

CHAPTER NO. I

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION :

1.1 1.1 A) IMPORTANCE OF POWERLOOMS IN ICHALKARANJI & LABOUR.

Ichalkaranji is called ' Manchester of Maharashtra ' It is a town of nearly 1.50 lakhs people, situated in Western Maharashtra at Kolhapur district.

As the growing industrial centre of Ichalkaranji has got concentration of industrial labour, employed in different categories of factories, mining, construction Trade & commerce, Transport and in household industry.

Powerloom industry is basically a small scale or cottage industry, mostly situated in rural areas of the country. It consists of units having four or fewer number of looms. The most of the powerloom owners were handloom owners in past, run handloom as a way of their life rather than a commercial proposition, in the strict sense of term. Because of this sector thousands of new and small entrepreneurs have come up in rural areas. Quite a large number of powerloom owners are from communities of traditional weavers. Many of them were are primarily from farming community and from the families engaged in liberal

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processions. Bulk of the powerloom owners, this come from the entrepreneual communities. This is the siggal important factor that has given strength to this industry from with in.

At present over 45,000 powerlooms are operative in the town, engaging nearly 50,000 workers. Another 30,000 people make living of them indirectly. In other wards atmost every citizen of Ichalkaranji is connected with the local powerfoom industry. Out of 45,000 powerlooms 25000 looms belong to those having not more than 1 to 4 looms each.

The number of powerlooms in Ichalkaranji has been increasing rapidly in the last few decades. In 1950 they were 2000 with 27000 population. It has now crossed 45000 and population of the Town is nearabout 1,50,000. This close inter-relationship between growth of powerlooms and population also establishes the fact that Ichalkaranji is essentially a place of powerloom owners and weavers. " The rapid growth of the sector during the past three decades has helped ~~to an~~ achive many socio- economic goals of our planning. It is with this growth, that the rural areas have learnt the first lessons of industrili -sation. The growth of the powerloom industry had an ideal 'ripple effect' on the development in the other field of economy ~~sikj~~ such as transport, banking, small scale manufacturing industries, Small traders, communica- tion etc. The industry ~~oflka~~ offers a ready work to all

who are ready to work and hence, it is pertinent to note that the number of beggars are significantly smaller in the powerloom centres as compared to number of them in the other town and cities. Powerlooms therefore have proved to be an effective way of implementing the programme of 'GARIBI HATAO'.

The average value of cloth produced by the sector never exceeds Rs.6/- per metre. In fact because of the low price of the powerloom cloth, the price of the mill sector cloth have been kept in check. Thus the powerloom industry has been providing a much desired relief to a common consumer of cloth. " 1

At present in Ichalkaranji there are 120 sizing units, machine processing houses, 15 hand processes and 4 spinning mills. About 800 traders are busy in purchase and sale of yarn and cloth. A number of co-operative institutions and banks are busy helping the industry. The powerloom weavers' co-op. Association is major of these bodies and has lent its helping hand to the expanding industry. To facilitate traders and businessmen assembling here a super shopping complex with 300 shop's is now made ready Today Ichalkaranji produces 20 Lakh metres of cloth per day and yarn consumption is 1,40000 kg.

1. MEMORANDUM : The problems powerloom industry-prepared by Ichalkaranji Powerloom Association Weavers' Co-op. Ltd., Ichalkaranji 1981.

It is clear therefore, that more encouragement the powerloom industry receives the more beneficial effects it could bring out on the society in general and the rural economy in particular.

Machine power can be utilised only by the countries where man power is scarce and insufficient. Realising this fact of abundant manpower in India, Gandhiji preached and practically adopted cottage industries like handlooms. But now decades are passed on; changes occur in all fields, changes and evolutions are inevitable; Installation of powerlooms in place of handlooms has become a need of the day. Unemployment is an acute problem in India if powerloom sector is encouraged it would, to some extent solve unemployment problem too.

There are number of problems in powerloom industry facing today it require analysis and suggestion of remedies. Actually the worker is a major factor in the process of production. It requires due consideration. The first five year plan indicated that the labour is the principal instrument in the fulfilment of the targets of the plan and in the achievement of economic progress, The improvement of labour conditions therefore becomes important for the development of India's economy.

