



### 3.1 LOCATION :

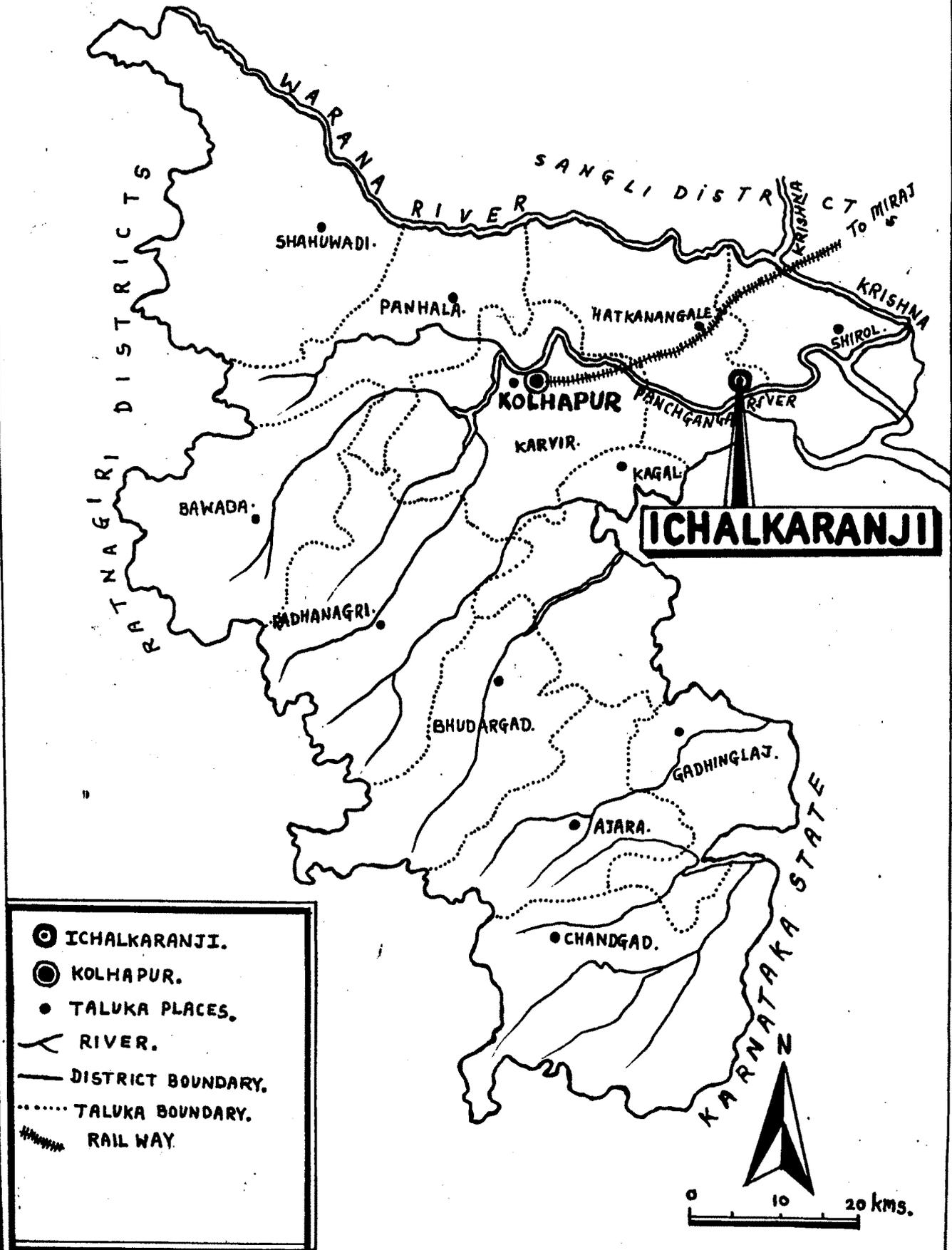
Ichalkaranji city is one of the important industrial centres of Maharashtra where the development of powerloom industry has brought overall prosperity to the city. Besides this being an industrial centre it is the main central place on the boundary of Maharashtra and Karnataka state. Ichalkaranji city located in south Maharashtra in Hatkanangale tahsil of Kolhapur district, is called as 'Manchester of Maharashtra.' It is a 'A' class municipal city. The municipal council was established in 1893. The city located on 16°40' N latitude and 74°25' E longitude, at an altitude of 542 metres above mean sea level occupies 18.13 sq.kms area and supports population of 2,14,835. Ichalkaranji city is situated midway between Kolhapur and Miraj railway line and it is 9.5 kms south of the Hatkanangale station. It was small princely state situated on the bank of river Panchaganga about 1.6 kms to the west of the river, a tributary of Krishna.

