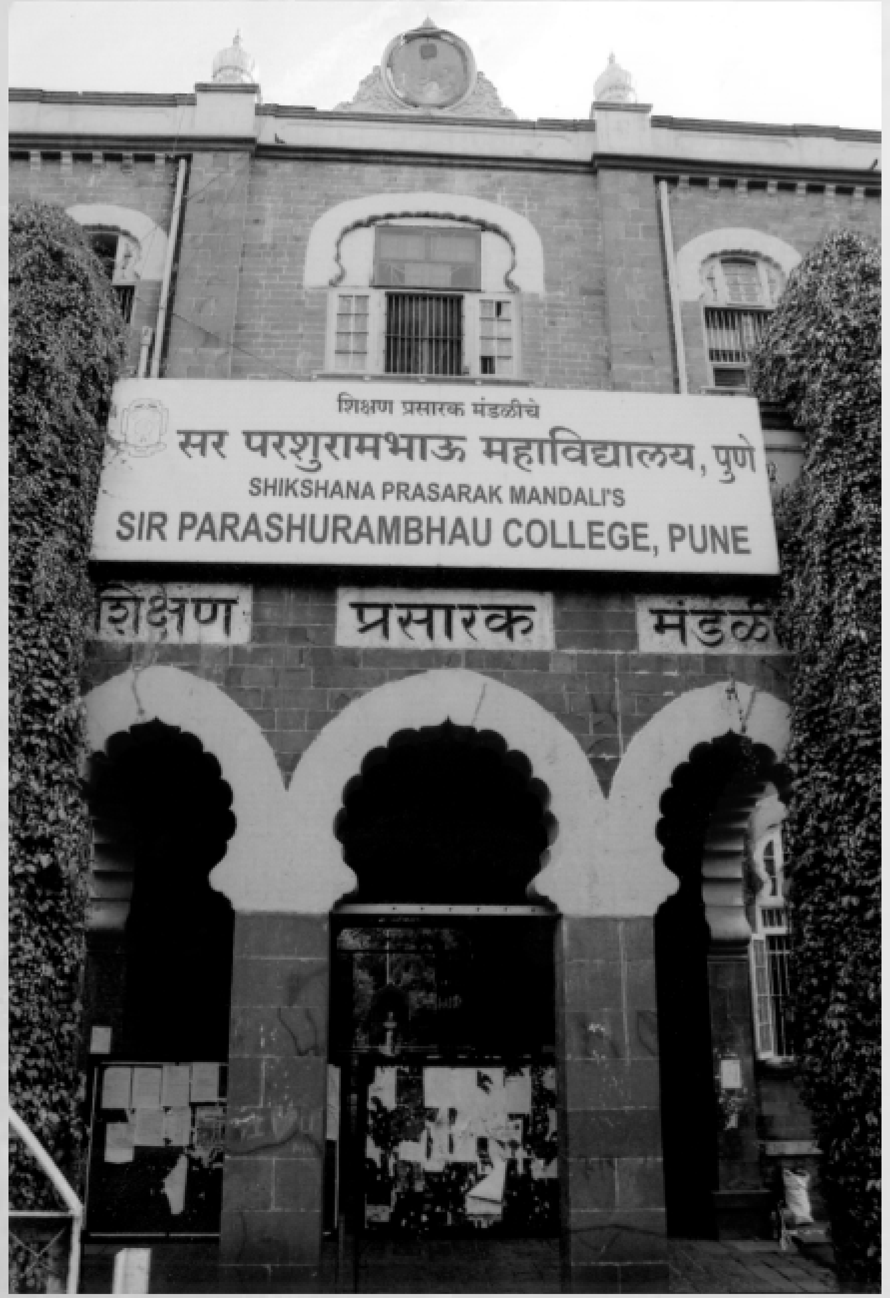
Rajapur is a famous historical place in Ratnagiri District (Maharashtra, India) thirteen to fourteen kilometers away from Jaitapur (a small port in Rajapur). Most of all, the city is famous for Rajapur Highschool. Vidyadhar was very proud of his school, which was a multipurpose school. Along with academic subjects, the children would also learn carpentry and agriculture. He had great reverence and admiration for his teachers who devoted their life for the development of the school and the students. Vidyadhar loved reading. He excelled in languages and other subjects. However, being poor in Mathematics, he would study hard to compete with other children to remain in the top three ranks. Every day, he would walk the steep road of three kilometers, to and fro, to school. He wore white khadi dress and Gandhi cap. He loved wearing white ironed clothes from the laundry occasionally. Those were the days of his physical growth and mental development.

Rajapur Highschool

The first milestone - Matriculation

Young Vidhyadhar with his elder sister Manutai

Vidyadhar passed his matriculation exam in 1935. In those days, being a **'matric pass'** was a very important qualification, either for further studies or for securing good jobs. Vidyadhar wanted to study further but had no fixed idea about his future education due to lack of proper guidance. His mother gave him Rupees Five, with which he came to Pune, the hub of education, and enrolled his name in Sir Parashurambhau College (S. P. College), Pune (Maharashtra, India) in Science faculty. He secured a scholarship of Rupees One Hundred and Fifty from Brahman Sabha, a social organization, in Mumbai. His elder sister, Satyabhama Vasudeo Phadke-□□□□□□, would send him Rupees Twelve per month, till he completed his education. This timely help was a great asset that he could never forget throughout his life.



At S. P. College

Nothing worth comes easy

Vidyadhar was very studious during those two years in S. P. College. He never missed his practicals or lectures in the college. He remained away from all the attractions and sincerely pursued his studies. One of his memories of college days was he had to starve for two days due to lack of money. But, the kind house owner gave him Rs. 10 and also gave him a work of writing script for eradication of superstitions. This work was through, **"Adult Education league"**.

A doctor in the making

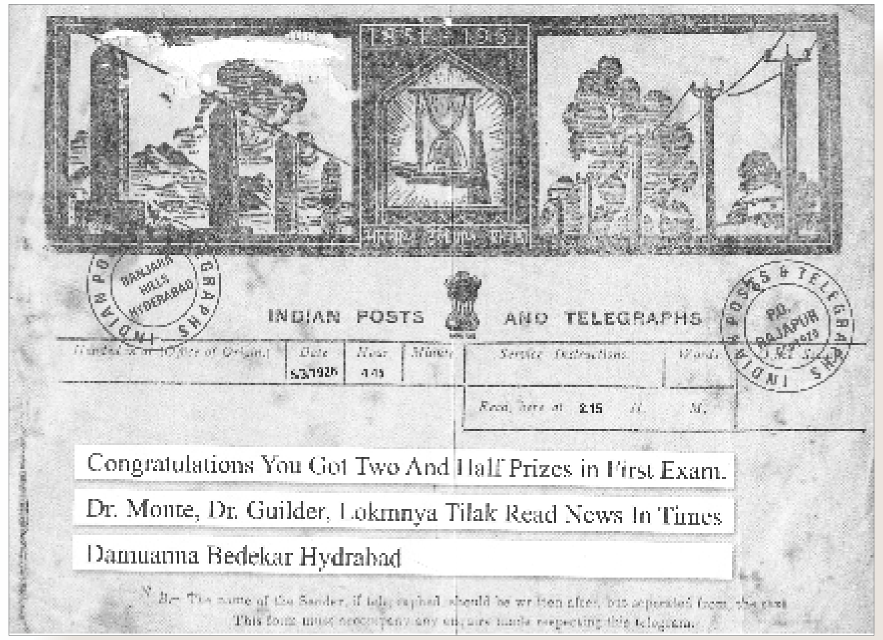
After inter-science, he applied to B. J. Medical College. As a medical student, he was a very shy, thin and an ordinary looking boy. Gradually, everything changed. He could speak fluently and dressed neatly. A smile on the face and regular attendance in classes and dissection hall grew his confidence and was in forefront among the students. In the following years, he was a dinner secretary of college's annual gathering, game secretary, magazine secretary and so on.

"A smile on the face and regular attendance in classes grew his confidence and was in forefront among the students."

At B. J. Medical College, Pune
with teachers and colleagues.

Awards Galore - A Pleasant Surprise

He thoroughly enjoyed the golden period of medical college life. During the second half of his medical school, he relished taking rounds in the wards, listening to the seniors for hours together and chit-chatting with his friends in the college mess which was his most favorite activity. After the first L.C.P.S. exam when he had gone to Goval to visit his family, he had a pleasant surprise. He received a telegram from his cousin brother, Damuanna, in Hyderabad. He congratulated Vidyadhar for his outstanding results in the first exam and had also sent a copy of the news item which appeared in The Times of India. Vidyadhar had secured two prizes out of three - 'Dr. D. Monte Prize', 'Dr. Gilder Prize' and 'Lokmanya Tilak Prize'. He also received a prize in medicine which was divided between Vidyadhar and one of his colleagues Shri Bankar. They were felicitated in Physiology Hall of the college. In his speech, he gave credit to his teachers who guided him. The most important thing was that, B. J. Medical College was securing those prizes for the first time.



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

BANJARA HILLS HYDERABAD

Date 5.3.1926 Hour 4.45

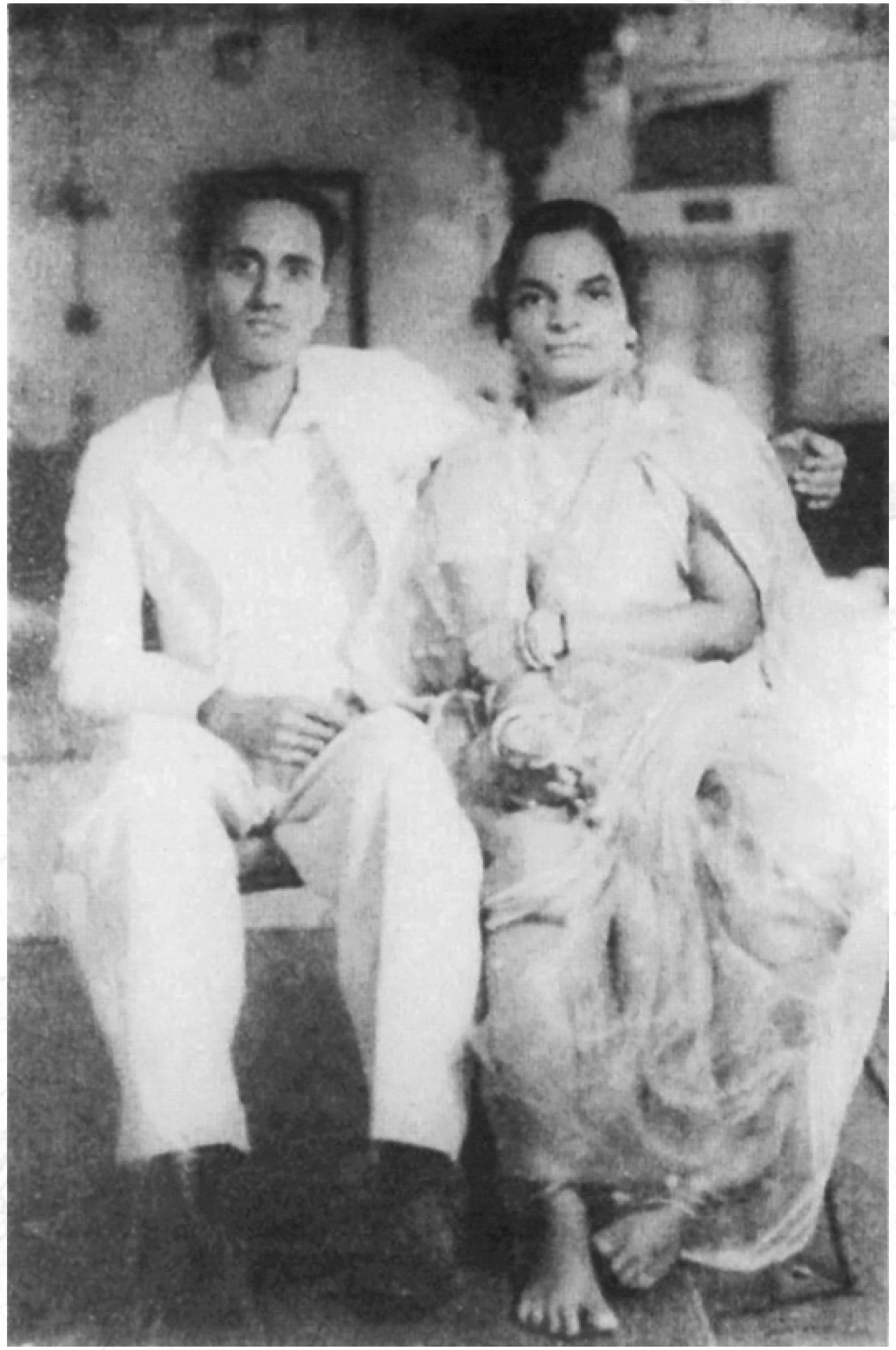
Recd. here at 2.15 H. M.

Congratulations You Got Two And Half Prizes in First Exam.
Dr. Monte, Dr. Guilder, Lokmnya Tilak Read News In Times
Damuanna Bedekar Hydrabad

N.B.- The name of the Sender, if telegraphed should be written after, but separated from, the text
This form must accompany any enquire made respecting this telegram.

At Umbergaon, Gujarat.

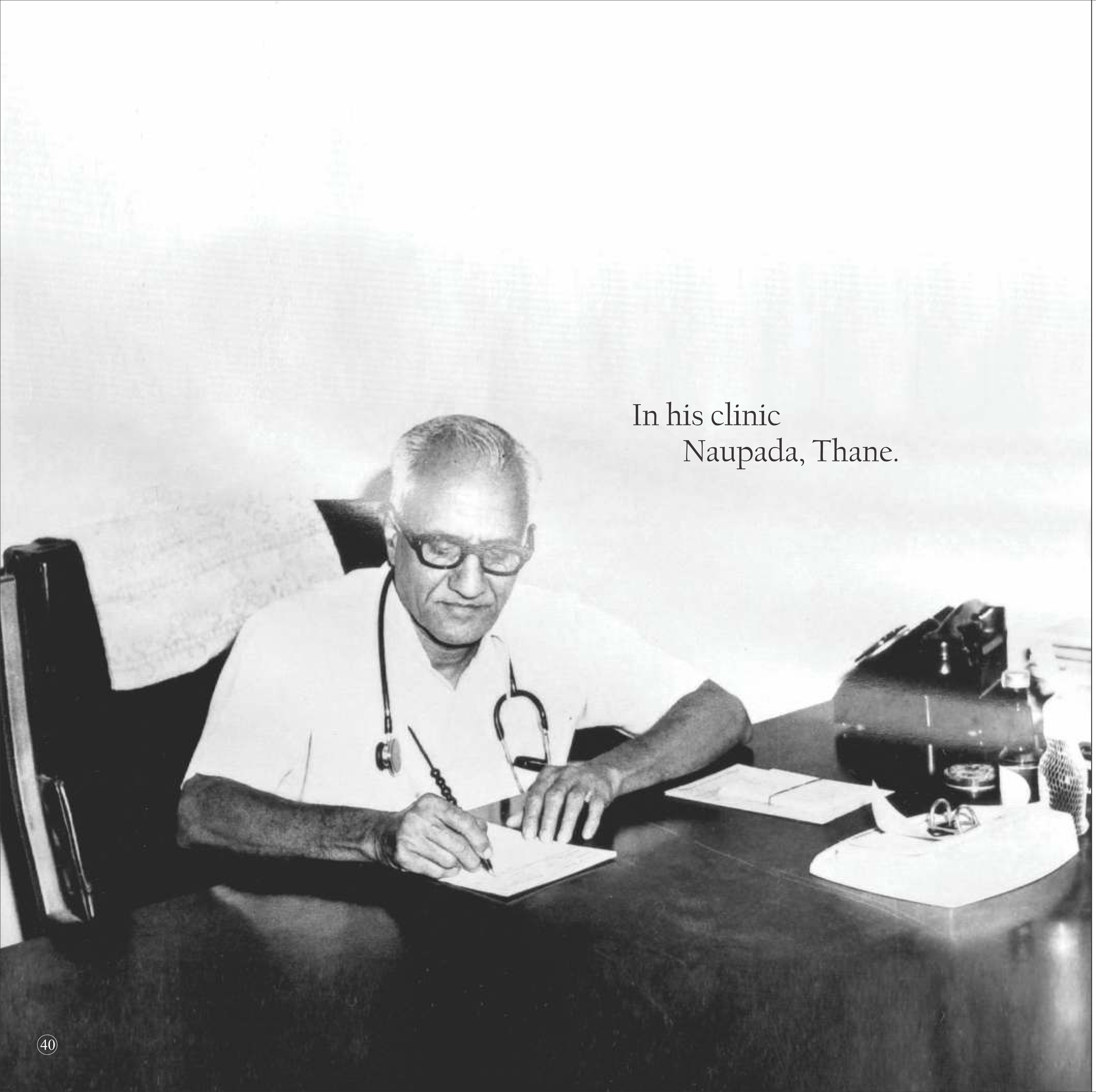
After obtaining his L.C.P.S. degree, Dr. Bedekar settled in Umbergaon and started his practice. Umbergaon is a picturesque and scenic town, in Valsad district, in the state of Gujarat. The town folk were gentle and loving. Soon his practice flourished and he acquired a good name. The independence movement was in full swing. Everyone tried to support it. Knowing his limits, Vidyadhar too tried to help the freedom fighters. He would run errands, distribute bulletins and give financial help. Unfortunately, soon he had to leave Umbergaon as somebody hoisted an Indian flag on his clinic. An Anglo-Indian policeman threatened him with an unbailable warrant. And so, he came to Mumbai and stayed, for two months, with his paternal aunt (काशीआत्या गोडबोले), who lived in Dadar. Those were the days of uncertainty. In the meanwhile, he also tried to study further in Ophthalmology. However due to his grandfather's illness he went back to Goval and missed his exam. In 1943, he started his general practice in Vile Parle, Mumbai.



Newly wed couple

A Marriages are made in heaven

A well-known business man, Baburao Joshi (Shri Keshav Ganesh Joshi), owner of Dnansagar Litho Press proposed his eldest daughter, **'Yamutai'** to him. Soon they got married. Once again, Vidyadhar tried to settle in Umbergaon, but now, as an assistant to Dr. Joshi. It was a place where he had practiced independently and flourished. His independent thinking and nature did not permit him to work under someone for a long time. Dr. Joshi was a kind and gentle person and Vidyadhar had the benefit of the beach and the love of the people of Umbargaon too. Yet, he decided to leave with a rather heavy heart.

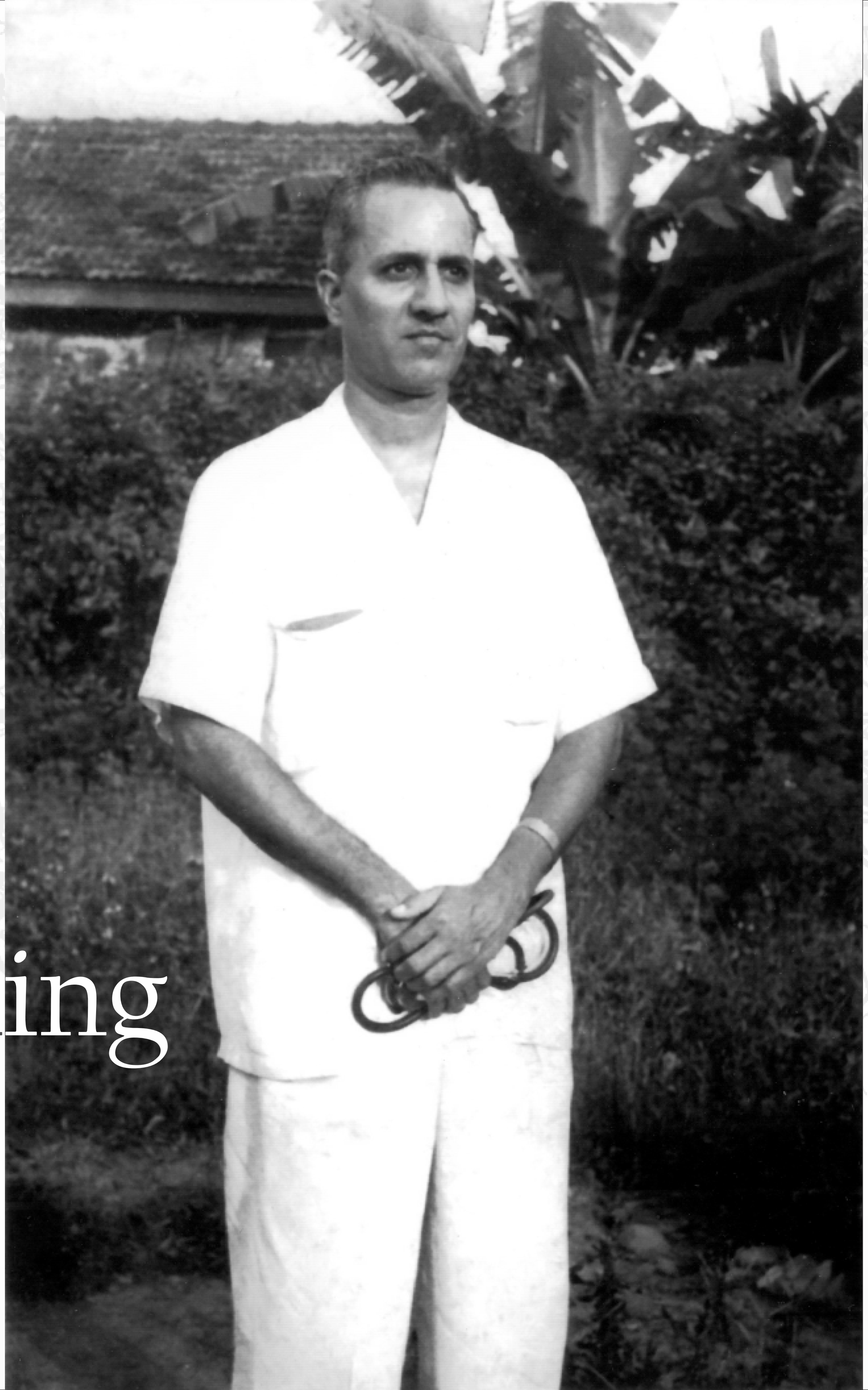


In his clinic
Naupada, Thane.

