

GOLDEN JUBILEE

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1930—1980

GOKHALE INSTITUTE  
OF  
POLITICS & ECONOMICS

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## **GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS 1930-1980**

The Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics was founded in June 1930 as a result of an endowment of rupees one lakh twenty thousand offered to the Servants of India Society by Rao Bahadur R. R. Kale, M.L.C., of Satara. The aims of the Institute were defined as "the study of and research into the various economic and political problems of India and the training of workers for such study and research." The Institute is registered under the Society's Registration Act and the Bombay Public Trust Act. The Servants of India Society are the Trustees of the Institute. The Institute functions under the general control of the Board of Management which the Servants of India Society constitutes for the purpose. The internal management of the Institute rests with a Committee of Internal Management constituted out of the staff of the Institute and one member of the Servants of India Society resident in Pune. The late Professor D. R. Gadgil was the first Director. He continued to be the Director until his retirement in 1966.

For a number of years in the beginning the financial resources of the Institute were very limited : the average annual expenditure of the Institute for the period 1930 to 1945 was about eleven thousand rupees. With these limited means, the Institute initiated pioneering research in local and regional problems involving empirical, fact-finding field investigations. The first such studies were a survey of marketing of fruit in Pune and a survey of motor bus transportation in a few districts. The importance of such studies was soon recognised by various authorities. The Imperial (now Indian) Council of Agricultural Research made a grant in 1936 towards research relating to the adaptation of the survey method to

Indian farm management research. In the same year the Pune Municipality gave assistance to the Institute for the socio-economic survey of the city. This was followed by similar requests and grants by the municipality of Solapur in 1938 and of Kolhapur in 1945. In 1938, the Government of Bombay Presidency entrusted the Institute with the conduct of an economic survey for estimating the direct and indirect benefits of irrigation projects and in 1942 to study the problem of lapse into illiteracy of students leaving primary schools in the province and again in 1945 to study the problems of wastage and stagnation in primary education.

The resource position of the Institute gradually improved after 1945 and certain grants not entirely tied to specific projects became available. In 1946, the Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust made a grant of fifteen thousand rupees a year for five years, subsequently extended at a higher rate for another five years, for work in Agricultural Economics at the Institute. In 1947, the Government of Bombay sanctioned an annual grant of ten thousand rupees; in 1953, the Government of India sanctioned an annual grant of eight thousand rupees. In 1951, the Rockefeller Foundation made a grant of eighty thousand rupees, spread over five years, for the conduct of a research programme in rural demography. At the same time the Foundation made a special grant of five thousand rupees a year for five years for strengthening the research staff of the Institute.

On the occasion of the twentyfifth anniversary of the Institute in 1955, the Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust gave a lumpsum stabilization grant of one lakh rupees and the Rockefeller Foundation a sum of one and half lakh dollars, to strengthen on an enduring basis the Institute's programme in research and training. On the same occasion, the Government of Bombay made a grant of a lakh of rupees for the construction of a new building.

Beginning with the year 1954, the Institute was able to expand its staff and research activities very significantly, with the help of a series of grants on a longer term basis. In this year, the section in Agricultural Economics was strengthened with the establishment, by the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture, of the Agro-Economic Research Centre for Western India, as an integral part of the Institute.

The Ford Foundation came forward with very generous financial assistance beginning with the year 1955-56 and continued over more than twelve years. The first assistance from the Foundation was a special grant of about two lakh rupees in 1955-56 for a period of four years for training research workers in methods of applied social science research. Before this grant expired, the Foundation came forward in 1958 with a very liberal grant of five lakh dollars spread over a period of five years for the expansion of research and training at the Institute. About half of this amount was spent on buildings and equipment and the other half on current research activities and training of staff. In 1962-63, the Foundation in cooperation with the Planning Commission approved a four year grant of two and quarter lakh dollars for research and training in planning

and development. On the expiry of the earlier five-year grant sanctioned in 1958, the Foundation approved in 1963 an extension of the grant amounting to three lakh dollars for a further period of five years. By the end of 1968, the direct grants to the Institute by the Ford Foundation came to an end. At the beginning of the ten-year grant by the Ford Foundation it was understood that by the end of the period, the Institute should be able to continue to finance its research and training activities with the help of internal financial sources. As will appear from the following, this had happened. The Ford assistance continued indirectly for a period of four years from 1967-68 when the Foundation financed through the Planning Commission, continuation of research in planning and development at the Institute for four years. At the end of this period, the Planning Commission continued an annual grant for the purpose.