The roads branching off from Kolhapur and Sangli enter the city. Ichalkaranji is well approached by the roads from Nāpani and Chikodi towns of Karnataka state.

### 3.2 PHYSICAL SET UP :

An assemblage of both diverse natural and cultural elements has shaped the geographical personality of the study region.

# ● ICHALKARANJI CITY ●



● Fig-3.1 ●

Geographically, this area, is a part of the basaltic plateau of Maharashtra, extending eastwards from the Sahyadrian watershed. This city is situated in the filled up valley of river Panchaganga. There are vast land of black cotton soils. Vast land consisting of hard murum and hard rock (Deccan trap) are seen which are good for the building purposes.

Climate is the most important physical factors influencing the economic activity of man. It almost determines the landuse and cropping pattern of a region. It has considerable influence on transport system and on settlement pattern too. The climate of the Ichalkaranji city is essentially a tropical monsoon type. The monsoonal rhythm dominates the climatic characteristics of the region. The climate of the region is marked for his seasonality characterised by different climatic conditions during summer season (February to May), <sup>hot</sup> cool and wet during rainy season (June to September) and cool during the winter season (October to January).

The Ichalkaranji city has significant variation in temperature conditions. Summers in this region are much hotter and winters have warm days and cool nights. Temperatures are usually the lowest in January but the highest temperature are not experienced during one and the same month. The mean maximum temperature in the hottest month (April and May) rises above 35°C, while the mean minimum temperature of the coldest months (December and January) varies between 15° to 20°C in the region.

The city receives about 750 mm of annual rainfall of which 80 percent is recorded during south-west monsoon. July is the rainiest month with the largest number of rainy days. A great contrast in amount, seasonal distribution of rainfall and the unpredictable nature of monsoonal rain are common in these areas.

### 3.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ICHALKARANJI CITY :

The textile town of Ichalkaranji is originated as an important settlement which is said to be formed of 7 hamlets, in the 18th century. The town was developed on the proper lines by Naro Mahadeo, the Jagirdar of Ichalkaranji, who had received the town as, 'Inam' from Ghorapade, the Senapati of Kapasi, for the unique services, the Brahmin had rendered to him.

Although his family name was 'Joshi' he changed into Ghorapade in honour of his master. Naro Mahadeo was succeeded by Venkatrao and the host of others whose names are only of academic interest and have done very little worth mentioning. In compliments of his benefactor the grantee assumed the latter's family name of Ghorapade, Naro Mahadeo soon increased in the wealth and power and his fortunes reached zenith in 1722. When his son married to the daughter of Balaji Vishwanath the first Peshwa. The alliance was of immense importance to the chief of Ichalkaranji who always relied to the sympathy and support of the Peshwa in case of apprehension received from

Raja of Kolhapur treaties and agreement concluded from time to time between the Peshwa and Raja of Kolhapur contain reference to protection granted to Ichalkaranji by the Peshwa against the Kolhapur Raja.

### 3.4 INDUSTRIAL BACKGROUND OF THE POWERLOOM

#### INDUSTRY IN ICHALKARANJI :

Any industrial town has a long history of it's own. Similar is the case with Ichalkaranji. Ichalkaranji had got a tradition of weaving industry long before 1845. The record shows that in 1845 A.D. in Hatkanangale tahsil of Kolhapur districts, there were 636 handlooms of which 236 handlooms were in Ichalkaranji town (Deshpande and Kulkarni, 1971).

In this connection it is also necessary to consider another survey made in 1882, there were 3102 total number of weaving looms and of these 688 were in Alte, 654 in Gadhinglaj, 422 in Karvir, 397 in Shirol, 350 in Ichalkaranji, 236 in Panhala, 179 in Kagal, 86 in Bhudargad, 58 in Bavada, and 32 in Vishalgad/Gajapur. Besides these 17 looms were in Kolhapur. Jail factory weaved all sort of cloths including towels and table cloths (Campbell, 1960).

To meet the increasing demand for cloth, Babasaheb Ghorapade again greatly patronised and encouraged the people to install the powerlooms, a first trial in India. As a result

some people of skill, courage and fertile imagination came forward and started the era of powerlooms. Among these 'LATE VITTHALRAOJI DATAR', the first person who came forward with great pioneering zeal and established his, 'Venktesh Rang Tantu Mills' with a single powerlooms in 1904. In fact he is rightly been described as, 'THE FATHER OF ICHALKARANJI POWERLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY.' Many other subordinate industrialists also entered the industry and took active part in the development of powerloom weaving industry.