If Destiny takes you to the place you belong to

In the beginning, Dr. Bedekar practiced in both the places, Vile Parle and Thane. In 1943, he purchased Dr. Wadekar's Clinic in Naupada, Thane area. He used to begin his work at 7:30 am in the morning to facilitate office goers. General practice was very different in those days. Medical students would learn compounding as a separate subject. They were taught how to mix the medicines, prepare pills, mix proper amount of water in doses and also to prepare medicine packets. All these things needed expertise. Now, the ways and means of medical practice have totally changed. Today, there is no need of mixing the ointments anymore; readymade tubes, tablets and pills are available. The practice of home visits has also changed. Medical practice is revolutionized with modern techniques and methods. He loved his work. There was no dearth of patients. For more than fifty years, he practiced his profession religiously. During the fifties, newly introduced penicillin drug was in vogue. It was most effective in many diseases. Initially, it had to be injected every four hours. It cured many patients, otherwise suffering for a long time. Dr. Bedekar used to inject it to some of his patients by setting an alarm clock. Soon its drawbacks were also known. Very rarely, yet it could bring a reaction to the patient, detrimental to patient's life. Hence he used it very carefully. Later on, many new changes were introduced in its composition.

A new beginning



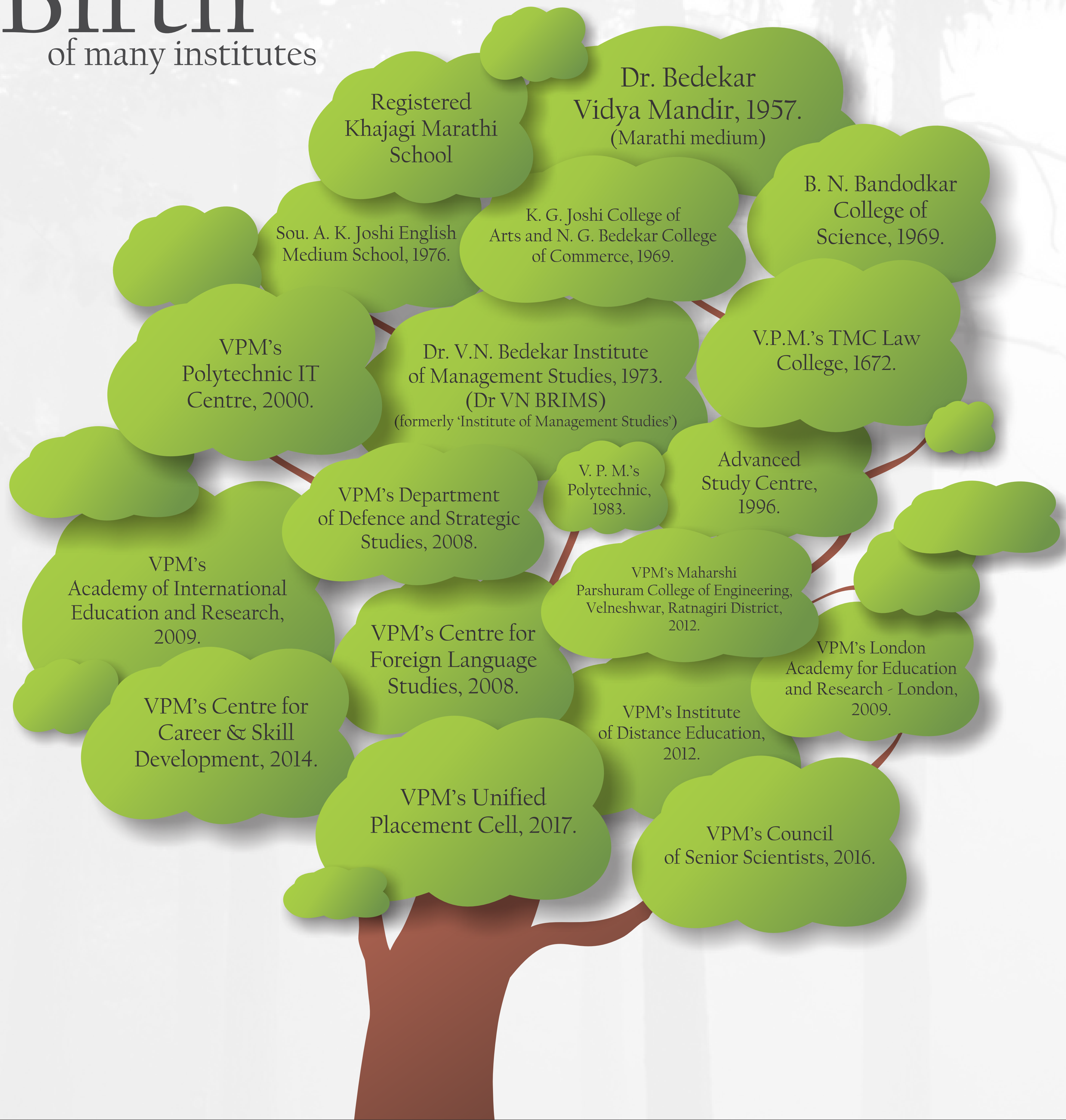
Whenever indoor admission was required Dr. Bedekar had to send his patients outside. One of his patients, when sent for indoor admission, felt insulted. He realized the importance of the hospital and decided to start his own hospital. This is the genesis of the present Dr. Bedekar hospital. He, with his father in law, searched for an appropriate place. He purchased a piece of land on Karve Road from Shri Mithagerwale Bhave. Initially, it was a burial place for children. He did not believe in any superstitions. The place was most suitable for hospital; only a few minutes away from the railway station, off. Gokhale Road, away from maddening rush. Within a short time, in 1950, the ground floor of Narayan Bhuvan for the hospital was built under the supervision of Shri Bhojane.

Growing trust

Where there is a will, there is a way.

He worked incessantly, those days. However, the location of Bedekar hospital had a major drawback. There was no water facility. Dr. Bedekar instead of getting disappointed found a solution for the problem with his innovative mind. NaikWadi was 1000 feet away from the hospital. In Shri Naik's compound, there was a well always full of water. With Shri Naik's permission, he laid a pipe line through Gaondevi Maidan and brought water for the hospital. It is rightly said, **'where there is a will there is a way'.** Everything was running smoothly, but constant work without sufficient rest, irregular meal, and the company of all sorts of diseases affected his immunity and he was down with jaundice. After one month's gap, proper care, a short stay in the invigorating weather of Matheran, he resumed his work. His hospital work increased day by day. He always remained busy with all kinds of work and operations in the hospital. Initially Dr. Mangeshikar, a gynecologist then Dr. Dias, an eminent surgeon from Sion Hospital would perform the operations respectively. He would be present in the theatre as the patients had great faith in him. His hospital always used to be full and many a time patients had to be admitted on the floor.

Birth
of many institutes



Dr. Bedekar always aspired to do something new. He gave birth to many new social and cultural institutions. He started 'Sangeet Sabha' (music gathering), 'Shahar Sudharna Samiti' (city improvements committee), 'Cancer Detection Center'. In 1962, Dr. Bedekar contested Loksabha (Parliament) election as a candidate of Praja Samajvadi Party (PSP). He lost the election and also his deposit. However, people of Thane were happy that they did not lose their 'Family Physician'. 'Utkarsha Mandal' (a social organization), 'Vidya Prasarak Mandal (VPM) (an educational trust)' and 'Thane Bharat Sahakari Bank (cooperative bank)' are the most successful institutions which were initiated by Dr. Bedekar. Thane Bharat Sahakari Bank was started on 29 th April 1979, with the idea that common man should be able to get a loan without much hassle. Dr. Bedekar was the Chairman of the bank for the first fourteen years.

Beginning of Bharat Sahakari bank 29th April, 1979.

Venturing into newer horizons

He saw the poor condition of schools in Thane. His own daughter and son would go to an ordinary school in a cow shed, which deeply disturbed him. VPM (Thane) was started in 1935. Dr. Bedekar with a few like minded people joined VPM (Thane) in 1957. Soon, the new building of Marathi Medium School was built which is called 'Dr. Bedekar Vidya Mandir'. Every year he used to organize programs of eminent artists for Mandal's financial assistance. Since then VPM (Thane) has never looked back and has progressed continuously. A small sapling has grown into a huge banyan tree. Today, VPM (Thane) Group of Institutions include Marathi and English Medium Schools, Science, Arts, Commerce and Law Colleges, Polytechnic, Management Institute, all in Thane and an Engineering College in Velneshwar, Ratnagiri (Maharashtra, India). With his busy practice, he would still find time to attend the meetings of VPM's (Thane) Group of Institutions. He would Chair their annual social gatherings, attend many other functions including competitions and prize winning ceremonies which would take him down memory lane of his good old days as a student.

Turning dreams into reality

In 1968, Dr. Bedekar was at the Thane railway station travelling for some work. He was shocked to see hundreds of students traveling in crowded trains for college education. This gave impetus to his thoughts. College education in one's own town was the main necessity of the youth of Thane. He thought that it would save the time, energy and also the hazards of daily commuting in the crowded trains. It was a daunting task. It would need a big place, huge finance and team work. Dr. Bedekar always accepted new challenges. Nothing intimidated him.

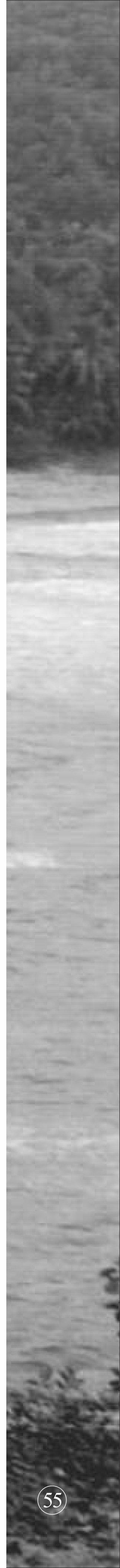
Fulfillment of dreams

VPM (Thane) found a proper place for a college campus. The place was situated in the Thane Creek. There was no proper road to reach the place. He had to reach there in a boat. But he visualized the importance of the place. It was only five minutes distance from railway station, yet very near to the town. VPM (Thane) acquired the land from the Government with the help of P. Savalaram (the famous poet of Thane) and developed it. However, that was not enough. Then with lot of efforts, relentless work, a composite college was started in June, 1969 affiliated to Pune University. The benevolent Chief Minister of Goa, Dayanand Bandodkar, generously donated a sum of Rupee Three and a Half Lakhs for Science College. Shri. Keshav Ganesh Joshi (Father-in-Law of Dr. Bedekar) donated a sum of Rupees One Lakh. Dr. Bedekar himself donated Rupees One Lakh for Commerce College in the memory of, his father, Shri Narayan G. Bedekar.

Travelling

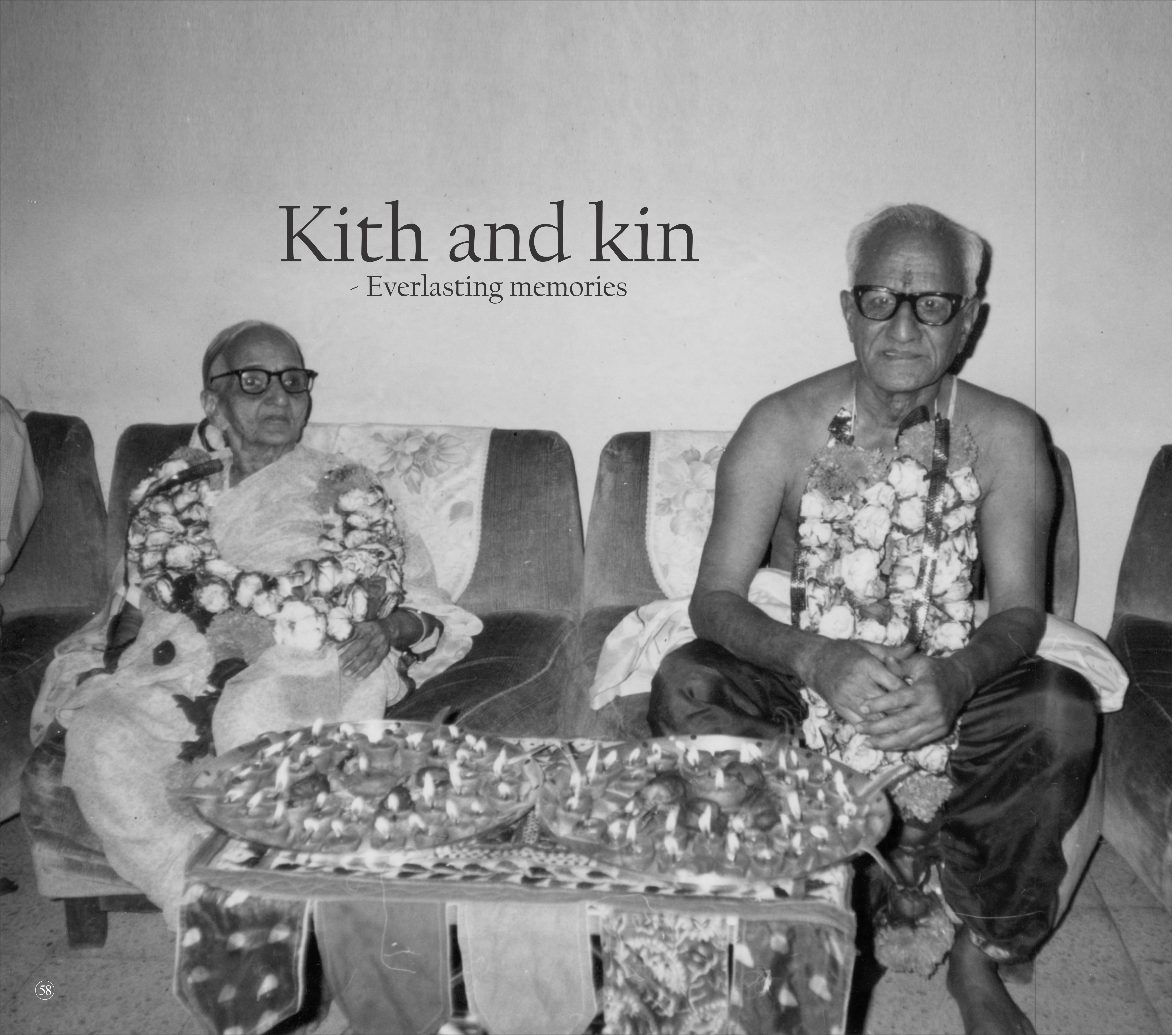
- Source of energy

Dr. Bedekar was very fond of traveling. His first travel was from Jansi to Malvan the distance of forty to forty-five kilometers on foot with his cousin Gangadhar Joshi. The second time, he travelled from Rajapur to Ratnagiri, the distance of forty kilometers on foot with his friend Yashavant Kale in two days. In Ratnagiri, they met Veer Savarkar and also visited Patit Pavan Mandir (universal holy temple). His third memorable visit was to Velneshwar, Guhagar, Ratnagiri (Maharashtra, India) when he accompanied his newly married aunt, Venutai Gokhale - □□□□ □□□□□. He was awed to see the unending stretch of vast sea and stars studded sky at night. The coconut groves at Velneshwar appeared to him like a young maiden wearing green sarees. He had never seen before such a solemn profound enchanting sea. Next day, he was awakened by the roaring, but sonorous, song of lapping waves. The golden rays of the rising sun were sparkling on the leaves of the vast coconut groves.



Nature's Lover

He always felt that the beautiful sea beaches of Konkan were most appropriate for building resorts and holiday homes. He had vivid memory of the world famous 'Pattaya' beach at Thailand with its white sand and clear water. Kanyakumari was one more unforgettable destination. The Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Hind Mahasagar (Indian Ocean) meet here. There too, he was mesmerized by the beautiful scene of the rising and setting sun. A great lover of nature indeed!



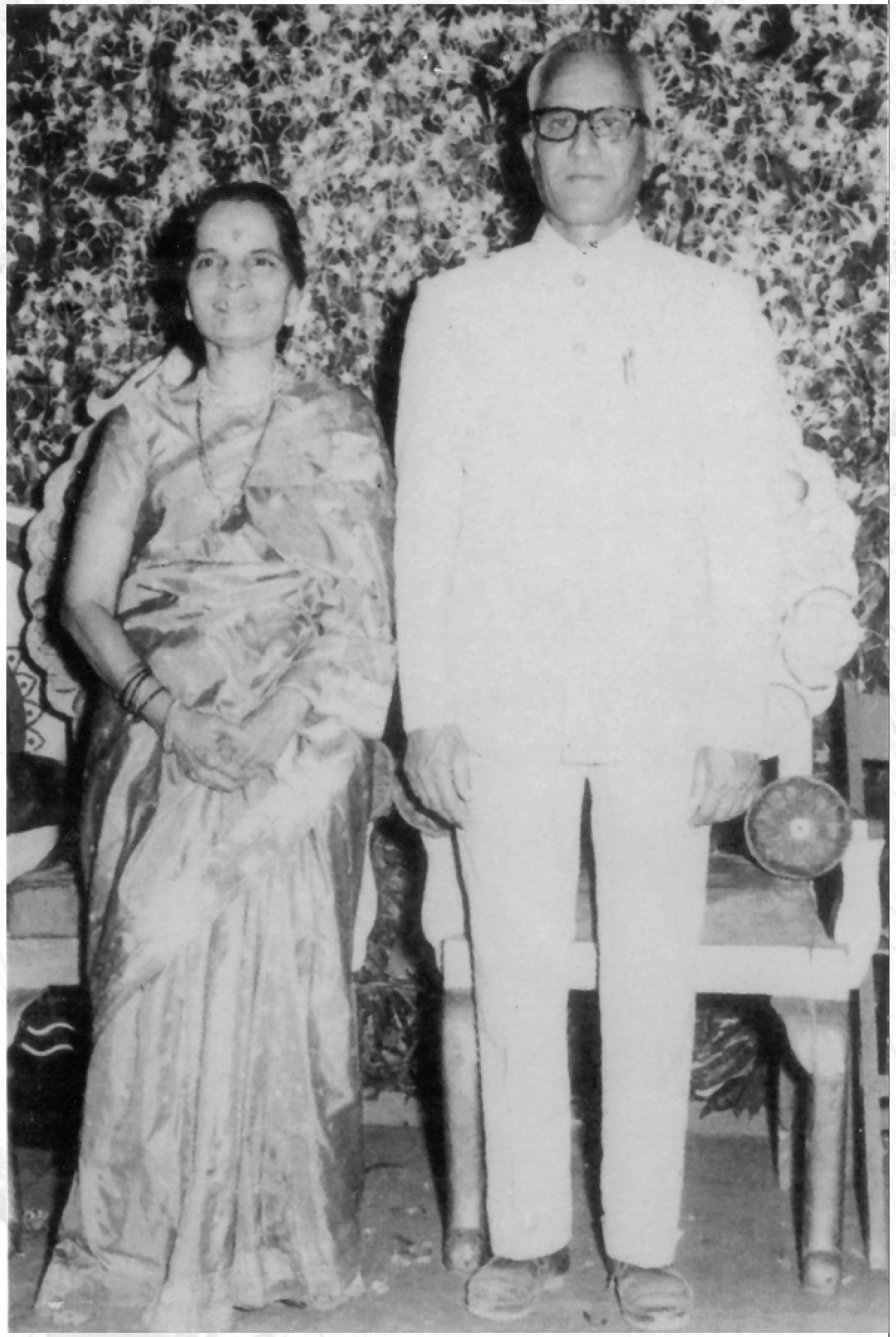
Kith and kin

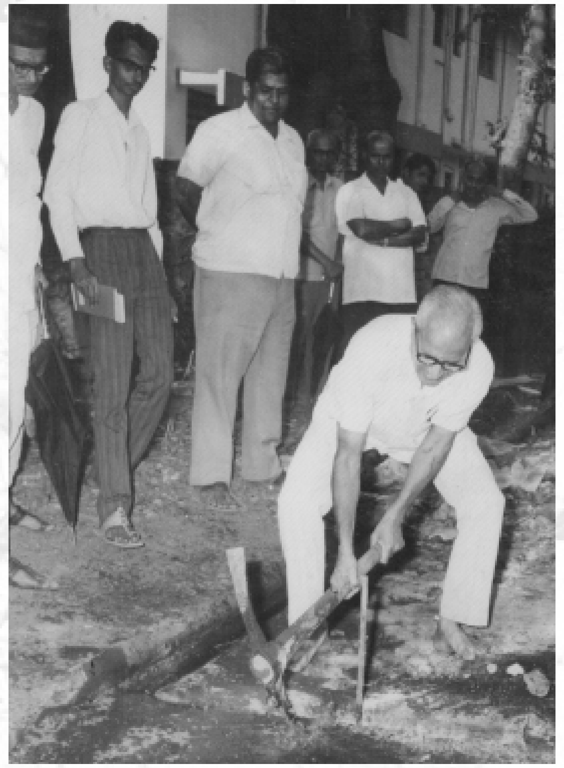
- Everlasting memories

श्रीमती सावित्री नारायण बेडेकर
(डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर यांच्या मातोश्री)

Dr. Bedekar's mother 'Savitri' was the daughter of Shri Dattatray Narsimha Joshi. She was only twelve years old when she married Vidyadhar's father. Her father had taught her to read and write. She read and recited, 'Pandav Pratap', 'Savitri Akhyan' (Hindu Mythological Books) many a times. When Dr. Bedekar's father died she was very young, only twenty eight years old. She was blessed with a long life of hundred years and was always as busy as a bee. She looked after her daughter-in-law Yamutai who was bed ridden due to Parkinson's disease and her granddaughter Shailatai who is physically handicapped. In addition, she would meticulously supervise hospital and kitchen. Dr. Bedekar had a vivid memory of his mother, standing in the door steps of Goval's home and bidding him farewell with tearful eyes when he would return to Rajapur. Her presence in the house was a blessing for her grandchildren - Shailaja, Vijay and Manik and great grandchildren-Mahesh, Anand, Abhijit, Manasi. To Sumedha, Savitri Bedekar, was like her own grandmother and not grandmother-in- law.

