

Instructions given by the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale
about his private affairs by the middle of January 1915

I assume the maximum period of responsibility of the family is for ten years more, by the end of which Anna's youngest boy will have nearly completed his education and then I think I shall be free from Anna's debt by doing my sacred duty by his children. It is also my duty to see them all well set up in life, but the day is too distant for me to think of. I also assume that we shall have to keep a joint establishment for ten years more, after which period every one of the boys and girls may safely be looked upon as independent units. Some of them will be out of the fold even long before the expiry of the period.

We have to make arrangement, keeping in view these two things, i.e., (1) provision for the current expenses and (2) some decent provision for every one of the family after the lapse of ten years, when every one is expected to be independent; and I shall tell you what arrangement I have contemplated.

Make three groups:-

I. Roughly calculating about ten thousand rupees have been received from Anna's concerns at Kagal and the interest at 6 p.c. amounts to a little more than three thousand by the end of June 1914. Three shares of the Sholapur Mill, which were purchased by me some time back for nearly Rs.12,700 have been transferred to my name and that of Mai jointly in consideration of the amount. Besides this, investments of about Rs.4,000, the house at Kagal, and the ornaments of Mai is the provision for her and her sons.

II. One share of the Sholapur Mill is purchased in my name and that of Dwarkabai jointly and it is my gift to her.

III. Five shares of Tata Hydro Electric Supply Co., thirty ordinary and five deferred shares of the Tata Iron & Steel Co., forty shares of the Bank of India and ten shares of the Sardar Carbonic Gas Co., are in my name and they have been purchased for a little over ten thousand rupees. I have advanced a loan of Rs.10,000 to the Aryabhushan & Bombay Vaibhav Presses jointly and practically this is all the provision for my daughters.

I propose to keep the accounts of these three groups separate. The dividend or interest of each should be added to it every year and thus in ten years time automatically each group will have nearly doubled itself and I want, say by the year 1925, every one of Mai and her four sons, Dwarkabai and her sons Bapu to be worth Rs.5,000 each and my daughters worth Rs.20,000 each.

In order that your interest in the family may be kept up I make you and your wife no gift now, but I will make some provision for you at the end of the period of your stewardship.

According to the terms of agreement with Mac Millain & Co., I receive from them at the beginning of every year, as my share of royalty on my English Arithmetic for High Schools, for Secondary Schools and Gajrathi Arithmetic, some amount according to a fixed percentage. I have entrusted to you the entire management of my Marathi Arithmetic since 1907 and that of Canarese Arithmetic since the last two or three years. The management will

be in your hands during the term of copy-right on the same conditions as during the past years. If you die before the expiry of the period, your family shall receive $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. of the gross sales of Marathi Arithmetic only, i.e. half of what I have been allowing you, from any one of the boys who will be in charge of the management after you, so long as the book continues to be in the field.

The royalty of the English and Gujrathi Arithmetics from Mac-Millain & Co. and that of Marathi and Canarese Arithmetics through you are the sources of income for the current expenses of the family. During the past few years the income from them has been very good and even increasing. I don't think it will continue the same after me. New books will come in the field. However, I can reasonably expect it to be fairly good in the next ten years.

The current expenses of the family are about Rs.200 a month and as the boys and girls grow up some more money will have to be spent on their education. Later on I should very much like to send Shankar to England for education if he is found to be promising as you say. But it will depend on how long I live and how far funds will permit.

After deducting the current expenses from the income, I want the remaining amount to be kept as reserve fund and the extraordinary expenses of the family should be met out of it.

After Kashibai passes her B.A., I want to take her to England or Japan and then think about the question of her marriage. Of course I shall give her choice in the matter. I feel no anxiety on her account.

The great source of my anxiety is Godubai and I don't know what to do of her. She appears to be in good

health at present and there is no harm in marrying her. But I have no time now and I shall think of the question seriously after I return from England in September next. If I live to see my daughters married, I shall take care that they marry well and are placed in a happy situation in life. I shall give anything particularly for the sake of Godubai.

I want Bapu to join the Society after he passes his B.A. and I intend to put him in the Business Branch under Wamanrao in the Press.

I wish at least one of Anna's sons to join the Society. But at present they are too young to chalk out any programme for them.

About Dwarkabai's daughters too I cannot say anything at this stage for their education.

I want to educate the boys and send them into the world well equipped. I don't look upon it as my duty to make any provision for the marriages of the boys. In the first place I wish none of them should marry till he completes his education and is able to stand on his own legs. But I should like to treat all these boys and Dwarkabai's girls equally in this respect and I think it will be quite enough if we make a provision of Rs.2,000 for the marriage of each of them when time comes.

