



## “A STUDY ON GREAT INDIAN CRICKETER BABAJI PALWANKAR BALOO AND ANALYSES ON OUTSTANDING CRICKET PERFORMANCES OF MATCHES PLAYED IN ABROAD”

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### ABSTRACT

*Babaji Palwankar Baloo, commonly known as Palwankar Baloo, was an Indian cricketer. He bowled left-arm orthodox spin with great accuracy and the ability to turn the ball. He was also a moderately skilled lower-order batsman.*

**KEYWORDS:** Babaji Palwankar Baloo , Indian cricketer , Dalit caste.

### INTRODUCTION :

He was the first member of the low caste to make an important impact on the sport. Although being one of the finest cricketers of his time, he was never allowed to lead the team as a captain because of his so-called lower caste. However, in later years, his brother Palwankar Vithal was made captain of the Hindu team by the Hindu Gymkhana Club, which was seen as an impact of changing social situations in India.

Babaji Palawankar Baloo was in fact a famous cricketer, who made his name bowling the Hindus to victory against the Parsis and the Europeans. In western India, at least, Palwankar Baloo was the first public figure to emerge from the ranks of the Untouchables, commanding enormous respect inside and outside of his community.

Baloo was a Chamaara, a member of the leather-working caste which ranks close to the bottom of the Hindu social hierarchy. He was born in 1875 in Dharwad, but the family moved soon afterwards to Poona, the old Maratha city hundred miles south-east of Bombay. His father was found working in cleaning guns and cart-ridges in a Government emanations department, a job regarded as polluting by caste Hindus.

### THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

The purpose of the study is established based on the previous facts written by Ramachandra Guha (2002), in cricketing terms Babaji Palawankar Baloo was W. G. Grace's equivalent, as the first truly great cricketer produced in India. Further the study was analyzed based on the fact figures of match score sheets.

### REVIEWS OF RELATED LITERATURE

The similar kind of research literatures of various studies found by the investigator are related to the presented study and are presented in the below;

**Riaz Ahmed and Ali Ahsan (2011)**, The Life of **Akber Wahidi** 1957-2011, legendary sports writer, journalist, statistician, enthusiast promoter, and PFF Media Manager, Born on 7 August 1957, the late Akber Wahidi completed his BA in Civil Engineering from Karachi's renowned NED University of Engineering &

Technology as a youth, but decided not to pursue a career in Civil Engineering and instead focused on writing about his one true love: football.

From 1974, Akber Wahidi was involved in football & sports journalism and wrote fluently in both Urdu and English news articles. He first became renowned when he began writing exclusively for Urdu magazine 'Khel ki Dunya' that was owned by late sports journalist and Wahidi sahib's own mentor Alauddin Ghauri. Akber Wahidi would interview and profile the various football players and football teams across Karachi and rest of Pakistan, and showed immense dedication to his passion that won him many fans across Pakistan's football fraternity and sports journalism circles.

**Bhupinder Mann (2002)**, did research study in the form of a case study on arjuna awardee Dr. Ajmer Singh eminent physical educationist and sports promoter and results of opinion rating survey indicated that Professor Ajmer Singh was very friendly, co-operative, health conscious, regular in his daily exercises, religious man and a source of support and strength to everyone. He possesses a very pleasant personality and his attitude towards others is always human. He has lot of patience and perseverance.

As a teacher Professor Ajmer Singh was very popular among students and has all qualities of an excellent teacher such as punctuality, fairness, up to date, knowledge, skill of inspiring and motivating the students. He maintained warm and friendly relationship with his colleagues.

#### **DEFINITION OF RESEARCH PROBLEM:**

This study assumes to be great significance given its comprehensive study of a first great Indian cricketer such as Babaji Palawankar Baloo. The present investigations delineate Babaji Palwankar Baloo as the great cricketer of India before the independence. The study attempts to delineate his performances in the field of cricket is a great significance itself.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- The present investigation attempts to delineate Babaji Palwankar Baloo as the great cricketer of India before the independence era.
- To study his match performances in the field of Western Countries.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

As per the objectives laid down in the present study the investigator collected the data and information related to the present study in the following methods,

##### **Methods:**

- Illustrative Case studies.
- Explorative (or pilot) Case studies.

##### **Data Collection Techniques:**

- Documents: Score sheets, Letters, newspaper articles, pamphlets, magazines, books, photos, administrative records, etc.
- Archival Records: Census records, Survey records, Name lists, etc.

#### **DESIGN OF THE STUDY:**

##### **Sources of Data and Information:**

The different sources and methods used by the investigator to gather data and information about the present study. There are three major sources and methods that have been identified to obtain the information and data are Interview, Documents and Archival records.