The better half





Bhumi Pujan for Laying the Foundation

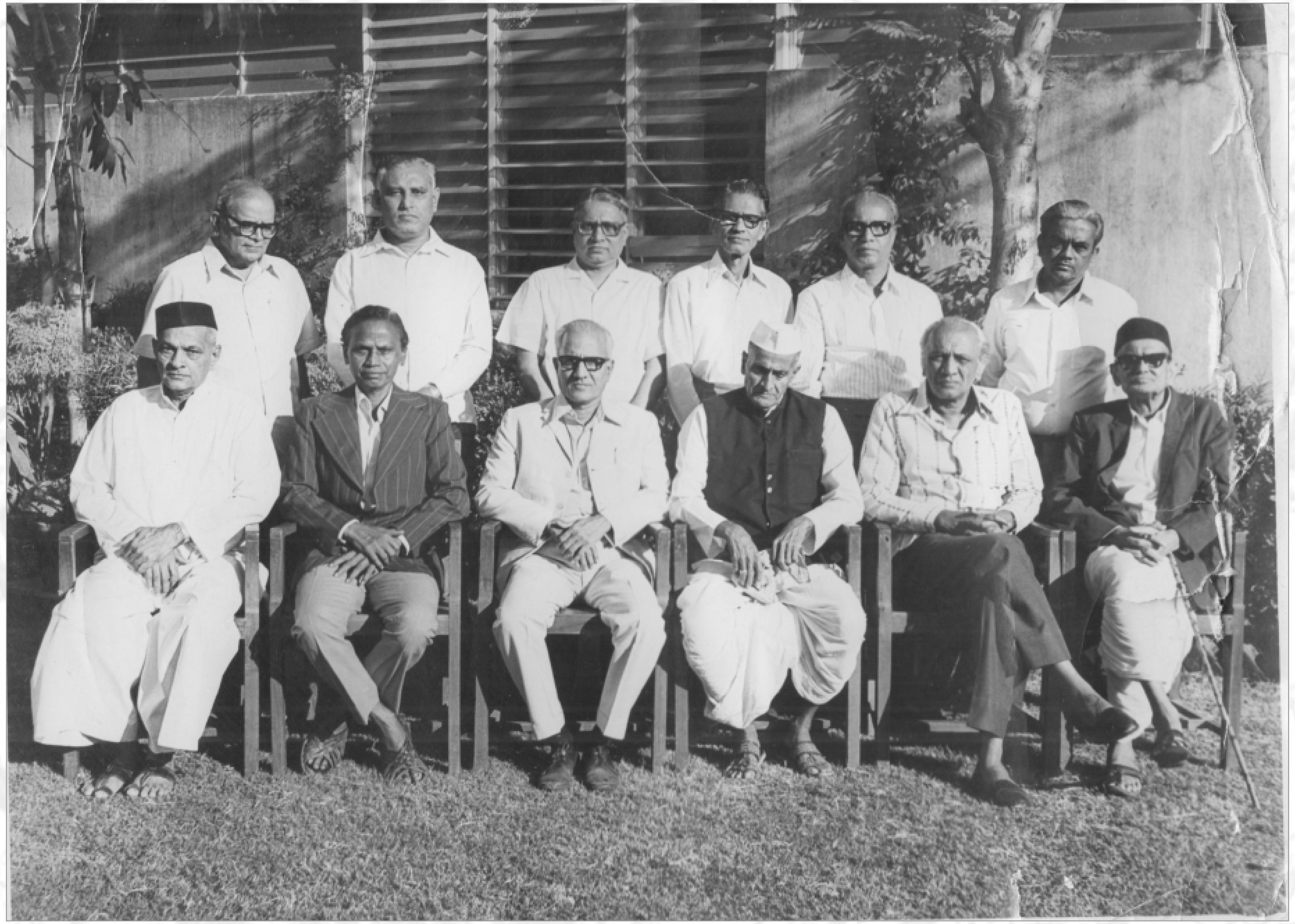
Yamutai, was the eldest daughter of Baburao Joshi (Shri Keshav Ganesh Joshi) who lived in Girgav, Mumbai. He was a businessman and owned Dyansagar Litho Press in Khatav Wadi in Girgav. He was a self-made man, very religious, and a devotee of Samarth Ramdas Swami. Dr. Bedekar and Yamutai were married in 1941 and lived in Umbergaon for some time. She supported him in all his activities. She would supervise the hospital, kitchen and stitch clothes for hospital. She was fond of music and learnt to play violin. Her main worry and distress was her eldest daughter Shailaja, who was spastic since birth. She tried to give her the best education and also all possible medical help at home and abroad. Though she focused all her attention on Shailaja, she never neglected her other two children - Dr. Vijay and Manik. She equally paid attention to their all round progress. She was instrumental in convincing her father, Shri K. G. Joshi, to donate his trust money to VPM (Thane) and he did donate Rupees One Lakh for Arts College. Yamutai was talkative and lively and worked for Mahila Mandal (Women's organization). She was bed ridden for a long time with Parkinson's disease. It was very unfortunate that she badly suffered from Parkinson' disease and it crippled her life. She succumbed to the disease and breathed her last in August, 1985 on day of Nag Panchami (a festival in which Hindus all over India worships snakes or serpents).

Dr. Vasudeo and Yamutai with eldest daughter Miss. Shailaja Bedekar, son Dr. Vijay Bedekar and youngest daughter Mrs. Alpana Bapat

A growing family

The eldest child of Dr. Bedekar, Shailaja, was born on 3 rd . November 1945, on first day of Diwali, she was spastic since birth. She could not walk and talk till age of five. She wanted to take education like her siblings and hence gained M. A. in Marathi and Sanskrit. She is financially independent and runs a well equipped library since 1974. Throughout her life, she has been struggling with ailments but never gave up. She never blamed her destiny. She is brave and ambitious like her father. She carved a niche for herself. Shailaja is a friend, philosopher and guide to family and friends. She is a voracious reader and loves traveling like her father. Shailaja Bedekar started an organisation called 'Swayamsidha' for physically handicapped women in 1980. It gave work and financial help to many needy women. It functioned till 2010.

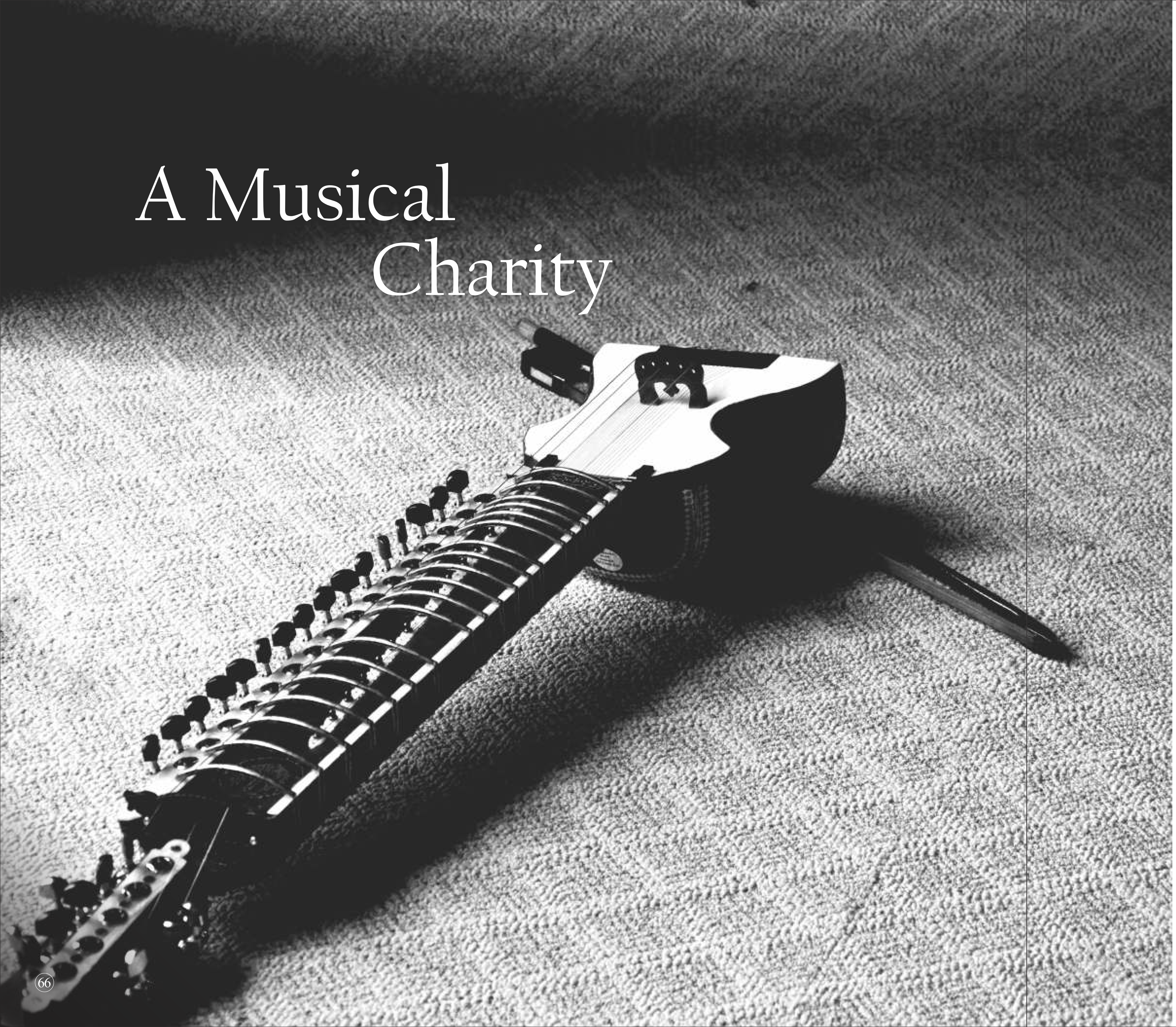
Vijay, the second child of Dr. Bedekar, born on 9 th October, 1947, followed his father's footsteps in the fields of medicine and education. Manik, the youngest daughter of Dr. Bedekar was born on 26 th May, 1949. She is now Sou. Alpana Ashok Bapat, married to Dr. Ashok Bapat, a urologist by profession. He owns Bapat Urology Centre in Thane. She has two children, Dr. Abhijit and Dr. Manasi; who is now based in New York. Dr. Abhijit is also a qualified urologist.



VPM's management Committee

Shoulders of dedicated friends

Dr. Bedekar did not have many friends. He used to be very busy in his profession. Even though he was actively involved in many social organizations, many of his friends were his colleagues in social work. He was very well aware that social work and the work of institutions like VPM (Thane), Thane Bharat Sahakari Bank could run efficiently only with the selfless help and efforts of like minded people. Shri Yashavant Kale was his school friend. Dr. Ganpule from Hangal and Dr. Ganpule from Saswad near Pune, were his college friends. Shri Gunakar Joshi was with him from very beginning. Sarv-Shri M. N. Patil, P. Savalaram, Tillu Sir, Y. M. Nanal, L. G. Deo, R. K. Gokhale, S. V. Karandikar and Prof (Dr.) M. D. Paradkar were all inspired with the same motive and spirit. Chitnis Sir of Bedekar Vidyamandir and Shri Gunakar Joshi would often come to their home late at night and such informal meetings in those days would lead to many decisions. In those days, many dignitaries and eminent personalities from the University and other fields of art, science, and literature would visit college campus and Dr. Bedekar's house. For twenty to twenty five years, many national artists, in vocal and instrumental music, were called on for fund raising programmes. It was a time when most of the members of VPM (Thane) were young and hardworking.



A Musical Charity

At the age of eighty eight, Dr. Bedekar started a new organization called, **'Satkarma Pratishthan'** (Foundation for Noble Deeds). He had arranged two programmes for fund raising—Smt. Savani Shende's classical music programme and Shri Maruti Patil's Sitar Recital. Sou. Alpana Bapat, youngest daughter of Dr. Bedekar now runs the Satkarma Pratishthan. It provides services to bed ridden patients. It is a charitable organization. So far they have provided educational help to seventy five students through a scholarship named after Dr. Bedekar.

Time and tide wait for none

Dr. Bedekar lived a very busy and active life. He fell ill with jaundice at the age of eighty eight. He was bed ridden for the last few days of his life, and he finally breathed his last on the 14 th of April, 2004. This left a big void in the hospital, in VPM (Thane) and at home. Dr Vijay Bedekar, his son, took over the functioning of VPM (Thane). Dr. Mahesh took over the hospital completely in 2004 and was later joined by Dr. Anand in 2010. Thus, the legacy of Dr. Bedekar is continued by his son, Dr. Vijay and his grandsons Dr. Mahesh and Dr. Anand.

"His legacy still lives and he will always be remembered for all the good he did as a Doctor, Mentor, Husband, Father and a Grandfather."

Ms. Shailaja Bedekar

(Elder daughter of Dr. V. N. Bedekar, 3rd November 1945)

वाचाल तर वाचाल!

गेल्या ५० वर्षांचा बेडेकर हॉस्पिटलच्या यशस्वी वाटचालीचा विचार करताना हॉस्पिटलच्या श्रीगणेशापासून म्हणजे मुळारंभापासून विचार करायचा म्हटलं तर कोऱ्या पाटीपासून सुरुवात करावी लागेल.

'शून्य ज्याच्या हाती' अशीच हॉस्पिटल चालू करण्यापूर्वी बाबांची परिस्थिती होती.

कोणीतरी काहीतरी निमित्ताला कारण व्हावं लागतं तसेच हॉस्पिटल काढण्यामागे बाबांचं झालं. कोणाच्या तरी बोलण्यानी बाबांचं मन डिवचलं गेलं आणि आपलं स्वतःच हॉस्पिटल असलं पाहिजे या विचारांनी त्यांच्या मनाचा पक्का पाठपुरावाच केला. तो पर्यंत दवाखाना चालू करून पाच-सहा वर्षे झाली होती. त्या काळात त्यांचा दवाखान्यात चांगला जम बसून त्यांचा आत्मविश्वास पण वाढला होता.

एकदा हॉस्पिटल काढायचं नक्की ठरल्यावर भोजने यांच्याकडून प्लॅन काढून घेऊन तो पास करून घेतला.

मिठागरवाले भावे यांच्याकडून हॉस्पिटलकरता जागा विकत घेतली. त्या वेळेला आमचे आजोबा म्हणजे आईचे वडील हॉस्पिटल बांधकामाच्या सर्वच व्यवहारात बाबांच्या मागे खंबीरपणे उभे राहून बाबांना फार मोलाचे मार्गदर्शन करीत होते.

बाबांच्या ठिकाणी असलेली धडाडी, चिकाटी, अहोरात्र कष्ट करण्याची उमेद हे सर्व त्यांनी ओळखलं होतं. त्यावेळेच्या परिस्थितीप्रमाणे बाबांनी हॉस्पिटल करता फक्त चारच खोल्या बांधायचा विचार केला होता. त्यांचा विचार असा होता, – समजा हॉस्पिटल नाही चालले तर आपण तिथं राहू. पण बाबांच्या अंगचे वरील गुण ओळखून आजोबांनी नारायण भुवनच्या मोठ्या हॉस्पिटलच्या बांधकामाचे आणि वरच्या एका मजल्याचे सामान आणून घेतले.

याच जागेत पूर्वी लहान मुलांचे स्मशान होते. तसे त्याचे पुरावेही मिळाले होते. पण बाबांनी त्याचा काही विचारच केला नाही. तसेच या जागेत पाणी अजिबात नव्हते. म्हणून मग बाबांनी नाईकवाडीतल्या नाईक वकिलांच्या परवानगीने त्यांच्या विहिरीवर पाईप टाकून ते गावदेवी मैदानातून हॉस्पिटलकडे पाणी आणले.

हॉस्पिटलचे बांधकाम पूर्ण झाल्यावर बाबांचे सगळे पेशंट गरजेनुसार आवश्यकतेनुसार त्यांच्या हॉस्पिटलमध्ये उपचार घेऊ लागले. हे हॉस्पिटल १९५० साली चालू झालं. मध्यंतरी बाबांनी डि.जी.ओ. (D.G.O.) चा अभ्यास करून परीक्षा दिली व चांगल्या प्रकारे पास झाले.

हॉस्पिटल मोठंच बांधलं होतं. डिलीव्हरी रुम, पेशंटस्ना तपासायची खोली, तिथेच ऑपरेशन होत असत. नंतरच्या खोलीत पुढे दोन-तीन वर्षात एक्स-रे मशीन बसविले गेले. त्याच्या पुढे बाबांची आणि पेशंटस्ची

बसायची खोली होती. दोन मोठे जनरल वॉर्ड होते आणि एक पार्टीशन टाकून दोन स्पेशल रुम्स केल्या होत्या. वेळेला बारा-पंधरा पेशंटस्‌ची सोय होत होती. मला आठवतं आहे काही वेळेला पेशंटस् वाढले तर आमच्या वरच्या कॉट पण खाली नेल्या जायच्या. त्यावेळेला डिलीव्हरी झालेल्या बायका १० दिवस हॉस्पिटलमध्ये राहायच्या. शक्यतो सिझरीन टाळली जायची. आतासारखीची सिझरीन सहज सोपी नव्हती. त्यावेळेला पेशंटच्या गरजेनुसार हॉस्पिटलमध्ये बारा-पंधरा डॉक्टर यायचे. डॉ. मंगेशीकर, डॉ. आपटे खूप वेळा सकाळी हॉस्पिटलमध्ये टॉन्सिलची ऑपरेशन्स् करायला यायचे. डॉ. परचुरे, डॉ. साठे हे स्त्रीरोग तज्ज्ञ होते. डॉ. जोगळेकर आय स्पेशालिस्ट होते. ते जवळ जवळ ४० वर्षेडोळे तपासून मोतीबिंदूचे ऑपरेशन करायचे. डॉ. ठक्कर, एक्सरे, डॉ. गांधी भूल द्यायचे आणि नंतर डॉ. रणदिवे ४० वर्षेभूल देण्याचे काम करीत होते. पहिल्यांदा दातांकरिता डॉ. साळुंके मग विजय ढवळे मग मोकाशी आणि आता ४५ वर्षेडॉ. शेजवलकर काम करीत आहेत.

पेशंटच्या गरजेनुसार डॉ. सुलाखे, डॉ. तिळपुळे, डॉ. खरे हे डॉक्टर पण यायचे. नंतर डॉ. डायस हे जनरल सर्जन येत होते. ते सगळ्या प्रकारची ऑपरेशन्स् फार छान करायचे. ७७ साली डॉ. बापट पण थोडे दिवस येत होते.

हॉस्पिटल चालू झालं १९५० साली. आम्ही त्यावेळी राहत होतो विजय निवास मध्ये. पेशंटस्‌च्या सोईकरिता बाबांनी ठरवलं की पेशंटला ताजं, सकस घरचं जेवण द्यायचं. ते जेवण आम्ही नारायण भुवन मध्ये हॉस्पिटलच्या वर ५४ साली राहायला येईपर्यंत विजय निवास मधून जेवणाचे डबे भरून येत असत. जेवणाच्या बाबतीत आई-बाबांचा कटाक्ष होता की, जेवण दोन्ही वेळेला ताजंच द्यायचं. सकाळचं जेवण रात्री नाही, रात्रीचं सकाळी नाही. अगदी ताकापासून दोन्ही वेळा सगळं ताजंच द्यायचं आणि आपण जे खाऊ तेच पेशंटला द्यायचं आणि हीच परंपरा आजतागायत चालू आहे.

आईच्या वेळेला कितीतरी वेळा स्वयंपाकाला माणूस नसायचा. तेव्हा पोळ्यांपासून सगळा स्वयंपाक आईच करायची. थोडे दिवस हॉस्पिटलचे कपडे पण आईनेच शिवले. तूप पण घरी कढवलेले पेशंटला भातावर दिले जायचे. जेवणाकरिता लागणारे लोणचे, पापड पण घरीच केले जायचे. नंतर हॉस्पिटलमध्ये काम करणाऱ्या मावशांना श्रावण महिन्यात सोमवारी घरी तयार केलेले लोणचं आई द्यायची. सिस्टर मावशांना प्रत्येक दिवाळीला साड्या द्यायची परंपरा आई-बाबांनी चालू केली. दिवाळीच्या पहिल्या दिवशी तो एक मोठा कार्यक्रम असायचा. फराळाची पुडी आणि साडी प्रत्येकाला दिली जायची. दिवाळीतले चार दिवसांचे फराळांचे पदार्थ पेशंटस्‌ना घरच्याघरी करून दिले जायचे. इथे आणखी एक गोष्ट सांगायला पाहिजे ती म्हणजे पेशंटस्‌ची ऑपरेशन्स् रात्री अपरात्री कधी पण करावी लागायची तेव्हा मुंबईचे डॉक्टर यायचे. मग त्यांच्याकरिता आई ताजा स्वयंपाक करायची.

पहिल्यांदा बाबांकडे गाडी नव्हती. बाबा सायकल वरती व्हिजिट्सना जायचे. पहिली काही वर्षेहॉस्पिटलचा स्टाफ बेताचाच होता. जवळजवळ १५ वर्षेहॉस्पिटलचं काम नारायण भुवनमध्येच होत होतं. हॉस्पिटल आणि गोखले रोडवरचा संजीवनी दवाखाना बाबा एकटेच चालवित होते.

नंतर मग १९६५-६६ मध्ये नारायण भुवनच्याच शेजारच्या जागेत जिथं बाबांनीच फुलझाडं, फळझाडं आणि भाजीपाला, केळी सगळं आवडीने लावलं होतं. नंतर मग काही वर्ष ते काम बाळूकाकाकडे सोपवलं होतं. ती सर्व जागा साफ करून तिथे शिवशक्ती नावाचं नवीन हॉस्पिटल बांधलं आणि हॉस्पिटलचे काम केलं.

१९६६ नंतर हॉस्पिटल अद्ययावत झाले. संजीवनीतील संध्याकाळची ओ. पी. डी. (O.P.D.) शिवशक्तीत चालू झाली. १९७४-७५ साली डॉ. विजय हॉस्पिटलचे काम पाहू लागला.

बाबांनी त्यांचं काम कमी केलं. बाबांनी ३० वर्षेदवाखाना - हॉस्पिटलचे काम एकट्यांनी सांभाळलं. २००३ पर्यंत सकाळची ओ.पी.डी. (O.P.D.) ते पाहत होते. डॉ. विजयनी ३० वर्षेशिवशक्ती मधलं हॉस्पिटल आणि ओ. पी. डी. (O.P.D.) सांभाळली. सन २००४ पासून डॉ. महेश हॉस्पिटलचं काम पाहू लागला.

माझी आई हॉस्पिटलमध्ये जाऊन पेशंटस्‌शी संवाद साधत असे. काय हवं नको त्याची विचारपूस करत असे. आई पेशंटस्‌ना मानसिक धीर देत असे. त्यावेळेला आमच्या सर्व नातेवाईकांत बाबा एकटेच डॉक्टर होते. त्यामुळे आत्या, काकू, मामी डिलीव्हरीच्या वेळी आमच्याकडे येत असत. आई स्वतः त्यांच्याबरोबर उभी असायची. या कामात आजीचा पण पुष्कळ हातभार असायचा.

