

SPATIAL-OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY BETWEEN THREE GENERATIONS IN RURAL HOUSEHOLDS

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1. This paper has a two-fold objective: (i) to indicate the dimensions of mobility—geographical and occupational—as between three generations in the rural community, and (ii) to know whether and how far the movements over space and occupations go hand in hand with each other. This study is based on information gathered for a sample of 3,114 heads of the households, from 70 villages of the districts of Poona, Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Satara and Bijapur. The relevant data on mobility were collected by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics during 1947-50 as a part of the wider inquiry into the economy and social life of the famine tracts of the old Bombay Deccan.

2. While collecting the data on mobility for three generations, the present head of the household and his usual place of residence at the time of inquiry were taken as the central points of reference and the history of the family regarding residence and occupation was traced for the two previous generations, i.e. for the grandfather and for the father of the present head of the household investigated.¹

Geographical Mobility

3. Table 1 gives a distribution of the households in the sample according to whether the grandfather and the father of the head of the household, belonged to the same village as that of the head.² This table may be said to contain basic data on geographical mobility for the three generations under consideration. As the discussion on the causes of change of place and of the relationship between geographical and occupational mobility has been made with reference to these basic data, the household categories indicated in the table have been referred to hereafter as Type I, Type II, Type III, and Type IV households. Type I households indicated complete geographical immobility through the three generations, as both the grand-

¹ It should be noted that the word 'generation' is used here in a very limited sense, to indicate only the 'father' and the 'grandfather' of the present head of the household. The selection of the present head determined also the selection of the persons in the previous two generations. Similarly, the analysis of geographical mobility (e.g. in-migration and out-migration) had to be done with reference to the place of residence of the present head of the household. Both of these facts might impose some limitations on the study made of the available data. There are, however, no reasons to exaggerate these limitations.

² Hereafter, the terms head, father and grandfather are used to indicate the head of the household, his father and his grandfather, respectively.