

TRADE OF KOLHAPUR CITY

A SURVEY

By

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P R E F A C E.

The information presented in this Thesis was collected in the course of the Socio-Economic Survey of the City of Kolhapur carried out in 1945-47 by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, at the invitation of the then Government of Kolhapur State. Mr. N. V. Sovani, Assistant to the Director of the Institute, was in charge of the survey and I was associated with the work mainly in the capacity of the Chief Investigator in all its stages.

Details regarding the procedure adopted and agencies employed in the planning and conduct of the various surveys in respect of trade have been dealt with at length at appropriate places in the chapters that follow.

The thesis embodies in itself survey of different types of trades such as Retail Trade, Hawking, Milk, Weekly Markets, Credit Institutions, Transport, etc. This has inevitably lent an impression of inconsistency and incoherency in between the different chapters of the book. It was unavoidable, for every chapter, in way forms a separate unit in itself and as such, can be treated as a separate theme or subject for detailed study, if desired. But with limited resources and time we had at our disposal, it was beyond our reach to carry out a detailed survey of each type of trade. It can, however, be said that we are successful in presenting a voluminous factual data on different trade heads which may serve as

as a basis in future for a detailed study of the same.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I have to acknowledge my debt, for the kind permission to utilise the material, collected by the Institute, so graciously granted to me, to Prof. D. R. Gadgil, the Director of the Institute, under whom I had also the proud privilege to work.

My special thanks are due to Mr. N. V. Sovani, who has given me active help and guidance at every step.

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* I N D E X *
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TRADE OF KOLHAPUR CITY - A SURVEY

Chapter I.

Historical And Commercial Survey of the City of Kolhapur

(1) Geographical Setting of the city - Hinterland of the City - Population - Kolhapur through History (2) The Development of the city - Different stages of development - Establishment of the British Superintendence (3) The town and its commercial history - Source of information - Conditions of the town before and after 1845 - Means of communication - Growth of trade after 1845 - Expansion of the Town (4) Trade between 1852 and 1895 - (a) Improved Means of Communication and Educational Activities (b) Establishment of Special Market for Gul and Groundnut. (5) Wholesale and Retail Trade in 1926 and after - Table I showing classification of shops by Age of Establishment - Table II showing the retail and Wholesale character and the Place of Origin of Seller - Table III showing Wholesale and Retail Trade by Caste-Comments on the Tables.

Chapter II

The Census of Establishments

(1) The procedure and Object - Employment of Investigators, etc. - Method of Payment -- Checks to ensure correctness - Limitations -

Under enumeration in certain Trade - Difficulty of Classification into Wholesale and Retail. (2) Types of Wholesale and Retail shops, Tables I and II (3) Findings - Predominance of small units - The tendency of concentration and Dispersion in certain Trades. (4) Wholesale Trades - its concentration.

Chapter III.

T r a d e.

- (i) Volume of Trade.
- (ii) Wholesale Trade -
 - (a) Gul Trade;
 - (b) Groundnut Trade;
 - (c) Bhusar and Kirana;
 - (d) Cloth and
 - (e) Timber
- (iii) Organisation in Trade.

(i) Volume of Trade :- No reliable statistics of either Export or import of commodities - Import Statistics from Municipal Records - No Uniformity of Compilation - No records of Import before 1941 - Certain vital changes effected after 1942 in Octroi Schedules - Import Figures of various commodities tabulated from the Municipal Record - Defects - No weighing scales for Octroi stations - Confusion in Import and Re-export Schedules - Figures unreliable.

(ii) Wholesale Trade - Gul and Groundnut Trade - Introduction - History of the Development of Shahupuri Market - the part played by the State in its Development - Its present position.