आणि पुढे आईचाच वारसा सुमेधाने चालू ठेवला आहे. पेशंटस्‌ना काय हवं नको ते ती बघते. सकाळचा नाष्टा, दुपारचा नाष्टा, पेशंटस्‌च्या नातेवाईकांची जेवणाची सोय हे सर्व उपक्रम तिनेच चालू केले आहेत.

आता २००० सालापासून पुन्हा हॉस्पिटलचे रूप पूर्ण बदलले आहे. नव्या दमाचे डॉक्टर, महेश -अपर्णा, आनंद-श्रुती, बदलत्या काळाप्रमाणे परिस्थितीप्रमाणे नवीन उपचार पद्धतीप्रमाणे हॉस्पिटलचे सगळे रूप पालटणे आवश्यक होते. त्याप्रमाणे हॉस्पिटलचे बाह्यरूप बदलले. हॉस्पिटल नव्या रुपात नव्या पद्धतीने बांधलं गेलं. डॉ. महेश ह्यांची ओ. पी. डी. (O.P.D.) वेगळी, सोनोग्राफी रुम वेगळी, अद्ययावत तपासणी रुम, (ब्लड) रक्त तपासणी, टेस्ट ट्यूब बेबी पद्धतीची रुम अद्ययावत. स्त्रियांच्या शारीरिक सर्व तपासण्या होऊ लागल्या.

डॉ. आनंद बालरोग तज्ज्ञ आहे. जन्मल्यापासून १८ वर्षांपर्यंत सर्व दुखण्यांवर तो उपचार करतो. त्याच्या देखरेखीखाली अगदी लहान बाळांची ऑपरेशन्स् पण केली जातात. तसंच अतिदक्षता विभागात बालकांच्या डोळ्यांची तसेच कानांची तपासणी केली जाते. लहान बाळापासून मोठ्या बाळापर्यंत ॲडमिट करून घेऊन त्यांच्यावर उपचार केले जातात. तसेच मुलांचा बुध्यांक तपासला जातो. अपर्णा महेशच्या हॉस्पिटलचे

व्यवस्थापन बघते, पेशंटस्‌चे रेकॉर्ड व्यवस्थित ठेवते. हॉस्पिटलचे ऑडिट व्यवस्थित ठेवायचे काम, काही कायदेशीर बाबींचं काम पण ती बघते. तसेच हॉस्पिटलची स्वच्छता, पेशंटस्‌च्या अडचणी या सर्व गोष्टींकडे ती नीट लक्ष पुरवते. तसेच मावश्या व सिस्टर यांच्या कामावर तिचं चोख लक्ष असतं.

तसेच श्रृतीने हॉस्पिटलचे NICU चे व्यवस्थापन अगदी उत्तम ठेवले आहे. त्याकरिता हॉस्पिटल व्यवस्थापन या विषयी पदवी घेतली आहे. तसेच स्तनपान व बालआहार विषयी सल्लागार म्हणून ती काम करते आहे.

आता महेशच्या आय्.व्ही.एफ (IVF) टेस्ट ट्यूब बेबी सेंटरला जून - २०१८ मध्ये पाच वर्ष पूर्ण होतील.

हॉस्पिटलच्या या यशस्वी वाटचालीत तिथे काम करणाऱ्या कर्मचारी वर्गाचेही फार मोलाचे योगदान आहे यात शंका नाही. म्हणूनच दरवर्षी हॉस्पिटलची तपासणी म्हणजे आय्.एस्.ओ. (I.S.O.) होते. चांगल्यापैकी गुण दिले जातात. आमच्या हॉस्पिटलमध्ये ४०/५० वर्षांपासूनचे काम केलेल्या मावश्या-सिस्टर आहेत. नाव कोणाकोणाचं घेऊ. अगदी सुरुवातीला लोहकरे सिस्टर, पुराणिक सिस्टर, सावंत सिस्टर, वाघ सिस्टर, खटावकर, उतेकर, गोरे आणि देशमुख अजून ४०-४५ वर्षेचांगल्या प्रकारे काम करीत आहेत. पहिल्या मावशा आता निवृत्त झाल्या आहेत. काळाच्या पडद्याआड गेल्या आहेत. या सगळ्यांनी हॉस्पिटल आपलंच आहे असं समजून काम केलं आहे.

आज बाबांनी हॉस्पिटलचे हे वैभव पाहिले असते तर त्यांना अतिशय आनंद झाला असता, समाधान वाटलं असतं. बाबा बाहेरगावी गेल्यावर प्रत्येक वेळेला या मावशांकरिता, सिस्टरांकरिता काहीतरी घेऊन यायचे. तिच परंपरा आता अपर्णा-श्रृती चालवत आहेत.

अशा प्रकारे बाबांनी जे रोप लावून त्याची मशागत, जोपासना केली. रक्ताचं पाणी करून सेवेकरिता आपलं फार मोलाचं योगदान दिलं. तोच त्यांचा वसा पुण्यकर्म म्हणून पुढची पिढी निष्ठेने पुढे नेत आहे.

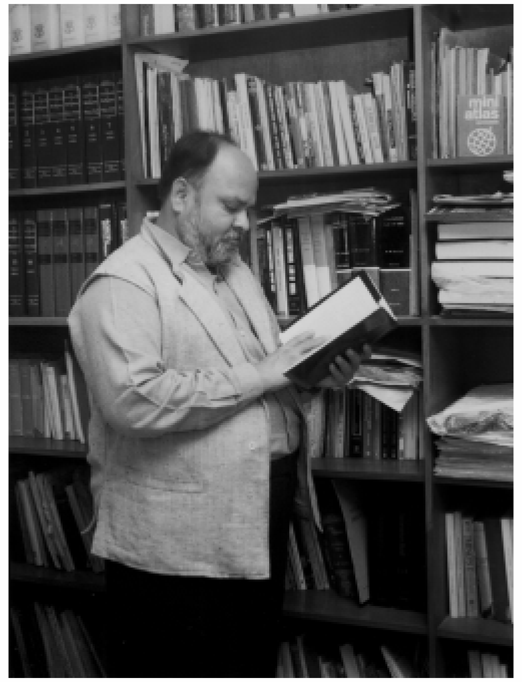
– शैलजा बेडेकर

शैलजा बेडेकर नातवंडां समवेत

Dr. Vijay Bedekar with his wife Mrs. Sumedha Bedekar
and two sons Dr. Mahesh and Dr. Anand

Dr. Vijay

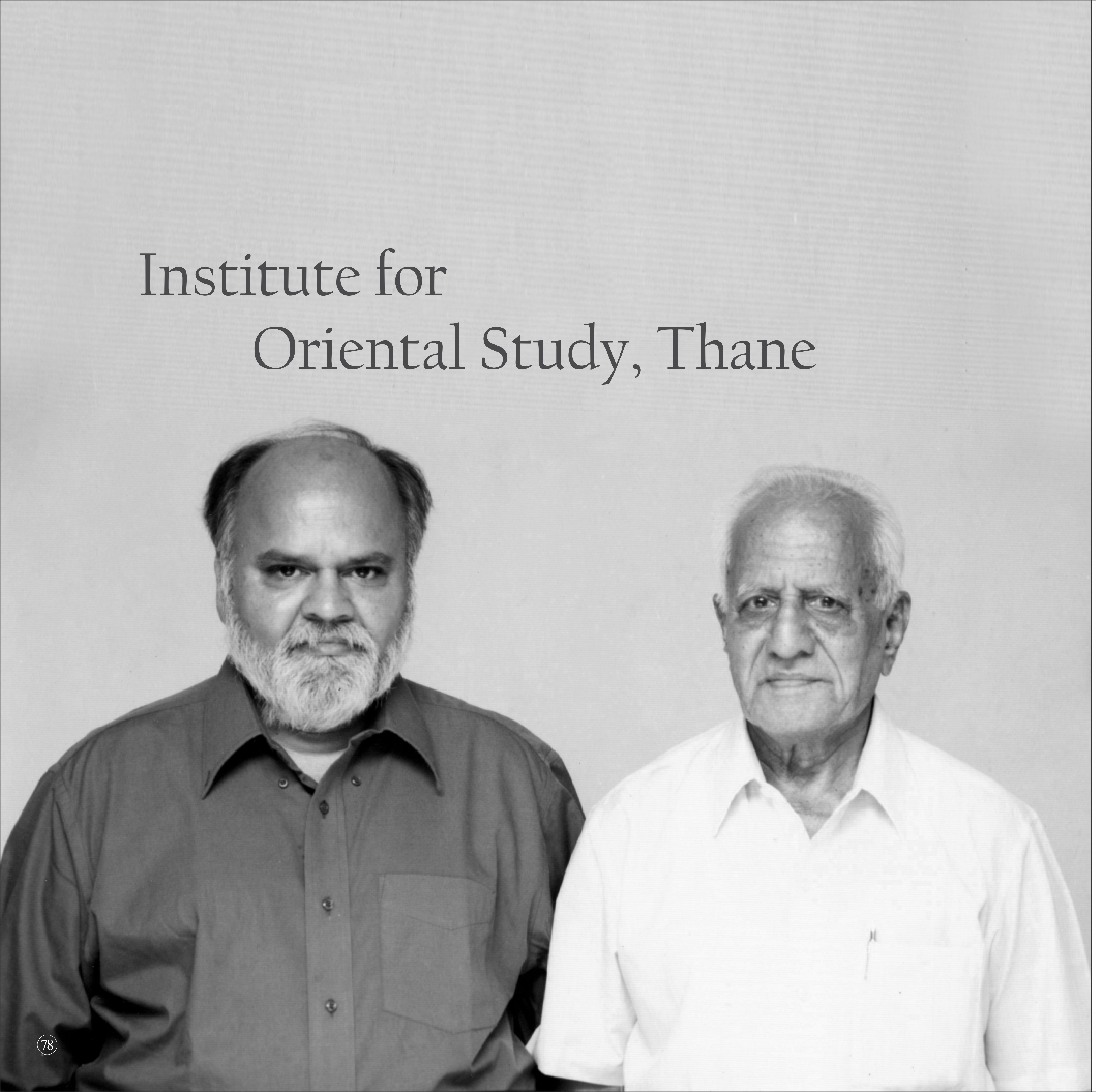
Dr. Vijay Bedekar, second child of Dr. V. N. Bedekar was born on 9th October 1947, just two months after independence. As a child, he was boisterous, lively and social. He would be friendly with young and old irrespective of their age. In those days one of our tenants, Shri Deshpande, had returned from Africa after his retirement. Vijay would exchange stamps with him and enjoy his company. Young Vijay would often visit Dr. M. D. Paradkar, the Sanskrit scholar who resided in Narayan Bhuvan in those days. As a young child of six or seven years he would perform very good acrobatics. He was a good orator since school days. He had participated in many elocution competitions and won prizes. He was a good actor too and brought laurels to his school in inter school drama competitions. He was fun loving and would play pranks and make others laugh. Later, he joined Belgaum Medical College (Karnataka, India) and there too he was popular. He was bold and had leadership qualities. He contested election in medical college and won it. Dr. Vijay would generously help people and friends in need. Dr. Vijay was very attached to his uncle and aunt, नाना मामा - मामी (Shri Shrinivas Joshi and Sou. Ratnaprabha Joshi), and the bond of love and respect remains forever. His father Dr. Bedekar used to be very busy, so during summer vacation Dr. Vijay and his sisters would always go to their uncle's home at Dadar and enjoy holidays. It was like their second home. After securing his M.B.B.S degree from Belgaum Medical College, he came back to Thane. He obtained Post Graduate Diploma from Wadia Maternity Hospital in Mumbai. He started general practice with his father. Although it was difficult in the beginning, eventually he won the confidence of his father's patients. He renovated the theatre and also brought many new changes in the practice to keep up with the time.



ज्ञानकण वेचता वेचता

On 18 th October, 1973, Dr. Vijay Bedekar was married to Sucheta Vaze daughter of Dr. Mukund R. Vaze and Sou. Vasumati M. Vaze from Bhiwandi. Sucheta was liked by all in Bedekar family as she was a good looking girl, bubbling with energy and enthusiasm. She was well versed with the norms of behaviour in a joint family as Dr. Vijay's seventy five year old grandmother was also very active in those days. Sumedha (nee Sucheta Vaze) was, and continuous to be, a perfect host to people from all walks of life and to Dr. Vijay's friends, who often visit their home. For forty-four years now, she is successfully managing the hospital and home. With her busy schedule, she also pursues her hobbies of learning classical music, drawing and painting. Since last couple of years she is conducting Sanskar Bharti classes for young children. The couple is blessed with two children Dr. Mahesh - the elder son is a gynaecologist, while the younger son, Dr. Anand, is a Pediatrician. Both of them are very well established in their respective practice. The most outstanding facet about Bedekar family is Dr. Vijay and Sou. Sumedha Bedekar, their two sons with their families and his physically handicapped sister live together under one roof. It is very rare to find this in the present era of 'Nuclear Families'. They live amicably; enjoy, respect each other at the same time have their own space in the family. Dr. Vijay Bedekar assumed office as Chairman VPM (Thane), in 2004, following the sad demise of his father. He has taken VPM (Thane) to new heights. Like his father he also gave birth to few Social and Cultural organisations like Institute for Oriental Study, Thane, The Museum Trust of West Coast of India, Thane, Satya Shodh Sanstha (organisation in search of truth) and Prajnya Praman Manch (forum for excellence in wisdom), to name a few. He is a crusader against corruption. He fought court battles to protect Cultural Monuments. Like his father, Dr. Vijay also worked with his selfless associates like Drs. Ulhas Vaidya, Kishore Chitnis, R. R. Randive, Jayant Shringarpure and Sarva-Shri M. Y. Gokhale, Uttam Joshi, Prakash Vaidya, Vilas Sangurdekar, Jagdish Pradhan, Jayant Kayal, Dhopate, Korde and many more. All of them share Dr. Vijay's vision, disciplined approach, and upcoming commitment and devotion towards their work.

Institute for Oriental Study, Thane



Thane was a city with a growing population of middle class and had no facilities, for academic and research activities, in Oriental Study, unlike Mumbai or Pune. It was Dr. Vijay's penchant passion for research in Oriental Study in the field of History, Culture and Sanskrit which led to the formation and establishment of the Institute for Oriental Study, Thane in 1984.

Dr. Vijay was lucky to get guidance of great scholars like Prof. Dr. M. D. Paradkar and Sarv-Shri S. B. Velankar, G. K. Bhat and many more from across length and breadth of India. It has completed thirty-three years. It is a voluntary organization working for promotion of Indian Culture and Sanskrit language and preservation of Indian Heritage. The institute has conducted several seminars on various facets of Indian Culture - to name a few, Sanskrit outside India, Paninian Grammar and Science and Technology in Hindu tradition. Study tours were conducted to Tamil Nadu, Gujarat (including Kutch), Karnataka, Orissa etc. Teams of scholars also attended conferences outside India and also visited libraries, museums and old monuments in foreign lands. The institute arranged four exhibitions for the benefit of its members and the general public. The institute is running a reference library from 1985. It possesses 40,000 volumes relating to history, culture, language, art, 3000 Sanskrit manuscripts, and many sculptures and rare artefacts. When Dr. V. N. Bedekar initiated the formation of Thane Bharat Sahakari Bank, Thane in 1979, Dr. Vijay played an active role in the same. He was the Founding Member and Director of the said bank. Later on, he became Chairman of Thane Bharat Sahakari Bank for five years (1993-98). He started Bharat Grahak Peth (Indigenous store for consumable purchase and sale) with the idea that all stationary, other accessories and products of day to day utilities would be available at reasonable price to all schools and colleges of VPM (Thane). He also started Disha Magazine for VPM (Thane) in July, 1996. Dr. Vijay Bedekar is very dynamic like his father and has taken, and continues to do so, VPM (Thane) to greater heights. He is flexible yet firm, assertive but compassionate, most important qualities required to run a renowned and premier institute like VPM (Thane). Under the able leadership and guidance of Dr. Vijay, VPM's (Thane) Group of Institutions are well poised and postured to cater the needs of present times and also provide state of art infrastructure to provide quality and value based education. Jnanadweep (Knowledge Island) the college campus of VPM (Thane) is well equipped with, independent college buildings, libraries, internet connection, independent auditoriums. The entire campus is interconnected with Fibre Optic Network and has twenty four hour access to internet via leased lines. VPM (Thane) has its own website to access anywhere in the world.

VPM (Thane) arranges visits of students and teachers to Oxford, London and Cambridge and teachers from UK and China have visited VPM's (Thane) Schools and Colleges. The annual convocation ceremony is held on Teachers day i.e. 5 th September when certificates for VPM's (Thane) Autonomous Programmes are awarded to successful candidates, at the hands of distinguish dignitaries who are invited as Chief Guest for the function. Further, on the occasion of the memorial day (14 th April), of its past president Dr. V. N. Bedekar, renowned experts are invited to speak on specific themes relating to cultural, social, economic, science and technology subjects. The above activities are managed by VPM's (Thane) Group of Institutions under the professional guidance, support and encouragement of Dr. Vijay Bedekar who has emerged as a visionary and is rightly identified as **'Chip Off the Old Block'.**

पंचजनांची प्राच्यविद्या

VPM's Maharshi Parshuram College of Engineering (MPOCE), Velneshwar, Guhagar, Ratnagiri (Maharashtra, India)

VPM (Thane) established an engineering college since 2012, in the interiors of rural area of Maharashtra, India with the state-of- the-art infrastructure spreading over thirty five acres of land at Velneshwar, sixty kilometers away from Chiplun, on Mumbai Goa Highway. Velneshwar is a beautiful quiet village, famous for its picturesque white sand beach fringed with coconut palms. It is a mega project of Rupees One Hundred and Fifty Crores. The campus has five engineering faculties. Today (2017), there are six hundred and seventy four students on roll, as against just ninety-four students when the college started in 2012. It has six academic buildings. When fully completed, the project will have ten hostels, twin bungalows for the Principals and the head of the departments, ten staff quarters for teaching and other administrative staff. The campus will have one electric substation, one central server room, one sewage treatment plant (STP) and one water tank. The several new buildings to emerge will house many novel state-of-the-art, learning disciplines, depending on the need as well as availability of resources. The Velneshwar campus has created job opportunities for at least thousand people and also indirect job employment and self-employment opportunities to many. It is a spacious educational township as per requirements of AICTE, New Delhi, with all amenities such as gymnasium, community hall, playgrounds, canteen, guest house and building for shop, bank, laundry and dispensary. It is a township equipped with all amenities. It will be one of the best colleges in India and can be compared with any Indian Institute of Technology. It is the dream project of the Chairman Dr. Vijay Bedekar. For the first five years, from February 2010 he has visited the project every week and continues to do so regularly. He is a perfectionist and does not like to compromise. Quality of work is well maintained under his supervision. He has inherited the legacy of his father. He has tremendous energy, will power and courage. He is not intimidated by difficulties, adversaries and obstacles. Dr. Vijay has done outstanding work in the field of education and undoubtedly is a 'persona exemplary' par excellence for successive generations of Bedekar family and to all others who have seen him functioning as Chairman, VPM (Thane).

Mrs. Sumedha Bedekar

सृजन-यज्ञ

आनंदी राहणं हा माणसाचा स्वभाव आहे. फक्त भौतिक सुख आणि अखंड संपत्ती असेल तरच माणूस सुखी होतो असं नाही. तर या सोबतच निरोगी शरीर ही देखील माणसाच्या मुलभूत गरजांपैकी एक गरज बनली आहे. छोटे-मोठे आजार बरे करण्यासाठी पूर्वीच्या काळी आजीबाईचा बटवा असायचा. काळ बदलला. विज्ञान प्रगत झालं. तसा आजीबाईचा बटवा हरवला आणि प्रगत वैद्यकशास्त्राने आपला प्रभाव दाखवायला सुरुवात केली. अगदी पूर्वी अनुभवी सुईणींच्या मार्गदर्शनाखाली घरातल्या घरात बाळंतपण व्हायचं. आजीबाईचा बटवा जसा हरवला तशा या सुईणीही काळाआड गेल्या आणि त्याजागी Maternity Hospitals आली. सुईणीची जागा प्रसूती-तज्ज्ञाने घेतली.

बदलत्या काळानुसार आता बाळ-बाळंतिणीच्या सुरक्षिततेसाठी अशी प्रसूतिगृह ही गरज झाली आहे. हे सारं विस्तारानं सांगायचं कारण एवढंच की अशाच एका प्रसुतिगृहाशी माझा आयुष्यभराचा संबंध आला. योगायोग म्हणजे मी १०-१२ वर्षांची असताना आईने दिलेला दुधाचा किंवा खिरिचा कडिचा डबा शेजारीच असलेल्या प्रसूतिगृहात ओळखीच्या बाळंतिणीला आवश्यक खाऊ म्हणून नेऊन द्यायचे. पुढे हेच भाग्य मला सासरी रोज लाभत आहे. असो.