1.1 B) COINCIDENCE :

I had been working as Jr.Lecturer in commerce at

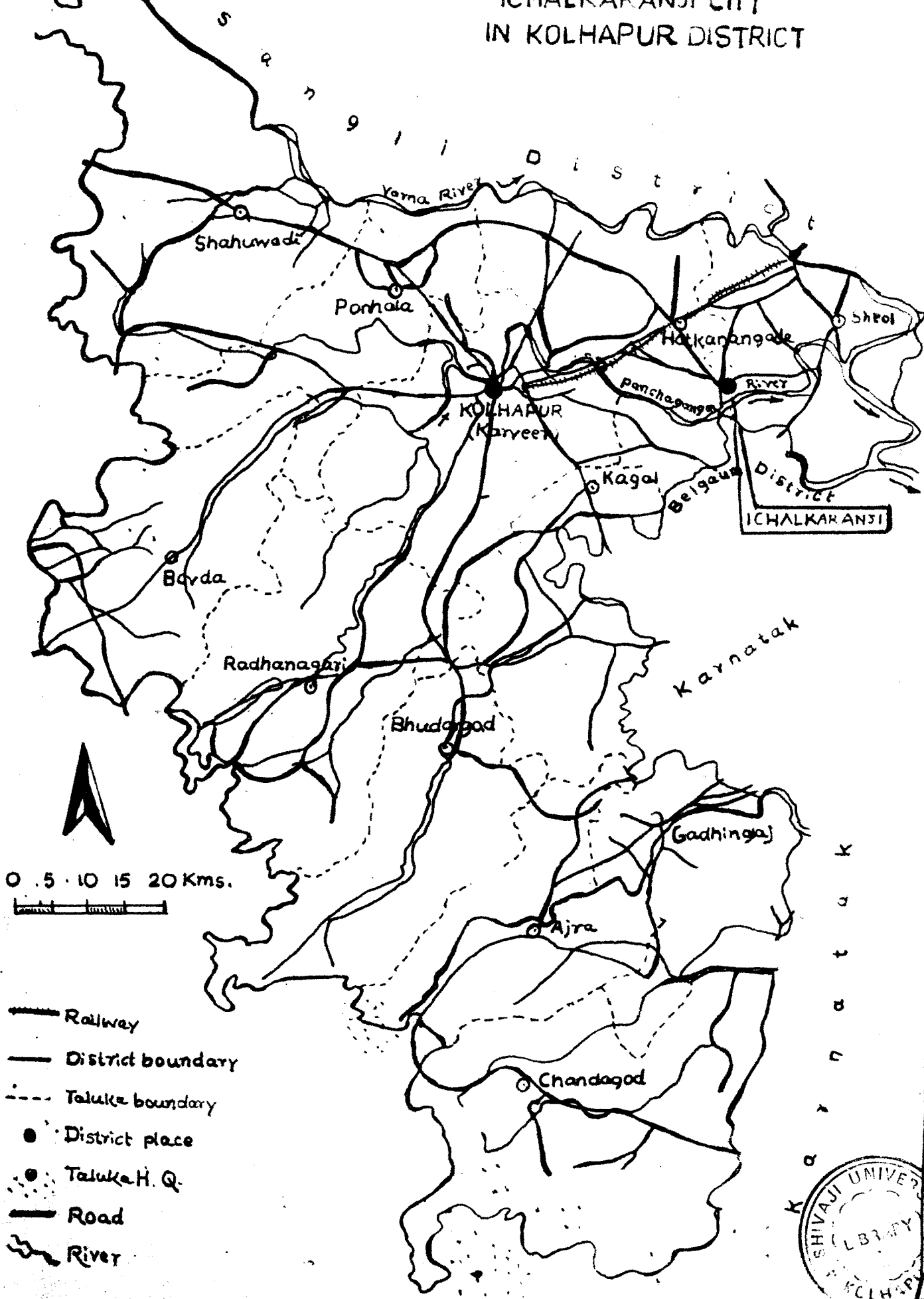
Arts, Science and commerce College, Ichalkaranji for last seven years. This college is equally feeded by students of rural as well as urban communities, Especially it has been observed that the local students have been gifted with a characteristic feature of business attitude and they are in touch of the current political affairs, and they come from the families which have sound economic conditions. On the otherhand the another group of the local students is from proleferiant class and the students from rural middle. class families. These students due to their poverty have to face the number of economical crisis and this circumstances teaches them to follow the way of living to earn for learning.

This makes it pretty clear that the community of this town is divides in to two major classes, that is capitalists and the workers."