It is further divided as the collection of data and information for this investigation as both primary and secondary resources.

**1. Primary Resources:**

The original data, material and information are collected from the following primary resource.

**Interview Method:**

The investigator personally visited Pune city to met Sri. Sudhir Vaidya, former BCCI scorer and collect sum of the data by Interview and in the form score sheets of matches played by Babaji Palwankar Baloo in Western Countries during 1911.

The Investigator personally visited Y.M.C Hindu Gymkhana Club Pune to collect the data in the form an Interview.



**Investigator with BCCI scorer Sri. Sudhir Vaidya**



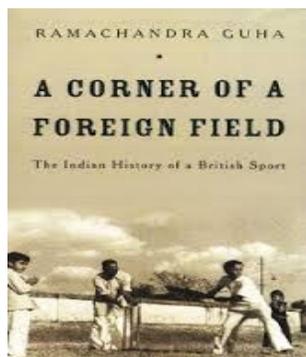
**Investigator with Director Y.M.C Hindu Gymkhana Club Pune**

**b) Books/Articles:**

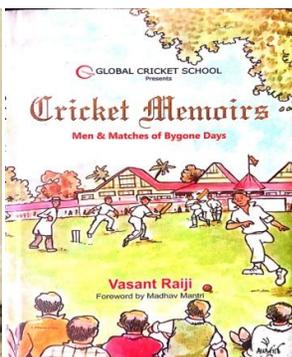
The book/articles written on subject’s author were taken to study the socio-economic background, life history and personality of Late. Babaji Palwankar Baloo.

The Investigator fund a book wrote by Ramachandra Guha Titled “A Corner of a Foreign Field” which is very useful for the study.

The Investigator fund a book wrote by Vasant Raiji Titled “Cricket Memories” which is very useful for the study.



**A Book Wrote  
By Ramachandra Guha**



**A Book Wrote  
Vasant Raiji**

**2. Secondary Resources:**

**a) Documents:**

The investigator visited various universities like LNUPE, Gwalior, Jiwaji University, Gawalior, Banaras Hindhu University, Bangalore University, Bangalore, University of Mysore, Mysore, Karnatak University, Dharwad, University of Mumbai, University of Pune etc., to get the related data information of the study in the form of M.Phil and Ph.D thesis. The published materials in the form of News Papers, Articles, Magazines,

Books and Administrative records etc. are collected, studied and information were retained as documents for the investigation.

**b) Archival Records:**

The official records and data about the cricket performances of Babaji Palwankar Baloo in the websites were studied and information and data were retained for the study.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:**

Based on the previous facts written by Ramachandra Guha (2002 & 2006) and statistical records maintained by Sri. Sudhir Vaidya, former BCCI scorer and others the descriptive and statistical interpretation is made in the following steps,

1. **First-Class Cricket career.**
2. **Outstanding Cricket performance in abroad**

**1. First-Class Cricket career:**

Palwankar played for the Hindu side in the famous 1906 and 1907 matches against the Europeans of the Bombay Gymkhana, in which the Hindus defeated the Europeans by 109 runs and 238 runs respectively. These matches led to various newspaper commentaries, of two types: ones proclaiming a victory over caste prejudice as the united Hindu team triumphed, and others painting them in nationalist tones as a victory of the natives against European rule.

Baloo was chosen for an all-Indian team to tour England in 1911, consisting of Parsis, Hindus, and Muslims, captained by a Sikh. In results terms, the tour was a failure, but Baloo was the outstanding performer for the tourists, taking 114 wickets at an average of 18.84, 75 of which were in first class matches.



**Maharaja of Patiala Team (1911)**



**England Team (British)**

From 1912 to 1919, Baloo was a regular player in the Bombay Quadrangular tournament, between the Hindu, Parsi, Muslim, and European Gymkhanas. Despite regular calls for him to be named captain of the Hindu team, there was still enough caste-based prejudice within the club to prevent it. Three of his brothers, Shivram, Ganpat and Vithal, also played in the Quadrangular, and Palwankar Vithal eventually captained the Hindu team.

