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PREFACE

This thesis is the result of three and a half years of study and investigation by me under the direction of Principal D.R.Gadgil of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona.

The subject of my thesis is "A Survey of the occupational and employment structure in some villages of Malabar". My desire was to study the nature of employment and to know with some amount of precision how the people in the district of Malabar eke out a living.

This involved a study of the structure of employment for the whole district. In the beginning I could not well realise the enormity of my responsibility dependent upon such a vast ambition. Very soon I realised that a survey of the occupational and employment structure of the whole district cannot be achieved by a single individual even assisted by one or two persons. Hence I restricted my investigations to some villages round about Shoranur which is my home town. Investigations consisted of house to house survey of the villages relating to occupational employments and the difficult part of the work was on account of the ignorance of the people who are not acquainted with such survey work in the villages.

The main part of my work of investigations consisted of house to house survey of 9 villages which are mainly of two kinds, urban and rural. This part of survey I could complete only in the course of two years. A questionnaire was prepared and informations

regarding employments, periods of employments, remuneration and other particulars were to be noted in the appropriate columns. These informations have been afterwards tabulated.

I have freely made use of the published records on the subject, general and in particular on the District of Malabar. The spacious library of the Servants of India Society (Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics) Poona, where I read all the general books on the subject, was necessarily my first place of habitation. I also made use of the Connemara Government Public Library Madras, the Municipal Library Calicut for some of the old published reports on the district. I am much indebted to the Board of Revenue Madras for allowing me to go through the settlement reports both published and unpublished on Malabar, the Office of the Director of Agriculture Madras, the Office of the Director of Industries and Commerce Madras and the Office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras.

I have made use of the limited published records where they are available. A survey of the occupational and employment structure and the recording of economic conditions in the villages of the district apart from the days of Gilbert Slater is altogether new. From this point of view the findings from my investigations are original.

For purposes of consultation, a short select bibliography is given below.

A Survey of the Occupational and Employment structure in some villages of Malabar.

SYNOPSIS.

Chapter I.

Physical features of Malabar.

Latitude, longitude, boundaries -- the taluks of the district -- meaning of the word Malabar -- scenery of the district -- river system of Malabar -- coast line -- nature of the soil -- rainfall -- temperature -- mineral deposits of Malabar -- forests and building materials.

Chapter II.

The economic history of the district.

The history of the people in a nut-shell -- the earliest inhabitants, the jungle tribes, the Thiyyas, the Nairs, the Nambudiri Brahmins, the Mappillas -- the Aryan colonisation of Malabar and the beginnings of history -- the era of republics, the days of perumals -- her flourishing trade with Rome and Carthage -- the coming of Wascod Gama -- the rise of the Zamorin, the Raja of Cochin and the Raja of Travancore -- Hyder Ali of Mysore and the Mysorean invasion of Malabar -- Travancore seeking British aid, Tippu defeated and Malabar annexed to Bombay province -- the pazhassi revolt and Malabar added on to Madras -- the Mappilla revolts and the commencement of the tenancy legislation.

Economic progress in the last century -- population and its movements in the last century, population variation since 1900 -- rural and urban population -- density of population. Area of the district --

acreage under production in the last century and the gradual change -- total area sown -- area cultivated, fallow land, forest area, area under food crops, non-food crops -- importance of agriculture in the district. Transport, communications and trade in the district of Malabar.

Chapter III.

Walluvanad Taluk.

Walluvanad taluk -- the soil, landscape, and produce of the taluk -- rivers and how they can be used for agriculture -- agricultural population of the taluk -- water facility and retentive power of the soil -- remarkably suited to paddy and allied crops and trees -- humid climate, extremes rare, rainfall for 1945-46. The importance of well-distributed rainfall -- drainage. Conclusions.

Chapter IV.

Tenancy system in Malabar

The position of the Janmis (land lords) at the time of the East India Company, the agrarian discontent -- the Mappilla out breaks -- the appointment of the tenancy committees -- reports in a nut-shell. Janmis -- Kanam tenants -- Verumpattam tenants -- demands for legislation -- security for tenants -- rents -- some suggestions on tenancy.

Chapter V.

Method of investigation.

Nature of villages investigated -- some

difficulties encountered in the work -- survey of houses and collection of materials. Questionnaire -- classification of the villages into three, urban, semi-urban and rural -- causes for selecting these villages -- general observations on these investigations.

Chapter VI.

General Characteristics of the population studied.

Age -- sex distribution -- earners, non-earners -- education, the position of the district in Madras, poor facilities for higher education -- literacy -- marital condition -- relation with the head of the family.

Chapter VII.

Occupational structure of the population.

Classification of the population according to occupation -- grouping or classification of earners according to occupation -- description of each occupation -- rural and urban industrial occupations. Railways, categories of railway workers, industry -- construction -- artisans -- merchants -- professions -- services -- periods of employment -- income -- subsidiary occupation -- subsidiary income -- comparison of the two groups of villages for employment.

Chapter VIII

Agricultural economy of the tract.

Agriculture -- land and holdings -- peculiarities -- agricultural implements -- tenant farmers, field

workers, rent receivers. Kinds of agricultural labour -- periods of employment -- economic status of the agricultural population -- Cherumas -- their income and status.

Chapter IX

Social organisation as it affects the employment structure

Size of the family -- joint family system -- its merits and demerits -- caste system -- the evils of caste system as seen in the village atmosphere -- mobility of labour.

Chapter X,

Housing & sanitation

Sanitary arrangements in village poor -- houses not in groups -- separate with gardens and fields often surrounding -- land lords and big agriculturists live in pucca houses, well planned and built -- others in mud and semi-mud houses -- drinking water generally available from wells -- people generally clean -- health conditions unsatisfactory -- allopathic doctors -- Ayurvedic doctors and their place -- epidemics.

Chapter XI.

Rural industries.

Rural industries in the nature of subsidiary industries -- scope for organising new industries -- hand loom, hand pounding of rice, mat making, basket making, pottery, rope making, beedi making, toys,

furniture, umbrella -- better organisation of village artisans -- organisation of dairy farming -- vegetable growing -- preservation of fruits -- development of permanent and large scale industries in Malabar -- coir, matches, paper, pulp, timber, tiles, leather, fishing, mining, electrification and harnessing rivers, boats and ship building. Organisation of marketing -- better facilities by water and land -- what can co-operation do in production and distribution.

Chapter XII.

Standard of life of the people.

The standard of life of the different classes of people -- some peculiarities of each class - Nairs, Thiyyas, Nambudiris, Mappillas and others -- family income and average income of some classes of people investigated -- examination of the average requirements -- deductions, suggestions and conclusions.

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