

CHAPTER - II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

C H A P T E R - II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

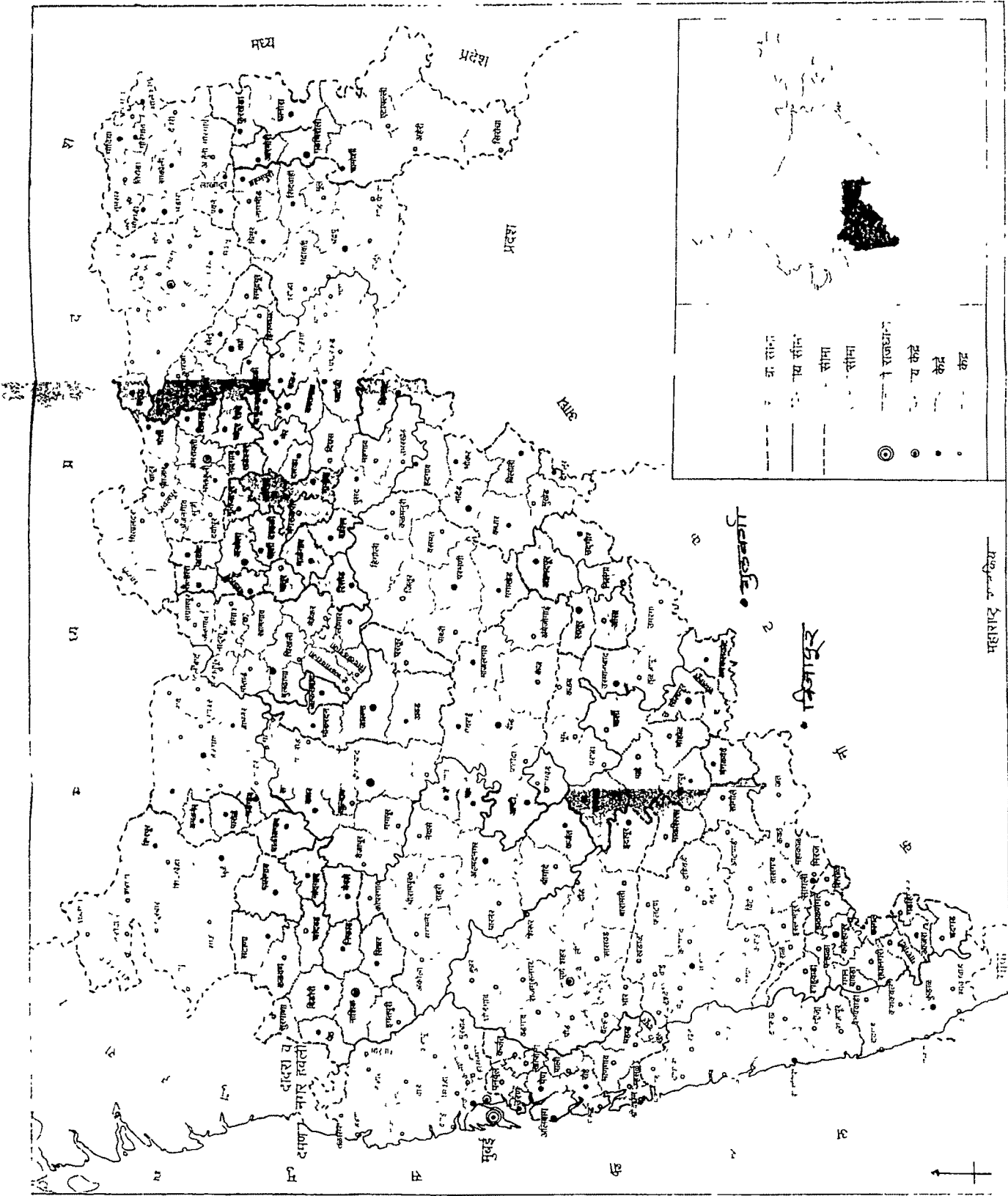
A study of a level of political awareness and participation of workers from two big co-operative Spinning Mills in Solapur is undertaken. It is necessary to have background information about the Solapur District and the city of Solapur.

