
SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY

OF

BHILAI REGION



PART ONE
(FIRST ROUND, 1955-56)



DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
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P R E P A R E

The broad objective of the Bhilai Socio-Economic Survey is to study the impact of the constructional investment on the socio-economic life of the people living in the surrounding regions. It seeks to examine how such schemes of large-scale industrialization influence the regional incomes, employment, pattern of occupational distribution; inter-regional and inter-occupational mobility; general level of prices, wages and land values; volume and pattern of trade activity and the relative contribution of industry, agriculture and services to the net domestic product. By and large, these changes are accompanied by emergence of new entrepreneurial groups; rise of new working classes dependent on industry, trade and commerce; influx of large number of people in search of gainful employment; new pattern of relationship between different economic groups; growth of several small scale and cottage enterprises and increased secondary and tertiary activity in the region. The injection of sizeable amount of money during the constructional phase in the veins of local economy artificially stimulates the whole functional system, causing a chain of reactions in the body economy. An economist like a physician, would be interested in the study of the whole process of physical change, the degree of resilience to such change and the mechanism of chain-reactions.

A survey of this type can also provide very interesting sociological data for studying the attitudes of the people towards such schemes of large-scale industrialization, problems of new urbanized society, adaptability of the people to new environmental changes, sources of new industrial and labour leadership; changing attitudes towards family and society, and changing pattern of relationship between different social and economic groups. It is indeed exciting and fascinating to watch these kaleidoscopic changes that would radically transform the vast stretches of Bhata wastelands into thriving, prosperous and highly industrialized belt.

The First Round of the Bhilai Socio-Economic Survey gives only the bench-mark data for systematic, scientific and objective assessment of the economic and social conditions prevailing in the Bhilai region before the multiplier effects

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of constructional investment had started their chain-reactions. The Second and Third Rounds of the survey have been designed to give a broader time-band to the bench-mark survey and to plug the gaps in data which might have been left over during the First Round. In the second and subsequent rounds, an attempt would also be made to analyse and examine the impact of constructional investment on income, employment and pattern of regional development.

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