खरं म्हणजे वैद्यक व्यवसायात असणाऱ्या घरातच माझा जन्म झाला. माझे वडील डॉ. मुकुंद रामचंद्र वझे आणि डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर हे स्नेही. अशाच एका भेटीप्रसंगी डॉ. बेडेकरांच्या कुटुंबीयांनी मला पाहिलं होतं (फक्त डॉ. विजयराव सोडून). त्यांनी माझ्या वडिलांकडे; 'ही मला सून म्हणून पसंत आहे' असं म्हटलं आणि घरगुती पाहाण्याचा समारंभ होऊन, खरंच मी १९७३ साली कु. सुचेता मुकुंद वझेची सौ. सुमेधा विजय बेडेकर झाले. डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर यांचं प्रसूतिगृह आणि घर 'शिवशक्ती' या इमारतीत आहे. माझा वैद्यक व्यवसायाशी थेट संबंध नसला तरी वडील, भाऊ, बहीण, सासरे आणि यजमान हे सारे डॉक्टर. आणि त्यातही 'डॉक्टरची पत्नी डॉक्टरीण' या न्यायाने मी डॉक्टरीण झाले! कोकणातून मुंबईत येऊन स्थायिक झालेले माझे सासरे डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर हे खरं तर व्यावसाईक कुटुंबातले, उत्तम परिस्थितीतले. पण अचानक स्वतःच्या कोळशाच्या वखारी आणि साखरेची गलबतं असलेल्या या व्यापारी कुटुंबानं आपला धंदा बुडीत जाताना अनुभवला. अनेकांचं देणं झालं. एकत्र कुटुंब असल्यामुळे गरजाही खूपच होत्या. तशातच डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकरांचे वडील (माझे आजेसासरे – नारायण बेडेकर) डायरियानं गेले. घरातील प्रत्येकजण उदरनिर्वाह शोधत होता. काही मुले शिक्षणासाठी मुंबईला गेली; तर आईचा लाडका विद्याधर अर्थात डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर मॅट्रिक झाल्यानंतर आईनं दिलेले ५ रुपये घेऊन पुण्याला गेले. वडिलांच्या आजारपणात त्यांना सेवा देण्यासाठी डॉक्टर झाले, परंतु शेवटी यश आले नाही. ही सल मनात असल्याने निघताना त्यांनी मनाशी एक निश्चय केला आता मी डॉक्टरच होणार. खरोखरच आईचं लाडाचं

'विद्याधर' हे नाव सार्थ करत त्यांनी डॉक्टरकीची पदवी संपादली. दृढ निश्चय आणि अफाट मेहेनत यामुळेच त्यांना हे शक्य झालं. त्यानंतर ठाण्यात आपली वैद्यकीय प्रॅक्टिस सुरू केलेल्या डॉक्टरांनी रुग्णांचा विश्वास संपादन केला. वैद्यकीय व्यवसाय हळूहळू वाढू लागला आणि डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकरांनी पुन्हा आर्थिक वैभव प्राप्त केलं. दरम्यान संसार फुलला होता. मुले शाळेत जाऊ लागली होती. पूर्वीच्या काळी घरी जाऊन तपासणी केली जात असल्यामुळे असेच एकदा डॉक्टर व्हिझिटला गेले होते. तेथून घरी आल्यावर त्यांना कळले की आपण जिथे गेलो होतो तेथेच बाजूला असलेल्या गोठ्यात शाळा भरते आणि आपली मुले त्याच शाळेत जातात. त्यांना खूप वाईट वाटले. शाळाचालकांनी डॉक्टरांचं सहकार्य मागितलं. डॉक्टरांनी मनावर घेतले आणि अनेकांचं सहकार्य घेत डॉ. बेडेकर १९५७ मध्ये विद्या प्रसारक मंडळाचे अध्यक्ष झाले. त्यांनी संस्थेला सर्व प्रकारची आर्थिक, नैतिक मदत केली. शाळेची नविन इमारत तयार झाली. शाळेला डॉ. बेडेकर विद्या मंदिर असे नाव देण्यात आले. आता स्वतःचा दवाखाना आणि ही शाळा अशा दुहेरी जबाबदारीनं डॉक्टर कामाला लागले. साधी राहणी आणि उच्च विचारसरणी हे त्यांच्या जीवनाचं जणू ब्रीदवाक्य होतं. विद्यार्थी, पालक, दवाखान्यातील बाळंतिणी आणि त्यांचे नातेवाईक, तसेच घरातील पाहुणे या सर्वांशी डॉक्टर खूप प्रेमानं वागत. या सर्वांची काळजी घेणं हे काम माझ्याकडं होतं आणि मीही ते आवडीने करत होते. अर्थात हा वारसा मला सासूबाई (सौ. वत्सला वा. बेडेकर) यांच्याकडून लाभला. आपल्या दवाखान्यात बाळंतपणासाठी आलेली स्त्री ही जणू आपल्या घरातलीच सदस्य आहे असं समजून माझ्या सासूबाई त्यांना काय हवं नको ते पाहत असत. सकाळच्या चहा पासून ते रात्री झोपताना दुधापर्यंत साऱ्या गोष्टी घरातूनच पुरवल्या जात असत. केवळ खाणं-पिणंच नव्हे तर लहानग्या बालकांसाठी झबली टोपडी शिवून देणं हे कामही माझ्या सासूबाई प्रेमानं आणि आनंदानं करत असत. माझ्या सासुबाईंना त्यांच्या सासूबाई (सावित्री नारायण बेडेकर - माझ्या आजे सासूबाई) मदत करत असत. भाजी मंडईतून भाजी आणणे, पोळ्या करणाऱ्या बाईं बरोबर बसून पोळ्या मोजणे अशा छोट्या-मोठ्या कामांतून त्यांची

चि. महेश ह्यांच्या मांवद्याचा पणजीचा आशीर्वाद

मदत होत असे. माहेरची शिकवण तसेच आजे-सासूबाई आणि सासूबाई यांच्याकडून जणू दुसऱ्यांसाठी सतत काहीतरी करण्याचा वसा वारसा म्हणून मला लाभला. मग मीही माझ्या परीने यात वेगळं, अधिक चांगलं काय करता येईल असा विचार करू लागले. ५ ते ८० व पुढे १०० या वयोगटातील सदस्यांनी भरलेलं आमचं कुटुंब. त्यामुळे सर्वांच्या आवडी-निवडींचा विचार करून घरात पदार्थ बनत होते. हेच पदार्थ दवाखान्यातही सर्वांना द्यावे असा विचार माझ्या मनात आला आणि मी तो अमलातही आणला. त्यामुळे दवाखान्यातल्या बाळंतिणी तर खुष झाल्याच पण त्यांच्यासोबत असणाऱ्या त्यांच्या नातेवाईकांची सोय झाल्याने तेही आनंदी झाले. आता माझा हुरूप वाढला. दवाखान्यातल्या वैद्यकीय सेवेव्यतिरिक्तच्या अन्य गोष्टीतही लक्ष घालायला सुरुवात केली. हॉस्पिटल मधील स्टाफला त्यांच्या घरी उपयुक्त ठरतील अशा वस्तू भेट म्हणून देणं, दिवाळीचा आनंद वाढवण्यासाठी सर्व सिस्टर्स आणि मावशीबाईंना प्रत्येकी ३-३ साड्या देणे, फराळ देणे, पावसात सर्व स्टाफला छत्री देणं या गोष्टी करत असू. त्या सर्वांच्या चेहेऱ्यावरील आनंद पाहून मलाही खूप समाधान वाटायचं. एकूणच स्टाफशी आमचं एक जिव्हाळ्याचं नातं निर्माण झालं. त्याचा परिणाम हॉस्पिटल मधील रुग्णसेवेवरही झाला. बेडेकर सुश्रुषालय हे ठाण्यातील अग्रगण्य आणि मानांकीत हॉस्पिटल ठरलं त्यात माझा हा खारीचा वाटा होता याचंच मला समाधान आहे. इंदुमावशी, सुभद्रा मावशी, चंद्रभागा, निर्मला, लक्ष्मी, लीलाबाई आणि मालशे या केवळ स्टाफ नव्हत्या तर बेडेकर परिवाराच्याच सदस्य होत्या. डॉक्टर म्हणून आमचं रुग्णांशी निर्माण होणारं नातं या वाढीव परिवारामुळे अधिक दृढ झालं. तीच परंपरा आजही कायम आहे. येणाऱ्या नवीन स्टाफलाही जुन्या स्टाफकडून हा वारसा प्राप्त होतोय.

आमच्या घराचे गोकुळ

या दरम्यान महेश आणि आनंद ही दोन्ही मुलं वैद्यकीय शिक्षण पूर्ण करून या व्यवसायात आले. त्यामुळे ३ पिढ्यांचा वैद्यकीय व्यवसाय असणाऱ्या या घराची मी एक साक्षीदार सदस्य आहे. ३ पिढ्यांतील वैचारिक वेगळेपण मी जवळून अनुभवलं. माझे सासरे सकाळी ९ ते रात्री ११ अशी कायम रुग्ण-सेवा देत असत. प्रसूती व्यतिरिक्त अन्य रुग्णांचाही यात राबता असे. या सोबतच त्यांच्या सामाजिक आणि राजकीय क्षेत्रातील मित्रमंडळींचा पाहुणचार करण्यातही मला आनंद वाटत असे. माझ्या यजमानांनी (डॉ. विजय बेडेकर) रुग्णसेवा तर

केलीच पण त्यांना प्राच्य विद्या संशोधनाची, शिक्षण क्षेत्राची आवड असल्यामुळे यामध्येही त्यांनी वेळ द्यायला सुरुवात केली. अर्थातच समाजातील विविध क्षेत्रांतील नामांकित मंडळी जोडली जात होती. डॉ. विजय यांनी १९७५ साली हॉस्पिटलची जबाबदारी स्वीकारली. वैद्यकीय क्षेत्रात आपल्या प्रामाणिक मेहेनतीने उत्तुंग नाव मिळवलेल्या डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर यांचा वारसा पुढे चालवणं हे एक आव्हान होतं. पण वडिलांच्या संस्कारामुळेच त्यांनी ते लीलया पेललं. आईकडून ५ रुपये घेऊन मनातल्यामनात तिला शब्द देणारे आणि त्याप्रमाणे डॉक्टर झालेले डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर, तर आईच्या शब्दाचा मान राखून तिच्या इच्छेनुसार डॉक्टर झालेले डॉ. विजय बेडेकर या दोघांतही हाच समान धागा जाणवतो. म्हणूनच वडिलांच्या पावलावर पाऊल ठेवून डॉ. विजय बेडेकर यांनी हॉस्पिटल आणि शाळा सांभाळतानाच महाविद्यालयाचीही जबाबदारी पेलली आणि स्वतःची नाममुद्रा असलेलं अभियांत्रिकी महाविद्यालय सुरु केलं (महर्षी परशुराम अभियांत्रिकी महाविद्यालय, वेळणेश्वर). आपल्या कामात, अभ्यासात आणि वाचनात रमणारे डॉ. विजय बेडेकर हे विविध क्षेत्रांतील माणसांच्या सहवासात रमतात. अशा अनेक दिग्गज व्यक्तींचा सहवास, त्यांचे आदरातिथ्य करण्याचा मान मला लाभला. घरी पाहुण्यांचा राबता आणि खाली पेशंट्सची जेवणं इत्यादी करताना ही ४०–४४ वर्षे कशी सरली हे कळलंच नाही. घरचे व दारचे वेगळेपण न राहता आपुलकी, आदरातिथ्य सहजच होत राहिलं. त्यामुळे व्यवस्थितपणा, आवरा–आवरी, विवेकाने नीटनेटकेपणा, हातात हात घालून सराईतपणे होत होते. माझी मुलेही रुग्णसेवेला प्राधान्य देत असतानाच सामाजिक बांधिलकी जपत दक्ष नागरिक होऊन चुकीच्या प्रथा–परंपरांविरुद्ध आवाज उठवताना पाहते तेव्हा मला समाधान वाटतं. माझे सासरे L.C.P.S., D.G.O होते. माझ्या यजमानांनी त्या पुढे वैद्यकीय शिक्षण घेत MBBS and DGO या पदव्या प्राप्त केल्या; तर माझ्या दोनही मुलांनी Masters in Doctor ही पदवी घेतली. महेश Gynac Specialist तर आनंद Neonetologist झाला. माझ्या मुलांनीही डॉक्टर व्हावं अशी माझीही इच्छा होती. मुलं लहान असताना एकदा घरी काही पाहुणे आले होते. कामानिमित्त बाहेर गेलेल्या मला घरी यायला थोडा उशीर झाला. तोपर्यंत महेशने हॉस्पिटलपासून आलेल्या सर्वांसाठी स्वयंपाकही केला होता. मला खूप कौतुक वाटलं. असंच एकदा आजोबांचे राजापूरचे सहकारी घरी आले. मला बाहेरगावी जायचे असल्यामुळे, 'या सर्वांना हॉटेल मध्ये जेवायला घेऊन जातो' असं माझे सासरेच मला म्हणाले होते. पण तेव्हा आनंद मला येऊन म्हणाला, 'आई, आजोबा हॉटेल मध्ये जेवायला जाणार नाहीत. तेव्हा तूच घरी व्यवस्था करून जा. त्यासाठी लागेल ती मदत आम्ही करू.' त्याचा हा आग्रह मला आवडला. आदरातिथ्याचा हा संस्कार या दोन्ही मुलांना त्यांच्या वैद्यकीय क्षेत्रातही कामाला येतो आहे, हे सात्विक समाधान आम्हा उभयतांना मिळते.

वैद्यकीय व्यतिरिक्त अन्य क्षेत्रांतही रुची असणाऱ्या या तीनही पिढ्यांनी कुटुंब जपत कौटुंबिक स्वास्थ्य घेतलं आणि दिलं. कुटुंब ही एक संस्थाच आहे, याला नक्कीच महत्त्व दिलं जात होतं आणि हल्ली आम्ही सर्व, तीनही पिढ्या एकत्रच नांदतोय. असं पाच पिढ्यांत राहण्याचं खरं वैभव, समृद्धी आम्ही दोघं अनुभवत आहोत.

माझ्या सासूबाई, स्वतः मी आणि माझ्या दोनही सुना हीसुद्धा तीन पिढ्यांचीच परंपरा म्हणावी लागेल. आनंदाचा मार्ग पोटातून जातो, तशीच पाळण्याची दोरी आईच्या हातांत आहे असं म्हणतात. या गोष्टीचा योग्य तो वापर करून सासूबाईंनी लावलेल्या रोपट्याचं खत, पाणी घालून वृक्ष बनवण्याचं भाग्य मला लाभलं. डॉ. विजय यांची बहीण शैलाताई यांचं आणि माझं नातंही बहिणी सारखंच राहिलं. स्वतः अपंग असून आई, आजी यांची सेवा करताना त्यांच्या चेहेऱ्यावरचा आनंद मी पाहत आले आहे. महेश–आनंद यांच्यावर झालेला रुग्णसेवेचा संस्कार माहेरहून जसा वडील, आजोबा यांच्याकडून आला तसाच तो शैलाताई, माणिकताईंकडूनही आला आहे; कारण शेवटी लहान मुलं मोठ्या व्यक्तींचं अनुकरण करतात.

रुग्णांच्या प्रति आपलेपणाचं नातं निर्माण करण्याचा हा वारसा आता माझ्या सुनांनीही वसा म्हणून स्वीकारलाय याचा मला नक्कीच आनंद वाटतो. आज प्रसूतिगृहासोबतच या हॉस्पिटलमध्ये बाल–दक्षता विभागही आहे जो डॉ. आनंदने स्वतःच्या मेहेनतीने, अभ्यासाने नवीन चालू केला आहे. त्यामुळे बदलत्या काळानुसार हॉस्पिटलमधील सेवा–सुविधाही बदलत गेल्या, सुधारत गेल्या. Yog in Pregnency, Diet in Pregnancy, Ultrasound scan, Mammography, IVF, Post Delivery Weight Loss या प्रसुतीशी निगडित सुविधा; तर बाल–दक्षता विभागाशी निगडित NICU, Lactation Counseling and Pediatric nutrition Counseling या सुविधा

आज उपलब्ध करून दिल्या आहेत. या सोबतच Staff Management Training ही प्रशिक्षण योजना याच हॉस्पिटलमध्ये कार्यान्वित करण्यात आली आहे. या सर्व सुविधांची देखभाल माझ्या दोन्ही सुना आवडीने करतात. हॉस्पिटल मध्ये दाखल होणाऱ्या सर्वांसाठीच आल्हाददायक ठरावं म्हणून वाजवलं जाणारं संगीत; तसेच हॉस्पिटलमधील स्वच्छता, आजूबाजूचा बगीचा यांचीही देखभाल वेळच्यावेळी घेतली जात असल्यामुळे इथे येणारा प्रत्येकजण याला हॉस्पिटल मानतच नाही. त्यांच्यासाठी त्यांचं हे तात्पुरतं दुसरं घरच होतं. माझ्या सासूबाई करत असलेल्या रुग्णसेवेत मी माझ्या परीने थोडी भर घालून हे सेवाक्षेत्र विस्तारलं; तर माझ्या सुनांनी या सोबतच एक पाऊल पुढे टाकत अधिकच्या वैद्यकीय सुविधा आणि हॉस्पिटलची व्यवस्थापन व हिशेबाची जबाबदारी

उचलली. कालानुरूप पिढ्यांच्या कामात बदल होत गेला तरी अंतिम ध्येय्य एकच राहिले – रुग्णसेवा. त्यासाठी मी स्वतः नव्यानं दाखल होणाऱ्या स्टाफशी संवाद साधते. या नव्या पिढीच्या स्टाफ मध्ये देखील हा संस्कारित बदल घडताना पाहून मला समाधान वाटते. कारण आपलं कर्तव्य हे सहजच वागणुकीतून घडत जातं.

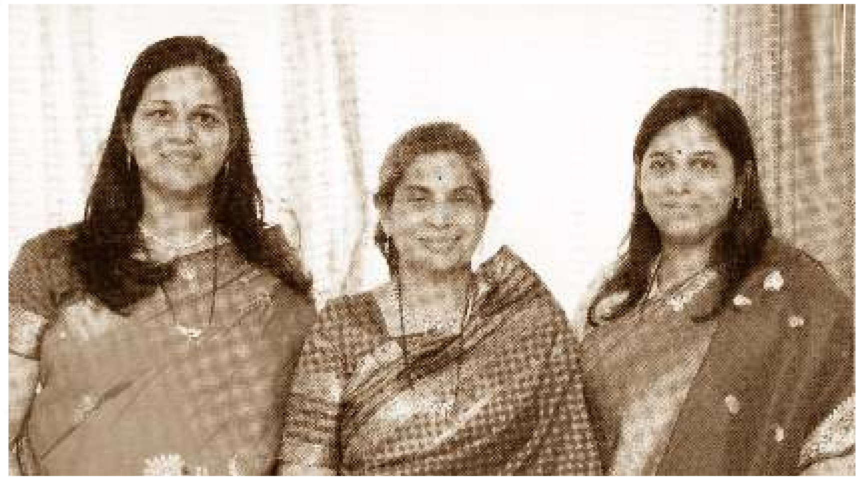
बेडेकरांच्या घरातील पुरुषांच्या आणि स्त्रियांच्या या तीनही पिढ्या रुग्णसेवेचा वारसा अधिकच भर घालत जपत राहिल्या. रुग्णांना हॉस्पिटल मधून घरी पाठवतांना, 'अजून थोडे दिवस राहिलं तर चालेल का?' असा प्रश्न डॉक्टरांना विचारतात तेव्हाच आपण दिलेली सेवा त्यांना आवडली हे लक्षात येतं. या हॉस्पिटलमध्ये मिळणारा आपलेपणा, घरगुती वातावरण अजून काही दिवस अनुभवता यावा हीच त्यांची या मागची भावना असावी. या हॉस्पिटलमधून सेवा घेऊन गेलेली बाळंतीण खूप वर्षांनी आवर्जून फोन करून दडप्या पोह्यांची, शेवयांच्या उपम्याची रेसिपी विचारते तेव्हा आपण दिलेल्या पदार्थांची चव विस्मृतीत न गेल्याचा आनंद होतो. Oxford मध्ये स्थायिक झालेला एक भारतीय जेव्हा तिकडेच भेटला आणि त्याने आम्हाला ओळखल्यावर ''मी तुमच्याच हॉस्पिटलचं Product आहे असं सांगत होता'' तेव्हा ही मंडळी कुठे कुठे पोहोचली आहेत याचा आनंद होतो. जशा आमच्या घरच्या तीन पिढ्या या हॉस्पिटलशी निगडित आहेत तशाच या हॉस्पिटलमध्ये ३–४ पेशंट्सच्याही पिढ्या जोडल्या गेल्या आहेत. त्यांना भेटताना नक्कीच समाधान वाटते. डॉक्टर्स, स्टाफ आणि पेशंट्समधील नातं नक्कीच अधिक दृढ होतंय याचीही पावती मिळते.

या साऱ्या आनंद आणि समाधानामागे अपार मेहेनत असली तरीही त्याचे कधीही कष्ट वाटत नाहीत. आणि आता तर हे सहजपणे करण्याचं दैनंदिन व्रत होऊन चुकले आहे. यश हे शेवटी यशाच्या दिशेने जाताना आपण काय शिकलो यावरून ठरतं. नातेवाईक, विविध क्षेत्रांतील पाहुणे, मित्र–परिवार या सर्वांकडूनच संस्कारांचा बटवा मला मिळत गेला. माझ्या नातवंडांकडेही हे संस्कार संक्रमित होताना मी पाहते तेव्हा मला समाधान वाटते. उदा. चि. सोहम विचारतो, 'आजी, सूर्याला आंघोळ कोण घालतं?, मी तुमच्या खोलीत येऊ का?' हे सहजतेने कसं येतं? जान्हवी, गायत्री, रात्री 'भूप, जोग, बागेश्री' म्हणत माझ्याजवळ झोपतात. ६ महिन्यांचा जय शांतपणे विचार करून हसतो, मग कडेवर येऊन घट्ट मिठी मारत गाडीतून फिरायला येतो, न रडता. या नातवंडांच्या सहवासास अमृतच म्हणायचे ना! चि. जान्हवी, चि. गायत्री, चि. सोहम आणि चि. जय या नातवंडांच्या बालसुलभ प्रश्नांतूनही मला खूप शिकायला मिळतं, तेव्हा कृतकृत्य वाटतं.

डॉक्टरवरच्या श्रद्धेने रुग्ण दवाखान्यात येतात आणि विश्वासाने डॉक्टरांना जेव्हा प्रश्न विचारतात, चर्चा करतात तेव्हा देव आणि भक्ताचं अद्वैत जाणवतं. येताना एकटी येणारी बाळंतीण, जाताना आपल्या नवजात बालकाला कुशीत घेऊन या हॉस्पिटलचा निरोप घेते, तेव्हा कृष्णच गोकुळ सोडून जात असल्याची जाणीव होते! आणि मग हे हॉस्पिटल जणू एक मंदिरच असल्याचा साक्षात्कार होतो. या कार्यातही अडचणी या येतातच, पण यज्ञ समजून हे व्रत करत असल्यामुळे या अडचणींचीच आहुती या यज्ञात दिली जाते. आमच्या प्रसूतिगृहात

आलेल्या बाळंतिणीला रात्रीच्या वेळी निजताना संगीत ऐकवलं जातं. तणाव रहीत निद्रेसाठी या संगीताचा खूप उपयोग होतो.