SOLAPUR DISTRICT : -

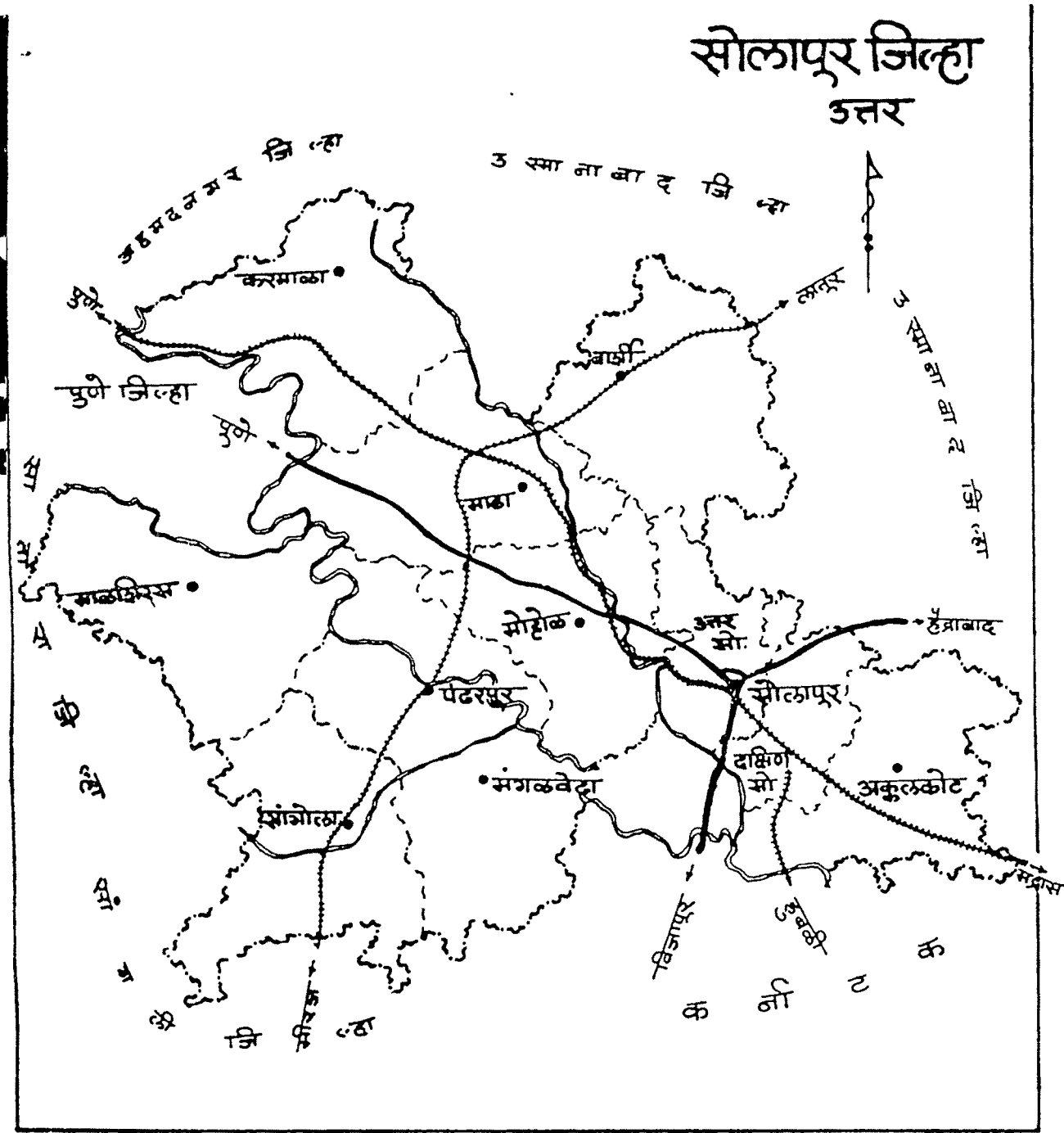
The area of Solapur District is 15017 Square Kilometres. The population is 3224034 as per 1991 census.¹ Solapur District is one of the districts of the Maharashtra State. This district has eleven Talukas. They are Karmala, Malshiras, Madha, Barshi, Pandharpur, Mohol, North Solapur, South Solapur, Akkalkot, Sangola, Mangalvedha². (See Map No.1). Solapur is the headquarters of the District. Therefore, this name is given to the district as per the practice. The adjoining districts of Solapur district are Sangali, Satara, Pune, Ahmednagar, Osmanabad from Maharashtra State and Gulbarga and Bijapur district from Karnataka State (See Map No.2).