Two years back I had a mind to make some decent provision for Tai and had proposed to set apart Rs.3,000 for her. But she positively refused to accept anything from me. Now for the last eight years she has given up my protection and I don't want her to come back in the family and create new disturbances. If, at any time, however, she is destitute of any means and wants help, Rs.10 to 15 per month be paid to her for maintenance.

I have promised Bhiku and my cook Gopal to pay the net amount they will lose in the Bombay Banking Co. and the Specie Bank. I have to pay Gopal at the rate of Rs.50 per year for the last two or three years and to Dagadu Rs.200 in a lump sum. (On the 19th February he asked me to pay Bhiku Tatyra Rs.1,000 - Rs.500 being already paid to him - for his losses in the Bombay Banking Co.).

I have no debt to pay, but Rs.2,000 will have to be paid to the Liquidator of the Specie Bank when the amount is demanded on account of the forty shares I held in the Bank.

I have advanced a loan of £ 500 or Rs.7,500 to Mr. K.B.Mawlankar. I don't think we shall be able to get the money from him now. If, however, he returns it I should like to distribute the amount among the five boys equally.

I expect to receive a sum of Rs.3,000 from Mac Millain & Co. shortly, but I shall have to pay the money to the Press for buying a new machine in order that it may be at your disposal any time you want for printing Marathi and Canarese Arithmetics.

Besides some balance with you, I have got nearly Rs.2,500 in the National Bank, Bombay, and some amount in the same Bank, I don't know exactly what it is - in London. But I shall want it when I go to England.

It is impossible for me to live for ten years more. If I live for five years more, greater part of the programme I shall see through. Even if two years are given to me, I shall be able to do much and lighten the burden of your future responsibility. But if anything happens to me all of a sudden, I see no one near enough excepting you on whom to throw it and who would carry out my wishes. If our old relations had continued, I should have given

over the charge of my daughters and Dwarkabai to Bala, and that of Anna's sons and the management of my books to you, and thus made a division of labour. But after the manner he has behaved with me it is out of question now. However, in order that you may not be overburdened I intend to leave the higher of the portion of the management to Lalubhai and Narottam. In all important matters they will direct you as I have been doing and you should execute their orders. I am going to speak to them both about this before I leave for England.

It would be enough if we keep joint establishment for ten years and I hope Mai and Dwarkabai will pull on harmoniously. If, however, it is found impossible, Rs.50/- per month may be paid to any one of them that will secede, for the current expenses. After ten years, say in 1925, the joint establishment would be unnecessary and it would be time to break it up.

After the lapse of ten years and the marriages of my daughters, the house should be in possession of those of the five boys that join the Society. But none shall have the right to sell, mortgage or dispose it off in any way. For, ultimately I want to give it to the Society.

If the income from my books continues to be the same as during the past few years and it does not fall off all of a sudden, by judicious management, I think it would be possible to save something after meeting all these demands on the reserve fund and making a decent provision for all as I have said above.

Of the savings, you should receive three thousand and Anbatai, Krishnabai and Autai Rs.1,000 each and the remainder, if any, should go to my daughters.

After ten years, I wish the income, if it continues, from my books should go to the Society for the use of the education of the children of the members of the Society.

If, however, the income fails at any time, all will have to adapt themselves to circumstances and live within the means at their disposal. Lalubhai and Narottam will be the best judges and settle what to do in any emergency.

Copy sent to the Secretary, Servants of India Society.

Sd. D. V. Velankar

Instructions given by the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale
on his death-bed

On the 19th of February at about 4 in the afternoon Mr. Gokhale felt that his end was approaching. While myself and Dwarkabai's son, Bapu were standing near, he called me and Dr. Deva by his side. He gave the Doctor some instructions about the Society's affairs and regarding the family affairs in his presence he said to me in Marathi: "Dattopant, it is well if I pull through, but I have no hope now. You know what my wishes are, and you also know what I have. If I am gone, you take my place in the family. All should live jointly and harmoniously. Prepare a statement of my property and my instructions to you. Place it before Lalubhai and Narottam. Tell them that I am leaving entire charge and care of the family to them and it is my last request to them to take it till all the children are grown up. Don't bother them about details. But in every important matter accept their word as if it were my own. In legal matters, take advice from Gharpure and Abhyankar. Patwardhan, Dr. Deva and Ramabai are the only persons I see who would give you good advice and whom you should consult in any difficulty."

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