

**Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics,
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**Poona
A Socio-Economic Survey.
Part I. Economic.**

BY

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Assisted by the Staff of the Institute.

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PREFACE

The origin of this survey lies in the attempt made by the Institute to extend its work in the field of urban economics after the completion of its first two projects of investigation. In the first instance it was conceived of as investigation having special reference to small scale industry as it was believed that conditions in Poona were specially favourable for such an undertaking. In planning the work it was found that the collection of basic data relating to small scale industry scattered throughout a city could be easily and profitably combined with a good deal of other investigational work. The extension of the scope of the work made the scheme so expensive as to be beyond the resources of the Institute and we began to explore the possibility of obtaining help from the Poona City Municipality towards such increased expenditure. This in its turn further widened the scope of the investigation as it was felt that in case Municipal help on an adequate scale was obtained it would be best to plan a fairly comprehensive economic survey.

The original application to the Municipality submitting a scheme for an economic survey was made in August 1935. It requested the Municipality to bear the estimated cost of the survey other than the expenses in connection with the permanent staff of the Institute. The Municipality approved of the project in March 1936 and the Institute made arrangements for starting the work of the survey in April 1936. The work was, however, temporarily held up and a proper start was made only in August 1936.

In its original scheme the Institute had contemplated that the primary collection of material should be completed in a year. However, this was soon found to be an underestimate, chiefly because of the continued extension of the scope of the work which was found possible and felt to be necessary during its progress. Ultimately the period required for this purpose was nearly two years, some part of the investigational work being completed only in the early months of 1938. On account of the extension of the scope of the survey the City Municipality increased its original grant and the total help given by the Poona City Municipality towards the survey amounted to Rs. 5,340.

The area of the City Municipality formed only a part of the total urban unit of Poona. We, therefore, applied also to other local authorities within this area for help. The Poona Suburban Municipality gave, as a result, a grant of Rs. 500 but the Poona Cantonment Board was unable to extend any financial help. In consequence, the work of the survey was confined to the areas of the Poona City and Suburban Municipalities. The non-inclusion in the survey of the Cantonment area must be taken to be an important defect in the scope of the survey.

The cantonment area has many peculiarities which mark it out from the city and the suburban area and make it a distinct economic and social unit. At the same time connections of the Cantonment in some kinds of trade, etc. are very close with the city area. In respect especially of such activities, therefore, the picture presented by our survey is incomplete.

Details regarding the procedure adopted and the agency employed in the planning and conduct of various parts of the survey have been given in connection with the description of results of the separate investigations. Among published surveys from other countries the *Social Survey of Merseyside* was thought to afford a suitable model in many respects and a good deal of our work was planned on the lines indicated in the Merseyside Survey. The agency employed differed from one aspect of investigation to another and was not completely uniform even for individual investigations. It might, however, be noted that it was not found possible to utilise, on a significant scale, the services of research students in the conduct of this work.

The collection of the primary material occupied almost two years, though the bulk of the work was carried out and completed during the year 1937. The tabulation of the material and the writing of the report were originally estimated also to take one year. That estimate was exceeded by a very large margin. For this the reasons are many. In the first instance, the data actually collected were much more ample and more complex than those originally planned for. Secondly, there was the fact of inexperience in the work of tabulating, collating and evaluating the data. More than all these the factor chiefly responsible for the delay was a personal one, viz. my preoccupation with other work and, for a part of the time, ill-health. The responsibility for planning and conduct having originally been undivided the results of the work have had to wait upon personal factors to this large extent. Finally, of course during the last two years the time taken for publication has been greatly added to by the difficulties experienced by the printing establishments.

Even though the responsibility for the work has been undivided its actual performance has been shared to a very large extent, apart from the body of *ad hoc* investigators, by the staff of the Institute. Mr. L. V. Gogate was in general charge of most of the field work. Mr. R. G. Kakade was specially entrusted with the intensive surveys of the handloom weaving industry and the brass and copper-ware industry and also carried out some other pieces of work such as that of the enquiry relating to casual labour. He also prepared preliminary drafts of reports in connection with all these enquiries. Mr. N. V. Sovani was chiefly responsible for preparing the drafts of various chapters. The work of collecting the historical material in connection with the first chapter has also been almost entirely done by him. Mr. D. V. Deodhar has been in charge of the statistical part of the work through all the stages.

Our acknowledgements for help in connection with the conduct of the investigation would have to be so numerous that it is impossible to make them, in any detail, at this place. Our thanks are due to the authorities of the Poona City Municipality whose help alone made possible the launching of this work. Even though later events made the initial estimates of expenditure appear inadequate, it is due chiefly to the help given by the City Municipality that the work was accomplished. We have also to thank the authorities of the Suburban Municipality for the financial help given. The various Presidents of the City Municipality and a large number of councillors helped us by enabling us to form contacts with various areas and with various trades and communities. The Presidents and councillors of the Suburban Municipality were similarly helpful. Above all, we obtained ready co-operation and assistance from prominent persons in most industries, trades, professions, etc. and from a large number of social, economic and community organisations in the Poona area. It was this that made possible the collection of the varied and extensive data required by us. The staffs of the City and Suburban Municipalities were also extremely helpful in all aspects of our work. Among these we might make special mention of the help rendered by Mr. S. R. Bhagwat, Mr. Wable, Mr. Dalvi, Dr. Mohile, Mr. Kale and Mr. Khopkar.

The first volume now being published contains an account of the main investigations carried out as part of the survey and sets out the economic data in relation to which the survey was chiefly planned. The second volume which will appear in due course will deal chiefly with data relating to social aspects.

Gokhale Institute of Politics }
 & Economics }
 18th January 1945 }

D. R. Gadgil

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ERRATA

Page	Line	For	Read
4	4	"Hisa Mohidin"	"Hisam'ud-Din"
14	26		Footnote 1 on the next page
107	Foot note 1	"engaged weaving"	"engaged in weaving"
136	Table No. 45 item 6	"Bramhin"	"Brahmin"
181	8	§ 30. Mattress., etc.	§ 30 A. Mattress, etc.
201	42	§ 41	§ 43
207	4	§ 42	§ 44
208	15	"the some instances".	"in some instances".
209	38	"Table No. 48."	Table No. 50.
210-211	heading	Table No. 48.	Table No. 50.
276	heading	Table No.55. Males and Female.	Males and Females.