*1. Maharashtra 1991, 10th Edition P. 294.

*2. Maharashtratil Zille, Solapur (Mahiti Va Janasamparka Mahasanchalaya, Maharashtra Shasan), Page 2.



सीलापूर जिल्हा उत्तर



CITY OF SOLAPUR : -

City of Solapur is the headquarters of this district. This city is not located at the centre of this district, but almost at the South East Corner of this district. The borders of the Karnataka State and Andhra Pradesh are not far off from this city. People from these two states have migrated to this city and settled down here. The offices of South Solapur and North Solapur Talukas are located in Solapur City. (See Map No.3).

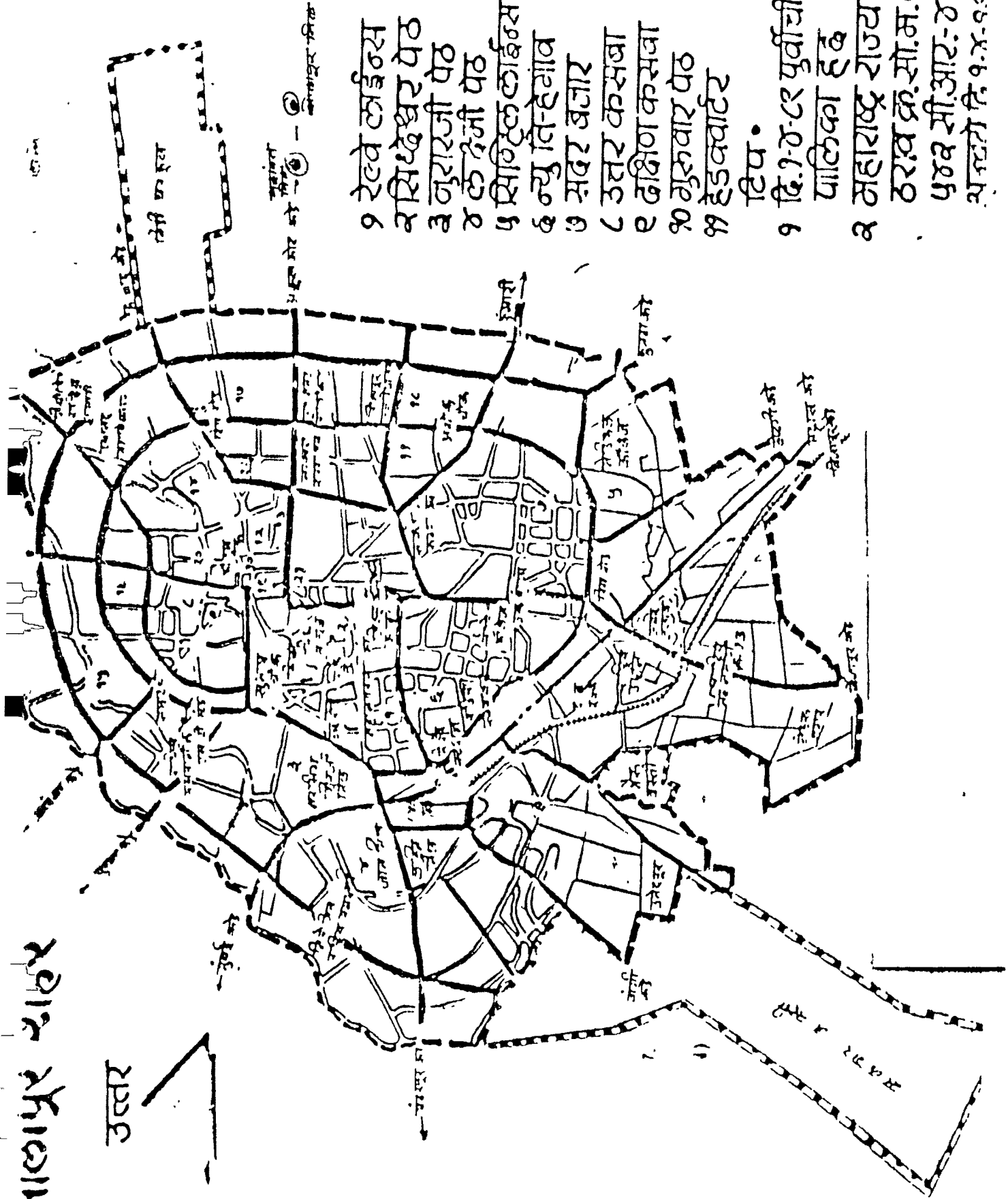
This is a historical city. The Saint Shri. Siddheshwara got dug a tank with the help of the people by 'Shramadan' (voluntary free labour). It is now known as Siddheshwar Tank. Shri Siddheshwar is worshiped as the 'deity' of this city.

