

EARNINGS IN DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS IN RELATION TO AGE AND SEX

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DIFFERENT factors such as occupation, industry, location, age, and sex that are responsible for the variations in the earnings of individuals, have been extensively studied in Europe and U.S.A.¹ In Indian studies, however, emphasis has, so far, been given on the study of the role of occupation and industry in the determination of earnings, while the other factors like age and sex have not received attention. An attempt is made, in this paper, to study the effect of age and sex on the earnings of individuals in different occupations. The data for this study are taken from the re-survey of Poona conducted and published² by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. The Gokhale Institute conducted a sample survey of 5,601 families from the Poona Municipal Corporation area and the Poona and Kirkee Cantonments, in the year 1954-55. Information regarding the total annual earnings, age, sex, occupation, etc. was collected from all the earners included in the sample. The total number of persons in the sample was 26,033, of which 9,990 were non-adults.³ The adult population consisted of 8,303 males and 7,740 females. Seventy-three per cent of the adult males and 14 per cent of the adult females were gainfully occupied. Age distribution of the total adults together with the percentage of earners in different age-groups is given in Table 1.

It will be seen from the Table that 35 per cent of the total males in the age-group 15-20 are gainfully occupied. The percentage increases to 76 in the next age-group. About 90 per cent of the males in age-groups between 26 and 50 years are gainfully occupied. There is a decline in the percentage of earners after the age of 50. In the case of females, the percentage of earners is less than 10 up to age 25. The percentage rises to 16 in the age-group 26-30. Between the ages of 30 and 50 years, the percentage is more or less constant and varies from 22.0 to 25.9.

The percentage distribution of male and female earners in different age-groups is given in Table 2.

¹ The following are some of the more important of these studies :

- (a) Leven, Maurice, *The Income Structure of the United States*, 1938.
- (b) Miller, Herman P., *Income of the American People*, 1955.
- (c) Lydall, H. F., *British Incomes and Savings*, 1955.
- (d) Gilbert Milton, Stone, Richard, *Income and Wealth—Series VI*, 1957.
- (e) Clark, L. H., *Consumer Behaviour, Vol. IP*, 1955.

² Sovani N. V., Apte D. P., and Pendse R. G., *Poona : A Re-Survey*, 1956.

³ Persons below the age of 15 are treated as 'non-adults'.