- (a) Gul Market :- Area under sugarcane - Fixity of acreage over a long period - Reasons - Method and place of growing sugar cane - Farming by Cooperative Method - Process of Manufacturing Gul - Cost of production of gul - Description of Kolhapur Gul Market - Arrival of Gul carts - Seasons of Marketing - Method or unit of offering prices - Gradation - General trend of prices - Seasonal variations - Comparison with other Market prices - History of Gul control - Method of weighment, payment and delivery - Functionaries of the Market - Market charges - Cost of marketing and its comparison with others - Export Market - Different Agencies - Cost of distribution - Total charges incurred and price spread.
- (b) Groundnut :- Area under cultivation of Groundnut - Place of Groundnut among other Oil Seeds in the State - Distribution of Acreage under Groundnut in Kolhapur State - Varieties of Groundnut seeds grown in the State - Production of the Groundnut in the Main Producing Areas of Kolhapur State - Season of Marketing - Export - Utilisation and Demand for Groundnut - Prices - The variation in Prices in different Markets - Seasonal variation in Prices - Assembling of groundnut -

Marketing of Groundnut - Functionaries of the Market-
Market charges and Practices - Method of Sale - Practice
relating to Sale - Distribution - Various Functionaries
in Distribution - A brief sketch of the Trade in Hand-
picked selected Kernels.

The Kolhapur Agricultural Marketing Committee and its
working.

- (c) Bhusar and Kirana :- Census - the present trend - Method
of business, finance, transport, etc.
- (d) Cloth and Yarn :- Position of Kolhapur as regards
production - Types of Cloth and Yarn imported - Method
of purchase - Type of Customers, Finance, Transport, etc.
- (e) Timber :- Census - Method of Purchase - Transport Customers,
Seasons, etc.

(iii) Organisations in Trade :-

- (i) Shahupuri Merchants Association.
- (ii) Kirana and Bhusar Merchants Association and
- (iii) Cloth Merchants Association

Chapter IV

Retail Trade

Retail Trade :- Introductory - Growth of Retail Trade in
Kolhapur City - Its location - The Structure - Comparative Study
of its structure from the following points of views - Commodity-

Commoditywise distribution - Average number of persons served - Composition of employees - Population served by each type - Annual turnover - initial investment - caste composition - The problem of "Too many shops" - Reasons of the multiplicity of shops - Economical as well as Social - Methods adopted by Western Countries to tackle the problem - our solution - (1) Retail Trade Organisation (2) System of Licensing and (3) Consumers' Cooperative Societies - Our sample survey. The description of the following Retail Trades as per our sample survey :-

- (i) Grocers
- (ii) Grain and Pulse Dealers
- (iii) Parched Rice and Grain Sellers.
- (iv) Shroffs.
- (v) Cloth Sellers.
- (vi) Stationers and General Merchants.
- (vii) Chemists and Druggists.
- (viii) Dealers and Brass and Copperwares.
- (ix) Timber Merchants.
- (x) Firewood Sellers.
- (xi) Dealers in Hardware.
- (xii) Bicycles and their Accessories.
- (xiii) Watch Repairers and Dealers.
- (xiv) Tailoring Establishments.
- (xv) Hotels
- (xvi) Boarding and Lodging Houses

- (xvii) Pan, Bidi and Tobacco Shops.
- (xviii) Vegetable Shops.
- (xix) Book Sellers and Stationers.
- (xx) Sellers of Aerated Waters.
- (xxi) Dealers in Sweetmeats
- (xxii) Barber Shops.
- (xxiii) Mutton Shops
- (xxiv) Laundries.
- (xxv) Glass-Bangle Sellers.

Chapter V.

Trade (Continued)

Non-Shop Retailing and Other Trades

- (A) (i) Weekly Bazaars
 - (ii) Hawkers or Itenerent Traders.
- (B) (i) Milk Trade
 - (ii) Building Trade.

(A) (i) Weekly Bazar :- Historical - The Procedure - Method of Payment - Its Shortcomings - Checks Adopted to Minimise the Defects - Limitations - Findings - Total Attendance of Sellers - Specialization in the Weekly Market - Classification of Sellers According to Petas - Sources of Supply - Nature of Attendance by Sellers - Classification of Sellers by Caste - Total Value of Commodities brought for sale - Cattle - Market and Its working.