There is also one old fort which is a land based fort the ramparts of which are still intact. The city is well connected with Bombay - Madras - Hyderabad - Bangalore - Mangalore - Hubli - New Delhi by rail. It is also well connected with Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore by national high ways. Thus it enjoys a strategic position.

There are two versions how this city came to be

मालापुर शहर

उत्तर



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| १ रेलवे लाईन्स | १३ गणेश पेठ |
| २ सिध्दधर पेठ | १३ सारवर पेठ |
| ३ नुराजी पेठ | १४ जोडभावी पेठ |
| ४ कंठी पेठ | १५ बुधवार पेठ |
| ५ सिव्हील लाईन्स | १६ भवानी पेठ |
| ६ न्यु ति-हेवाव | १७ रविवार पेठ |
| ७ सडर बजार | १८ पाखा पेठ |
| ८ उत्तर कसबा | १९ शुक्रवार पेठ |
| ९ दक्षिण कसबा | २० मंगळवार पेठ |
| १० गुरुवार पेठ | २१ शनिवार पेठ |
| ११ हेडक्वार्टर | २२ राजेंद्र चौक |

टिप.

- १ दि.१०-८२ पुर्वीची जहानगर -
- २ महाराष्ट्र राज्य शासन
- ठरव क्र.सो.म.पा.१५८३-
- ५४३ सी.आर.-४५-युडी-३५
- अखत्यारी दि.१.४.१९७० गाझन

known as Solapur. According to one version there were sixteen villages. These villages merged into one city and that was named as Solapur. (Sola means sixteen and pur means village).¹ According to another source, this place was originally known as Sonnalage. Later-on it was known as by Sonalipur. Then it became Sandalpur. Finally it has become Solapur.² A Municipality was established in 1852 for looking after the local administration of the city.³ Solapur Municipality was one of the oldest municipalities in the Bombay presidency. The city was developed in all respects and it was accorded a status of a municipal corporation in 1964.⁴

THE PEOPLE : -

According to 1981 census population of Solapur was 5,14,860⁵. From the year 1901 there has been considerable increase in population. There are several factors responsible for growth in population. One of the several factors is that the Solapur city is situated at the boundaries of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka State. Therefore, people from these two states migrated to Solapur for getting employment and then settled here permanently.

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- *1. Gazetteer of India, Maharashtra State, Solapur District.
 - *2. op.cit Page 2 Edition 1977, Page 1.
 - *3. Solapur Nagarpalika, Shatasanvatsarika Grantha, Page 28
 - *4. Gazetteer of India, Maharashtra State, Solapur District,
Edn. 1977 P. 969.
 - *5. Maharashtra 1991, Dastane Ramchandra & Co. Page 298.

