A STUDY OF LOCAL HISTORY OF NALDURG FORT

Dr. D. V. Suryawanshi*

Abstract:

The study of local history was begun in 19th century in England. The publicity of the local history is spread throughout the world. In India it came into existence in the year 1970. Today number of historian studied in this area. Now days the local history having much importance as it is helps to know the enriched but hidden values of our local people and of the places. The enriched history gives motivation to the young generation and with the help of these things we can protect & maintain the historical places for our future generation. It gives itself as an ideal example of water management and today in this region there is a need of water management as a water resource became a scare in this region.

Key words: local history, cultural and social aspects, historic site etc.,

Introduction:

Local history is the study of history in a geographically local context and it often concentrates on the local community. It incorporates cultural and social aspects of history. Historic plaques are one form of documentation of significant occurrences in the past and oral histories are another. Local history is often documented by local historical societies or groups that form to preserve a local historic building or other historic site. Many works of local history are compiled by amateur historians working independently or archivists employed by various organizations. An important aspect of local history is the publication and cataloguing of documents preserved in local or national records which relate to particular areas. The researcher has selected this fort as this fort having much importance in that era as well as in the present era. This was an important fort in the history as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj established SWARAJYA on the basis of the forts and Naldurg fort is one of the important fort in SWARAJYA.

There are nearly 350 forts in Maharashtra, so it is said that forts are the glory of Maharashtra. Most of these forts are associated with the great Maratha ruler, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It is believed that he developed as many as thirteen forts. Vijaydurg fort is regarded to be the best sea fort developed by Shivaji. Every fort has temple inside that was a powerful inspiration to the Maratha fighters. 510 km away from Mumbai is the famous Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg forts. This twin fort was constructed with the special guidelines from Shivaji. These forts are famous for their serene environmental beauty and its historic importance.

*Asst. Professor in History, SahakarBhushan S.K. Patil College, Kurundwad,
Shivneri fort is the fort where Shivaji was born. This fort is nearly about 120 km from Pune. Pratapgad fort reminds the fiery battle fought between Shivaji and Afzal Khan. One must see the 300-year old fine architectural fort of Murud - Janjira fort, Lohagad and Visapur Forts, Harishchandragad Fort, Arnala Fort and Ajinkyatara Fort are ideal for trekking. Adventure lovers must visit these forts.

**Statement of the problem:**

The main aim of the study is to focus on the local history of the Naldurg fort to know the importance of the fort.

**Scope of the study:**

Present study is based on the Naldurg fort and the local area around the fort.

**Objectives of the study:**

Following are the three objectives of the study which are as follows.

1) To know the concept of local history.
2) To know the importance of local history.
3) To know the importance of the fort from different angles.

**Data Collection:**

For the present study data collected on the primary basis as well as secondary basis. Primary data was collected by taking the interviews of the people residing in Naldurg as well as from the old persons in that area i.e. from Taluka’s. The secondary data was collected through various books and web-sites.

**Local History:**

Local history tends to be less documented than other types, with fewer books and artifacts than that of a country or continent. Many local histories are recorded as oral tales or stories and so are more vulnerable than more well known issues. Artifacts of local history are often collected in local history museums, which may be housed in a historic house or other building. Individual historic sites are inherently local, although they may have national or world history importance as well. Many however have little overall historical impact but add depth to the local area.

**Beginning of the Local History:**
The British Association for Local History in the United Kingdom encourages and assists in the study of local history as an academic discipline and as a leisure activity by both individuals and groups. Most historic counties in England have record societies and archaeological and historical societies which coordinate the work of historians and other researchers concerned with that area.

Local history in the UK took a long time to be accepted as an academic discipline. In the 18th and 19th centuries, it was widely regarded as an antiquarian pursuit, suitable for country parsons. The Victoria History of the Counties of England project begun in 1899 in honour of Queen Victoria with the aim of creating an encyclopedic history of each of the historic counties of England. The project is coordinated by the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London. The first academic post related to local history was at Reading University which appointed a research fellow in local history in 1908. There was a department of local history (but without a professor) at Leicester University from 1947. HPR Finberg was the first Professor of English Local History. He was appointed by Leicester in 1964. Local history continues to be neglected as an academic subject within universities. Academic local historians are often found within a more general department of history or in continuing education.