लेकराला घेऊन आपल्या घरी निघालेल्या बाळंतिणीला तुळशीचं रोप आणि त्या माय–लेकरांचं पहिलं छायाचित्र निरोपादाखल भेट म्हणून देताना मन आनंदून जातं आणि 'काहीही लागलं तर माहेरपणाला या, मुलांना आजोळी आणा' असं म्हटलं जातं. तिच्या पाठमोऱ्या आकृतीकडे पाहताना मनाला वाटणारी हुरहूर काही काळासाठीच असते. कारण बागेला पाणी घालून पुन्हा हॉस्पिटल मध्ये येते, तेव्हा नव्यानं दाखल झालेल्या बाळंतिणीच्या चेहेऱ्यावरची भीती दूर करण्याचं आव्हान स्वीकारत डॉक्टर्स आणि स्टाफ पुन्हा आनंदाने कामाला लागतात आणि आदरातिथ्य करण्याचा आनंद पुन्हा आम्हा सर्वांना मिळतो.


सून सासू सून

सृजन म्हणजे निर्मिती! सुश्रुषालयात नवीन पिढी जन्माला येते तर मुद्पाकखान्यात अनेक नव्या पाककृती जन्म घेतात. या दोन नवनिर्मितीचा संगम म्हणजेच हा सृजन्य यज्ञ!

सर्व थोरांचे आशीर्वाद, पेशंट्सच्या सदिच्छा, 'शिवशक्ती'त सर्व नातेसंबंध असेच राहोत, असेच गोकुळ वात्सल्याने सदैव नांदू दे, हेच नारायणाकडे, परमेश्वराकडे प्रसाद म्हणून मागणे!

(गृहिणी, पाच पिढ्यांच्यात मध्यभागी असलेली)

– सौ. सुमेधा वि. बेडेकर

आधारस्तंभ

मी भिवंडीच्या वझे कुटुंबातील कु. सुचेता, ठाण्याच्या बेडेकर कुटुंबातील सौ. सुमेधा झाले. गाव बदललं पण मला लाभलेलं घरपण तेव्हाही आणि आजही आनंदाचंच आहे. माझे सासरे डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर (ती. बाबा) यांनी मला सुनेपेक्षा मुलगी म्हणूनच स्वीकारलं. अगदी आमच्या लग्नात लक्ष्मीपूजनाच्या वेळी नवीन दागिना द्यायचा म्हणून स्वतः पु. ना. गाडगीळांच्या दुकानात जाऊन गळ्यातल्या 'चिंचपेट्या' आणल्या होत्या. बाळंतपणासाठी भिवंडीला गेलेल्या मला आत्यंतिक काळजीने त्यांनीच ठाण्याला आणले होते हेही मला आठवते. ती. बाबा घरात धोतर परिधान करत होते. सुरुवातीला मला ते नवीन वाटायचं. पण नंतर तो पेहेराव अंगवळणी पडला. सणासुदीला माझी मुलंही मग धोतर झब्बा जाकेट घालत असत. महाभारत, रामायण या सिरिअल्स पासून ते अगदी काल परवाच्या 'कौन बनेगा करोडपती' पर्यंतच्या मालिका आणि दूरचित्रवाणी वरून सादर होणाऱ्या सिनेमांमध्ये रमणारे बाबा घरातलं हवं नको हेही आत्मीयतेने पाहत असतं. भाजी मंडईतून भाजी आणणं, फळे आणणं, ताजा गरम स्वयंपाक बनवण्यात मदत करणं, शहाळ्याची लसुण चटणी स्वतः कुटून बनवणं, आंब्याच्या सिझनमध्ये पहिली आंब्याची पेटी आणून त्यातील आंबे स्वतः चिरून सर्वांना देणं हे त्यांचे खास छंद होते. पण त्याच बरोबर घरात कोणी नसेल त्यावेळी स्वतःचं स्वतः वाढून घेणं यातून त्यांच्यातला स्वावलंबन हा गुण मला प्रकर्षानं जाणवतो. अपरिमित कष्ट, कर्तव्याप्रती प्रामाणिकता या बरोबरच अपार मेहेनतीतून त्यांनी स्वतःचं विश्व निर्माण केलं आणि तेही हसत खेळत. वाचन, प्रवास याची त्यांना विलक्षण आवड. दरवर्षी मे महिन्यात आम्ही सर्व कुटुंबीय महाबळेश्वरला जायचो. माझे दोन्ही मुलगे अगदी लहान असताना (महेश तर ९ महिन्याचा होता) १९७५ साली आम्हा दोघांचा ३ आठवड्यांचा युरोप प्रवास झाला. तो केवळ 'सुमेधा, महेश लाघवी आहे, रडका नाही. त्याला आम्ही सांभाळू. तुम्ही दोघंही बिनदिक्कत जा.' असा ठाम विश्वास मला देणारे ती. बाबा मला कधी माझे सासरे वाटलेच नाहीत. पुढे तर नातवंड मोठी झाल्यावर त्यांना ऑस्ट्रलिया, अमेरिकेला घेऊन जाणारे बाबा दोन पिढ्यांचेच बाबा होते. घरात कुकिंग रेंज पासून ते व्हॅक्युम क्लीनर खरेदी करण्यासाठी ते माझ्या तसंच मुलांसोबत आनंदाने येत असत. घरात होणाऱ्या शाळा-कॉलेजच्या मिटींग्जच्या वेळी आलेल्या सर्वांना चहा देण्यासाठी मला मदत करणारे बाबा, घरगुती कार्यक्रमासाठी आलेल्या ४०-५० जणांकरिता आंब्याचा रस काढण्यापासून ते अगदी डाळिंब्या सोलण्यापर्यंत सगळ्या कामात आवडीने सहभागी व्हायचे. सामाजिक क्षेत्रात वावरणारे, बुद्धिमान डॉक्टर म्हणून ख्यातकीर्त असलेले ती. बाबा घरगुती कामात सुद्धा तेवढ्याच प्रेमानं सहभागी होताना मी पाहिले.

त्यांच्या आत्तेच्या (वेणाआत्या गोखले) लग्नात ते त्यांचा पाठीराखा म्हणून वेळणेश्वरला गेले होते. अवघ्या १० वर्षांचा असलेला हा पाठीराखा वेळणेश्वरसाठी तरी आमचा मार्गदर्शक ठरला हे माझ्या तेव्हा लक्षात आले जेव्हा वेळणेश्वरलाच महर्षी परशुराम अभियांत्रिकी महाविद्यालय सुरु झाले. मला तरी हा परमेश्वरी संकेतच वाटतो. या वेणाआत्या आमच्या घरी अधून मधून यायच्या. दिसायला सावळ्या, हसऱ्या, तुकतुकीत चेहेऱ्याच्या, थोडंसं पोक असणाऱ्या, मितभाषी, शांत, समाधानी वेणाआत्या आणि माझ्या आजेसासूबाई या देवासमोर गप्पा मारता मारता वाती वळत बसायच्या, पतवंडांशी खेळायच्या. त्यांच्यातच अधून-मधून माझ्या आत्तेसासुबाई - श्रीमती सत्यभामा वासुदेव फडके याही सहभागी व्हायच्या. त्यांची शंभरी झाली. 'सुमेधा आपण आल्याच्या वड्यांचा उद्योग करायचा का?' असं विचारणाऱ्या माझ्या या आत्तेसासुबाई माझ्यासाठी जणू उत्साहाची शिदोरी घेऊन आल्या. घरातले पाहुणे आणि मुलंबाळं या व्यापात व्यस्त असल्यानं मला या सर्वांशी संवाद साधण्यासाठी पुरेसा वेळ मिळत नसे. ती कमी माझ्या आत्तेसासुबाईंनी भरून काढली. एकत्रित मठात जाणे ते एकमेकींशी गप्पा मारणे हा सगळा या नणंदा-भावजयांचा आनंद सोहळा मी जवळून अनुभवला. आता पुढच्या पिढीतल्या आम्ही नणंदा-भावजया (मी, शैलाताई आणि सौ. माणिकताई) खेळीमेळीचा हाच वारसा आम्ही पुढे चालवीत आहोत याचा मला मनापासून आनंद आहे. माहेरी कन्या, बहिण आणि मग सासरी आल्यावर बायको, नातसून, सून, वहिनी, आई आणि आता विहीण, आजी आणि सर्वात महत्वाचं म्हणजे या सर्वांची मैत्रीण म्हणून माझा नात्यांचा गोफ आनंदात विणला गेला आहे. माझी नात जी गायत्री हिला मी 'आजी' म्हणून सांभाळलं पण तिचं भाग्य की तिला ८ पणजांचा सहवास मिळाला.

अतिथी देवो भवः

घरातल्यांपासून ते पै पाहुण्यांपर्यंत अनेकांचं आगत-स्वागत या घराने केले. 'तुमचं घर म्हणजे चालतं-बोलतं विद्यापीठ' असं म्हणत आमच्या घरातीलच होणारे श्री. साने, तर 'वहिनी, तुम्ही जे आणाल ते आमच्यासाठीही आणा' असं म्हणत आमचे जणू नातलग बनलेले डॉ. नेने (दादुमिया) दांपत्य. राजापूरचे श्री. जोशी सर, श्री. ना. ग. गोरे, श्री. ग. प्र. प्रधान, सरन्यायाधीश श्री. चंद्रचूड दांपत्य, अर्थतज्ज्ञ श्री. वि. म. दांडेकर, पत्रकार आणि खासदार श्री. विद्याधर गोखले, श्री. ग. वा. बेहेरे, शिवशाहीर श्री. बाबासाहेब पुरंदरे, श्री. श्री. भी. वेलणकर, श्री. सिद्धार्थ बांदोडकर, श्री. वसंत बापट दांपत्य, श्री. श्रीकांत मोघे, श्रीमती दुर्गाबाई भागवत, श्री. रामभाऊ म्हाळगी, लेखक श्री. सुरेश खरे, साहित्यिका सरोजिनी वैद्य, श्री. पानसरे, श्री. तिनईकर,

अतिथी देवो भव

श्री. रिबेरो, श्री. दीपक घैसास, श्री. दीपक फाटक, श्री. बहुलकर, चाणक्य मालिकेतील डॉ. चंद्रप्रकाश, शेफ श्री. संजीव कपूर, Film institute चे श्री. प्रेम वैद्य, सौ. ए. के. जोशी इंग्रजी माध्यम शाळेच्या पहिल्या मुख्याध्यापिका रोशन पटेल मॅडम, संस्कृत पंडित एस. एस. शर्मा दांपत्य (जर्मनी), डॉ. गोडबोले दांपत्य, डॉ. आंबेकर दांपत्य (लंडन) अशा अनेकांनी आमच्या घरात पाहुणचार तर घेतलाच पण 'अतिथी देवो भवः' या न्यायानं या सर्वांचा पाहुणचार करण्याचा आनंद मला मिळाला हे आमच्या कुटुंबीयांच्या आयुष्यातील फार मोठं संचित म्हणावं लागेल. यापैकी काही मान्यवर आज हयात नाहीत. तरीदेखील त्यांच्या नावामागचे 'श्री' मी वगळणार नाही आणि 'कै.' देखील लिहिणार नाही; कारण इतकी ही मंडळी मनात जिवंतच राहणार आहेत.

पाहुणे म्हणून घरात येऊन, घरातलेच झालेल्या अनेकांमुळे आम्हा सर्वांना अपरिमित आनंद आणि आयुष्याला आणखीन चांगला वेगळा अर्थ प्राप्त झाला. या सर्वांच्या ऋणात राहणंच मला आवडेल. आम्हा सर्वांच्या आयुष्यातील हेच खरे आधारस्तंभ........!

- सौ. सुमेधा वि. बेडेकर

Key to Success

तुझे नि माझे सेम टू सेम

It is very praiseworthy that the siblings Drs. Mahesh and Anand, are successful in their respective specialities. It is not just luck but their sincerity, hard work, vision, perseverance which has paved the way. Their specialities are complimentary to each other. There is good understanding between them and between their wives also. All four of them work together, share their problems and happiness together. We appreciate them not only for preserving the legacy of Bedekar Hospital but also for taking it to greater heights and their contributions in field of social service. Though both of them are born with a silver spoon in their mouth, they are very kind, gentle and respectful to one and all. Bedekars is a joint family. And in a joint family you learn to respect and accommodate every member of the member. Such complementarity is only available in a joint family. It is a great human value, which can be cultivated from childhood only in a joint family. We have seen, many successful businesses being destroyed due to internal rivalries or incompetence. We give our best wishes to both of them in all their future endeavours.

Dr. Mahesh

Dr. Mahesh Bedekar is a young, eminent gynaecologist of Thane to reckon with. He is pursuing the great legacy of his grandfather, Dr. Bedekar, and the footsteps of his father, Dr. Vijay Bedekar, in the field of medicine and social work. Dr. Vijay Bedekar handed over the baton of Bedekar Hospital to Dr. Mahesh in 2005.

Golden Days of Childhood

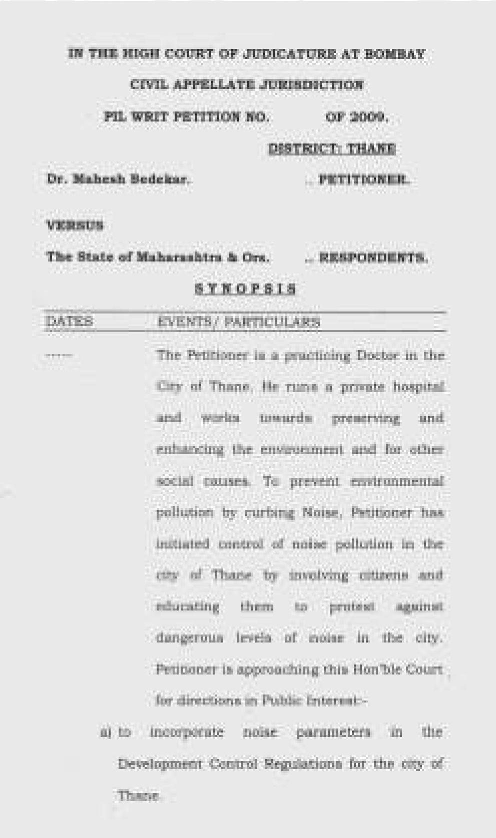
Born on 18 th September 1974, Dr. Mahesh is the first child of Dr. Vijay Bedekar and grandson of Dr. Bedekar. There was great rejoicing in the family to receive the precious gift of God, the first grandchild in the family and an heir to the Bedekar family. He was a fair, beautiful looking baby, the star of the Bedekar Family. Like his father, he was boisterous, hyperkinetic and playful child but at the same time he was a very chubby, amicable and friendly. Dr. Mahesh completed his schooling from Sau. Anandibai Keshav Joshi English Medium School, Thane. He also completed his graduation and post-graduation from Bharti Vidyapeeth, Medical College, Pune.

Dr. Mahesh saw the relentless work of his grandfather and father. They influenced young Mahesh and the family traits of social work, hard work, sincerity have been carried forward to the next generation. Mahesh decided to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and father who were and are his guiding force. Thus, the Doctors of Bedekar family belong to three different generations but they had a good understanding among themselves. Within no time, Dr. Mahesh won over the confidence of his patients with his up to date knowledge, soft speech and smiling face. Dr. Mahesh widened the hospital horizon and added laparoscopy, infertility and foetal medicine to his gynaecology and obstetrics practice. The idea of being a part of something as magical and pure as birth mesmerized him. He has not restricted himself to curing his patients physically but also helps them in their difficult times.

Dr. Mahesh has done outstanding work to improve some of the wrong practices in society. Thus, he filed:

- The first Public Interest Litigation (PIL) for implementation of Central Government Hawkers Policy for Thane City. Due to his PIL, the road parallel to Gaondevi Maidan adjacent to Dr. Bedekar Hospital was cleared due to Court order and became hawker free which was encroached for many years.
- A PIL for implementation of Noise Pollution Rules for the city of Thane. Due to this PIL, 'silence zones' were notified in the city and noise mapping of the city was made. This was followed in almost major cities of Maharashtra.
- A PIL regarding changing nature of celebrating Religious Festivals in public places causing sound and air pollution, illegal obstruction on roads by Mandals and illegal extortion of money from individuals. All these issues are briefed in PIL and due to this PIL; the State Government of Maharashtra and the Police Department had to frame rules for streamlining celebration of festivals in public places throughout the State.
- A PIL for implementation of 'NOTA' none of the above option in electronic voting machines (EVM).

इथेच समाजभान जन्मले



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
PIL WRIT PETITION NO. OF 2009.
DISTRICT: THANE

Dr. Mahesh Bedekar. .. PETITIONER.

VERSUS

The State of Maharashtra & Ors. .. RESPONDENTS.

SYNOPSIS

DATES	EVENTS/ PARTICULARS
------	The Petitioner is a practicing Doctor in the City of Thane. He runs a private hospital and works towards preserving and enhancing the environment and for other social causes. To prevent environmental pollution by curbing Noise, Petitioner has initiated control of noise pollution in the city of Thane by involving citizens and educating them to protest against dangerous levels of noise in the city. Petitioner is approaching this Hon'ble Court for directions in Public Interest:-
	a) to incorporate noise parameters in the Development Control Regulations for the city of Thane.

PIL in Bombay High Court

Mahesh received many plaudits from society for his outstanding work in the above matters.

There are many feathers in his cap. He is versatile like his father. He is a fitness freak and a regular runner. He feels that running is not only for physical fitness but it keeps your mind focused and boosts your morale. He has completed a full Marathon of forty-two kilometers, which is a great achievement. It is not an easy task and requires a lot of patience and perseverance. Marathons participated - Mumbai, Satara, Amsterdam, Berlin, New York, Switzerland, Paris.

- The latest social initiative taken by him is Dr. Bedekar family along with staff of Dr. Bedekar Hospital have decided to stop using plastic bags for their personal use. This is a very small but effective initiative taken for making the world plastic and pollution free.

I DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAG
DR BEDEKAR HOSPITAL

A social activist and

a sports enthusiast

Sou. Aparna Bedekar

(nee Amita Gokhale)

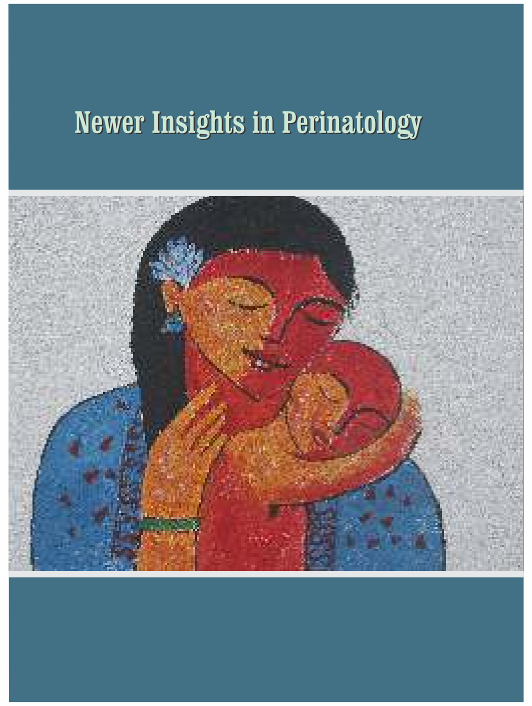
Dr. Mahesh is happily married to Sou. Aparna Bedekar (nee Amita Gokhale). She too is a sports enthusiast and a regular runner. The couple is blessed with two daughters Janhavi followed by Gayatri. Sou. Aparna has shouldered the administrative responsibilities of the hospital. She is a Commerce and Law graduate and also looks after the hospital's finances. She is Nrutya Visharad in Bharatanatyam (highest qualification in classical dance form) and has given performances in South Indian temples. She was the winner of the best student award in N. G. Bedekar College of Commerce, Thane in 1998. She is attached to Dr. Vijay's elder sister Shailaja and looks after her very well.

Ready to give a performance in Bharatnatyam

Dr. Anand Bedekar

Dr. Anand Bedekar, the second son of Dr. Vijay Bedekar and grandson of Dr. Bedekar, was born on 9 th September 1980. His birth was icing on the cake. As a child, he was introvert by nature but equally mischievous and jolly like his elder brother, Dr. Mahesh Bedekar. Dr. Anand also completed his schooling from Sou. Anandibai Joshi English Medium School, Thane and his Medical education from Bharti Vidyapeeth, Medical College Pune. Dr. Anand is M.D. in Paediatrics and has also completed fellowship in Neonatalogy at Cochin. Being the youngest in the family, he was more attached to his parents and grandfather. Since childhood days he has seen the work of the hospital, its grandeur and people's faith in his grandfather and father. It was but natural for him to follow their footsteps. He has displayed a lot of enterprise and enthusiasm and has added new dimensions to Bedekar Hospital by adding his new Neonatal unit. He has started a state-of- the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Bedekar Hospital. He too, is a visionary and very creative and there is nothing parallel to his NICU in Thane. To run a NICU requires hard work, utmost care and dedication. While working in the unit he has battled hard to save and survive very tender babies, sometimes as tiny as 500 grams and thus received the blessings of their parents. And sometimes, Dr. Anand works tirelessly round the clock. He is also a fitness enthusiast and in spite of his busy schedule; he attends the morning session of running and gymnasium. Although, he is very busy in his practice, Dr. Anand finds time to go on holidays with his family. Other than his professional schedule, the new curve of his career is his academic achievements. He is a national level advanced Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) Trainer. In August 2016, he has conducted Continued Medical Education Courses (CME) for Gynaecologists of Thane District on Perinatology and he also gives presentations on Aspects of Perinatology all over Maharashtra. He conducts different workshops for Nursing Education. One of them is Basic NRP which has been conducted by him for nursing staff of different hospitals. He is one of the authors of the book **'Insights in Perinatology'.**

आनंद वाचता वाचता लेखकु जाहला !



Sou. Shruti Bedekar

(nee Shruti Dongre)

Dr. Anand got married to Shruti Dongre in March, 2009. Shruti is the daughter of Shri Padmakar Dongre, an eminent tax consultant in Pen, Raigad district, Maharashtra, India. She is B.Com, LL.B and after marriage she completed Infant and Young Child feeding counselling specialised course conducted by Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) and Indian Association of Paediatrics (IAP) at Gwalior. She does counselling for Lactation for nursing mothers and also does the counselling of Paediatric Nutrition. She looks after the administration of NICU. She is very meticulous in her work and a great help to Dr. Anand. Other than her family and professional responsibilities, she spares time for her passion of Art which is drawing and singing. The couple is blessed with two sons - Soham, the elder who is five years old followed by Jay who is only five months old.

family

is coming together, staying together and striving together for success.