The following statistics show the increase in the population : -

Year	Population	Variation	Percentage
1901	75288	-	-
1911	61345	- 13943	- 18.52
1921	119581	+ 58236	+ 94.93
1931	144654	+ 25073	+ 20.97
1941	212620	+ 67966	+ 46.99
1951	277087	+ 64467	+ 30.32
1961	337583	+ 60496	+ 21.83
1971	398361	+ 60778	+ 18.00
1981	514860	+116499	+ 22.63
1991	620499*	+105639	+ 17.02

* (Provisional figure)

2.4 AREA OF THE CITY : -

In the year 1869 the area of Solapur City was 150 Acres (0.3 Sq.Km.). In the year 1940 it was increased by 5532 Acres (13.83 Sq.KM). There was further expansion of the area in 1971 by 8.52 Sq.Km. At present the area of the Solapur city is 32.83 Sq.Km.. There are several factors leading to the expansion of the city. One of them was increase in population. The people from adjoining states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka States came to Solapur for getting employment. After getting employment they had

settled down here permanently. Another factor for development of the area of city was the growth of industries in the city. Handloom and Powerloom Industries had increased in large extent. Besides these, there were number of Bidi factories which provided employment for women. There were also number of small scale industries which provided employment for number of workers and artisans.

The following statistics show the increase in the area : -

Year	Area	Variation
1869	150 Acres (0.38 Sq.Km)	
1940	5532 Acres (13.39 Sq.Km)	+ 13.45
1971	22.35 Sq.Km.	+ 8.52
1981	32.83 Sq.Km.	+ 10.48

The city of Solapur is smaller in area as compared to the other cities in Maharashtra. However, in population it stood ^{at} 4th place in number.

2.5 The following statistics show the population of some cities in Maharashtra : -

S.No.	City	Population
1	Bombay	8243405
2	Nagpur	1302066
3	Pune	1203351
4	Solapur	514860
5	Nasik	429034
6	Thane	389801
7	Kolhapur	351392
8	Aurangabad	316421

(Census of India, 1981, Serial No.14
- Maharashtra State).

There is a proposal that the area of the Solapur Municipal Corporation is to be extended by merger of certain villages at the periphery of this city. It is awaiting for final decision by the Government of Maharashtra. It is expected that it will be announced soon.

Cosmopolitan City : - There are people belonging to different religions such as Hindus(78%), Muslims(16%)

Buddhists(03 %) Jains (02 %), Christians (01 %).¹

As the city is situated at the borders of Maharashtra Karnataka State and not far off from the boundaries of Andhra Pradesh, it has resulted into/a sizable population, speaking different languages, namely, Marathi (49.1 %), Telugu (17.12 %), Kannada (12.18%), Hindi (3.08%), Urdu (16.30%) and other languages (2.22%)².

Literacy Level in India:-

	Literate Per cent.	Illiterate Per cent.
India	42.94 ³	57.06
Maharashtra	61.10 ³	38.90
Solapur (City)	54.55 ⁴	45.45

Education and Cultural Activities : -

Solapur city has developed educationally and culturally. At present there are seven Arts and Science and Commerce Colleges. One well equipped Medical College providing educational facilities upto post-graduate level.

*1. As per 1981 Census Table No. 1.6(b) Page 13.

*2. Maharashtra State Gazetteers Solapur Districts 1977, P.116.

*3. Maharashtra 1991 - Dastane publication. Page.6.
Publication

* 4. Maharashtratil Zille, Solapur-Mahati Va Jan Samparka Mahasanchalanaya, Solapur, Maharashtra Shasan-page 2.

Government Polytechnic and two private polytechnics provide facilities for imparting technical education. Besides this there are three B.Ed., colleges and a Post Graduate Shivaji University Centre. There is well equipped engineering college which is run on no grant basis. The need of education is provided in various branches of Engineering upto the graduate and post-graduate levels. There is also an Industrial Training Institute run by the Government. There are 36 highschools for providing secondary education to the students. Besides these there are 12 Kannada medium, 114 Marathi medium, 19 Urdu medium, 4 Telugu medium and 5 English medium schools.¹ They are providing primary education to the children. In the city there are people of different caste and religion. They are speaking different languages also. To give education to the children of different language speaking, different medium schools have been started. Thus adequate educational facilities are available in the city of Solapur.

There are a number of voluntary organisations furthering various cultural activities such as drama, drawing, dance, music and literacy activities. There are two good theatres catering to the needs of these activities. Thus city has provided adequate facilities for developing the personality of citizens culturally.

*1. Census of India - 1981
District Census Handbook Solapur City.

*2. Maharashtra State Gazetteers Solapur Dist. Edn. 1977
P. 384.