Local history is rarely taught as a separate subject in British schools. In 1908, a Board of Education circular had urged that schools should pay attention "to the history of the town and district" in which they were situated. In 1952, the Ministry of Education suggested schools should use local material to illustrate national themes. Within the current National Curriculum, pupils at level 4 are expected to "show their knowledge and understanding of local, national and international history".

The Alan Ball Local History Awards were established in the 1980s to recognize outstanding contributions in local history publishing in the UK (both in print and in new media), and to encourage the publishing of such works by public libraries and local authorities. In India the local history was began in the decade 1970. Recently numbers of historian are working on it. Therefore, researcher selects this particular topic for the study.

**Attributes of a local Historian:**

1) A local historian researches, collects, preserves and communicates what he or she knows.

2) Another major aspect is reading which does not mean reading for research, which is taken for granted. He is expected to read widely for general historical knowledge for new approaches to material, and for insights into human behavior.

3) He should look at a wide range of local and academic histories in order to judge how best to till the story of the place where he lives. Reading also helps to understand state and regional variations which then can be tested in a local setting. While regions may have common attitudes and a shared history with in a region, a great deal of variation can be found. Marc Blouch wrote that "he frankly mistrusted the historian, who has no inclination to observe the main, the things, or the events around him for such a person will become only a useful antiquarian. Our
local historian wants to be more than that, and contemporary knowledge informs our understanding of the past.”

4) A local historian needs imagination Theodore Zeldin has writing that, “imagination is .. as important to historian as new document.. A local historian can do research and sit down to write a history or an article, but if he or she does not apply imagination to the material and hand, the result is faint. Without the use of our imagination, paired with contemporary knowledge, we fell to ask ancillary questions or to seek other causes that would illuminate what we want to know.”

**Brief History of Selected Forts in Maharashtra:**

‘Sampoorna rajyache saar te durg. Gadkot hetch raajya, gadkot mhanje raaiyaache mool,gadkot mhanje khajina, gadkot mhanje sainyaache mool,gadkot mhanje raaiya laxmi, gadkot mhanje aapale praan sanwrakshan’
– Aadnyaapatra by Ramchandra pant Amatya, the chief minister of Rani Tarabai.

Translation – Forts are the very basis of a kingdom. Forts themselves are the kingdom, forts are the origin of the kingdom, forts are the real treasure of the kingdom, forts are the basis of an army, forts are the wealth of the kingdom, forts are our best form of defense. The English word Fort is derived from the Latin word ‘forties’ meaning strong.

Forts were a primary defense mechanism in Maharashtra against enemy invasions since the ancient times and are known in the local language as ‘killa’ (Qila in urdu). They were naturally and artificially protected human settlements, guarded by elements like the hills, the forests, the desert, the sea, and the man made stone structures that formed a armour around them.

One of the early reference to Forts in the sub continent occurs in the ancient political treatise ‘Arthashastra’ by Kautilya, whereby Kautilya classifies the forts as Jal durg (water forts), Giri durg (mountain forts), Vana durg (forest forts), Dhanu durg (arid/desert forts located in conditions devoid of easy water supply), Mahi durg (brick forts) and Nar durg (human forts). Not to mention the ancient cities in kingdoms like Mathura, Magadha etc were also mentioned being fortified settlements. The social treatise ‘Manusmriti’ by Manu also describes the advantages and disadvantages of different classifications of forts.

Maharashtra due to its peculiar topography has always reveled in different forms of fort constructions. Its structures and architectural designs have differed depending upon their region and location viz. the plains, the coastal areas, the hilly terrain or the dense forests.

The forts in Maharashtra were constructed since the time of some its early ruling dynasties (and their feudatories) like the Satvahanas, the Rashtrakutas, the Kadambas, the Chalukyas, the Yadavas, the Afghans, the Bahmanis, the Gonds in Berar, the Sultanates of Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Berar, the Siddis, the Europeans (British, Portuguese) and last but not the least the Marathas.
The Marathas gave tremendous importance to Forts as they were their strongest defense against the marauding invaders. Due to the inherent hilly terrain of the Sahyadri range, most of their forts belonged to the ‘hill’ category. These forts protected the army and the wealth of the kings and housed virtually a village inside the fort.