### 3.5 ICHALKARANJI - THE MANCHESTER OF MAHARASHTRA :

The powerloom town of Ichalkaranji has been recognised as 'Manchester of Maharashtra.' In spite of the unfavourabilities of port, railway, airport, favourable climatic conditions and facilities of ready market for the produced cloth, it has come up as one of the leading powerloom centres in the country.

Manchester is a commercial metropolis of Britain, situated to north-west of London. It has a fine network of rail roads and airways connecting the textile city to various trade centres in Britain and other part of the world. Moreover, it is a natural port. The city of Manchester, a Roman settlement well-known for wool and linen during 16th century sprung up with the industrial revolution in the latter part of the 18th century, and soon it become a major centres producing yarn and cloth. Its phenomenal growth was mainly due to free

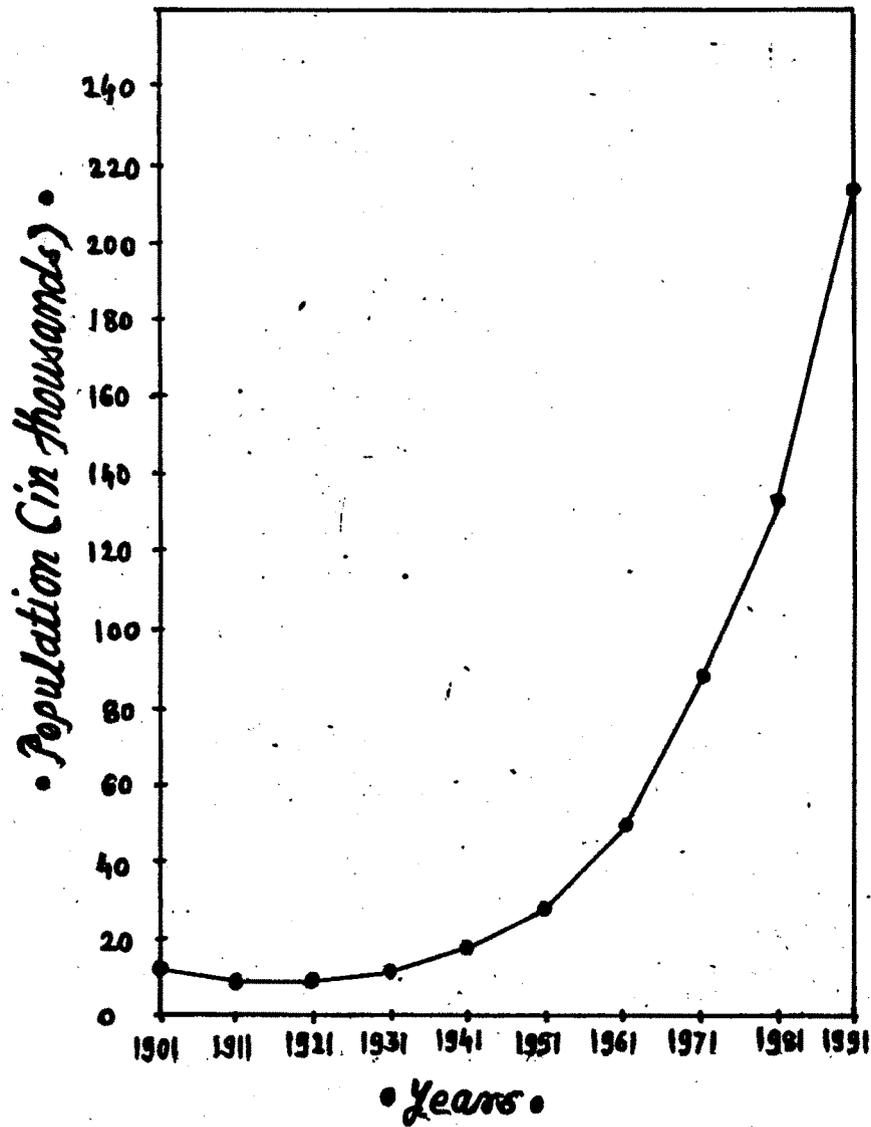
trade policy enacted by the British Government as the outcome of the parliamentary movement for free trade in Britain.