(A) (ii) Hawkers or Itenerent Traders :- Census of Itenerent Traders as taken in 1945 - General Comments on the same - Description of the following Itenerent Traders in detail :-

- (i) Sellers of Copper, Brass and Glass Vessels.
- (ii) Bangle Sellers.
- (iii) Sweetmeat Sellers.
- (iv) Fruit Hawkers.
- (v) Stationery and Hosiery Hawkers.
- (vi) Roasted-rice Sellers.

(B) (i) Milk Trade - (i) Milk Supply in Kolhapur - Source of Supply - (ii) The Collection of Data regarding Import of Milk. (iii) Agencies engaged in collection and distribution of Milk. (iv) Mode of Transport. (v) Prices - Producer's Share in the Price paid by the Consumer. (vi) Per Capita Consumption of Milk in the city of Kolhapur (vii) General Description of the Milk Trade as per our sample investigation.

(B) (ii) Building Industry - General (i) Contractor - Staff of the Contractor - Tools of the Contractor. (ii) Purchase of materials. (iii) Transport (iv) Engineer - Maistries - Masons - Unskilled labour.

Chapter VI

The Transport Agencies

(1) General (2) Detailed Description of the following Transport

Transport Agencies as per Investigation :- (i) Bullock Carts - Census carried in 1945 - Various Stands in the City - Transport charges - Expenses of Upkeeping a cart - Gross income per cart - Cost per cart (ii) Tongas - Census in 1945 - Classification of Tongas as per the Modes of operation and ownership - System of Double shift - Cost - other Recurring Items of Expenditure -Gross income - The yearly inspection (iii) Passenger Cars and Goods Trucks: (a) Passenger Cars - our census in 1945 - The number of Motor Unions - Cost of cars - Capital required - Staff - Recruitment of Passengers - Methods of Recruitment - Items of Expenditure. (b) Goods Trucks : No data available. (iv) Casual Labour : Our Census of the Casual Labour - Two types of labourers - Fairly Permanently attached Labourers, and Casual Labourers found at Business Centres. (a) Permanent labourers - Labourers at the Shahupuri Groundnut and Gul Market - Comments - Labourers in Laxmipuri and Merewether Market - Comments (b) Unattached Casual Labourers - Our count - Comments on the Casual labourers found at Gangawesh Motor Stand, Laxmipuri Stand - Ferris Market, etc. (v) Carting Agents or Hundekaries - Our Census - The Services Performed by them - Business standing - Types of Clientale - Remuneration of Hundekaris - Yearly Gross Earnings - The number of employees employed.

Chapter VII.

Credit and Non-credit Institutions

Historical - Joint Stock Banks - Development in Recent years - Posi-

Position of eight Joint Stock Banks in Kolhapur City - Total working Capital - The types of loans and the rate of interest charged. Post war development - Cooperative Institutions, Development in the State - The number of cooperative Banks and Societies in the City - The Central Financing Agency and its working - Cooperative Banks - their working - Credit Societies - Their working - Bhisis - Formation of Bhisis - Method of working, etc. - Conclusions.

Chapter VIII.

Summary and Conclusions

- Maps I Kolhapur Town in 1882
- " II Kolhapur City in 1862
- " III Kolhapur City in 1946
- " IV Kolhapur State

(Maps available through the courtesy of the Director, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona 4)

Continued.

A P P E N D I X.

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| I | Questionnaire for | Census Card. |
| II | " | " Wholesale Shops. |
| III | " | " Retail Shops |
| IV | " | " Itenerent Traders. |
| V | " | " Seasonal Labourers. |
| VI | " | " Weekly Market. |
| VII | " | " Milk Trade |
| VIII | " | " Contractors |
| IX | " | " Financial Institutions. |
| X | " | " Commercial Associations. |
| XI | " | " Transport. |

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