

**GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**

**Publication No. 24**

**SOCIAL SURVEY OF KOLHAPUR CITY**  
**Vol. III-FAMILY LIVING & SOCIAL LIFE.**

**By**

**N. V. Sovani,**

**Assisted by the Staff of the Institute**

**Price Rs. 12 or 18 s.**

**1952**

---

Published by D. R. Gadgil, M.A., M.Litt. (Cantab.), for  
the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics,  
Poona 4, and printed by M. H. Patwardhan, at  
Sangam Press Ltd., 40-41, Wellesley Road,  
Poona 1.

## FOREWORD

The publication of this volume completes the work undertaken in 1945. The City Survey of Kolhapur was initiated by a letter from the Kolhapur Municipal Borough inviting the Institute to undertake the work. At the time the invitation was received (December 1944) the Institute was facing its chronic problem of shortage of experienced staff. It could not, therefore, undertake to depute a member of its staff to Kolhapur as it had done when conducting the survey at Sholapur. The Institute, therefore, suggested the following plan of work to the Borough authorities. "The Institute would plan the survey, would supervise the work at all stages, would tabulate the data and would write the final report. The Institute will not, however, open a separate office at Kolhapur but will work through the Kolhapur Municipal Borough. A separate agency will have to be set up by the Kolhapur Municipal Borough itself for this purpose. The Institute would undertake to advise in the setting up of this agency and the recruitment of its staff, would lay down the complete details of the plan of field work and would send a member of its research staff, say, once a month to Kolhapur to supervise the conduct of this work". The plan of work proved acceptable to the Kolhapur Municipal Borough and was, in the main, adhered to in its actual conduct.

The investigational establishment in Kolhapur was set up in June 1945 and its work finally wound up in March 1947. Mr. N. V. Sovani was in full charge of the work of the survey through all its stages and is also responsible, in the main, for the reports. He has been assisted on the statistical side by Mr. V. M. Dandekar, Statistician of the Institute. The Chief Investigator at Kolhapur was Mr. W. C. Shrishrimal. As pointed out above, the survey was initiated by the Kolhapur Municipal Borough and all important officers of the Borough evinced considerable interest and gave

active help to the various investigational projects. The Kolhapur Durbar also extended to the survey its active sympathy. Above all, from the inception to its completion, the survey owed a great deal to Mr. J. P. Naik who was Hon. Secretary of the Reorganization Department, Kolhapur Municipal Borough, when the work was conceived, and was Development Secretary of Kolhapur Government when the work at Kolhapur ended.

This volume of the Kolhapur Survey deals largely with the social and economic characteristics of the families and population included in the House Sample of the Survey. These data are set out and discussed in considerable detail in the volume. The data could, in most instances, be compared usefully with similar data set out in the volumes of the Poona Survey and most aspects of the data covered in the Poona Survey are also included in this volume. Attempts have, however, been made to analyse the data to a fuller extent than in the Poona Survey and to present additional information or to discuss new aspects. Attention may be drawn to data regarding subsidiary occupations, the duration in the presents occupation, and the income distribution and life cycle of families. Apart from the data relating to the families included in the House Sample, the volume present and discusses other information collected separately on particular economic and social aspects. The chapter on Housing includes, for example, a special note on slum areas; and many aspects of social life such as libraries, clubs and newspapers have been dealt with in this volume for the first time. On the other hand, general discussions on some of the social problems, as for example, on caste and community organization, have not been included in this survey as the subjects were fully dealt with in the Poona Survey.

Poona 4.  
3rd June 1952.

D. R. Gadgil

## PREFACE

This is the third and final volume of the Social Survey of Kolhapur City. It completes the work undertaken in 1945. The idea of this survey was casually mentioned by me among a circle of my friends at Kolhapur in the summer of 1942 when I was spending my vacation there. In 1944 Mr. J. P. Naik, who was then the Hon. Reorganization Secretary of the Kolhapur Municipal Borough, visited the Institute. He saw the work of the Poona Survey and conceived the idea of having a similar Survey of Kolhapur carried out. He immediately set to work and the result was an offer from the Kolhapur Municipal Borough to undertake such a survey. The terms and conditions under which the Institute undertook the work are indicated in the "Foreword".

The Survey was begun in July 1945 and ended in April 1947. The Survey Office at Kolhapur consisted of the Chief Investigator and four junior investigators. Throughout this period, additional staff was engaged off and on for specific inquiries at various stages. Mr. G. S. Upalekar was initially appointed the Chief Investigator but he soon found it difficult to continue because of his other activities and previous commitments. He, therefore, resigned in October 1945, and Mr. W. C. Shrishrimal succeeded him. He was a Municipal Counciller at that time but resigned his seat before taking charge as the Chief Investigator. He occupied that position till the end.