During the Second Five-Year Plan period, the University Grants Commission provided assistance, beginning with 1957-58, to organize the Institute's research work in four sections, namely Urban Economics, Rural Sociology, Applied Statistics, and National Income & Development Planning. The State Government shared half of the total financial responsibility for these sections. During the Third Plan period, the University Grants Commission sanctioned in 1962 a further grant for the establishment of a new research section on Structure of Indian Economy. At the end of the Plan period, when assistance from the University Grants Commission came to an end, the Government of Maharashtra provided the necessary financial support to continue these activities.

In 1964, the University Grants Commission recognised the Institute as an Advanced Centre for Study of Economics and sanctioned annual grants for 10 years to strengthen staff and library as well as scholarships and fellowships for students working for M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. On expiry of the Grant from the UGC, the financial responsibility was again taken over by the Government of Maharashtra.

The Union Ministry of Health, which had given grants for conducting some specific demographic studies in 1954-57, decided in 1964 to strengthen and extend the research work on population carried out in the Institute since 1951, by financing on a continuing basis a Demographic Research Centre as an integratal part of the Institute.

Thus by the beginning of the 70's, the Institute's financial support was provided mainly by the University Grants Commission, the Government of Maharashtra, the Union Ministries of Food and Agriculture, and Health, and the Planning Commission.

During the last decade further developments have taken place in the provision of financial resources for the Institute. While the Government of Maharashtra took over the financial responsibility under the Advance Centre Scheme, the University Grants Commission, under its Fifth Five Year Plan Schemes, provided assistance for studies in Indian Economic History and Indian Economy. Further, the UGC as a part of its Area

Studies Programme, financed in 1977 the location of a Centre for Study of the East European Socialist Economies at the Institute. During the same year, the Reserve Bank of India offered to finance a Professorship in Finance and related research fellowships at the Institute. The Union Ministry of Agriculture financed for a period of seven years from 1973 to 1980, a small unit for studies in land reforms.

Thus, as against the resource pattern till 1945, the Institute today is much less dependent on grants tied to specific projects and has stabler financial resources that enable it to design research studies and training schemes of its choice. This does not, however, mean that there are no more project grants. During the last 30 years the Institute has undertaken a number of research projects at the instance of various public bodies, national and international. Naturally these have been studies that fitted into the general pattern and orientation of work at the Institute. Substantial project grants on studies proposed by the Institute were also given by the Research Programmes Committee of the Planning Commission in the 50's and early 60's and by the Indian Council of Social Science Research in recent years.

## II

### DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

The Institute was originally intended to undertake "the study of and research into the various economic and political problems of India . . . .". However, during the first decade and half, due to very limited financial resources, attention was given mainly to economic problems. This of course did not mean that studies of political problems of India were entirely neglected. By 1948, the Institute had published three studies (by D. R. Gadgil) on the problem of Federalism, one of the most important problems under debate and discussion at the time. Taken together with the three R. R. Kale Memorial Lectures delivered by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Shri. S. G. Vaze and Prof. M. Venkatrangaiya, these publications constitute a notable series of discussions on the federal problem over a decade. However, in 1949, with the establishment of the University of Poona, the Institute became a constituent institution of the University. Since then, by an unwritten understanding, the Institute has been functioning more or less like the Department of Economics of the University. The University does not have a separate department of Economics. On the other hand, the University established a Department of Political Science and in response the Institute withdrew its interest in that field. This has, of course, not precluded the Institute from inviting distinguished scholars to deliver the Kale Memorial Lecture on problems of political science and public administration or organising training or extension programmes when called upon by public authorities to do so. Thus, in 1962, the Institute organized, at the request of the Government of Maharashtra, a

training course for the office-bearers of the newly constituted Zilla Parishads in which more than four hundred office-bearers from all districts participated.

