

CHAPTER – II

**SOLAPUR CITY : PROFILE AND GROWTH
OF SLUMS**

2.1 Short History

2.2 Main Economic Activities

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This Chapter includes a brief description of the history of the Solapur City and an out line of the main economic-demographic feature and activities. Solapur city is the head-quarter of the district bearing the same name, situated in 17°10' North Latitude and 74°42' East longitude.⁽¹⁾ It has got railway station on the broad-gauge line of the South Central Railway; the city is situated at the distance of 165 miles to the South-East of Pune, 283 miles to the South-East of Mumbai and 210 miles North-West of Hyderabad.⁽²⁾

2.1 SHORT HISTORY

The derivation of the name Solapur is attributed to the fact that the town was composed of 16 villages, namely Adilpur, Ahamadpur, Chapaladev, Fatehpur, Jamadarwadi, Kaljapur, Khandurper, Khanderarkiwadi, Muhammedpur, Ranapur, Sandalapur, Shaikhpur, Sholapur, Sonalgi, Sonapur and Paidkawadi. But the recent research shows that the name Sholapur is derived form Sojalapur and not from the congregation of the 16 villages. One of the inscriptions found in Solapur Fort shows that the town was called Sonalapur. It is, therefore, most probable that in the course of time, the name Solapur was evolved by dropping 'na' from the name Sonalapur. Subsequently the British rulers pronounced it as Sholapur.

Solapur district was formed in 1838 and although it was abolished in 1864, it was revived in 1869.⁽³⁾ The present Solapur district now consists of 11 Talukas. According to 2001, the

Kirloskar factory (large engineering factory- Shiv-shahi) are also there in Solapur city.

The Jacquard Chadars (bed covers etc.) manufactured at Solapur are very famous all over Maharashtra and even in India. Besides the modern textile mills, Solapur is a congenial home of the handloom weaving industry which provides employment to a considerable number of workers.

The first textile mill in Solapur was started by Sheth Murarji Gokuldas of Mumbai in 1874. In 1898 Sheth Laxmidas Khimji from Mumbai started, the Laxmi Cotton Mill and in the same year Mallappa Warad of Solapur stepped in the field and opened the Narsing Girji Mills. After the first world war, the mills in Solapur earned great reputation for their products. They received a little setback on account of the Congress propaganda of Khadar, that is, hand-spun and hand-woven yarn. Again, when the second world war started the textile industry began to make bumper profit. The Jam Mill was started in Solapur in 1909. We may point out that, except Mumbai there is no other textile centre than Solapur, in western Maharashtra. But the fact is that, now, all these mills are closed and the workers have become jobless and their family condition is worst.

Besides textile industry a variety of other industries, such as those of switch-fuse maker, pipe maker, oil mills owner, dyers, and printers, and lather manufacturers, whole-sale grain dealers and others are engaged in trade and transport and hand-loom activities.

In the Corporation area of Solapur city, there are two MIDCs, namely 1) Akkalkot Road MIDC and Hotagi Road MIDC. A part from these two MIDCs on Pune Road near Chincholi, there is

The population of Solapur city has increased by 429.12 percent over 1901 and 133.13 over 1931. As per 1971 census the city alone accounts for more than half of the urban population of the district. In 1971, the population of Solapur city was 3,98,361 and it has grown up to 5,11,103, in the year 1981 and 6,20,000 in the year 1991 and 8,76,000 in 2001 and today, it means, in the year 2008 it is more than 10 lakhs.⁽⁵⁾

According to the slum survey taken by the Municipal corporation in the month of July, 1976 Solapur has got 119 slums having a total population of 1,18,657. In the year 2001 the number of slums has been 220 having a total population of 2.20 lakhs. [an exhaustive list of the slum in their respective population is given in Appendix "C"]. Thus, the slum population in the city is about 22% of the total population, and this will give an idea of the extent of this specific problem.

REFERENCES

1. Gazetteer of India : Maharashtra State, Solapur District Gazetteer, Govt. Central Press, Mumbai, 1977, P. 1.
2. Information collected from Railway and S. T. Office, Solapur.
3. Information collected from Municipal Corporation Office, Solapur.
4. Information collected from the files of Bidi Factories Office, Solapur.
5. Op. Cit., Municipal Corporation Office, Solapur.