The Survey, in its planning and execution, derived considerably from the experience gathered in the two socio-economic City Surveys carried out by the Institute up to that time. As a result the Kolhapur survey could be much more comprehensively planned. Because of the active interest of Mr. J. P. Naik in the

survey work, the atmosphere at Kolhapur was also favourable for extending the scope of the survey in various directions.

The statistical material gathered in the Survey was tabulated at the Institute under my general direction and the active planning and supervision of my colleague, Mr. Dandekar. His help and advice were always at my disposal and they were valuable to me, particularly on the statistical side. He has contributed the "Statistical Appendix" to Part I of the report of the survey. He also looked after the printing of this Volume in my absence abroad. I began to work on the Report of the Survey in 1947 and completed it, with some interruptions, because of the pressure of other work, in June 1951. I would have liked to spend some more time on the last part of the report but could not do so. In April 1951 I was awarded a research fellowship by the Rockefeller Foundation for a year of study and research in the United States; this imposed a time limit on my work. I was, however, able to deal with most of the material collected in the Survey in the time at my disposal, except in one particular. This was the information about temples in Kolhapur.

My indebtedness to my colleagues and all others who helped me at various stages and in various capacities are indeed great. My special thanks are due to Mr. J. P. Naik, the Municipal Councillers, Municipal and Government Servants and other prominent citizens of Kolhapur. I must also express my gratitude to my uncle, Mr. Y. S. Sovani, who is a resident of Kolhapur, for helping me in innumerable ways in the work of the survey. Mr. W. C. Shrishrimal, of course, bore the main burden of the work and bore it cheerfully and well, for which I express heartfelt thanks. The junior investigators and other members of the staff also carried out their work satisfactorily and I thank them sincerely for the same. My heartfelt thanks are also due to Messrs. Patwardhan Brothers who printed the last 2 volumes very well indeed. To the citizens, of course,

the Survey owes everything, as without their co-operation it would have been impossible.

I owe a special debt to Kolhapur because my family came from that city and I have spent some of the happiest days of my life there. In a sense this debt can never be repaid. In carrying out this Survey I was glad that I was perhaps repaying a small part of that debt.

3706, Walnut Street,  
PHILADELPHIA 4. (Pa).  
U.S.A.  
5th May 1952.

N. V. SOVANI.





## CONTENTS.

	Page
Foreword	iii
Preface	v
Contents	ix
List of Tables.	xi

### Part One.

- I. House Sample Families and Population. 1—53
  1. Introduction (1).
  2. Literacy (1).
  3. Earners and Non-Earners (17).
  4. Income (27).
  5. Size of family (34).
  6. Owners, Tenants, Rooms, Living Space and Rent (38).
  7. Domestic Servants (42).
  8. Migration (43).
  9. Emigration (49).
  10. Mother tongue (50).
- II. Occupational Distribution of Earners. 54—137
  1. The Scheme of Occupational Classification (54).
  2. Age Distribution of Earners (108).
  3. General Occupational Structure (110).
  4. Old and Juvenile earners (111).
  5. Female Earners (112).
  6. Income (112).
  7. Earners and Subsidiary Occupations (122).
  8. Occupation and Caste (122).
  9. Earners and the Method of Payment (125).
  10. Literacy of Earners (127).
  11. Duration in the present occupation (127).
  12. Occupational Mobility (129).
- III. Family Income and Poverty. 138—168
  1. Introductory (138).
  2. Earners' Class and Family Income (138).
  3. Professions and Family Income (140).
  4. Communities and Family Income (142).
  5. Earner Status among Communities (144).
  6. Family Income and Expenditure liability (146).
  7. Income per adult unit and Professions (148).
  8. Income per

adult unit and Communities (149).  
9. Poverty (153). 10. The Life Cycle  
of Kolhapur Families (161).

IV. Housing. 169—192

1. Introductory (169).
2. Historical Review (169).
3. Floors (174).
4. Alignment and Contiguity of Houses (177).
5. Owners and Tenants (177).
6. Courtyard and open space (177).
7. Plinth, dampness, roof and walls (181).
8. Number of Rooms (183).
9. Water taps and wells (183).
10. Sanitary Arrangements (186).
11. Survey of Slum Areas (188).

Part Two.

V. Intellectual Activity. 195—211

1. Education-Historical (195)
2. Libraries and Reading Rooms. (204).
3. Newspapers and Periodicals (208).

VI. Communal and Religious Life. 212—248

1. Notes on Communities (212).
2. Communal Boarding Houses for students (239).

VII. Use of Leisure. 249—271

1. Use of Leisure (249).
2. Clubs and Gymkhanas (250).
3. Talims and Akhadas (252).
4. Attendance at Parks and Gardens and Playgrounds (256).
5. Theatres (258).

VIII. Social Vices. 272—280

1. Bucket or Race betting shops (272).

IX. Local Government, and Public Health. 281-330

1. History and Development of the Kolhapur Municipal Borough (281).
2. Kolhapur Municipal Finance (288).
3. City Planning and Development (301).
4. State Hospitals and Dispensaries (322).
5. Leper Colony (325).
6. Dharmashalas (328).