The research work of the Institute can be broadly divided under a number of heads :

**Agricultural Economics :** This has been one of the earliest fields of study and research at the Institute. The Survey of Farm Business in Wai Taluka not merely pioneered the adaptation of the survey method to Farm Business research but provided valuable empirical basis for some aspects of Indian farm economy. In 1956, the Institute prepared for the Union Ministry of Agriculture, the Report on the Farm Management Survey of two districts of present Maharashtra. It undertook a scheme on behalf of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, to popularise farm account keeping with the farmers. The report of this pilot scheme was published in 1961. More recently, one of the research students has examined the detailed farm cost data relating to various districts of India to analyse regional differences in costs of production of different crops and the circumstances leading to it.

The survey method of collecting farm management data was used by the Institute to study the Economic Benefits of Irrigation in 1938-40. This was the first systematic study into the problem of cost-benefits of a social investment project in India. Following this, the Institute was called upon by the Government of Orissa in 1954 to enquire into the possible economic benefits of the Hirakud Dam project on the river Mahanadi. This study, published in 1960, was the first in India into the projected social costs and benefits of large social investment projects. It provided the basis for a large number of similar studies under the auspices of the Research Programmes Committee of the Planning Commission. Subsequently, the Institute conducted brief exercises into the benefits and costs of alternative uses of the water of Krishna river. In recent years the problem of the economic use of water in the dry agricultural regions of Maharashtra has received serious public attention. Following limited studies into investment in and utilization of tank, well and lift irrigation by research students, the Institute is currently (1980) undertaking, under agreement with the Central Water and Power Commission, a large-scale study into the economics of distribution and use of irrigation water in some canal irrigation systems in the State. The Institute has also completed (1979) a study into the costs and benefits of rural electrification projects in four districts of Maharashtra, on behalf of the Rural Electrification Corporation. The Institute has also recently completed a benchmark survey for the Bhima Irrigation Project as a preliminary for continuing monitoring and evaluation of that project.

The development of new high yielding varieties of seeds and their extension in Maharashtra was the subject of investigation at two stages. In the beginning (1967-68) there were studies for selected crops in selected districts, as a part of the programme of work in the Agro-

Economic Research Centre. Later, one of the research scholars examined the performance of these varieties in Maharashtra over a longer period, as a part of his Ph.D. dissertation. The poor performance of agriculture in Maharashtra over the years 1960-73 was the subject of an intensive study in the Agro-Economic Research Centre. The Report is now being brought up-to-date at the behest of the Planning Commission.

In 1953, the Institute conducted a study into the working of the Bombay Tenancy Act of 1948, for the Research Programmes Committee of the Planning Commission. This study was useful in helping the policy makers in drastically revising the tenancy law in the State. Subsequently, at the request of the Central and State Governments, the Institute undertook studies into distribution of surplus land acquired under the Ceiling Law to landless in selected districts of Maharashtra. One of the research students worked with the help of farm management data, on the question of the relative efficiency of smaller farms—a question which has attracted considerable attention in the past two decades. In the Centre for the Study of Land Reforms the Institute staff prepared a comprehensive study on the development of tenancy reform in Bihar over a long period, highlighting the existing situation and the difficulties in the way of implementation of reform laws. A briefer study relates to the present state of land records and their maintenance in the State. Bihar is a particularly unfortunate example of the very unhappy state of land relations and the studies throw light on the state of it. A similar, though small, exercise was carried out for Tamil Nadu. A monograph on the legislative provisions for prevention of fragmentation and consolidation of holdings in every state of the Union, including an account of the impact of such laws, has also been completed in the Land Reforms Centre.

One of the earliest studies in the Institute related to Legislative Protection and Relief of Agricultural Debtors in India. In 1951-54 the staff of the Institute was actively associated with the planning of the Rural Credit Survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India, and the Institute conducted the survey on behalf of the Bank in seven districts of Bombay and Hyderabad. The district monographs prepared by the Institute were published by the Reserve Bank. The Institute also collaborated with the Reserve Bank in its Follow Up Surveys in two districts. Subsequently studies were carried out into the working of the crop loan system in the State and on the utilisation of long-term finance for wells. Surveys were also conducted to evaluate the working of the Small Farmers Development Agency in two districts of Maharashtra and Mysore in the early years of SFDA. Now, the Institute is again undertaking such a study after the operation of the agency for sufficiently long period of time.

