

CLASSIFICATION OF INDIAN CITIES BY THE OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN OF WORKERS

SANJEEVANI GADGIL

1. The present paper is an attempt to classify Indian cities by the occupational distribution of male workers, as reported in the Census of 1961. The method employed in this paper is the 'distance method' used in many classificatory problems but a new modification had to be introduced, as will be explained below, so as to suit the large number of units involved.

2. There is a sizable literature of research papers on the problem of town-classification and it is not intended here to take a comprehensive review of them. We shall mention only a few which we feel are methodologically or otherwise important, including some on general classificatory problems which are directly relevant to the present paper. A highly sophisticated and comprehensive statistical study in this field is that by Moser and Scott¹ (1961) who deal with British towns on the basis of no less than 60 social and economic characteristics; the method used is that of component analysis in multivariate analysis. Such extensive and accurate information on towns¹ is hardly ever available in many countries, particularly the developing countries. Nelson's² paper (1955) deals with American cities; the basic data used for classification is the percentage of city-workers in different occupational categories in 1950. He calculates the mean m_i and standard deviation s_i for each of the variables and allots a city to a particular occupation i if the percentage of workers in that occupation in the city is greater than m_i . He further conceives three ascending grades of such occupational labelling of the cities according as the percentage of workers in the i th occupation falls in one of the intervals $(m_i, m_i + s_i)$, $(m_i + s_i, m_i + 2s_i)$ and $(m_i + 2s_i, m_i + 3s_i)$, and if it falls in the last interval it is called the dominating economic activity of the city. In this way all the American cities are given a label of one or more economic functions acting with different grades. An earlier study of American cities is that by Harris³ (1943)