Ichalkaranji town may have derived its inspiration from Manchester, as the textile towns which Late Babasaheb Ghorapade had visited during his tour to Britain. His bright fore sight opened on a new vista at Ichalkaranji towards the end of 19th century (1892). Ichalkaranji, however, is far different from Manchester with which it has been commonly compared. Neither does the town has a railway station, nor a harbour. Even the climatic conditions at the town are not favourable. Even so, Ichalkaranji has a number of points of comparison with Manchester. To begin with, the way Manchester master minded it. In Manchester the English co-operative movement was founded in 1844 establishment of free trade. The same is the case of Ichalkaranji; where even before independence co-operative movement was established by the great visionary ruler. Co-operative commercial centres were founded with a view to assisting the weavers, yarn merchants, cloth merchants, processors, cotton growers etc. Similarly like Manchester, the city produces coarse cloth and raw polyster.

### 3.6 THE GROWTH OF POPULATION :

Being an important textile powerloom and weaving commercial centres of Maharashtra, the city of Ichalkaranji, has expanded its area and population during the 20th century.

• ICHALKARANJI CITY: GROWTH OF POPULATION •  
• 1901 TO 1991 •



• Fig - 3.2 •

According to census of 1901, the place has population of 12,920 persons. It was classified as a town in 1893. According to census of 1961, the Ichalkaranji city was ranked 8th in Maharashtra but according to census 1971 its rank 6th in Maharashtra. During last three decades the growth rate is very high (Fig.3.2 and Table 3.1). It is mainly due to the inmigrant workers coming from rural areas for the sake of job in the city of Manchester - Ichalkaranji.

**Table 3.1 : Ichalkaranji city - Decadal changes and growth rate of population.**

Sr. No.	Year	Population	Decadal changes	Growth rate in percentage
1	1901	12,920	-	-
2	1911	10,239	- 2,681	- 00.26
3	1921	10,240	+ 0,001	+ 00.09
4	1931	11,940	+ 1,700	+ 16.25
5	1941	18,574	+ 6,634	+ 56.03
6	1951	27,423	+ 8,849	+ 47.64
7	1961	50,978	+23,555	+ 85.90
8	1971	87,731	+36,753	+ 72.10
9	1981	1,33,704	+45,973	+ 52.40
10	1991	2,14,835	+81,131	+ 60.68

**SOURCES :** Census of Maharashtra (1991) - Government of Maharashtra Publication, Bombay and Town Directory, Town Planning Office, Pune, 1987.

### 3.7 OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE :

The independancy ratio of the population of Ichalkaranji city is high (above 60 percent) for all the four decades (Table 3.2). The analysis of working population reveals that 65.69 of the working force was agaged in secondary activities followed by tertiary (18.20%) and primary activities. The percentage share engaged in secondary forced increased upto 91.27 percent.

