

Chapter 2

Profile of Solapur

PROFILE OF SOLAPUR CITY

Solapur is one of the largest in industrial towns in Western Maharashtra. Solapur city is the head quarter of Solapur District. There are 11 Tahasils in this District. They are :-

1. Karmala
2. Barshi
3. Madha
4. Malshiras
5. Pandharpur
6. Mohol
7. N.Solapur
8. S.Solapur
9. Sangola
10. Mangalwedha
11. Akkalkot.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The word "Solapur" seems to be derived from two words "Sola" meaning 16 and "PUR" meaning village. It is said that Solapur is spread over 16 villages. They are ¹ -

1. Allitapur
2. Ahmedpur
3. Chapladev
4. Fatepur
5. Jamdarwadi
6. Kaljapur
7. Khadrapur
8. Khandravkivali
9. Muhammadapur
10. Ranapur
11. Sandalapur
12. Shaikhpur
13. Solapur
14. Sonagi
15. Sonapur
16. Vaidkawadi

However the research indicates that the name of Solapur or Sholapur is derived not from the congregation of 16 villages. There is an evidence that the inscription of Shivyogi Shri Siddheswar of the time of Kalachuris of Kalyani that the town was

called Sannalage and this town was known as Sonnalgagi upto the time of Yadavas. A Sanscrit inscription dated SHAKE 1238 , after the down fall of the Yadavas found at Kamati in Mohol shows that this town was known as Sonalipur. One of the inscription found in Solapur fort shows that the town was called Sonalapur. Another fort shows that this city is known as Sandalapur. During the Muslim period the town came to be known as Sandalapur. The word Sandal mean Sandal wood. It is therefore, most probably during the course of time the name Solapur was evolved by dropping "Na" from the name of Sonalapur. Subsequently the Britishers also pronounced and spelt Solapur as Sholapur. Today again it is pronounced and spelt as Solapur.

There is an old fort here, the Shiv Temple called Siddheswar, a 12 th century devotee of Shiv and it has become the sacred of centre of the Lingayat as well as Hindus. The saint is known for establishing 68 Shivalingas in the city. The lake and the temple known after his name are his creation. This was a GNYAN BHOOMI or KARM BHOOMI. There is an annual pilgrimage known as Gadda pilgrimage or Gaddyachi January every year. The procession of this Gadda fair is known as pocession of Yogandas

(Sticks). The city Solapur is the meeting ground for Bhagwat from all over Maharashtra who speak Marathi. Lingayat migrated from Karnataka speak Kannada and Padmashalis migrated from Andhra speak Telugu. All these people stay side by side in respectful tolerance towards each other ways of worship. The religious outlook is fortunately accompanied by humanitarian heart, which feels sympathy for the sufferers and the healthless. Solapur is one of the important cities in Maharashtra state where in many kinds of Institutions are running i.e. charitable hospital, Boarding houses for the poor students, Voluntary Organisations and such other Institutions done with the effects of the people and many public Institutions and temples in the district and even outside have been given from the Solapur businessmen and traders.

The historical background of Solapur city is not traceable but it is said that it was under the rule of kind Shatkarinior Andrabhrutya in 90 BC to 300 AD whose capital was Paithan. After Andrabhrutya it was under regime of Chalukya upto 760 AD Rashtrakut upto 973 AD. Upto 1184 AD it was again in the kingdom of Yadavas of Deogiri. But due to the defeat of Yadavas of Deogiri Solapur city had come

upto 1375 AD under the Muslim regim Bahamani. The capital during his regim was Gulbarga. Bahamani regim became feeble , in due course and then Adilshahi was established at Vijapur and Nijamshahi at Ahmednagar and the Solapur city was included in Nijamshahi in 1497 AD.

However Solapur city never got a chance to become a capital but is having a fort had to face many battles between Nijamshahi and Adilshahi from 1497 AD to 1599 AD. From 1599 AD to 1758 AD it was under the rule of Moghuls, Nijamshahi, Vijapurshahi and again Moghuls and Nijamshahi one after another. But during the period of 1758 Nanasaheb Peshve conquered it and it was brought under Maratha Empire upto 1814 AD and after it to British empire. Solapur was very important and strong military cantre in Maratha empire. Solapur city and District also gave a great fight upto the end against increasing powerful British Rule.

Solapur city also put efforts in gaining freedom. The citizens of Solapur Hutatma Mallapa Dhanshetti, Jagannath Shinde, Shri Kisan Sarada and A.R. Kurban Hussain were sentenced to death and other citizens had gone to the jails, as they protesting against the tyrannical administration of

Britishers.