The earliest study based on field investigations carried out by the Institute related to marketing of fruits in Pune—and enquiry that preceded the agricultural commodity marketing reports published by the Government of India. Subsequently, systematic studies have been

carried out by the staff and research students on the marketing of paddy, groundnut, tobacco, arecanut and milk. Currently, a survey into the marketing of mangoes, an important commercial crop in the coastal districts of Maharashtra, is in progress as a part of the work of the Agro-Economic Research Centre. Besides work has been carried out on seasonal fluctuations in prices of farm commodities and terms of trade of agriculture. One of the staff members of the Institute prepared a study on British Agricultural Marketing during his year's visit to England as a visiting scholar.

During the years of the Second World War the Institute was closely associated with the formulation of the policy of procurement and distribution of foodgrains in the Bombay Presidency. Subsequently, the Institute published the reports of the Commodity Prices Board of the Government of India, of which its Director was a member. In 1958, the Institute completed and published a study into the operation of food controls in Bombay State during the war years.

In 1962, the Institute undertook, at the instance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a study into the Impact of Assistance under P.L. 480 on the Indian Economy. The report was submitted in 1964 and published later.

Besides these, the staff at the Agro-Economic Research Centre and the research students of the Institute have carried out studies into the pattern of rural employment and unemployment, the behaviour of rural wages in India, district-wise, over long periods of time, the impact of crash employment schemes, the pattern of saving and investment of farmers in irrigated areas, and on several other problems that have come up from time to time.

With the establishment of the Agro-Economic Research Centre in 1954, a series of village surveys was undertaken over a period of 10 years with a view to studying the economic changes in village India. These surveys were to be followed by resurveys at an interval of about 10 years. While a large number of villages have been surveyed in the past, only a few have been resurveyed and the Reports prepared.

In 1967, the Institute, in collaboration with the department of forest of the State Government and with financial assistance from the UGC and the Planning Commission, started some work on forestry economics. This led to three studies : one, a compendium of forest resources of Maharashtra, compiled on the basis of the many working plans with the State forest department; second, a study into the long term behaviour of the prices of forest products in the State, and third, a study of the working of forest labour cooperatives in the State.

**Regional Development :** In the early 60's, the Institute undertook the formulation of district development plan for one district, Wardha, as an exercise in 'planning from the bottom'. This report was submitted to the State Government, and subsequently provided one of the bases for the formulation of guidelines for such plans by the Planning Commission. At



the request of the Government of Goa, the Institute prepared a report on the prospects of development of Goa on the basis of local resource exploitation and development. This was followed by the preparation of a report for the economic development of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, at the instance of the Marathwada Development Corporation.

**Urban Studies :** The socio-economic survey of Pune city was the first urban survey carried out by the Institute, and possibly the first in India. This was followed by similar surveys of the towns of Solapur and Kolhapur. The surveys cover all important aspects of social and economic life of the cities and include studies of their growth and development. In 1953, with the financial assistance of the Research Programmes Committee of the Planning Commission, a resurvey of Pune city was undertaken. The Report, published in 1956, is unique in the picture it affords of the changing pattern of employment, earnings, etc., as between the pre-war and post-war periods. This was followed by a number of studies by research students at the Institute into consumption and distribution of cloth, pattern of employment and earnings of women in organised industry and services as well as in domestic service, all in Pune. A valuable study of the factory workers in Pune with special reference to their recruitment and mobility was carried out by a guest scholar at the Institute and published in 1964. More recently, at the instance of the National Buildings Organisation, a survey was conducted of the construction labour, the largest single segment of unorganised urban labour in the city of Pune.

At the instance of the State Government, the Institute also conducted an enquiry into the comparative costs of infra-structural development in the three cities of Bombay, Pune and Nashik, in order to help formulate policies on urban development. The study was published by the State Industrial and Investment Corporation of Maharashtra. Besides conducting studies, the staff in the Institute took part in discussions relating to metropolitan development of the Bombay-Pune region. The sudden deluge in Pune in 1961 following the breach in the river dams upstream led to the organisation of study groups by the Institute for the formulation of policy approaches on an immediate and long-term basis. A publication of the Institute records the impact of this deluge.