This town is famous for its powerloom industry, as it is always disturbed by the industrial crises by the strikes, morchas, bandhas, Gherav, Lock-out and so on - Particularly this astonishing situation of this city made me curious to explore the different problems of the life leading by the workers of this town and the exact nature of the socio economic life leading by the human in powerloom industry.

FIGURE NO. 1

ICHALKARANJI CITY IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT



0 5 10 15 20 Kms.

- +—+—+ Railway
- District boundary
- - - Taluka boundary
- District place
- Taluka H. Q.
- Road
- ~ River



The M.Phil degree course which is intraduced by Shivaji University involves the dessertation as its special feature. By chance I got admission to the M.Phil. degree course in acadima~~t~~ year of 1982-83. I selected the subject for the dessertation of the course as A study of the powerloom workers in Ichalkaranji. Under the guidance of my guide Dr.V.V.Khan^zode professor at Shahu Chhatrapati Central Institute of Business Education And Research, Kolhapur.

1.2 Location of Ichalkaranji :

Ichalkaranji is a town, situated in Western Maharashtra 30 kilo-meter. East, away from historical city Kolhapur. This town is situated midway between Kolhapur and Miraj railway line and it is 9.6 k.m. south of the railway station Hatkajangale, which is also its taluka place. Its district head quarters are connected with Kolhapur. bordering Karnataka state.

Ichalkaranji is situated on latitude $16^{\circ}-40'$ north and on longitude $74^{\circ}-32'$ east. Ichalkaranji lies in the panchaganga valley and half a mile (1:6 k.m.) north of panchaganga river. The location of Ichalkaranji in Kolhapur District is shown in figure No.1.1

1.3 Historical Background :

Ichalkaranji was one of the important Jahagir in the Kolhapur State until its merger in the Bombay State on 1st March 1949.

The history of Ichalkaranji village and its clashes with the Kolhapur rulers it is recorded in Gazetteer of India like that " a Brahman Clerk named Nana Mahadeo who was the founder of Ichalkaranji who was in the service of an ancestor of the Senapati of Kapasi, who bestowed on him the village of Ichalkaranji in ' inam'. In compliment of his benefactor the grantee assumed the latter's family name of Ghorpade. Naro Mahadeo soon increased in wealth and power and his fortunes reached their zenith in 1722 when his son was married to the daughter of Balaji Vishwanath, the first Peshawa. The alliance was of immense importance to the chiefs of Ichalkaranji who always relied upon the sympathy and support of Peshwa; in case of apprehension received from the Rajas of Kolhapur. Treaties and agreements concluded from time to time between the Peshwas and Rajas of Kolhapur contain references to the protection granted to Ichalkaranji by the Peshwas against the Kolhapur Rajas " 1

