



## **A Study Marathi Female Saint 'KANHOPATRA'**

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### **Abstract**

*Saint Kanhopatra was one of the famous saints in Maharashtra. Her lyrics (Abhangas ) were famous. She had given the message of 'NAAM MAHATMYA' through her Ovi. Her life were full of sorrow. She was devotee of Vitthal. She implores Vithoba to be her saviour and release her from the clutches of her profession. She offered her life on the feet of Vitthal. Researcher studied Kanhopatra's life and literature through this research.*

**Key words:** *Maharashtra's Saint Kanhopatra's Life , Lyrics.*

### **Introduction**

Maharashtra is known as a state of Saints. In medieval age of literature saint's literature comes in this age. Saints like Dnyaneshwar, Tukaram, Ramdas are well known saints in Maharashtra.

Teaching based on philosophy of life as well as some social issues has reflected through these literature by these saints. Female saints from Maharashtra Saint Muktabai, Saint Janabai , Saint Baina bai ( Disciple of Sant Tukaram), Kanhopatra was one of them. Due to their literature, in twenty first century also these people are remember .

**Objectives** – To study the life of Saint Kanhopatra.  
To study the message by Saint KanhopATRA

**Title** - A study of Marathi Female Saint 'KANHOPATRA'.

**Kahopatra's Life and Lyrics-**

Kanhopatra was a daughter of a prostitute named Shyama, in the town of Mangalwedha in Maharashtra .She was beautiful, talented. Kanhopatra (15 th century) is a female Hindu Varkari poet-saint.Mangalwedha is also the birth place of the Varkari saints Chokhamela and Damaji. From early childhood Kanhopatra was trained in song and dance. she was first female saint without guru in Varakari sampraday.

Kanhopatra was forced in the courtson's life,though she dusted it. She refused and spent rest of her life singing and wrote ovi style poems dedicated to Vitthl. In the abhanga 'Patit tu pavna, Mhanavishi Narayana'she acknowledges her Vishnu (Vitthal) as the savior of fallen as well as save her as well.

O Narayana , you call yourself Savior of the fallen.....

My caste is impure

I lack loving faith my nature and actions are vile.

Fallen Kanhopatra

Offers herself to your feet,

A challaenge

To your claims of mercy.

While saying importance of the naam she says

Always call god's name, with keep love inside.

And she wants to meet to Vitthal she expresses her feeling as in following words

Marathi Saint Kanhopatra says,"

Even if you call yourself as God of downtrodden then

why you need prestigious status from the devotees.

If we are within you then why there is no oneness in us.

In spite of a lion being the king of all animals why the fox should need a leadership and this is shameful on the part of the great people.

Human body should be meant for devotion and

his slogan should be remained with us for life long journey."

She further says,

"Oh Lord of Vaikuntha, Oh my dear God Vitthala,

Oh Narayana, Oh son of Vasudeva.....

You are the benevolent for Pundalika

And you are only Lord Vishnu and Govinda.

You are the kind husband of Goddess Rukhmini

And now you will have to look after me

"While expressing her urge to meet the God she says,

"Oh Lord, do not test my patience or else I will die soon.

I feel like a fawn of deer trapped as he is caught in the jaws of the tiger

She also says,

"If one goes deep into the materialism he will definitely loose his life one day. Likewise Lord Indra's body was also cracked at various places and the Demon Bhasmasur was destroyed by Gods."

She was famous for her devotion and faith on Vitthal. Still her Abhangas are famous. Movie and drama produced on her life which was very famous.

**Conclusion-** Kanhopatra is cited as "an example of the real downtrodden and deserving people, persons that are saved by the merciful God". Kanhopatra wrote Marathi abhanga poetry telling of her devotion to Vithoba and her struggle to balance her piety with her profession. About thirty of her abhangas have survived, and continue to be sung today. ...

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