**Sociology :** A small section in Sociology has been functioning in the Institute for the last two decades. It has focussed attention broadly on problems of social change in rural and urban India. Some of the problems studied by the staff and the doctoral students relate to backward classes in urban, industrialised setting, rural migrants in urban slums and women's role in economic development. Special attention has been given to problems of tribal development. Two studies into problems of tribal development in Nashik and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra are published. Currently, a study leading to an approach to the development of the tribal region of Chandrapur district is underway. Doctoral

students have worked on problems of tribal agriculture in Tripura and of tribals in an urban setting.

**Industrial Labour :** The earliest study in the Institute on this subject was on Regulation of Wages and other problems of Industrial labour in India. This was followed by work of a number of research students on different aspects of recruitment, employment and wages of labour in textile and sugar mills in Bombay, Solapur and Khandesh, on settlement of industrial disputes and on strikes.

This year (1980), Shri B. N. Dater, a well-known scholar and administrator in the field of industrial labour, has made an endowment of about one lakh rupees to be used as a nuclear fund, the interest from which is to be used to finance studies relating to problems of labour, employment and manpower planning.

**Industry Studies :** The early industry studies related to small-scale urban industries like weaving in Solapur and Ichalkaranji, followed by studies on financing of small-scale industries and working of industrial estates. A critical review of the Khadi Commission's scheme of Ambar Charkha raised the whole question of economising of capital in labour-intensive small industries. More recently, as a part of a study on growth of selected large-scale industries in India, a research student has completed work on the growth and structure of transport equipment manufacturing industry.

A second line of work related to problems of monopoly and functions of Trade Associations and Chambers of Commerce. Besides an early thesis by a research student, a monograph was published on the Indian Cotton Mills Federation and a book on Chambers of Commerce. Memoranda were also submitted by scholars in the Institute to various official committees enquiring into the problems of monopoly organisation in industry. Currently, an exploratory study is under way into the working of foreign collaboration in Indian industries.

**Studies into the Structure of Indian Industry :** Since 1962, with the establishment of the UGC financed section on this subject, and subsequently with the financial help of the Planning Commission, the Institute has undertaken extensive studies into the input-output structure of the Indian Economy. The first set of works in the field resulted in the publication of an input-output table for India for the year 1963, divided under 29 industry heads. This table was subsequently enlarged by presenting the data under 238 different industry heads. Moreover, tables were prepared for both current input as well as for capital input and separate estimates were made for the small-scale and large-scale industry sectors. The work on the 1963 input-output table was followed by work on a similar table for 1965 for India. The work on these all-India tables was facilitated by a series of specific industry studies by research students working on electrical and machine tools industry, steel forgings, coal mining and road transport, as well as on location pattern and inter-regional commodity s. In 1979, the Institute completed, at the instance of the Planning

Commission, regional input-output tables for all States based on the data for the year 1965. At present the Institute has started work, based on the input-output tables, on the impact of changes in income distribution on the production structure of the economy.

**Demography :** Since 1951, the Institute has a section working on studies in Indian population. The earliest study in the Institute on Population of India—a regional approach—was prepared by a research scholar as his dissertation. The city survey of Kolhapur resulted in a special report on the demographic features of the city. Following the establishment of the Demographic Research Unit with the help of the Rockefeller Foundation grant, surveys into fertility and mortality were conducted in four districts of the State and results published in two volumes. With the help of grants from the Union Ministry of Health, results of demographic and nutrition survey in six rural communities of the State were published. Subsequently, with the help of grants from the Population Council, the section undertook, in 1959, an investigational project in rural demographic conditions with special reference to population control practices. The study was conducted at the Rural Health Institute at Manchar, with the active collaboration of the Pune Medical Association. The results of the survey were published in 1967. With the establishment of the Demographic Research Centre, financed by the Union Ministry of Health in 1964, the emphasis of work shifted somewhat to studies in family planning. A systematic enquiry into the results of the contraception activity in the State during the 15 years, since 1951, was conducted and the results published in 1971. Recently, a similar extensive sample study into the sterilisation programme carried out in the middle of the 70's in the State has been completed. Currently, work is going on in the Centre on some aspects of health services. The demographic section has also started studies into employment pattern and motivations of rural women, particularly those belonging to weaker sections of the rural community.

**Education :** The Institute, being essentially an economic research Institute, is not equipped to do research on pedagogic problems. However, at the request of the Government of Bombay, the Institute had undertaken in 1942, a study of lapse into illiteracy of students leaving primary school and in 1945, a study of wastage and stagnation in primary education. After a long interval, the Institute published two studies on wastage in college education. The work on progress and performance of education continued to engage the attention of some scholars, and three other studies have been published relating to the problems of spread of education in rural and urban areas of Maharashtra in the post-independence period.

