

## LIFE AND LABOUR OF EMPLOYED WOMEN IN POONA \*

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THE number of working women in general and that of white-collar women workers in particular in the urban areas is increasing day by day, especially since World War II. Possibly, their number will continue to grow in the days to come. In view of their growing importance in the employment field, the present study of certain aspects of the life and labour of women workers, in Poona city will be useful.

*Time, scope and sample-size of the total study:* The survey on which this paper is based was begun in June 1956 and the field work was completed by the end of December 1956. Poona was chosen as the place of inquiry, because a good deal of background material was available there as a result of the various surveys<sup>1</sup> already carried out by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. Further, as a resident of Poona for several years, the author had very useful contacts with women employees and their employers.

Various occupations in which women were found in large numbers were divided into two broad groups, viz., (i) liberal professions or white-collar occupations, and (ii) manual or blue-collar occupations. In the first group the following five were included: (i) Primary teachers, (ii) Secondary teachers, (iii) Nurses, (iv) Clerks, and (v) Telephone operators. In the second group, the following four were included: (i) Sweepers and scavengers, (ii) factory workers, (iii) workers employed in leaf-wrapped cigarettes ('bidi'), and (iv) workers engaged in earth-work and building construction etc., mainly belonging to the 'waddar' community.

Within each of these occupational sub-groups sampling was devised in two stages. In the sub-group of primary teachers, the various primary schools which together accounted for the total employment of primary teachers were regarded as first stage sampling units. Hence, in the first

\* This is an article based on 'Life and Labour of Employed Women in Poona', a Doctoral Dissertation by the author, approved by the University of Poona in 1961.

<sup>1</sup> (i) Gadgil D. R., *Poona — A Socio Economic Survey*, Part I, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, 1945.

(ii) Gadgil D. R., *Poona — A Socio-Economic Survey*, Part II, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, 1952.

(iii) Dandekar V. M. and Dandekar Kumudini, *Survey of Fertility and Mortality in Poona District*, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, 1953.

(iv) Sovani N. V., Apte D. P. and Pendse R. G., *Poona — A Re-Survey*, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, 1956.