Since the beginning and even after independence the citizens of Solapur are making sincere efforts in all walks of life as well as are contributing their efforts to prosper the country. In the year 1862, the local body of Solapur was given the status of Municipality and the status of Municipal Corporation was given on 1st May 1964.

GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

Solapur is the fifth largest urban Agglomeration in Maharashtra State. It lies entirely in the Bhima-Sina-Man basins. Bhima river is the border of Maharashtra and Karnataka State. It lies on 17° 42' east, 17° 10' north, and 18° 32' north latitude and 76° 15' east longitudes, the district is fairly well defined to its west as well as to its east by the inward-looking scrapes of Phaltan Range and the Osmanabad Plateau, respectively. The high-bowering districts are Sangli to its south west. Satara to its west, Pune to its north west, Ahmednagar to its north. Osmanabad to its east and Vijapur district in Karnataka state to its south. Though of irregular shape, the district is roughly squarish 200 Kms. East west and 150 kms. north

south. ²

The population of Solapur city according to 1991 census is 6,20,499. Out of them 3,18,885 are male and 3,01,614 are female. Its area is 25.33 sq.kms. ³. The height from the sea level of this city is 479 mtrs. It is hot place. Yearly temperature of Solapur city is max. 43.3 °C and minimum 10 °C approximately. The highest max. temp. recorded at this place was 45.6 °C on May 12, 1939 and the lowest minimum was 4.4 °C on January 7, 1945. The average annual rainfall is 742 mm.

Like the most of the Indian towns Solapur city is a collection of period places i.e. it is and has come upto the present stage as an unplanned town. Both the ways of life of the people and its existing land use are its highest and its naughtiest problems. The programmes and plans have little chance of success because it is conceived half heartedly and is likely to sink for want of commitment or dedication. Nevertheless a master plan is being superimposed on its planning section. At the same time there is no use of denying that Solapur has vital place in the National Urban System with which its interconnected and interrelated by highways, railways, another communications channels. Nearest city having 100000

population is Pune and the distance between Solapur and Pune is 243 Kms. Bombay is capital of Maharashtra state is 428 Kms. away from Solapur.

INDUSTRIAL BACKGROUND

1. Large Scale and Small Scale Industry -

The first organised Industry i.e. cotton textile mill was established in Solapur in the year 1877. Today there are 4 big cotton mills and two spinning mills in the city. They are -

1. Laxmi Cotton Manufacturing Company Limited.
2. Vishnu Cotton Mills Limited.
3. Shree Jam Ranjit Singhji Mills
4. Narsingji Giriji Manufacturing Company Ltd.
5. Shree Solapur Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit Solapur
6. Shree Yashwant Sahakari Soot Girani niyamit

During the 19 th century, Solapur was well known for its DHOTARS. Today it is known for Jacquard Chaddars in India. Moreover its latest products wall hanging from waste cottons, napkins and towels are increasing the industrial status of the city. Solapur is often spoken as textile community, superimposed on Indian Towns. Besides the modern Textils Mills, Solapur is a congenial home for handloom and power loom weaving industry which provides employment to

thousands of workers. The weaving community has migrated mainly from Telangana in Andhra Pradesh and Gulbarga , Riachur in Karnataka.

Beside the cotton textile industry, there is a sugar factory named 'Siddheswar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana' and engineering industry viz. Shivaji Works Ltd., Shivashahi.

There is also industrial estate at Solapur which is one of the several institutional techniques developed and applied successfully to the basic problems of initiating and sustaining the development of medium scale industries by providing in a compact and developed area , water supply , drainage , electric supply, transport facilities etc. along with suitable space. As per new plan 34 acres of land has been acquired by Govt. and handed over to the industrial estate cooperative society for development.

The society has 284 members who are shareholders. At present 7 type of industries are operating in the industrial estate viz. Foundry, Engineering, Cement processing, Plastics, Textiles, Drugs and Allied Chemicals and Refinery of sweet oil. A number of entrepreneurs and attracted to locate their factories in the industrial estates due to

various facilities available therein.

The dyeing industry has been in existence in Solapur for a long time as an ancillary to the local handloom industry. There are also cotton ginning and pressing units at Solapur.

The Solapur district being an important groundnut and sesame growing centre, there are number of small scale oil mill. Groundnut is the main raw material. Sunflower and sesame are the other oil seeds which are also used for extraction of edible oil.