**All-India Surveys :** The Institute's long experience of research involving fact-finding field surveys led to its direct association in large-scale all-India surveys in the early fifties when such surveys were undertaken in India for the first time. One large-scale survey in which the Institute

participated was the All-India Rural Credit Survey, referred to earlier. The other was the National Sample Survey, which started in 1951 and is a continuing feature providing data base for economic studies and planning. The Institute was actively involved in the first round of the NSS and one-third of the total sample all over the country was covered by the schedules and questionnaires designed by the Institute. The results of this association and survey are published in two volumes put out by the Institute in 1953 and 1954. Arising out of its association with the NSS and the National Income Committee, the staff and students of the Institute pursued in later years work relating to National Income of India as well as regional income estimates.

**Economic Policy and Planning :** Besides empirical research into the problems of the Indian economy, the Institute has taken continuous interest in problems of economic policy and planning. During the years of the Second World War, the Institute published a study on War and Indian Economic Policy, and subsequently a study on the Post-war Economic Development. Ever since the beginning of planning in India in 1951, the Institute's senior staff have put out a steady stream of papers on economic policy and development.

During the last six years or so, because of stabler financial grants from the UGC and assistance from ICSSR and the Reserve Bank of India for studies of our choice, the Institute has been able to extend its research work into newer fields or fields that could not receive adequate attention earlier.

**Monetary Economics, Finance and Foreign Trade :** In 1949, the Institute published a survey of post-war inflation in India. In subsequent years some writing relating to the monetary policy of the government was done. However, sustained work on monetary economic problems started only a few years ago with enquiry into the portfolio holdings of commercial banks—both theoretical and empirical analysis. The implications of this work for money supply analysis are being investigated currently.

A major study currently under way relates to the identification and analysis of growth cycles in India since the beginning of planning. The Industrial Development Bank of India has granted financial assistance for further work in this area relating to the indicators of business recession and revival in India.

In the field of finance, work is continuing on preparing estimates of cost of capital to industries in India and on a comprehensive study aimed at computation of rates of return on ordinary shares listed on the major stock exchanges in India and an examination of the behaviour of prices of the listed stocks over the last two decades.

Simultaneously, research students have started work on flow of funds, banking, credit planning, and in the area of finance.

In the field of international trade, the staff of the Institute has just

completed, with the financial assistance of the ICSSR, a structural study of India's trade dependence during the period 1956-75. The study analyses in detail the pattern and dimension of India's imports and exports in relation to the country's industrial output. Some research scholars have also worked for their Ph.D. degree on import substitution in the field of transport equipment as well as on the structure of Indian tariffs.

**Economic History :** An early work in economic history in the Institute was the projected study into the rise of modern business in India undertaken in 1951; the study could not be completed, except for an initial monograph on the subject. In 1959, a modest effort was made to work on the economic history of rural Maharashtra at the time of the Peshwas, but this also could not proceed beyond the publication of a small study in Marathi relating to one village for which interesting data were available.

In 1972, thanks to a liberal grant by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, the Institute undertook the massive task of preparing an annotated Bibliography of writings in Indian Economic History in the English language covering the period 1500 to 1947. The work, carried out with the help of a large team of research workers and including visits to many libraries in India and the United Kingdom, is now completed and published in five volumes containing some thirty thousand entries. It is hoped that these volumes will be of great help to students of India's economic history.

The preparation of this annotated Bibliography led to the formulation of another research project on compilation of historical statistics relating to different aspects of Indian economy. The project is being financed by the ICSSR, and is currently being carried out in the Institute in collaboration with a few other scholars working on economic history of India.