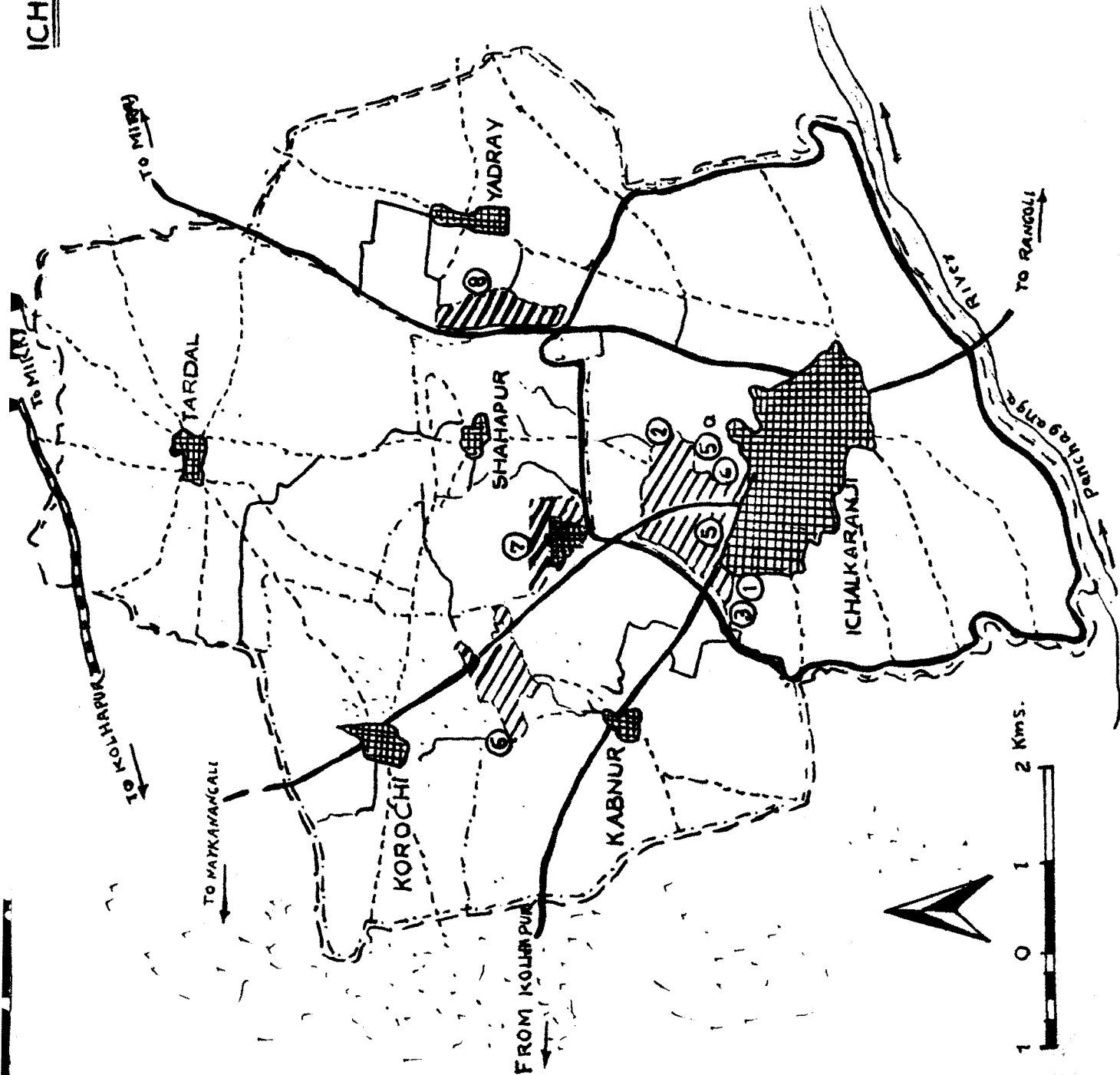
1. Gazetteer of India .Op.cit P.84

ICHALKARANJI COMPLEX

- Boundary of the complex
- ▬ Municipal limits
- ▬ Goginhan
- ▬ Village limits
- ▨ Residential Developed area
- ▨ Industrial Developed area
- ▬ Major district road
- ▬ Village road
- ▬ River
- ▬ Railway

PROMINENT LOCATIONS

- 1 Industrial Estate
- 2 Cottage Industrial Zone
- 3 Arts, Sc. & Com. Collage
- 4 S. T. Stand
- 5 ESL Dispensary
- 6 Panchaganga Sug factory
- 7 Deccan Spinning Mill
- 8 Kolhapur district Vinkori sanakori soot girani
- 50 Fuel Instruments R Enginee-7s.Pvt.Ltd.(Ichalkaranji)



FIGUR NO.1

The historian H.G. Franks states that Naro Pant, the founder of Ichalkaranji State was a man of outstanding abilities great mentality and energetic determination, a man at once trustworthy, prudent and tactful. He arrived at Bahirewadi on the Ghauts as a helpless urchin and died as nobleman of the first rank"¹

1.4 Industrial Background Power Loom at Ichalkaranji :

Ichalkaranji had got a tradition of weaving industry long before 1845. The records show that " in 1845 A.D. in Hatakangale Taluka of Kolhapur District there were 636 hand-loom, of which 236 hand-loom were in Ichalkaranji itself "²

In 1848 the population of Ichalkaranji was 7152 and in common with other dependencies of parent state (Kolhapur)" the population was agricultural, the manufactures being restricted to a few 'cambler' and cotton cloths some of which were exported"³

By 1882 there were 3102 total number of weaving looms and " of these 688 were in Alte, 654 in Gadahinglaj 422 in Karvir, 397 in Shirol, 350 in Ichalkaranji, 236 in Panhala, 179 in Kagal, 86 in Bhudargad, 58 in Bavada' and 32 in Vishalagad. Besides these, 17 looms in Kolhapur Jail factory weaved all sort of cloths including towels and table cloths " 4

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1. The story of Ichalkaranji - Franks H.G.
 2. Gazetteer of India Op.cit, P.94
 3. Graham D.C. Statistical Report on the Principality of Kolhapur" 1854 P.553.
 4. Camp bell J.M. - Bombay Gazetteer, Vol.XXIV P.211-212

Thus by 1882 A.D. Ichalkaranji with 350 hand-
looms was ranked fifth out of ten places, though it had
larger number of looms than most other places in
Kolhapur State.

