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Revival Strategies Implemented by Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and its relevance in today's era

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Abstract:

Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj 300 years ago made policies that were quite modern. Many of his principles, tactics, strategies are very much relevant today also. Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has implemented different revival strategies in his era. Those strategies are still being considered. Through this paper my aim is to focus on the different Revival strategies, reforms Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has implemented and adopted and how still they are relevant to today's era.

Keywords: Management Guru, Maratha army, Swarajya, traditional military.

Introduction:

Management is a process. It involves planning, organization, direction and control over all the resources involved. It is about developing relationships amongst people and inspiring them to contribute towards the goal. Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is called as 'Management Guru'. He possessed all the qualities of a good Manager. Under the leadership of Shivaji Maharaj, the entire Maratha army and civilians were united with a common dream of "Swarajya" and he nurtured it within all of them with no discrimination of cast and creed, or social and economic differentiation. Management is about integration, it is about bringing together the means to achieve the goal – physical or financial and imbibe harmony between all the participating factors. Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj put a small group of combatants, such as paramilitary personnel, armed civilians, or irregulars, to use military tactics including ambushes, sabotage, raids, petty warfare, hit-and-run tactics, and mobility to fight a larger and less-mobile traditional military.

Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj lived over 300 years ago, his policies were quite modern. Many of his principles, tactics would be very much relevant today also. Shivaji Maharaj has implemented different revival strategies in his era. Those strategies are still being considered.

Through this paper my aim is to focus on the different Revival strategies, reforms Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has implemented and adopted. Still we find more gaps in implementation of those strategies, Shivaji Maharaj has implemented such strategies very successfully. We still struggle for what Shivaji Maharaj did 300 years ago.

Agricultural Development:

Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was a good Administrator. He has established an affordable loan system. There was a loan policy for farmers i.e. 'Loan without Interest' (in Marathi Hatsune Karj), also farmers were paying Land Tax in the form of cereal not in the form of money. Before Shivaji Maharaj times, for land measurement Badshah's Hand was considered as a measuring tool, so when Badshah got change, measurement also got changed Shivaji Maharaj identified this problem and decided on one scale of measuring land same for everyone and every time which was called as Gaj. It made it compulsory for the Farmers farming in a specific region to cultivate particular crops in a decided amount. And this policy was there that if they got 100% profit then they could submit 40% to the government and 60% they can keep with themselves as livelihood or for selling.

Today we see problems in Agriculture that Farmer were not cultivating particular crops due to which quality of land goes on decreasing. When there is a poor monsoon or natural calamity, farmers may be unable to repay loans, so in such situations Central or state ministries are required to offer relief, reduction or complete waiver of loan. Today it is impacting our economy; a kind of relief in loan was not there in Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj times.

Budgetary Planning & Control:

Budgeting allows you to create a spending plan for your money, it ensures that you will always have enough money for the things you need and the things that are important to you. A budget allows any government to control the imposition of taxes in various sectors. Investment and expenditure are some of the most noticeable factors for economic growth. Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was called as a good Budgetary Controller.

Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's budgetary planning was very perfect. The Finance Minister, Pant Amatya of the Ashta Pradhan Mandal, was responsible for all the cash transactions, and there were two Ministers i.e. Chitnis and Fadnis to assist him. Some amount was set aside for repairing forts, rebuilding forts, storing and purchasing grains, buying copper, iron for guns, monthly salary, campaign against Mughals, making weapons, etc., and that amount was used for fixed work. If anyone made a mistake in this, he was severely punished. So We do not find any instance of any of the ministers or officials of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj taking any kind of bribe or embezzling money.

But now on a daily basis we hear the news regarding bribes and embezzling money.

Government should adopt good policies for budgetary planning and action. And should require to take strict actions on corruption.

Water Conservation:

For decades we have been continuously observing drought not only in our Maharashtra state but most of the parts of India. Irregular and adequate rainfall causing shortage of water. Growth of population, overdevelopment, pollution, global warming, excessive use of water are some of the causes due to which Groundwater level is less, rivers and wells become empty in summer. For water conservation Maharashtra Government has started 'Jalyukta Shivar yojana', multiple NGO's, Pani & Naam foundation has created awareness among peoples for water conservation and taken efforts to increase groundwater level by rain water harvesting.

But 300 years ago Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj made lots of efforts for water conservation. Raigad fort had 12 lakh liter capacity of water storage. Gangasagr, Kushavarta and Hatti lakes and 30 to 32 small water tanks. Like Raigad fort, on multiple other forts also had a large capacity of water storage. Nowadays also on some of the forts water tanks contain pure water which we can directly drink without filtration. Some of the villages which are below the fort have less water reservoirs, empty lakes, rivers and wells. Villagers call tankers for water, but on the fort water resources are still available. In this era also forts are fulfilling the thirst of these villages. Not just on forts, but Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj created awareness among villagers, farmers about water conservation and also offered some amount to dig wells.

Language Conservation:

During Shivaji Maharaj's time Marathi language was influenced by urdu and farsi. For letter writing, recording legal documents urdu, farasi mixed marathi was used. After coronation Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj called Raghunathpant Hanmante (one of the Ministers having charge of Foreign Ministry Dabir / Sumant from his 'Ashtapradhan Mandal') to find out alternative marathi words for words in urdu, pharasi. After that Raghunathpant Hanmante made 1200 Alternate Marathi, Sanskrit Word Dictionary called 'Rajkosh'. Shivaji Maharaj was the great visionary Man who coined the concept of making the first Marathi Word Dictionary. We can identify the difference between the letters written before Shivaji Maharaj coronation and after coronation. 300 years ago Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had taken efforts to conserve Marathi language. But after 300 years, our government, literary are still striving to conserve Marathi language.

Salary and Pension System:

Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj did not accept vatandari. From ministers to soldiers, salaries were paid monthly. Salary was distributed on the first day of the Marathi month. In the time of Maharaj, there was never any delay in paying salary. Moropant Pingale who was Peshwa / Prime Minister in

Maharaj's Ashta Pradhan Mandal had a salary of 15000 Hons per month, the price of one Hona at that time was Rs. 5. The price of a hona at that time was Rs. 5, which means Rs. 75,000 per month and about Rs. 9 lakhs a year. What will be the value of Rs. 9 lakhs in 1674? Maharaj was paying such a salary to his ministers. Maharaj's budget planning was very good. Today, neither the Prime Minister nor the President has such a salary. In Swarajya, Maharaj also provided pension. But we give the credit for the pension system to the British. If a soldier died in the war, then in place of him his brother, nephew or son were taken, and the soldier's wife was given a fixed amount of pension every month until her death. From this we know that Shivaji Maharaj was the father of the widow pension scheme. Even today, employees are getting a monthly salary and pension after retirement. We should give credit for this to Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Conclusion:

At the end I can conclude that whatever Strategies Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had implemented 320 years before were truly Revival and ahead of the times. All those policies are still in place without any changes. Each one of us should think of it and try to adopt them. The need of the hour is, in our day to day life we should follow Shivaji Maharaj's thoughts into practice.

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