Another major work of this nature carried out in the Institute relates to a classified chronological index of Agrarian Legislation in India from 1793 to-date. This work, carried out almost single handed, started many years ago as a prelude to a systematic study of land tenure systems and land reforms in India. It soon became clear that there was no single place or source in the country where one could get a proper chronological list of all legislative measures relating to the agrarian sector. Thus began the long search in all provincial capitals, record rooms and libraries for the preparation of this list. Since the geographical entities to which particular laws applied, changed from time to time, it also became necessary to trace the evolution of the administrative units like Provinces, States as well as districts over these one and half centuries. The first volume of this work, covering ten states of the Union was published in 1973. The second volume, covering three more states, is ready for the press. The work on the remaining states will take a few more years. The work was carried out in the beginning with UGC finance and subsequently as a part of the work in the Land Reform Centre which the Union Ministry of Agriculture had financed in the Institute for some years. Currently the Indian Council of

Social Science Research has come forward with liberal financial help to see the work through. The index for each state gives not only a complete chronological list of agrarian legislation promulgated in every state of the Union since 1793, classified according to subject, but also gives a complete and comprehensive account of the evolution of the administrative units. It is hoped that this work will be of use not only to scholars of Indian rural economy, but also to political scientists, lawyers and administrators.

**Study of East European Economies :** In 1977, the University Grants Commission, on the advice of its visiting committee, decided to locate a Centre for the study of the East European Socialist Economies at the Institute, as a part of the overall scheme of promoting Area Study Centres in Indian Universities. The UGC is making specific annual grants to the Institute for strengthening the staff and library and a few research fellowships for this purpose. During the last three years, the Institute, with the help of a few specialised scholars recruited for the purpose, and other members of the staff is trying to organise such study and training. In view of the fact that each of the eight countries in the region has a different language, and literature in English language on these countries is rather scarce, it was thought useful to establish contact with similar institutions in these countries with a view to exchanging scholars for training and research. In pursuance of this goal, the Institute entered into an agreement with Hochschule Fur Okonomie Bruno Leuschner, Berlin (G.D.R.), under which senior Professors of the Hochschule have been visiting the Institute for 12 weeks each year for the last two years to lecture to our students and faculty as well as other visiting Indian scholars on the working of socialist economies with special reference to GDR. This not only gives our scholars a systematic exposure to the logic and functioning of socialist economies, but also prepares the ground for those among them, who may wish to carry out further studies in the field. Similar arrangements will be sought with institutions in other East European Socialist Countries in due course. The scholars in the Centre are currently engaged in translating, editing and preparing reading material in English on the working of the socialist economies, as well as in compilation of a bibliography of periodical literature in English language on the subject.

**Journal :** The Institute has been publishing a quarterly journal in economics, called *Artha Vijnana*, since 1959. This journal publishes results of research work carried out in the Institute as well as works of scholars from outside the Institute. In recent years, due to the rising cost of printing books, the Institute has been publishing many of its studies in full, first in its journal and subsequently bringing them out in book form in its reprint series. Besides, the Institute publishes its research results in the form of books, and some in its mimeograph series. The Journal experimented for many years in the beginning with publishing some articles written in regional languages of India, but in the Devanagari

script; each article carried a summary in Hindi and English. The experience was not very encouraging and finally this had to be given up; today all articles are in the English language.

The Institute, however, has from the beginning put out publications, embodying research results, also in the Marathi language. Some of these are translations of English publications; others are written originally in Marathi.

**Library :** The Institute shares the Library of the Servants of India Society, and has been mainly responsible for building it up during the last few decades. The library today has about 200,000 volumes. It receives more than 600 periodicals, including almost all leading periodicals in Economics published in the English language. The library today is mainly, but not exclusively, stocked with literature on economics. Scholars and students of political science, sociology and other related disciplines also use the library. Its holdings in literature on Indian economic history and land legislation in particular are possibly the most comprehensive. It enjoys depository library status for all United Nations and related agencies' publications as well as that of the Canadian and Australian governments. In addition to routine library service and facilities, the library has been helping researchers and students with bibliographies in economics. Sometime back the Institute published a classified index of all Indian Economic Journals, upto 1965. The work is of a continuing nature and subsequent volumes will be published in due course. The Library also prepares every fortnight classified index of articles relating to Indian economy published in periodicals and newspapers, and circulates it in mimeograph form.

**Statistical Services :** The empirical research orientation of the Institute requires considerable statistical data processing facilities. For the last three decades the Institute has been having equipment for sorting and tabulating data transferred on punch cards. For the last one and half decades it has also been using the IBM 1620 Computer located in the Bombay University. Recently it has been sharing a DCM micro-processor in its premises with the Indian School of Political Economy, Lonavla. Furthermore, the computational facilities at the Regional Computer Centre of the University of Poona have also become available to the Institute.