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1.	Literacy Statistics of Kolhapur City for 1911, 1921, and 1931. ..	2
2.	Literacy Statistics of Kolhapur City according to age. .. .. .	4-5
3.	Literacy among the various communities in the population of Kolhapur City in 1911, 1921 and 1931. .. .. .	7-12
4.	Literacy in 1931 Census and House Sample Populations of Kolhapur City. .. .. .	14-15
5.	Total number of literates, educands and illiterates classified by communities. ..	16
6.	Earners and non-earners classified wardwise by age and sex. .. .. .	18-19
7.	Percentage (actual) distribution of earners and non-earners classified by age and sex in different communities. .. .. .	22-25
8.	Total earned, unearned and per capita Income in different wards and communities in Kolhapur City. .. .. .	31-32
9.	House sample families of different communities classified according to number of persons in each. .. .. .	35
10.	House owners, tenants, average number of rooms, living space per room, and per person, and average rent in different wards of Kolhapur City. .. .. .	36
11.	House-owners, tenants, average number of rooms, living space per person, and average rent per room and for 100 sq. feet in respect of different communities in Kolhapur City. .. .. .	37
12.	Families in different wards classified by the numbers of domestic servants employed by them and average expenditure incurred per servant. .. .. .	41

TABLE No.	TITLE	PAGE.
13.	The period of residence in Kolhapur City of families classified by the place of residence of the fathers of their Heads. . . . .	44
14.	The period of residence in Kolhapur City of families of different communities classified by the place of residence of the fathers of their Heads. . . . .	45-48
15.	Mother tongue of house sample families classified by wards. . . . .	51
16.	Mother tongue of house sample families classified by communities. . . . .	52
17.	Classification of earners in different occupational grades by age. . . . .	109
18.	Occupational classification of earners by age, sex, literacy, duration of employment and income. . . . .	56-105
19.	First quartile, median and third quartile incomes of different occupational grades. . . . .	114
20.	Classification of earners in occupational grades by their subsidiary occupation. . . . .	119-121
21.	Distribution of earners in occupational grades according to community. . . . .	123
22.	Earners in occupational grades classified according to the method of income payment. . . . .	126
23.	The proportions in different occupational grades of 'Other Earners' from families the senior earners of which are in any particular grade. . . . .	130-131
24.	Percentage distribution of 'Other Earners' in different occupational grades, according to the grades in which was to be found the senior earner of their families. . . . .	132
25.	Income distribution of families classified by earner status. . . . .	139
26.	Income distribution of families classified by the occupational grade of their Heads. . . . .	141
27.	Income distribution of families classified by communities. . . . .	143

TABLE No.	TITLE	PAGE.
28.	Classification of families of different communities according to their earner status. ..	145
29.	Distribution of families according to the income per adult unit classified by the occupational grade of their Heads. ..	150-151
30.	Distribution of families of different communities by income per adult unit. ..	152
31.	The number of persons in families classified by the age of their Heads. ..	164
32.	Income distribution of families classified according to the age of their Heads. ..	166
33.	Number of floors in sample houses classified by wards. ..	175
34.	Alignment and contiguity of sample houses in different wards. ..	176
35.	Ownership of sample houses in different wards classified by the number of tenements in each. ..	178-179
36.	Court-yards in sample houses classified by wards. ..	180
37.	Plinth, liability to dampness, walls and roofs of sample houses classified by wards. ..	182
38.	Number of rooms in sample houses classified by wards. ..	184
39.	Water taps and wells in sample houses classified by wards. ..	185
40.	Number of privies in sample houses classified by wards. ..	187
41.	Population of the two slum areas classified by age, sex, earners and non-earners. ..	190
42.	Information about weekly newspapers published in Kolhapur City in 1946-47. ..	210
43.	Information about students' Boarding Houses in Kolhapur City in 1946-47. ..	244-245
44.	Students in different Boarding Houses in Kolhapur City in 1946-47 classified by their educational status. ..	246-247

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE.
45.	Information about <i>Talims</i> and persons taking advantage of them. .. ..	254-255
46.	Total number of spectators, shows and income in different cinema theatres in Kolhapur City in different months of 1946. .. ..	264
47.	The sale of tickets of various classes in cinema theatres in Kolhapur City in different months of 1946. .. ..	266
48.	The best attended pictures in Kolhapur cinemas in 1946 together with the number of shows and spectators of each and the total income derived from each. .. ..	269
49.	Number of bets accepted by all the bucket shops in Kolhapur City on particular days in 1945 and 1946 classified by their individual amounts. .. ..	274-276
50.	The total amount of bets accepted and payments made by different bucket shops in Kolhapur City on particular days in 1945 and 1946. .. ..	277-279
51.	Receipts and Expenditure of the Kolhapur Municipal Borough during 1940-45. .. ..	291