Industrial Activities : -

An organized textile mill sector was the backbone of the economic life of the city and still it is so to an extent. The Solapur Spinning and Weaving Mills Co., Ltd., Solapur was established in the year 1877 under the leadership of Seth Morarka. The mill has a sprawling campus. It had 82652 spindles and 1772 powerlooms.¹ During the 2nd World War period, this mill was working at its best. It provided employment for 16000 workers directly. Besides this it made available employment to a large number of workers, artisans indirectly. However, because of various difficulties the mill suspended its operation and went into liquidation in 1964.² The process of liquidation is still going on. The mill was a pride of the city. It contributed to the development of city. Its closure hampered the growth of the city and paralised its economic life for some years.

Narsinggirji Mills Ltd., Solapur, Laxmi-Vishnu Cotton Mills Ltd., Solapur, Shri. Jam Ranjit Singhji Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd., Solapur were established by private entrepreneurs. At present the Narsinggirji Mills Ltd., Solapur is taken over by Government of Maharashtra in 1958³

*1. Maharashtra State Gazetteer Solapur Dist. Edn. 1977, P. 384.

*2. Maharashtra State Gazetteers Solapur Dist. Edn. 1977, P. 98

*3. Ibid - 98.

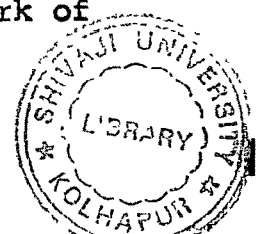
and the other mills are owned and run by the private sector. These mills have enriched the economic life of the city.

HANDLOOM AND POWERLOOM INDUSTRIES : -

Alongwith these textile mills the handloom and the powerloom industries have flourished in this city, particularly by the weaving community migrated to this city from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka State (earstwhile Hyderabad State). Their good leadership and skill have contributed to the growth of this sector. The government also provided aid in multifarious to these industries. The powerloom industry manufactures the famous Solapur (Jacquard chaddars in different patterns and sizes, and also turkish towels and napkins etc. The handloom industry manufactures handloom sarries, dhoties, etc.

This Sector provides employment for 20000 skilled and unskilled workers.

There are large number of industries situated in the Industrial area developed with the help of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation. Recently new big industries are being started in the new industrial area. This will bring about the economic development of the city past. In the old and new M.I.D.C. area, there are various small scale industries which are undertaken the work of



processing such as bleaching, dying of yarn and cloth, manufacture of wall hangings, various kinds of industries such as rubber products, chemicals, polythine bags, plastic pipes, readymade garments, paper cones, fabricating work etc., Thus the small scale industries added the economic development of the city.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPINNING MILLS : -

Due to the closure of the Solapur Spinning and Weaving Mills, Solapur, many skilled and unskilled workers were thrown out of employment. However some of the skilled workers of these mills started handloom and powerloom - factories. (These factories required various counts of yarn for the production of Jecquard chaddars, saris, dhoties etc.) They had to purchase yarn of the requisite count from the adjoining states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu. But they did not get the required quality of yarn in time and at reasonable rates. The only solution to find a way out of these difficulties, is to have a co-operative spinning mills of the handloom and powerloom Weavers in Solapur city.

SOLAPUR VINKAR SAHAKARI SOOT GIRANI NIYAMIT, SOLAPUR.

At first Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur was established in the year 1964 at Akkalkot Road, Solapur. The credit for starting this mill goes to untiring efforts and leadership of Shri G.S.Kuchan (Ex. M.P.),

Shri. V.S. Kota, Shri Mallayya Pulli, Shri S.M. Adam, Shri. Ramkrishnapant Bet (Ex. Deputy Speaker of Maharashtra State). The factory has the premises of 35 acres of land. Initially it has only 12500 spindles working. The mill has made production of 60s, 80s, 100s counts of yarn (cotton) and 60s and 80s Viscose staple yarn.¹ However during the year 1970 the yarn production of the mill was insufficient to meet the requirements of its members. Hence the first expansion programme was undertaken and installed additional 13000 spindles. During the 2nd expansion programme the mill installed a additional 14680 spindles and this raised total spindle of the mill to 39680.

