

LIFE AND LABOUR OF EMPLOYED WOMEN IN POONA

by

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LIFE AND LABOUR OF EMPLOYED WOMEN IN POONA

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by

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Socio-Economic Survey of the Employed Women in Poona was undertaken with a view to studying at first hand the conditions of employed women's life and labour. The idea of carrying out a survey of this type was suggested by the present writer's study of a number of bulletins published by the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour. The responsibility for conducting the Survey, tabulating the data and writing the report being undivided, the results of the work had to wait for a longer period than originally anticipated. While conducting the present inquiry through various stages, a sincere attempt was made to see that the technique was scientific, the approach comprehensive and detailed and the conclusions meaningful in terms of the wider socio-economic problems. Special care was also taken to make the present report as realistic as possible and free from any emotional and idealistic bias, and unnecessary verbiage.

The Survey was planned and carried out under the guidance of Prof. N.V.Sovani, Joint Director of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. I cannot adequately express the deep debt that I owe to him for his encouragement and guidance. I was not able to write all the chapters of this report before Prof. Sovani left for the United States in August 1959. I was, therefore, asked to complete the

remaining part of my work under the guidance of Dr.T.M.Joshi of the Fergusson College. It was not only a great privilege to work under his able guidance but also a matter of great pleasure. I also tender my grateful thanks to Prof. P.N. Mathur of the Gokhale Institute for his valuable guidance, specially in connection with the statistical treatment of the data. The authorities of the Servants of India Society and of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics have obliged me by allowing use of their well-equipped library.

My acknowledgements for help in connection with the conduct of the investigation are too numerous to be mentioned in any great detail at this place. I received ready co-operation and assistance from prominent persons in a number of professions, industries and institutions employing women, and also from a number of economic and community organisations of women employees. I have also to thank the authorities of the Poona Municipal Corporation and of the two Cantonment Boards for their invaluable help which enabled me to form contacts with a large number of white-collar and blue-collar women working under them. The employing authorities in various other public and private institutions were also extremely helpful in providing the requisite data which made it possible to launch a survey of this type.

Before concluding this acknowledgement, I must unreservedly express my deep gratitude to all the women employees

whom I interviewed. Without their co-operation, it would not have been possible to complete the field work of the present Survey in the fairly short period of six to seven months. The lengthy interviews which were unavoidable in a study of this kind must have been an imposition on these women who were already overburdened with work. As a rule, at the time of the interview, these women, especially the married ones among them, worked as they talked, mending clothes, paring potatoes, bathing children and putting them to bed or attending to any one of the numberless duties that could not wait. But inspite of this fact, I met with unflinching kindness and hospitality from both the white-collar and the blue-collar women workers.

V. A. Dabholkar.

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