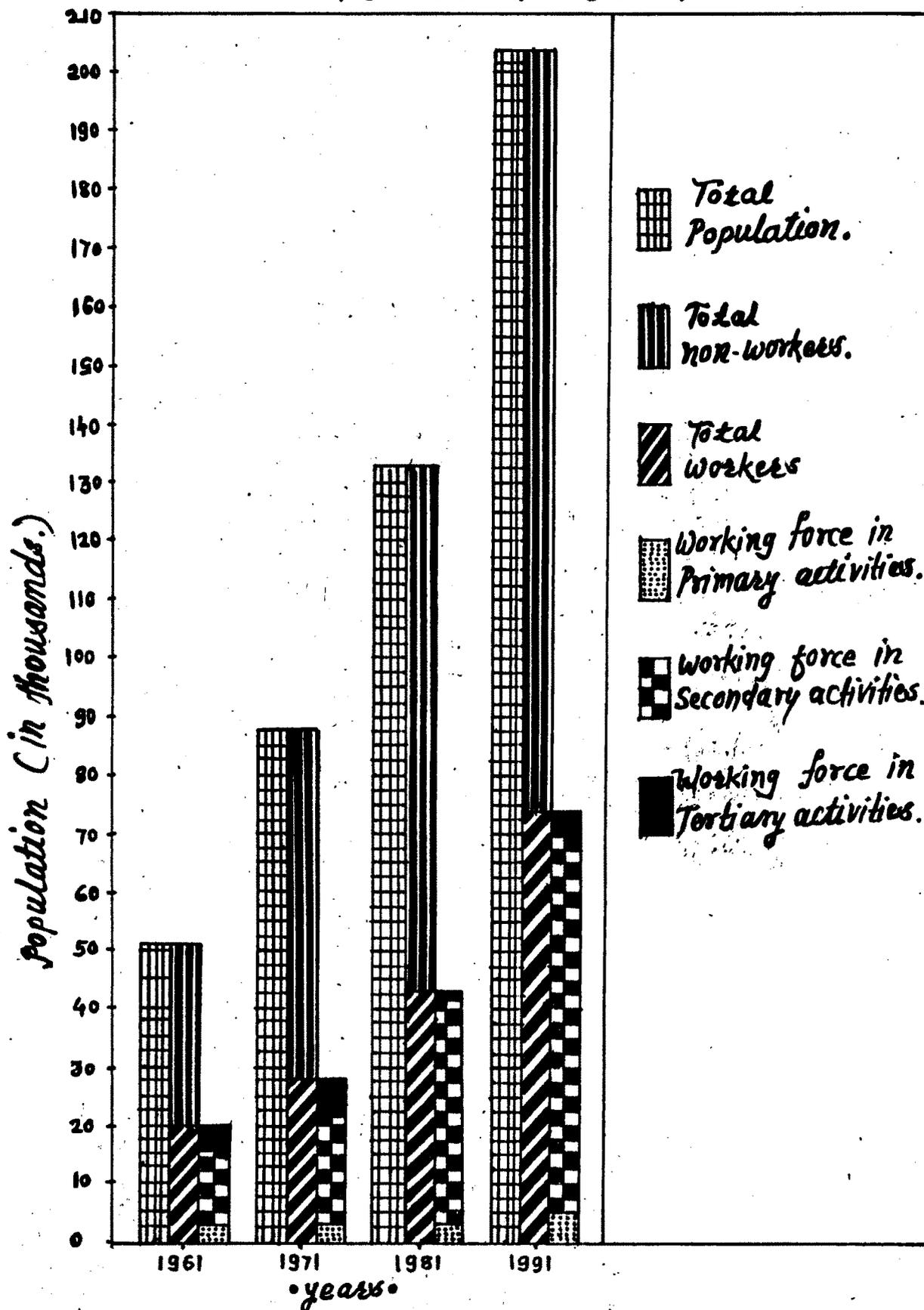
**Table 3.2 : Ichalkaranji - Occupational structure  
1961 to 1991.**

Sr. No.	Working force	1961	1971	1981	1991
1	Primary activities	3,131 (16.11)	2,804 (9.99)	2,744 (6.34)	5,055 (6.79)
2	Secondary activities	12,764 (65.69)	19,002 (67.67)	39,520 (91.27)	65,714 (88.24)
3	Tertiary activities	3,536 (18.20)	6,276 (22.34)	1,035 (2.39)	3,703 (4.97)
4	Total workers	19,431 (38.12)	28,082 (32.01)	43,299 (32.38)	74,472 (34.67)
5	Total Non-workers	31,547 (61.88)	59,649 (67.99)	90,504 (67.62)	1,40,363 (65.33)
6	Total population	50,978	87,731	1,33,703	2,14,835

**SOURCE** : Town Directory, Town Planning Office, Pune, 1987. Census of Maharashtra (1991), Govt. of Maharashtra Publication, Bombay.

**Note** : Numbers in bracket refer to percentages

• ICHALKARANJI: OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE •  
 • 1961 TO 1991 (In '000') •



• Fig - 3.3 •

" In the year 1981 (Fig.3.3), it indicates the dominance of powerloom workers in the working force of this city. It is true that the only livelihood of the habitat of city is the powerloom industry. The remaining working force engaged in trade, transport and storage activities is also indirectly depends on powerloom industry.

R E F E R E N C E S

1. Campbell, J.M. (1960) : Bombay Gazetteer, Vol.XXIV, Bombay, p.211 and 212 (Revised Edition).
2. Collier's Encyclopedia (Ed.) (1977) : New York; Macmillan (Vol.15), Educational Corporation, pp.318-319.
3. Govt. of Maharashtra Publication, Bombay (1991) : Census of Maharashtra.
4. Govt. of Maharashtra, Pune (1987) : Town Planning Office, Town Directory.
5. Tamhankar, N.D. (1951) : Autobiography of Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorapde (in Marathi), Ichalkaranji (Ed.) Kulkarni G.D., p.81.
6. Vhasmane, A.S. (1989) : City Growth and Related Problems - A Case Study of Ichalkaranji City. Unpublished M.Phil. Dissertation, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

\*\*\*\*\*