The mill has total 173 members and contributed Rs.371.80 lakhs as on 30-6-1990.² The mill has provided employment for 1600 workers. Now the annual turnover of the mill at about Rs.14.55 crores.³ From last 4 to 5 years it is working in a very efficient manner and made sizable profit.

YESHWANT SAHAKARI SOOT GIRANI NIYAMIT, SOLAPUR.

The yarn produced by Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani is useful for manufacturing of dhoties and sarees only. There are powerloom units in the city which produced Jacquard Chaddars, Turkish towels, coarse dhoties and napkins etc. For production of these items a yarn of requisite count is needed. This yarn is not produced by

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- * 01. Short-notes published by :
Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niy. Solapur.
 - * 2. 27th Annual Report of Solapur Soot Girani P.2.
 - * 3. Op. Cit. P.3.

: 18 :

Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur. To make this deficiency, the Yeshwant Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur is started in 1968 at Akkalkot Road, Solapur.

The leaders who have successfully established to run the Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur took the initiative to start Yeshwant Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur. This mill is situated on spacious campus near the Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur.

The mill has total 594 members and contributed total Rs.217.43 lakhs share capital as on 31-5-1991.¹

Initially total 12312 spindles were installed. During the first expansion the installation of spindleage has been raised upto 25000. During 2nd expansion stage additional 5280 spindles were installed raising total spindles of the mill upto 30352.

The mill requires raw material such as short staple cotton. It purchases it from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Punjab States.

The mill produces 2/20s, 2/14s, 2/24s yarn and distributes the same to its members. The mill sells the yarn produced in the local market through its agency. The surplus yarn is sold in the neighbouring states.

* 1. Short notes published by Yeshwant Mill Page 3

It has provided employment for 2560 workers. The annual turnover of the mill is Rs.17.74 crores as per 30-6-1991 Balance Sheet.¹

IMPACT OF THESE TWO MILLS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY : -

The opening of these two mills have provided employment to 4131 persons. From these mill the handloom and Powerloom industrialists are getting yarn of requisite quality locally, regularly at a reasonable price. This has given an impetus to the development of the powerloom and handloom industrial units in Solapur. It has also contributed to the stabilization of these industrial units to an extent. Besides this it has shown that a cooperative endeavour can help bring about economic development of the concerned sector.

Solapur Jecquard Chaddars are famous through out India and abroad also. A visitor to this city generally does not go back without buying chaddars.

The mills require regular supply of cotton. The private traders and commission agents are used to supply cotton to the mills. The mills buy cotton from the Marketing Federation also.

During the process of spinning of yarn waste cotton is produced. This bye-product is purchased by the merchants and used for making beds and cotton bandages etc.

*1. The Annual Report (1989-90) of Yeshwant Mill, Solapur.

The mill require some spare materials such as screws, various kinds and sizes of wheels, rods, V belts, nails, electric motors, tubes, transformers etc. All these materials is supplied by the various shops in this city.

Thus the mills are instrumental in creating ancilliary employment in the city and its certain neighbouring places.

EFFECT ON THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAPUR CITY : -

Some of the directors, administrative staff and workers of the two mills have taken active part in political activities.

Shri Gangadharpant Kuchan (Congress I), the founder Chairman and Managing Director of these two mills was elected twice as a member of Lokasabha. A member of the Yeshwant Sahakari Soot Girani, Shri D.M. Sadul (Congress-I) was elected as a Member of Lokasabha in 1989 and was re-elected in 1991. He is a seating member of Lokasabha.

A founder member and Chairman of Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur, Late Shri. Ramakrishnapant Bet was a Deputy Minister of Maharashtra State and the Deputy Sepaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

Shri I.N.Bolli and Shri S.M. Adam became the Mayors of the city. Shri Narayan Pitta was elected as a Deputy Mayor of the city. Two workers of the mill are actively participating in running youth congress local units and some other workers are taking active interest in the political activities on behalf of various political parties. Most of them are workers of the Congress (I) party.

Thus these mills have indirectly contributed the political development of this area.

Alongwith historical background, a conceptual study of political awareness and Political participation is essential for assessing the levels of political awareness and political participation of the workers under study. The next Chapter deals with Political awareness.