In addition to meeting the computation requirements of scholars in the Institute, the Statistical Section helps scholars in other Universities and colleges in designing tabulation and in processing the data. This work, which the Institute has been carrying out for many years, has now been recognised and strengthened by the Indian Council of Social Science Research which has recognised the Institute as one of the four or five such Centres in the country under its scheme for providing guidance and consultancy to social science research scholars in matter of statistical data processing.

### III TEACHING AND TRAINING

The aim of the Institute, right from the beginning, was not only study and research into the various economic and political problems of India, but also training of workers for such study and research. In keeping with this objective, the Institute, from its early years, was affiliated to the University of Bombay; it conducted M.A. classes in economics and registered and supervised the work of students working for a research degree of the University.

In 1949, with the establishment of the University of Poona, the Institute became a constituent institution of the University. Because of the existence of the Institute, the University of Poona, right from the beginning did not have a separate department of Economics. The Institute, for all academic purposes, functions more or less as the Department of Economics of the University of Poona. Consequently, the University's postgraduate teaching centre in Economics is also located at the Institute.

During the last decade, the Institute has taken several steps to improve the under-graduate and post-graduate teaching of Economics in the Poona University. It helped in redesigning the courses, provided reading lists and material and prepared the question banks. It also conducted workshops and summer institutes for teachers of economics in the affiliated colleges. These efforts have been fruitful to some extent, but more importantly they have emphasised the main weakness in the system, namely, extremely poor preparation of students, in their under-graduate classes. The reasons are many and complex, but it is obvious that efforts would have to be directed at that level. It is also obvious that much experimental work would be needed in designing and teaching of under-graduate courses. This would have to be done at least initially outside the mainstream of teaching of Economics in affiliated colleges. With this in view, the Institute has been seeking for the last three years an autonomous college status under the Poona University. Unfortunately, Government of Maharashtra has not been able to take a decision on the whole question of autonomous college status and the Institute's application is still pending. As soon as such a status is granted enabling the Institute to design its own courses and conduct its own examinations, the Institute intends to provide a three-year under-graduate, two-year post-graduate and one-year M.Phil. programme designed to train professional economists with competence in quantitative analysis and focus on Indian economic problems.

Pending the sanction of the autonomous teaching centre sought by the Institute, the Institute has in the current year started in coordination with the colleges in Pune, teaching of a small under-graduate class in economics and related subjects. The University of Poona, under the initiative of the Institute, had approved a full three-year under-graduate



course of studies in economics and related mathematics and statistics. The Institute has launched the experiment of teaching this course to select under-graduates for three years, and plans to develop appropriate teaching material in economics for the purpose.

Besides teaching M.A. classes, the Institute also supervises scholars for the Ph.D. degree in economics. In 1955, the Ford Foundation made a special grant for training research workers at the Institute. This enabled the Institute to recruit candidates for a special one year's pre-Ph.D. course of training in research methodology. Candidates were selected from out of these for enrolment for Ph.D. With the expiry of the Ford Foundation grant in 1969 the resource position of the Institute did not permit the continuation of this pre-Ph.D. programme. Three years ago, in 1978, the University of Poona introduced the one-year M.Phil. degree programme in Economics to be conducted by the Institute. In normal course the M.Phil. degree is a pre-requisite for admission of students to Ph.D. programme at the Institute. With the consent of the UGC the Institute has been giving the research fellowships for M.Phil. degree. Successful completion of this programme qualifies a candidate to register for Ph. D. The M.Phil. course consists of specially designed courses in relevant statistics and mathematics in addition to advanced courses in economics. The special lectures on the working of the socialist economies with special reference to GDR also form a part of the M.Phil. programme. Besides the course work, the M.Phil. candidates are required to write a dissertation. This programme is providing a useful training course for teachers of economics as well as for research students. A number of teachers of economics from other Universities coming to the Institute under teacher-exchange and faculty improvement programme of UGC take advantage of these courses

**Hostel and Class rooms :** The Institute provides hostel facility for 30 male and 12 female students and fellows. There is an attached mess.

There are at present adequate number of class rooms and seminar hall, besides a 320-seat auditorium.

The Institute has 24 apartments for residential accommodation of staff members.

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