In 1892 Jahagirdar Narayan Babasaheb was
installed on the Gadi. It is due to his leadership
Ichalkaranji became an important powerloom weaving
centre and later came to be known as " Manchester of
Maharashtra " .

The Report on Industrial survey of Kolhapur state
published in 1895 A.D. testifies to this fact by stating
that, " the number of looms working on cotton cloth in
Ichalkaranji Jahagir had increased from 337 in 1882 to
447 by 1895 " ¹

Babasaheb Ghorpade, the ruler of Ichalkaranji,
did assist the industrial development of Ichalkaranji
in every possible way " Regulating civic affairs a
separate Municipal Council was established by him in 1893
A.D. Further with his full encouragement the powerlooms
were installed and grey cloth was produced.

" The first powerloom factory known as
" Vyankesh Rangtantu Mills ' was started by Vitthalrao
Datar in 1908 " ² and is still in operation.

1. Modak B.P. " A report on the Industrial Survey of the
Kolhapur State ", 1895 P.27 (in Marathi)

2. Tamhankar N.D. Op.cit P.83.

At the beginning of this century Babasaheb Ghorapade was deeply interested in industrial development at Ichalkaranji and made every possible effort with the limited resources of the Jahagir at his disposal. He brought some ' Koshti ' (i.e. weavers) families from outside to Ichalkaranji , allotted lands for their residence - cum - factories and gave them initial financial assistance to produce cloth on hand looms. The experiment met with success and "Ichalkaranji was known for its cloth production especially for its ' patagi and ' Kunaban sutade " ¹

In the field of fancy sarees, " Balawantrao Marathe started producing sarees and after his death his son created a name of Marathe Textile, not only at Ichalkaranji but also established ginning factory at Miraj. " ²

Moreover, with support of Babasaheb Ghorpade, the first Bank in Ichalkranji i.e. The Ichalkaranji Central Co-operative Bank was started in 1929, now converted in to Ichalkaranji Urban Co-operative Bank. The other factors which must be mentioned here in industrial development of Ichalkaranji are that " Commercial service like banking and marketing grew up and developed.

1. Ibid P. 81 (Tamhankar N.D. Op.cit)
2. Ibid P. 85 " "

The Marwari merchants built up a market for powerloom sarees. Labour became familiar with the techniques of industry and in course of time a high standard of workmanship was developed.