2. Cottage Industries -

The cottage industry occupy an important place in the economy of the district since time immemorial. It provides a source of livelihood to numerous artisans and crafts-man who were well known for their skill and workmanship. The important cottage industries in the Solapur city are -

Handloom - weaving, Bidi manufacturing , Farming , Leather working, Fibre working, Bamboo working, Oil pressing, Carpentry, Smithy, dyeing and printing, Silk processing ,Polutry, Soap making and miscellaneous industries like kunku making, agarbatti making and cap making. Most of the cottage industries

are hereditary in character followed by person belonging to certain caste only. Mobility of labour in these industries is not conspicuous.

The slum Improvement Scheme In Solapur

The Solapur Municipal Corporation is functioning since 1972 as an agency for implementing slum improvement scheme according to the Maharashtra slum area act (1971). The scheme covers 94,000 population in 64 zopadpattis. It is roughly estimated that 30 % (1.25 lakhs) of the population of Solapur is situated in these 119 zopadpattis. Out of total 119 zopadpattis, 14 are situated in government land, 22 on Municipal area and 83 have been located on private land.

The main function of the said scheme is to simply infrastructural facilities such as roads, gutters, latrines, public water supply, electrical poles with street lights etc. The SMC had spent Rs. 124.16 Lakhs which includes the Government grant of Rs. 95.23 lakhs for completing the following types of work during the period of 10 years from 1974 to 1984.

TABLE NO. 2.1 :- WORKS COMPLETED UNDER SLUM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME OF SMC.

| Sr. no. | Type of work | Quantity |
|---------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Public taps | 540 nos. |
| 2 | Public latrines | 1,319 seats |
| 3 | Open surface gutters | 74,638 R.Mts. |
| 4 | Roads | 1,00,390 Mts. |
| 5 | Electric poles | 430 nos. |
| 6 | Dust bins | 45 nos. |
| 7 | Stand post | 446 nos. |

Source : Office record , SMC

The performance of slum Improvement scheme in command area of the UCD Project

Out of the 29 identified zopadpattis under the command area of the UCD Project, the following zopadpattis have the adequate infrastructural facilities which were created in respect of water connections, water taps, gutters, roads and electricity (i.e. street lights) (table no. 2.2)

- 1 Thorala Rajwada
- 2 Maratha Wasti

- 3 Ramabai Ambedkar Wasti
- 4 Matang Wasti
- 5 Mote Wasti
- 6 Ghongade Wasti
- 7 Maddi Wasti
- 8 Shahir Wasti
- 9 Bagale Wasti
- 10 Yalleshwar Wadi
- 11 Sarada Plot

The total expenditure of slum improvement of SMC was to the tune of Rs. 1,01,94,857/- for the work undertaken in the 64 zopadpattis as on March 1982. The table no. 2 reveals that the SMC had spent the total amount of Rs. 25,31,658/- as on March 1982 for constructing infrastructural facilities in some zopadpattis under UCD. At the time of beginning of UCD Project, the SMC had already created infrastructural facilities in some zopadpattis under UCS Project which cover 24.82 % of the total expenditure. Of course, this performance of slum improvement scheme is inadequate and it covers only 11 zopadpattis out of the 24 under the UCD Project.

TABLE NO. 2: - ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (INCLUDING GOVT. GRANT) SPENT ON SLUM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME COVERING THE UCD PROJECT AS ON MARCH 1982

| Sr.no. | Name of zopadpatti | Amount spent (Rs) |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Thorala Rajwada | 2,43,819 |
| 2 | Maratha Wasti | 3,27,600 |
| 3 | Ramabai Ambedkar | 2,04,000 |
| 4 | Masare Wasti | - |
| 5 | Ambedkar Nagar | 2,38,418 |
| 6 | Jawalkar Wasti | - |
| 7 | Matang Wasti | 1,17,693 |
| 8 | Mote Wasti | 46,071 |
| 9 | Pathan Wasti | - |
| 10 | Hande Plots | - |
| 11 | Wadgaonkar Wasti | - |
| 12 | Mukund Nagar | 2,55,000 |
| 13 | Jamma Wasti | - |
| 14 | Basavnti Plot | 42,000 |
| 15 | Basav Nagar | - |
| 16 | Ghongade Wasti | 5,11,054 |

| Sr.no. | Name of zopadpatti | Amount spent (Rs) |
|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 17 | Maddi Wasti | 42,000 |
| 18 | Shahir Wasti | 1,81,395 |
| 19 | Hanuman Nagar | - |
| 20 | Bagale Wasti | 2,79,140 |
| 21 | Joshi Wasti | - |
| 22 | Yalleshwar Wadi | 43,468 |
| 23 | Sarada Plot | - |
| 24 | Jaibhim Wasti | - |
| TOTAL : | | 25,31,658 |
