

A Study of Mathas and Phads in Pandharpur.

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Kshetra Pandharpur, religious place and centre of *Varkari* cult. From 13th century onwards Marathi Saints contributed to the development of this *Sampradaya*. It has own philosophy and ritual, pilgrimage to *Pandharpur* is one the popular function of this sect.

The followers of the *Sampradaya* are divided into smaller groups which are known as *Mathas* and *Phads*, which are more than 100 in number and located in *Pandharpur*.

In the year 1944, some scholars in Pune tried to survey them however failed to complete it. On the basis of that we started detailed study of those institutions and added following information,

1. Name of *Mathas* and *Phads*, year of foundation and name of founders, their tradition and *Guru Parampara*.
2. Worshipping Deity, yearly rituals etc and area of followers.
3. Social and religious activities, sources of Income, relations with other Institutions, branches outside *Pandharpur*.
4. Today's Chief, his qualifications, contributions etc.
5. Property, Library, mss collections, publications etc.
6. Conclusions.

In the first phase we are working on 21 *Mathas*.