**Traditionally the Forts in Maharashtra were of the following types:**

1) **Hill Forts:** These forts were constructed on the high hills and made from stone cut out from those very mountains. The high altitudes and the steep walls made these forts daunting for the enemy. In the vernacular Marathi language they were called as ‘Giri Durg’ (‘Giri’ means the mountain and ‘Durg’ is the term for a fort). They were considered the most reliable in comparison to land forts e.g. Raigad, Rajgad, Purandar, Sinhagad, Pratapgad, Shivneri, Rajmachi etc.

2) **Land Forts:** These forts were created on the plains. In Marathi they were called ‘Bhuikot’ (Durg). e.g. Chakan fort, Bahadurgad, Solapur fort, Naldurg fort, Ahmednagar fort etc.

3) **Sea Forts:** These forts were created in the middle of the sea (at a shallow point with a solid foundation base) and protected by its vicious waves. In Marathi they were called ‘Jal Durg’. Chh. Shivaji was quick to realize the importance of sea forts. They provided an efficient base for controlling sea traffic and trade. e.g. Janjeera (the fort of Janjeera was considered virtually impregnable and was held by the Siddis, enabling them to withstand the most extreme of enemy pressures), Sindhudurg (built by Chh. Shivaji), Padmadurg (built by Chh. Sambhaji), Khanderi, Underi etc.

**HISTORY OF NALDURG:**

Naldurg was formerly a district headquarters is situated about 58 kilometers (31 mi) south-east of Osmanabad. It is situated on National Highway No.9 i.e. on the road of Mumbai to Vijaywada. The fort is an interesting place which encloses a knoll of basalt rock which juts out into the valley of the small Bori River. Along the rest of the cliff on three sides ran fortifications. A bastion is firmly built out of basalt and is large enough to carry heavy guns. The entire circumference is about a mile and a half.

The interior portion is covered with ruined walls and a wide road running up to the centre. The fort has many bastions amongst which are upli Buruj, which is the height point in the Fort Paranda Buruj, nagar Buruj, Sangam Buruj, Sangram Buruj, Bands Buruj, poone Buruj, etc. Inside the fort there are remains of the walls and some of the building such as Barood kotha, Baradari, Ambarkhana, and Rangaan mahal, Jali. Though the buildings are in ruins the remains give the impression that there might have been at one time other buildings. There are two tanks in the fort known as machali guns amongst which the most important are the “hathi toph” and magar Toph”, The hathi Darwaza. The hurmukh and the hurmukh darwaza are the main gates of the fort. An interesting building which connects the fort and the Ranmandala is the dam constructed across the Bori River. The dam and the "pani mahal" built underneath and in the middle of the dam were built during the reign of Ibrahim Adil shah II In 1613.
It is believed that the fort was built by Nalaraja (The King Nala). The fort and the city is named after him. The fort was built in the period of the Chalukya kings of Kalyani. Later, from 1351 to 1480, in the period of the [Bahamani] kings. In 1558, the Adil Shahi rulers, after the downfall of Adil Shahi Kingdom, Naldurg passed into the hands of Moghalain the year 1686. A.D. Nizamul Mulk Asif Jah was appointed as Governor of the entire Deccan from Central India and Gujrat up to Kanya Kumari. After the death of Aurangzeb Nawab Nizamul Mulk Asif Jah Bahadur founded the Nizam Domianion. During the time of II Nizam The Governor (Subedar) became a rebel and Causing Havoc to the Subject Then the Asif Jah II, Nawab Nizam Ali khan send his Afghan General Mohammed Dulah Khan.