सुखासवे तो उद्या येईल दिन सोन्याचा संसारी

Mrs. Alpana Bapat

The poet John Donne rightly says "Death be not proud though some have called thee mighty and dreadful for thou art not so...." Very apt lines for Dr. V N Bedekar who was a living legend. The future generations of Bedekar family and Thaneites will say, long, long, ago there lived our ancestor, a Doctor by profession, an educationist, philanthropist, who loved his town and changed its face.

In the 1950s, Thane was a small town, famous for its mental hospital and a hub of mosquitoes. A young gynaecologist settled here who lived all his life for the prosperity of Thane. His name is written in the annals of history of Thane.

Bedekar hospital is a legacy of 65 years post-independence. In 1949, Dr.Bedekar with his father in law searched for a good place for his new hospital in Naupada area, only half a kilometer away from the railway station. The place they selected was initially a grave yard for children. Dr. Bedekar never believed in superstitions. In 1950, the hospital started in Narayan Bhuvan (building named after his father) in the heart of the city, yet away from the hustle and bustle of the main road. The newly opened maternity and general hospital was a boon for the people of Thane, especially for would be mothers. After establishment, the hospital grew by leaps and bounds. Every new problem was a challenge for him and was turned into a new venture.

Like any other village or town in Maharashtra, Thane too faced acute water shortage problem, Dr. Bedekar solved it with his magic wand; he laid a pipeline through the Gavdevi Maidan and brought water to the Hospital. What a bold decision! Many new facilities were added to the hospital in due course of time. For patients of other specialities also treatment was made available.

Dr V N Bedekar was a Masiha in true sense; he was a people's doctor. A general practitioner, who not only looked after the ailments but also, was an advisor and well wisher of his patients' families.

A third girl child in a family was not named by her parents, when Dr. Bedekar came to know about this he called her,' VIDYA'. It was a message to the family. I met Vidya two years ago in New Jersey in U.S.A. She was extremely happy to meet me. She considers herself as the daughter of Dr.V. N. Bedekar, and proudly told me the story of her name.

His typical day started early in the morning at 7.30 am, when he began his clinic in Naupada. Then he would attend home visits, a unique phenomenon in those days. His evening OPD would start at 6 pm and would end at 11 pm. There after many a times Vidya PrasarakMandal's, or meetings of other institutions would continue till past Midnight.

Dr. Bedekar has done outstanding work in field of education. He knew the importance of education. He believed in human endeavour and hard work, and not in destiny. He himself had risen from very humble background with the help of education. He had firm belief that education only could change life and destiny of common man.

Naupada area in Thane did not have a decent school for the children. Since 1969, over the span of thirty five yearshe transformed the marshy land of Thane creek into 'Dyandweep', center of education. It was easier said than done; it was years of hard work, determination, dedication, devotion, patience! He had surgeon's hands but a poetic mind. His poem 'SWAPNA SAKAR HOT AAHE (in Marathi)' vividly describes 'Dyandweep', the college campus swarming with the young students pursuing their dreams, who would be tomorrow's scientists, artists, engineers, pilots and so on.

His teacher Late Mr. Sardeshpande wrote him a letter and said, "I had the pleasure to read in the newspapers, your forefathers must all be happy and elated with joy to see all that you have been doing not only to perpetuate in loving memory of your departed father, but to add to the prestige and dignity of the whole 'Bedekar Family'. You have proved yourself to be worthy disciple of the Late dear Principal Kulkarni who believed in the motto ' **शिष्याधिचे पराजयात** (in Marathi)' and by

your activities in the field of Secondary and Higher education, you have excelled your worthy "Guru". We have really great pleasure to acknowledge our defeat"

He also started Thane Bharat Sahakari Bank in 1976 to make loan facility available for the common man. He had extraordinary energy. I wonder sometimes, from where did it come?

In spite of all his commitments and work, he always had time for his family members. Occasional outings with family members were moments of joy, happiness, love and togetherness. On every Sunday evening we would visit our maternal grandparents in Dadar. Sometimes we would visit Dadar vegetable and fruit Market. He would love to purchase fresh vegetables and fruits. His daily chore was to check whether his children were properly tucked under the mosquito nets, to put off all the lights in his big house and lock all the doors properly. He was not an idol worshipper, but as a child I always saw him with his closed eyes and folded hands before going to bed. He definitely believed in nature's power.

The new Hospital building with new amenities was started in 1966.The hospital campus had a beautiful garden from all three sides; he personally got saplings for the college campus too. He was a man with a few words and many deeds. His grandchildren made him eat, laugh and play with them. He loved to travel when he got time. He toured to Australia, England, U.S.A., Africa, Japan etc.

His wife Vatsala Bedekar also was a great asset. She personally took rounds and looked after patients' welfare. She was a great helping hand to him for smooth running of the hospital. Provision of nutritious meals to the patients was her first and foremost priority.

The story of Bedekar hospital will be incomplete if I do not mention my grandma, the great grandmother of Dr. Mahesh and Dr. Anand. She too played a significant role in day to day running of Bedekar Hospital.She was very economical in running the kitchen and never liked to waste the food. She meticulously kept all the sundry accounts. She visited the market and bought fresh

vegetables till the age of eighty five. She never sat idle, with her bent legs and ailing knees she roamed in entire house and the hospital and supervised them. The staff and even the patients respected her. The hospital was like family affair rather than a commercial entity. She was fortunate to see her great grand children (Mahesh and Abhijit) become doctors.

When Dr. Vijay Bedekar joined hospital many new changes were brought to hospital to keep up with the time, the legacy of social work and philanthropy continued. Dr. Vijay Bedekar, has taken Vidya Prasarak Mandal to greater heights. He has started the College of Engineering at Velneshwar in Konkan. VPM has a branch in London too. Dr Vijay Bedekar is full of new ideas.

His grand children Dr. Mahesh and Dr. Anand have their contributions too. Dr. Mahesh is soft spoken with pleasing personality. He is a busy gynaecologist and has added new dimensions to Bedekar hospital with his IVF center, ultrasound and diagnostic services. He is also a social activist, who has done good work in bringing awareness and curbing noise pollution. He also facilitated a hawker free road in the vegetable market of Gavdevi. Dr. Mahesh is a sports and fitness enthusiast. He is a regular runner and has also completed the full marathon of 42 kilometres which is a great achievement. Mahesh's wife, Mrs. Aparna Bedekar is also a fitness enthusiast and has completed many half marathons. She is a loving mother and a great hospital administrator.

Dr. Anand, his younger brother is a dedicated and devoted pediatrician, who started a fully equipped, state of the art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Bedekar hospital. His wife, Mrs. Shruti is equally involved and dedicated for smooth running of the NICU.

Every member of the family has his or her contributions to the society; Mrs.Sumedha Bedekar takes great pride in our traditions, culture and strives to maintain the same. Hospital food is served from our house. The same food is served at house. Credit goes to Sou. Sumedha. She is doing since she entered the house in the year 1973. She runs a Baal Vibhag for Sanskar Bharti in

Vidyalankar Hall of Dr.Bedekar Vidyamandir, for school going children. She has beautified the gardens in the hospital campus, which has created a beautiful ambience for patients and visitors.

Shailaja Bedekar, the eldest daughter of Dr. V. N. Bedekar, has been battling with her physical handicap since childhood, but has never given up. She was instrumental in starting the 'Swayamsiddha', institute for physically handicapped and now runs a library successfully. The entire family respects her and follows her advice when needed. You will always find a smile on her face!

In the end I would say,

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep
But Bedekars' have,
promises to keep.....
And miles to go, miles to go...."

-by Robert Frust

-Mrs. Alpana Ashok Bapat (nee Manik Vasudeo Bedekar)

Bedekar Family

Three Generations of Glorious Tradition

The edifice of Shivshakti has witnessed the tradition of Doctors under one roof in its life in the form of three generations, i.e. Drs. Vasudev Narayan Bedekar (Dr. Bedekar), Vijay Bedekar, Mahesh and Anand Bedekar.

Dr. Vijay Bedekar tied the sombre knot of marriage with me (Sou. Sumedha) on 18th October, 1973. On the auspicious day of Haritalika, 18th September, 1974, we were blessed with a baby boy. No surprise, his name was solemnised as Mahesh, the embodiment of Lord Shiva. Now, the Bedekar family was complete with grandfather, father, and grandson celebrating togetherness. As Savitri Bedekar was great grandmother of Mahesh, the family could relish the sense of blissful atmosphere. It was the moment of sheer pride for the great grandmother Smt. Savitri Bedekar to witness the traditional ritual of Sahasrachandra Darshan (a Hindu celebration performed in favour of an elderly person in the family).

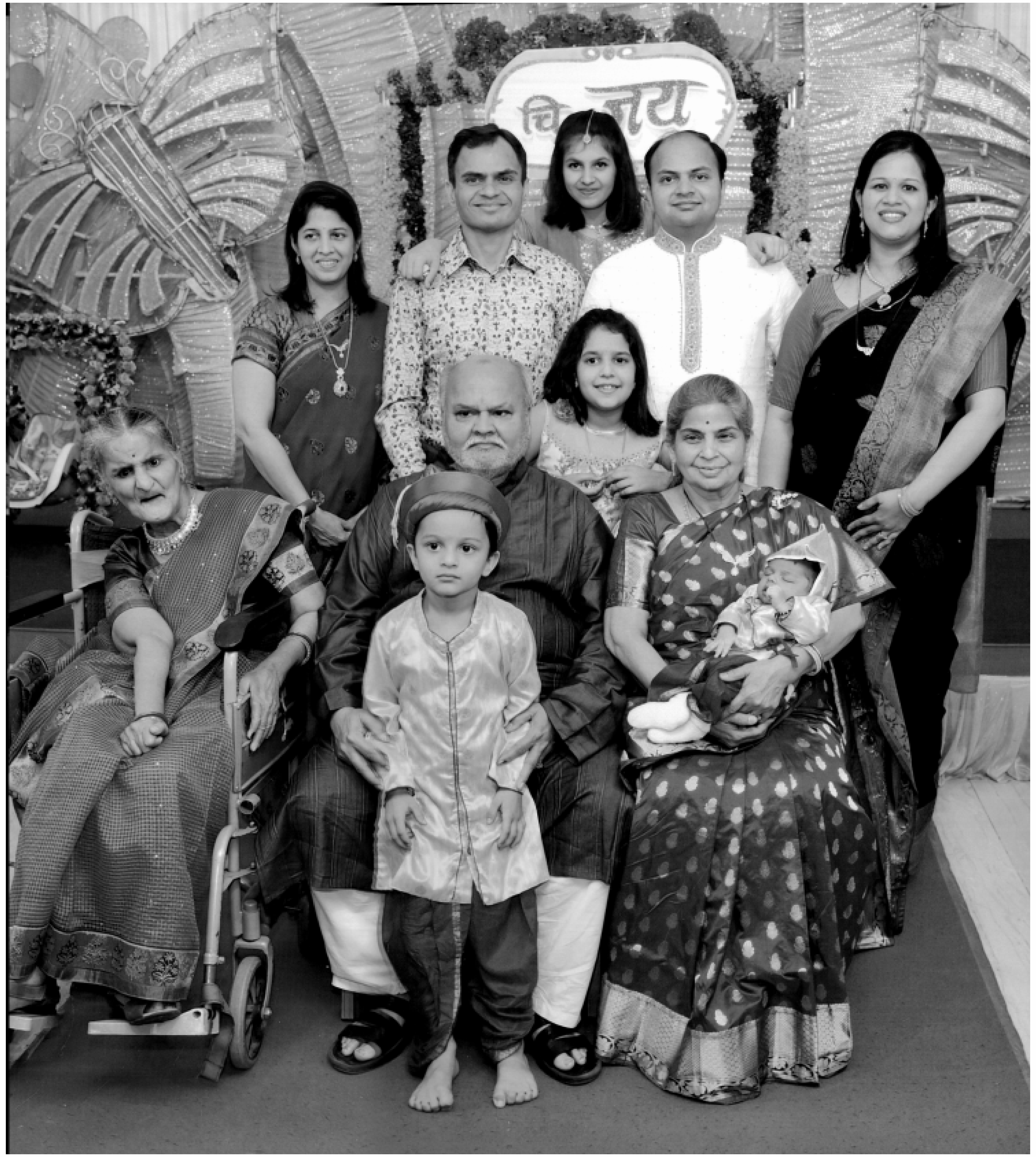
Mahesh transformed the ambience of family with his naughty, smiling and sportive nature. Because of his pleasant appearance, good behaviour and sociable nature, he made the atmosphere of family vibrant. Mahesh used to get the affectionate admiration from the hospital staff, grandmother, great grandmother and all the relatives.

In this jolly and jocund environment, another baby boy Anand was born on 9th September, 1980. The family experienced the same joy and cheerfulness yet another time. Both Mahesh and Anand used to be the apples of the eye of the family. They relished the love and affection of grandmother, great grandmother and other relatives. They were learning the lessons of living in a joint family of all the relatives. Since their birthdays come during the Ganapati festival, the kitchen used to flourish with the savoury of Modaks. The family was experiencing the great moments of sheer happiness and joy.

I used to see the new mothers in the Hospital making their babies sleep, but when I myself gave birth to a baby at the age of 22, I realized the importance of motherhood and the responsibility coming along with it. At the same time, I started taking family responsibilities too on my shoulders.

Mahesh and Anand (as referred to 'MAHESHANAND') used to help their great grandmother in kitchen in daily chores and also in decorating the house for festivals like, Ganapati and Diwali. They also enjoyed other festivals like Holi, and Rangpanchami (Hindu festivals). They played cricket with their friends till the window glasses were broken sometimes. They used to colour up the water tank in the compound for celebrating Holi. They used to play on Gaondevi playground till the evening.

My mother-in-law always insisted that I should let the children play in the house, let them crawl in the home so that she can see the boys playing. She used to love me a lot and I can

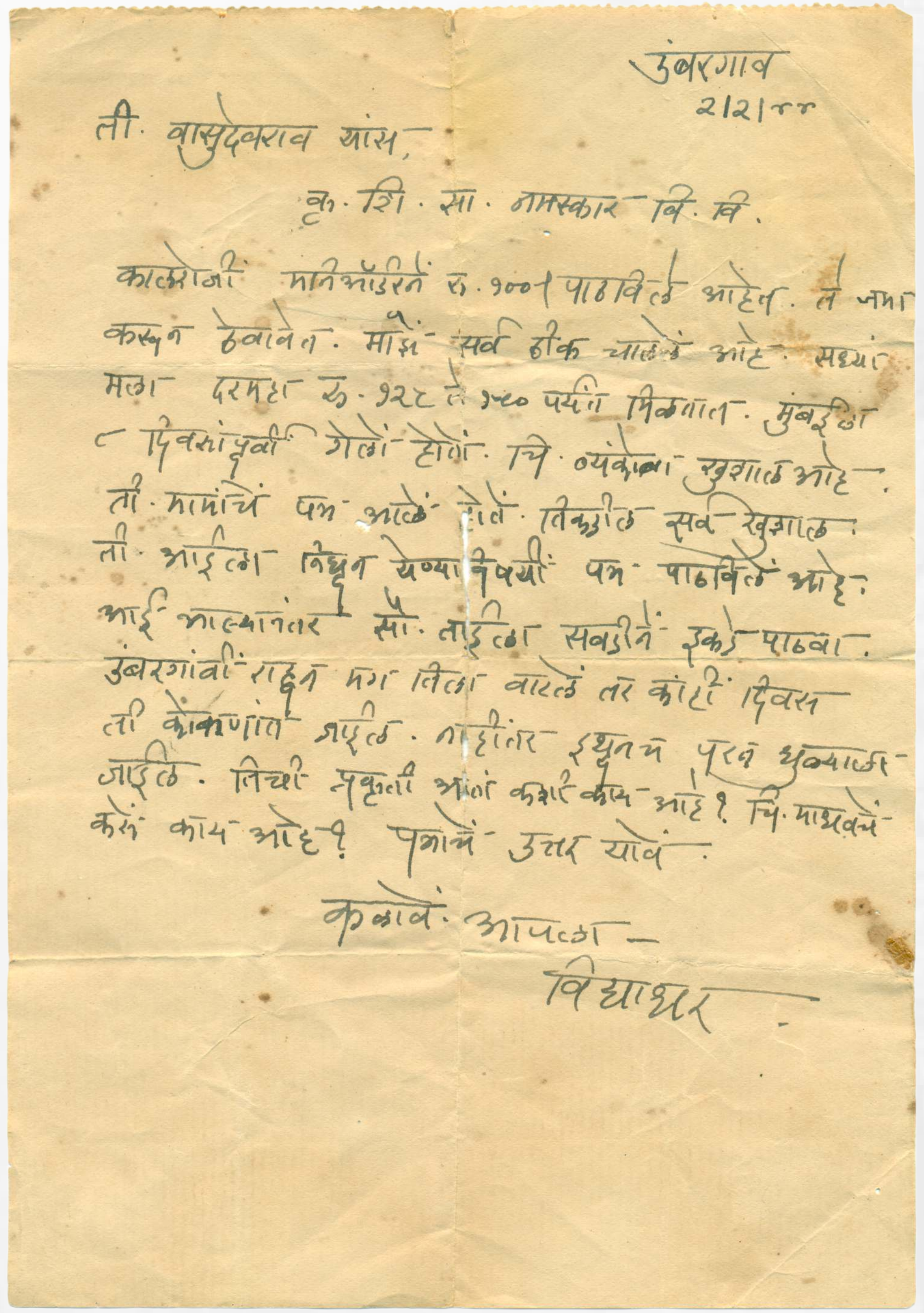


never forget her saying, "Sit with me, let us have a chat, sing for me. You are my only daughter in law. You be happy always". I remember her saying, "Let us follow what Sumedha says!" I must have earned a lot of merit in my past life that I got such a divine atmosphere in the house.

I started feeling confident since I engaged myself with whatever comes in my way. I learned to cherish the moments in the company of great people coming to us. In the company of those great souls, I realised the meaning of life. I understood the meaning of love, affection, sacrifice and sense of belongingness in the course of interaction which I had with relatives, elders and esteemed guests coming to our family. I learned a lesson that 'the meaning of life lies in exchanging happiness with others and that is the real asset which I can cherish. You forget your 'self' in the company of family members and relationship with them. You need to search for yourself again and again. This journey was and continuous to be really very beautiful.

From foreign tour for Sanskrit Conference, study tours to London, the passion for Oriental studies to exchange programme for Japanese students is the vast arena of activities my husband, Dr. Vijay Bedekar, indulges into. I enjoy the intellectual feast in his company. My children witnessed living idols of values in the family itself. The upbringing of our children was happening in this divine atmosphere. Bedekars have founded and raised the edifice of hospital and home with their strength, intellect and devotion. Wisdom, emotions and awareness towards the family values make one's journey of life a memorable one. The woman of the family needs to spare her time, her loyalty and sense of devotion to weave the thread of relations. This is the way we could see the transformation of divine grace from 'Narayan Bhuvan' to 'Shivashatki' in the form of our grandchildren: Janhavi, Gayatri, Soham, and Jay. This is the glorious 125 years' history of Bedekar family-rather the Saga of Bedekars.

Mrs. Sumedha V. Bedekar



उंबरगाव
२/२/४४

ती. वासुदेवराव यांस,

कृ. शि. सा. नमस्कार वि. वि.

कालरोजीं मनिऑर्डरनें रु. १००१ पाठविले आहेत. ते जमा करून ठेवावेत. माझें सर्व ठीक चाललें आहे. सध्यां मला दरमहा रु. १२८ ते १५० पर्यंत मिळतात. मुंबईला ८ दिवसांपूर्वी गेलों होतों. चि. व्यंकोबा खुशाल आहे. ती. मामांचें पत्र आलें होतें. तिकडील सर्व खुशाल. ती. आईला निघून येण्याविषयीं पत्र पाठविलें आहे. आई आल्यानंतर सौ. ताईला सवडीनें इकडे पाठवा. उंबरगांवीं राहून मग तिला वाटलें तर कांहीं दिवस ती कोंकणांत जाईल. नाहीतर इथूनच परत धुळ्याला जाईल. तिची प्रकृती आतां कशी काय आहे? चि. माधवचें कसें काय आहे? पत्राचें उत्तर द्यावें.

कळावें. आपला —

विद्याधर

डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर यांच्या हस्ताक्षरातील त्यांचे मेहुणे
वासुदेवराव फडके यांना लिहीलेले पत्र

Dr. Vasudeo Narayan Bedekar - उत्तुंग पुरुष

Dr. Murthy

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time
A Psalm of life
- H. W. Longfellow

Dr. V. N. Bedekar (Dr. Bedekar), alias Sr. Doctor (मोठे डॉक्टर), fondly called as 'Vidyadhar' by his mother, Savitri Bedekar, was a leader, loved and respected by all those who came in touch with him in the course of the voyage of his life. Thanekars vow by Dr. Bedekar and swear in favour of emulation. Dr. Bedekar's life spanning over eight decades plus provides many illustrious and memorable experiences which motivate family members, friends and fraternity of Thane to, in veneration, follow his footsteps.

Childhood Days:

Right from childhood Dr. Bedekar's life bears testimony as to how he successfully faced various challenges and was able to make things happen in terms of successful outcomes. His first challenge came when he lost his father Shri Narayan Bedekar at the age of seven. He returned to Goval crest fallen because of the severance of paternal bondage at the hands of nature. He did not give up. He was determined to face life and continue with his dream plans of life. Thus, his approach to life can be captured through the famous poem, 'A Psalm of Life' of H. W. Longfellow:

"Tell me not in mournful numbers
Life is but an empty dream
Life is real, life is earnest
And the grave is not its only goal"

Education:

He thus pursued his education with great determination and stubborn will power. He, as a young boy, nurtured and nourished the dream of becoming an entrepreneur like his uncle. In fact, so strong was his penchant and passion in favour of becoming an entrepreneur, that he used to narrate the same to 'everyone at home'.

He went to school and studied seriously and very well. He knew his strengths. Above all, his admirable quality was his awareness about those areas of studies which required extra attention to be at par with the best. His tryst with mathematics and the way he tacked it is indeed praiseworthy. Following his matriculation he joined the well-known S. P. College, Pune Science stream and later on he was successful in getting admission into the famous B. J. Medical College of Pune.