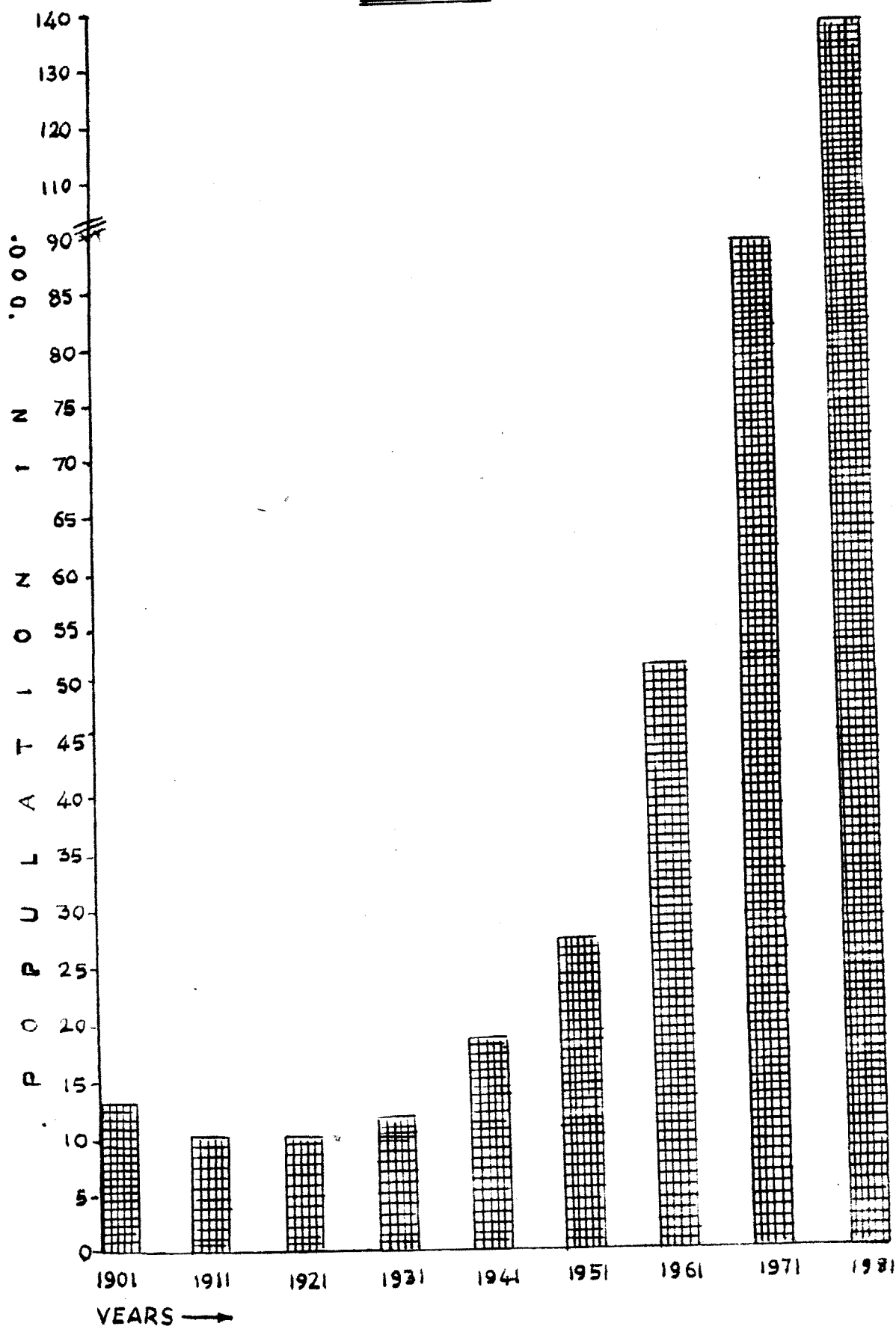
In this way the experience and enterprise of the people, the availability of technical know-how relating to powerloom industry rather than the availability of commercial ability or abundance of capital which influenced the location of the industry at Ichalkaranji particularly in its initial stage of growth " 1

In the initial stages only handloom industry expanded in Ichalkaranji. Late Vithalraoji Datar promoted powerloom industry. The growth of powerloom started alongwith handloom industry. In ~~also~~ 1950 there were 2000 powerlooms increased upto 45,000 powerlooms in 1984.

1. Kulkarni N.K. ' An Economic Survey of the weaving Industry of Ichalkaranji Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis University of Poona, P.21,22.

FIGUR NO.3

POPULATION GROWTH
IN ICHALKARANJI CITY
1901-1981



1.5 Growth of Population at Ichalkaranji :

TABLE NO. 1.1 : POPULATION OF ICHALKARANJI 1901-1981

"

| YEAR | POPULATION | PERCENTAGE OF GROWTH. |
|------|------------|-----------------------|
| 1901 | 12,920 | - |
| 1911 | 10,239 | - 0.26 |
| 1921 | 10,240 | + 0.09 |
| 1931 | 11,904 | + 16.25 |
| 1941 | 18,574 | + 56.03 |
| 1951 | 27,423 | + 47.64 |
| 1961 | 50,978 | + 85.90 |
| 1971 | 87,731 | + 72.10 |
| 1981 | 1,33,704 | + 52.80 |

" 1

The data clearly shows that the population in Ichalkaranji is constantly growing after 1921 from 1971 to 1981 the population has grown above 1 lakh as per provisional figures. Hence Ichalkaranji is now included in the list of cities having more than one lakh population.

It is due to the expansion in the industries of Ichalkaranji, which created employment opportunities leading to the continuous growth and it went to the

1. Census of India 1971,1921,1941,1951,1961.

peak in 1951-61 decade when the population increased by 85-90 percent.