**1. Table shows Outstanding cricket performances of Palwankar Baloo are given below, Matches Played In Abroad**

S.N	MATCHES	VENUE	DATE & YEAR	PERFORMANCE	RESULT
	<b>Oxford University v Indians</b>	Christ Church Ground,	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup>	P. Baloo scored 28 and 27 runs in first and second innings	Oxford University won the match by

	<b>(3-day match)</b>	Oxford, England	June 1911	respectively. P. Baloo took 5 and 0 wicket in first and second innings respectively.	8 wickets. (*BP Baloo made his debut in England in first-class matches).
	<b>Marylebone Cricket Club v Indians (3-day match)</b>	Lord's Cricket Ground, St John's Wood, England	8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> June 1911	P. Baloo scored 23 and 0 runs in first and second innings respectively. P. Baloo took 4 wickets in first and innings.	Marylebone Cricket Club won the match by 168 runs.
	<b>Cambridge University v Indians (3-day match)</b>	FP Fenner's Ground, Cambridge, England	12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> June 1911	P. Baloo scored 2 and 1 runs in first and second innings respectively. P. Baloo took 8 wickets in first innings.	Cambridge University won the match by 71 runs
	<b>Warwickshire v Indians (3-day match)</b>	Edgbaston, Birmingham, England	15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> June 1911	P. Baloo scored 4 and 0 runs in first and second innings respectively. P. Baloo took 4 and 0 wicket in first and second innings respectively.	Warwickshire won the match by 10 wickets
	<b>Lancashire v Indians (3-day match)</b>	Old Trafford, Manchester, England	19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> June 1911	P. Baloo scored 8 and 5 runs in first and second innings respectively. P. Baloo took 7 and 0 wicket in first and second innings respectively.	Lancashire won the match by 9 wickets.
	<b>Surrey v Indians (3-day match)</b>	Kennington Oval, Kennington, England	29 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> June 1911	P. Baloo scored 3 and 26 runs in first and second innings respectively. P. Baloo took 4 and 1 wicket in first and second innings respectively.	Surrey won the match by 6 wickets.
	<b>Kent v Indians (3-day match)</b>	Private Banks Sports Ground, Catford, England	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> July 1911	P. Baloo scored 4 and 0 runs in first and second innings respectively. P. Baloo took 5 wickets in first innings.	Surrey won the match by 9 wickets.
	<b>Northamptonshire v Indians (3-day match)</b>	County Ground, Northampton, England	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> July 1911	P. Baloo scored 2 and 31 runs in first and second innings respectively. P. Baloo took 6 and 0 wicket in first and second innings respectively.	Northamptonshire won the match by 6 wickets.
	<b>Yorkshire v Indians (3-day match)</b>	The Circle, Hull, England	10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Baloo scored 28 and 4 runs in first and second innings respectively. P. Baloo took 4 wickets in first	Yorkshire won the match by an innings and 43

		1911	innings.	runs.
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Table number 2 shows about the matches played by Baloo in abroad The first match played against **Oxford University** and Baloo scored 28 and 27 runs in first and second innings respectively. Baloo took 5 and 0 wicket in first and second innings respectively. Second match played against **Marylebone Cricket Club** and Baloo scored P. Baloo scored 23 and 0 runs in first and second innings respectively Baloo took 4 wickets in first and innings. Third match played against **Cambridge University** P. Baloo scored 2 and 1 runs in first and second innings respectively. Baloo took 8 wickets in first innings. Fourth match played against **Warwickshire** P. Baloo scored 4 and 0 runs in first and second innings respectively. Baloo took 4 and 0 wicket in first and second innings respectively. Fifth match **Lancashire** Baloo scored 8 and 5 runs in first and second innings respectively Baloo took 7 and 0 wicket in first and second innings respectively.

Sixth match played against **Surrey v Indians** Baloo scored 3 and 26 runs in first and second innings respectively. Baloo took 4 and 1 wicket in first and second innings respectively. Seventh match played against **Kent** P. Baloo scored 4 and 0 runs in first and second innings respectively. Baloo took 5 wickets in first innings. Eighth match played against **Northamptonshire** P. Baloo scored 2 and 31 runs in first and second innings respectively. Baloo took 6 and 0 wicket in first and second innings respectively. Ninth match played against **Yorkshire** Baloo scored 28 and 4 runs in first and second innings respectively. Baloo took 4 wickets in first innings.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- ✓ These stories of Un-touchability being challenged in cricket have largely been ignored by historians but served as great inspiration for pioneers and architect of Indian constitution like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. This is why the man who emerged as the foremost sportsman of the untouchables in 1927-28 went to telling village audiences about his early attempts to gain recognition for Babaji Plawankar Baloo’s achievement.
- ✓ Babaji bowled left arm orthodox spin with great accuracy and the ability to turn the ball easy. He was the first member of Dalit caste to make a significant impact on the sport. Palwankar Baloo name stands out in history and not just in cricket as he though being an unfair victim of the caste system, managed to challenge this very system with his immense cricket talents.
- ✓ Babaji palwankar baloo was taken 48 wickets and 196 run in this series, at the end it is concluded that Babaji Palwanker Baloo was a forgotten first great cricketer of India at the time of British Government.
- ✓ By this performance of baloo we can come to conclusion that the baloo was an outstanding Bowler as well as batsman of India. Even by his low caste feeling and socio cultural deprivation he achieved lot with his blessed talent.

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