General Mohammed Dulah Khan conquered the province crushed the mutiny and took the traitor into his custody. Nizam the II Appointed Nawab Mohammed Dulah Khan Bahabdur as a Governor (Subedar) with the title of Nawab Karar Nawaz Jung Bahadur. Then his son Nawab Amir Nawazul Mulk Bahabdur became the Governor of Naladrug. He ruled very successfully. He was not only kindhearted but generous when there was a theft of 1 1/2 Quintal gold from the Tulja Bhawani Temple. He donated the gold from his personal treasure to compensate. The most important historical marriage which took place at Naldrug Fort at Rang Mahal was the marriage of Chand Bibi Sultana. This wedding took place between the two kingdoms: Adil Shahi and Nizam Shahi.

The Makbara (Shrines) of Nawab Amir Nawazul Mulk Bahadur and beside him Princess Fakharunnisa Begam, daughter of Nizam ul Mulk II Mazars are at Naldrug. Not only the people of Naldrug but the entire Marathawada people visit the shrine to pay respect to their late ruler. After the death of Nawab Sahab his successors became the Governors until 1948. The present successor, seventh in line, is Nawab Mohammed Iqbal Ali Khan Bahadur (Nawab of Balaghat, Asaf Jahi). Still the property of Nawab Sahab is there, and he and his sons frequently make the tour to Naldrug as they have sentimental affection for the soil and people.

The Naldurg fort is one of the important ground forts (Bhuikot) in the Marathawada region, which is spread in 115 acres of land. It’s having 114 buruj. That’s why it is called as king of buruj. It represents a fine example of the medieval architectural style.

**Attacks on Naldurg by Marathas:**

From the beginning of the fort the fort is the possession of Mughal. However, in the year1683 Chatrapati Sambharajiraje attack on the fort with his sardar Mankoji Ballal with five thousand mawalas. At that time Kasim Khan was the caretaker (killedar) of the fort but Mankoji attacked in such a manner that Kasim Khan could not do any thing and at the end the Mankoji won the fort. The main aim of war was to keep control and terror on mughals. This information is available on Persian documents of Aurangjeb.

In the era of Peshwas i.e. 2nd Jan,1758 again the Naldurg was won by the Marahas but it was only for the 6 months after that the Nijam won the fort and up to independence of the hyderabad (after Hyderabad Mukti Sangram). It was with the possession of Nijam.
Important places in the fort:

There are number of places in the area of fort however, only few are in good position i.e Pani Mahal, Jama Massid, Upalya Buruj, Wada of Killedar, Nav Buruj & Rang Mahel etc., and others are destroyed due to time span.

i) Pani Mahal: The main feature of the fort is a Pani Mahel. It is beautiful place in the fort because the durg is in a draught region and in 16th century they worked for water management. The water brought from the river Bori which flows from Tuljapur, which is 25 km away from the fort. For the purpose of carrying water the Mir Emadin built a little dam (Bandara) which is measured as (174 mtr×14mtr×19mtr) and carried through the canal. This technique gives the ideas of water management to the people.

ii) Upali Buruj: The buruj is one of the important things which protect the all area. The Upali Buruj was built for the purpose of to make watch on the enemy. The height of the buruj is of 150 ft. it has 78 steps. Due to the height the soldiers can easily watch the huge area.

iii) Wada of Killedar: Killedar means captain of the fort. In the 19th century the wada of killedr is used for the purpose of running school. Means the fort is a motivational place from all the areas.

iv) Nav Buruj was built for the purpose of strengthening the fort as well as for watching purpose. The main feature of Nav Durg is that it is built in such a manner that it gives strength and beauty to the fort it is a two flower structure building.

v) Rang Mahal: Rang Mahal means the theater which is built for entertainment purpose. Now a days the position of the rang mahal is not good. Only few things are available in that place.

These cannons have figures of elephants and crocodiles and are therefore called Hathi Top and Magar Toph. There are some old buildings still standing in good condition.

Conclusion:

The study of local history was began in 19th century in England. The publicity of the local history is spread throughout the world. In India it came into existence in the year 1970. Today number of historian studied in this area. Now a days the local history having much importance as it is helps to know the enriched but hidden values of our local people and of the places. The enriched history gives motivation to the young generation and with the help of these things we can protect & maintain the historical places for our future generation. It gives itself as an ideal example of water management and today in this region there is a need of water management as a water resource became a scare in this region.

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