From 1952 onwards powerloom industry has been flourishing year by year rapidly. The people from the agricultural and those having less areas of land or landless labourers came to find employment at Ichalkaranji. The rapid expansion of industrial and commercial activities is the main reason, these people were absorbed in Ichalkaranji. " the rise is mainly due to industrial and commercial activities in the town and around. Immigration of people from the neighbouring area and villages into the town is one of the main reasons for this rise " ¹

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1. Muktali R.L. " Industrial Development of Kolhapur District ' Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis , Shivaji University, Kolhapur Sept. 1977.

1.6 Growth of Labour Force at Ichalkaranji :

At census of India 1961,1971 and 1981 the growth in population there was growth of labour force employed in Ichalkaranji, the proper concentration of workers was in the household and other than household industries as compared to any of the workers in these three decades.

TABLE NO. 1.2 CLASSIFICATION OF TOTAL WORKERS:

| S.No. | Category | 1961 | 1971 | 1981 |
|-------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1) | Cultivators | 1449 | 1355 | 1282 |
| 2) | Agri.Labourers | 0855 | 1270 | 1388 |
| 3) | Live stock,forestry | 0046 | 0091 | - |
| 4) | Minning & Quarring | 0781 | 0088 | - |
| 5) | Household & other than household industry | 12444 | 18289 | 39145 |
| 6) | Construction | 0320 | 0713 | - |
| 7) | Trade & Commerce | 1237 | 3512 | - |
| 8) | Transport & communication | 0269 | 0657 | - |
| 9) | Other services | 2030 | 2107 | - |
| | TOTAL WORKERS | 19431 | 28082 | 43216 |

TABLE NO. 1.3 :

WORKERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD AND OTHER THAN HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRIES
1971 AND 1981

| YEAR | WORKERS IN HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY | WORKERS IN OTHER THAN HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY. | TOTAL |
|------|----------------------------------|---|-------|
| 1977 | 1077 (5.88) | 17212 (94.11) | 18289 |
| 1981 | 1401 (3.45) | 39145 (96.54) | 40546 |

From the above classification it is clear that in 1961 out of 19421 total workers 12444, 1971 out of 28082 total workers and in 1981 out of 43216 total workers 39145 were employed in household and other than household industries. The percentage goes on increasing in 1961 64.04, 1971 - 65.12 and in 1981 - 93.82 out of 99.98 %.

The household industry has been defined by census " as an industry conducted at home in urban area (Ichalkaranji being urban area) A household industry is not run on the scale of a registered factories. A household industry is confined to the residential house, A household industry is related to production, processing servicing or making and selling goods, persons working in another person's household industry as paid employees are also workers in household industry " ¹

1. Census of India 1971, District census hand book, Kolhapur P.68, 1981 P.212.

Thus the population in Ichalkaranji is mainly increasing in household industry. These workers are mainly from other than household industries and as the census indicates they are engaged in all types of production, processing servicing and repairing of goods. Due to the staging of new industrial establishments and expansion of existing industries the workers in other than household industries had grown.

TABLE NO. 1.4 : NO.OF WAGE EARNERS IN POWERLOOM INDUSTRY

| S.No. | Particulars | Estimated | |
|-------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------|
| | | 1981 | 1984 |
| 1) | Population | 133704 | 150000 |
| 2) | No.of Powerlooms | 30000 | 45000 |
| 3) | Weavers | 30000 | 50000 |
| 4) | Badli Weavers & Apprentices | 3000 | 4000 |
| 5) | Pirn Winders | 3000 | 4000 |
| 6) | Jobbers | 3000 | 4000 |
| 7) | Filling in Workers | 3000 | 4000 |
| 8) | Cone & merc yarn winders | 1100 | 2000 |
| 9) | Folders & Clerks | 3000 | 4000 |
| 10) | Coolies | 600 | 1000 |
| 11) | Labour in sizing units | 2000 | 3000 |
| 12) | Labour in processing units | 2900 | 4000 |
| 13) | Spinning Plants | 2700 | 3000 |

From the above table it is clear that in 1981 out



of total 133704 population 54300 persons were directly engaged and 15000 persons had been indirectly. At present in 1984 it is in general ~~est~~^{es} estimated that out of 150000 population 83000 persons engaging directly and other 17000 persons make living of them indirectly. From the above classification growth of labour force to total population consistutes the ratio 3:2. Almost 2/3 of the total population of the city is connected with the power loom industry.

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