Medical Education - Awards Galore:

His grand success knocked on his door, on hindsight only a forerunner, when he received a telegram from his cousin in Hyderabad. He had cleared the first L.C.P.S. examination with flying colours and also won, almost all prizes, for academic excellence. He created a record because that was the first time the B. J. Medical College student was receiving the said prizes. This was no mean an achievement for a boy who walked out of Goval, a few years ago, with just five rupees given by his mother in his pocket to explore and experience the adventures of life in an unknown, just begin, voyage.

Vidyadhar - now Dr. V. N. Bedekar:

He successfully cleared the L.C.P.S. examination and Vidyadhar, the fond son of his dear mother, was now Dr. Vasudeo N. Bedekar. He wanted to add to his academic credentials by studying further for Ophthalmology. However, that was not to be. Nevertheless, his dream of becoming an entrepreneur, as member of the noblest of professions, became true when he decided to practice in Thane, where he was destined to make a mark for the rest of his life. In the meantime, he met his better half 'Yamutai' as a result of a marriage proposal and was married.

Destination Thane - Bedekar Hospital and Institution Building:

He along with his father-in-law Shri Keshav Ganesh Joshi located a place in Thane now known as Bedekar Hospital. His inner urge and feeling to initiate a self-driven venture became true. He overcame all difficulties through creative and innovative application of mind. In a short period the hospital became well-known and Thane once upon a time reckoned with as a home for the mentally challenged and a 'mosquito hub', became destination 'Bedekar Hospital'.

His stubborn resistance to obstacles through 'creative genius at work' was well exemplified when a water shortage threatened the functioning of Bedekar Hospital. He immediately was part of the solution rather than a person agitated with the problem – he got a pipe laid down from Naik Wadi where a well in the vicinity, full with water, could transmit the water through the pipeline. Message - 'Never, never, never ever give up'.

Institution Building:

His spirit of enterprise transcended beyond medicine and a role as a Doctor. He soon saw himself unleashing his hidden potential by setting up new organisations and institutions in Thane such as'Sangeet Sabha', 'Shahar Sudhar Samiti', 'Cancer Detection Centre', 'Utkarsha Mandal', 'Vidya Prasarak Mandal' and 'Thane Bharat Sahakari Bank'.

The tentacles of the aforesaid institutions, their genesis and outcomes, as seen in current times provide ample evidence of the resources, initiative and capabilities of Dr. Bedekar apart from the striking achievements and, as we look back, their great potentialities as he then visualised.

Dr. Bedekar - The Person with a Human Touch:

He was a man with extraordinary qualities of head and heart and with his simplicity, suavity and sublimity he could unlock the hearts of many with the golden key of his courteous demeanour which healed hurt hearts. Thus, when a family which was blessed with a third daughter refuse to name her – the typical male versus female child syndrome and Dr. Bedekar learnt about this he told the family I will name her and he announced - 'the child's name is Vidya'. Today Vidya lives in 'New Jersey' in the USA and

narrated the above incident to Sau. Alpana Bapat in the USA.

Again, his sensitivity to patients and their welfare is seen in his administering penicillin when it was discovered and put to use. The penicillin had to be administered strictly on a timetable basis. He used to use an alarm clock. Further, penicillin was known to cause reactions detrimental to the patient. He used to inject penicillin with great caution and circumspect, keeping patient welfare as a paramount objective.

Dr. Bedekar's Life - A Splendid Torch:

To Dr. Bedekar life was not for the pursuit of material happiness alone but for directing achievements to contribute to society at large. Thus, Dr. Bedekar was a creative person, humane being, compassionate doctor, and a visionary in terms of institutional building for social reforms education and above all he was a person who led a life of lofty idealism (उत्तुंग पुरुष).

Dr. Bedekar aptly deserves, among other plaudits, the following:

'Quanto magnus es humilia te in omnibus et coram Deo invenies gratiam'

The greater thou art, the more humble thyself in all things, and thou shalt find grace before God

Dr. Bedekar - The Last Breath:

Dr. Bedekar breathed his last on 14th April, 2004 after a brief illness but not before seeing his third generation - his great granddaughter Janhavi born on 2nd April, 2004. His passing away in 2004 was not merely a Bedekar family 'void and bereavement' - it was a sad loss to all Thanekars and many more who looked upon him as an immutable and venerable institution deserving generous loyalty, proud submission and dignified obedience at all times as is evidenced by the band of like minded persons who were with him, throughout, in the 'Vidyadhar Voyage'. In short people of Thane fondly recall him for all that he was as perceived by them - moderate, tolerant, patient, humble with unstinting and unselfish service attitude to humanity at large - the closet universe being Thane and Thanekars.

Dr. Bedekar's voyage of life fits into what George Bernard Shaw had said in his work - A Splendid Torch, "My life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can..... Life is no 'brief candle' for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations".

The best tribute to Dr. Bedekar is to present a combined quote form the works of P. B. Shelley and William Wordsworth:

Ethereal minstrel! Pilgrim of the sky!
Bird thou never wert of unpremeditated art
Type of the wise who soar, but never roam,
True to the kindred points of heaven and home!

Finally, in the words of Jnaneshwari,

इवलेंसे रोप लावियलें द्वारी ।

तयाचा वेलु गेला गगनावरी ।।

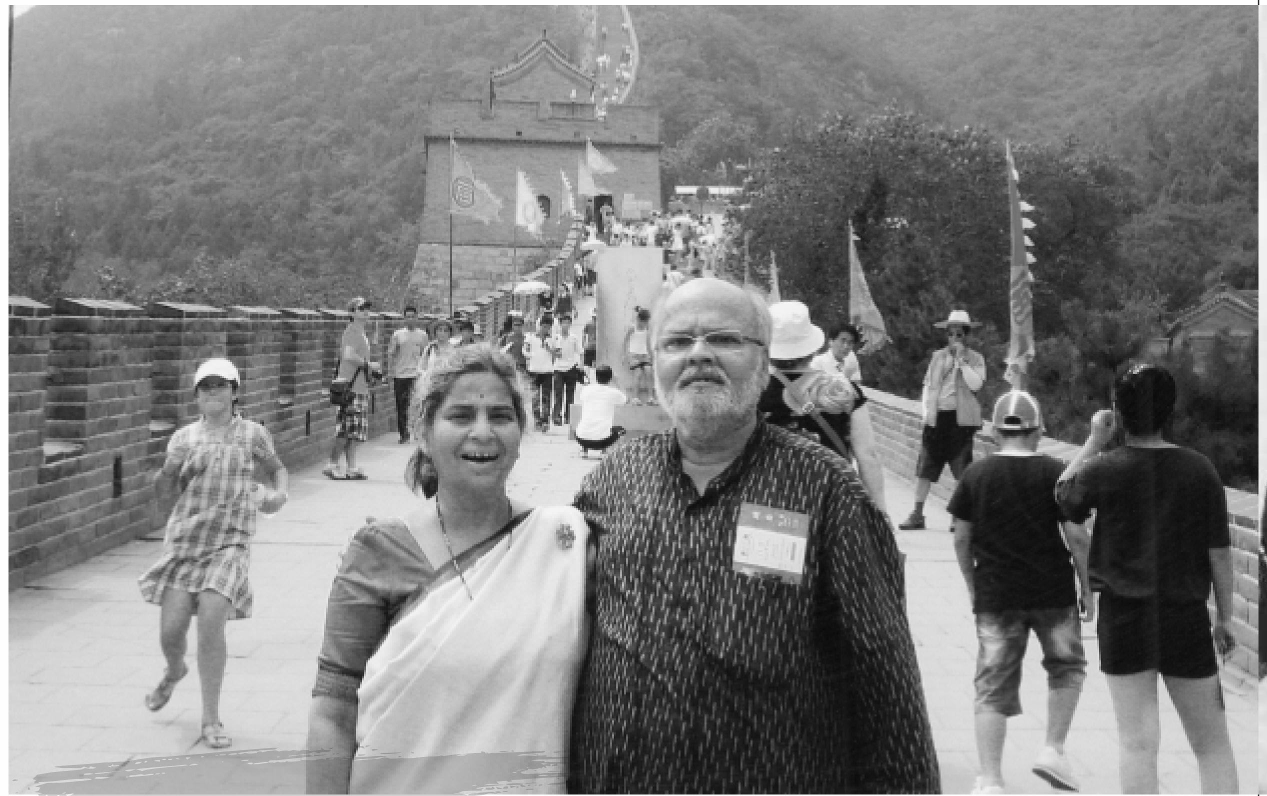
A tiny sapling planted into the courtyard soared to ethereal heights of celestial invincibility.

- **Dr. Guruprasad Murthy**

कल्पवृक्ष आमुच्यासाठी लावुनिया बाबा गेले।
वैभवाने बहरुन आला याल का हो बघायाला।।

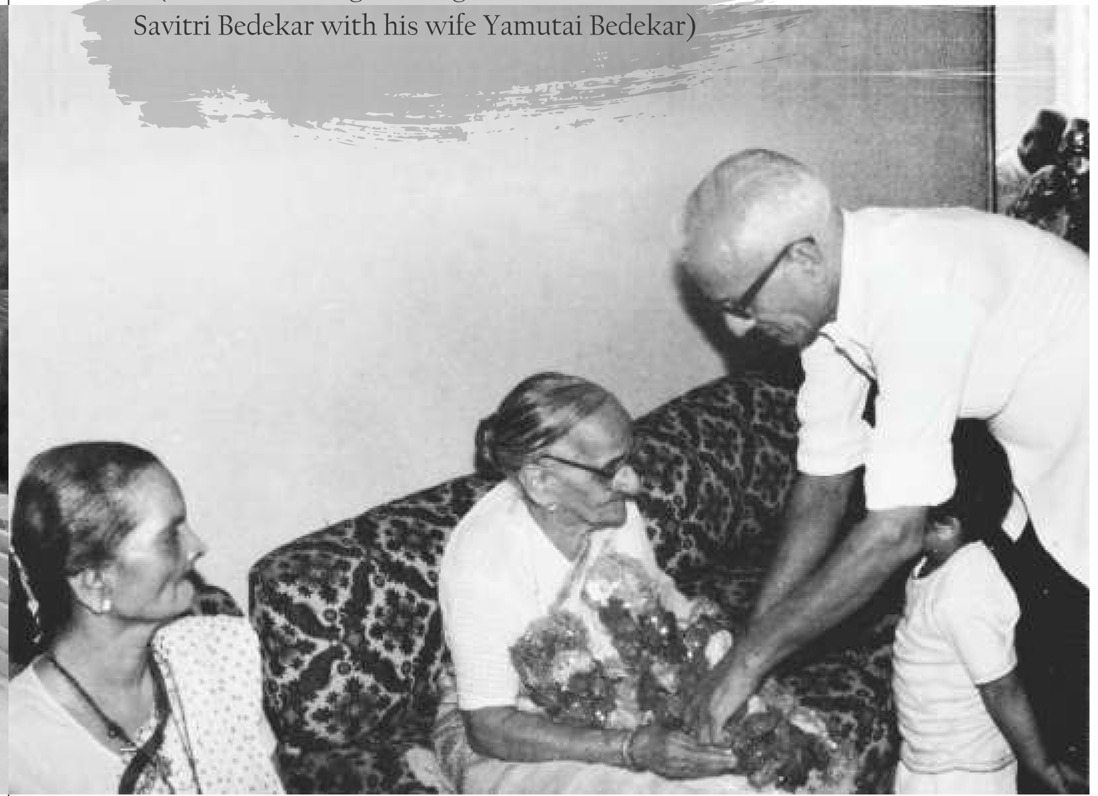
At Panchgani, helping daughter-in-law.

“Come on, you know you wanna kiss me”
(Young Dr. Mahesh Bedekar)

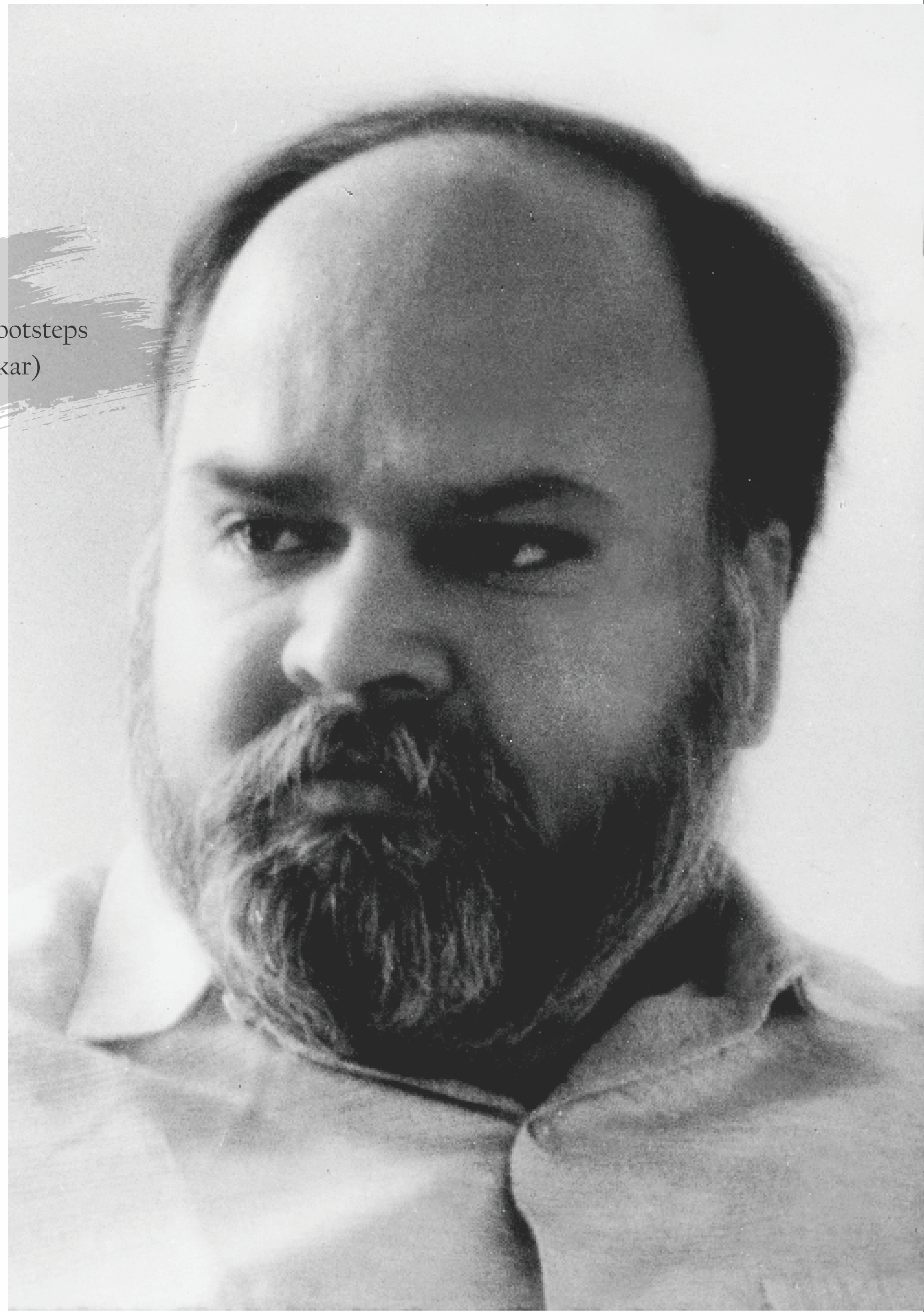


आनंदी जगप्रवास

A mother is the only one who stays by
your side until her final breath.
(Doctor receiving blessings from his mother
Savitri Bedekar with his wife Yamutai Bedekar)



Following father's footsteps
(Dr. Vijay Bedekar)

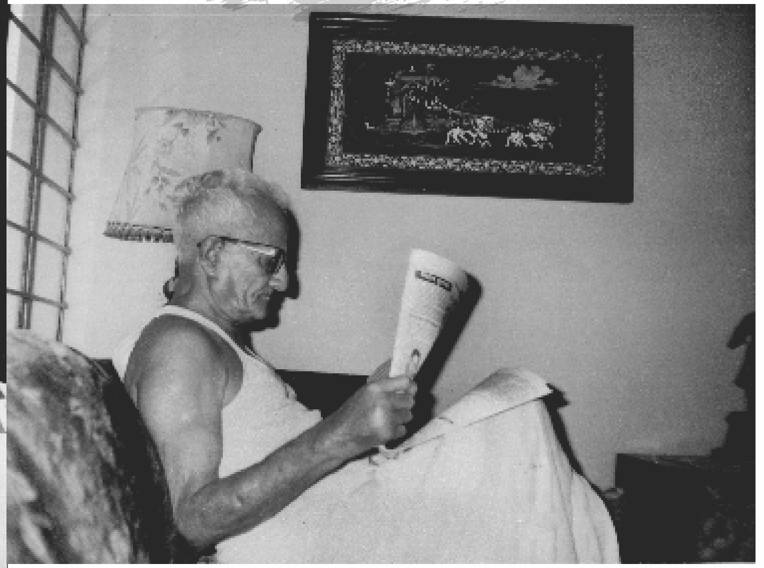


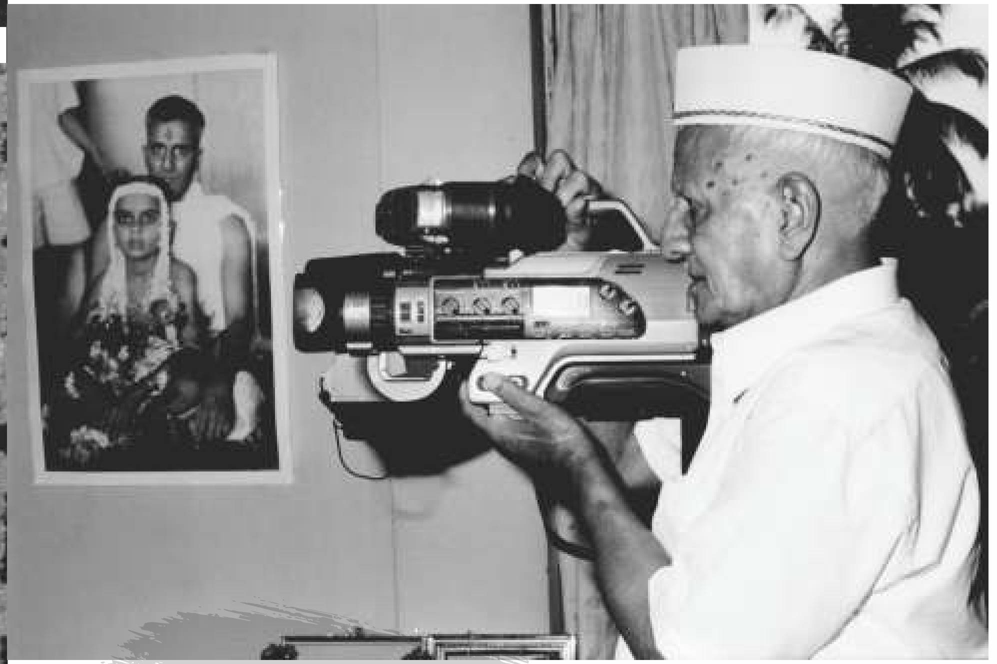
कौटुंबिक सहभोजन

Sharing secrets
(Dr. Vijay Bedekar with
son Anand Bedekar)

When you both secretly know that
you're the favourite child.
(Dr. Vijay Bedekar with youngest son
Anand Bedekar and wife Sumedha Bedekar)

To be a reader
is to be a leader.





Being traditional does not
make you less modern.

The love of a family stays forever.
(Dr. V.N. Bedekar paying
his respects to his late father)

जिने गाठली शंभरी
(सत्यभामा वासुदेव फडके)

(डॉ. वा. ना. बेडेकर यांची मोठी बहीण)

सोहळे बेडेकरांचे
(डॉ. महेश ह्यांचा लग्न सोहळा)

Number 11 is our strength,
We live happily under one roof.

विद्याप्रशंसा (आर्या)

विद्येनेच मनुष्या आले श्रेष्ठत्व या जगामाजी।
न दिसे एकही वस्तू विद्येनेही असाध्य आहे जी।।१।।
व्यासादिक आदिमुनी कवी अर्वाचीन सारे थोर तसे।
म्हणती एकमते की, धन विद्यासम नरास अन्य नसे।।२।।
देऊनि किंवा भोगुनी उणे न होतां सदैव वाढतसे
ऐसे एकच विद्याधन अद्भुत गुण न हा दुज्यात वसे।।३।।
नानाविध रत्नांची कनकांची असती भुषणे फार,
परि विद्यासम एकही शोभादायक नसे अलंकार।।४।।
ऐश्वर्य बल धनादिक सौख्ये प्रसवे समस्त।
ती विद्या जो देई, तेणे वर काय ते दिले नाही।।५।।

कृष्णशास्त्री चिपळूणकर

विद्येचे महत्त्व पुरातन काळापासून आपल्या पूर्वजांनी,
ऋषीमुनींनी, पंडितांनी अधोरेखित केले आहे.
डॉ. बेडेकरांनीही आपला व्यवसाय सांभाळून
आपले आयुष्य शैक्षणिक संस्था उभारण्यात वेचले.

Future and stars of Bedekar Family

Janhavi

Janhavi is the first great grandchild of Dr. Bedekar. She was born on 2 nd April 2004. Dr. Bedekar was very happy to see his first great grandchild, the daughter of Dr. Mahesh Bedekar and Sou. Aparna Bedekar. He welcomed her with a gift of pearl necklace. Unfortunately, on 14 th April, 2004, he passed away. Janhavi is now studying in 8 th standard in Sou. Anandibai Joshi English Medium School, Thane. Along with her studies, she pursues the hobby of Archery and has bagged a Bronze medal at District level. She has also completed three levels in Bharat Natyam Classical Dance and is fond of drawing and painting apart from taking interest in playing Harmonium.

Gayatri

Gayatri is the younger sister of Janhavi. She is ten years old and studies in 5th standard in Sou. Anandibai Joshi English Medium School, Thane. She also excels in Archery and bagged a Gold medal at District Level. She is very lively and playful. Along with Archery, she is learning Classical music and her favourite hobby is Skating.

Soham

Soham is the elder son of Dr. Anand and Sou. Shruti Bedekar. He is five years old and studies in 1 st standard in Sou. Anandibai Joshi English Medium School, Thane. He is very fond of Lego, Puzzles and is also learning to play Chess.

Jay

Jay, the younger brother of Soham is only a baby, five months old. His mischievous smiles entertain the whole family.

More than 125 years of Bedekar Family