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CHAPTER - IIHISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF POWERLOOM INDUSTRY INSOLAPUR CITYA) BENEFITS OF POWERLOOM INDUSTRY FOR SOLAPUR CITY :

"According to estimates about 40% of powerlooms in the country are located in Maharashtra around the Solapur, Ichalkaranji Bhiwandi belt with maximum concentration of workers. It has also to be noted that out of about 15 million workers in the textile industry, the powerloom sector alone employs over 5 to 6 millions.¹"

Most of the entrepreneurs in powerloom sector in Solapur city were workers in Juni Girni Mill of the town. In fact their earlier association with cotton textile has helped them to come up successfully in their new ventures. The traditional handloom sector has provided entrepreneurial talents and workers to modern powerloom sector in Solapur City. This peculiar association between traditional handloom sector and modern powerloom sector provides a unique setting to the understanding of the problems of powerloom workers in the present study.

At present there are 15000 powerlooms in Solapur City engaging 30000 workers and another near about 12000 people make their living indirectly from this powerloom industry.



There is such a large concentration of powerlooms engaged in the production of jecquard chaddars. The climate and water are conducive for the production of jecquard chaddars and it has proved to be the best suitable for the process of dyeing.

There is a good market for the jecquard chaddars in the middle East countries and African countries. The jecquard chaddars industry is the unique special feature of Solapur City.

According to the president of Solapur Zilla Yantramagdharak Sangh count " The daily production of chaddars is one lakh pieces of different sizes and that of turkish towels is lakh pieces whereas the plain powerloom produces about 50000 pieces of Bed sheets."² Besides this nearly 1000 powerlooms with draw box and jecquard machine produce chaddars of decorative designs.

The workers who are engaged in the production of these varieties on powerlooms over a period of past many years have acquired a particular skill, which can be utilised only in this sector. Therefore, they can not be diverted for other occupations. skilled workers and raw materials all these things required to production of chaddar and also turkis towels as easily available in Solapur City.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SOLAPUR CITY :

A) GROWTH OF SOLAPUR CITY :

It is difficult to know from the recorded history the origina

site of the solapur city. Not much information regarding the socio ecological aspect of the city is available for the period prior to the 16th century. The Solapur District Gazetteers (1884) is perhaps the first document which gives a systematic and accurate description and map of the different wards of Solapur City. The official documents, the records of municipality (since 1852) and census report (Since 1872) enable us to have a fairly accurate and comprehensive picture of the growth of the city as obtained in 1884 (ii) A recent map (1955) and (iii) A map reproduced from the solapur municipal centenary volume (1952) which indicates the growth of the area of the city during the last 100 years (1852 to 1952).

"There is a controversy regarding the original name of the town itself. The legend goes that the word Solapur denotes sixteen (Sola) villages (Pur) one of which interestingly enough was Solapur. Historians, however, do not attach much value to this episode. It is believed in some quarters that the name Solapur was derived from 'Shri.Shaila plus Pur. The name is also traced to Chola plus pur. King Chola had given his daughter in marriage to Revenshidha 'Chola' which later becomes Solapur. Some are of the opinion that "Sonnalige" was one of the villages which became important on account of Shidharama and in the course

of time encompassed the neighbouring villages "Sonnalige" later became "Solapur" from which present name "Solapur" was derived."³

But some of the opinions the name Solapur is derived from Soljalapur 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 from 'na' the name Sonalapur. Subsequently the British rulers pronounced it as Solapur.

B) GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING OF SOLAPUR CITY :

LOCATION :

Solapur city is the Headquarters of Solapur District of Maharashtra State. It is situated in lat. 17° 40' N and long 75° 56' 38" E. It lies 1800 feet above the sea level. Solapur is station on the South East branch of the central railway, 263 kilometers South East of Poona, 435 kilometers North West of Hyderabad.

BOUNDARIES :

The district is surrounded by Ahmadnagar and Osmanabad Dist. in the north, Osmanabad District and Andhra Pradesh in the East. Sangli District and Karnataka State to the South and West Satara and Pune Dist. Towards the West Side Solapur Dist. comprises

of an area of 15021 sq. km which is 4.88% of total area of the state of this area account for 419 sq.Km. and Rural area for 14607 sq. km. in terms of area, Barshi is the largest Tahsil with an area of 1626 sq.km. and the smallest tahsil is North Solapur with an area of 736 sq. Km.

RAINFALL :

Climatically the entire district falls in the rain shadow area. The monsoon period in Solapur District covers the period from mid June to end of September. There are two peaks in the rainfall pattern of the District. The first in June-July and the second in September with a through in between. The rainfall through out the district is scanty and annual average is 577 mms for the district.

The meagre rainfall is received from South West as well as North East monsoon. The paucity of total amount of rainfall and large variations both in extent and the distribution in different years makes the agriculture almost a gamble on this rains. The analysis of rainfall data since 1953 indicates that not only there are variations in the total rainfall, but also the distribution of rainfall was unevenly spread over the monsoon season. The number of rainy days varies widely from year to year.

During 1980 rainfall was less than the annual normal rainfall of Solapur at Madha, Malshiras, Jeur, Akkalkot, Mohol and Mangalwedha centres and it was more than normal rainfall at Barshi, Karmala, Pandharpur Sangola and Akluj centres.

C) DEMOGRAPHY :

The demographic features of this district can be seen from 1981 census publication. According to this census, the population of Solapur district is 26.10 lakhs. It was 22.54 lakhs in 1971 and 18.60 lakhs in 1961. The decadeal percentage variation in population is given below.

TABLE NO. 2.1POPULATION OF THE SOLAPUR DISTRICT

(Fig. in lakhs)

Sr. Dist. No. of Tahsil	Population			Decadal % variation		
	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
Solapur District Tahsil	1860119	2253840	2610144	23.57	21.17	15.81
1. Solapur North	405833	487134	615608	24.63	20.03	26.37
2 Barshi	220895	262716	276757	18.27	18.93	5.34
3 Akkalkot	175333	206678	215516	17.16	17.88	4.27
4 Solapur South	112504	133343	151031	20.32	18.52	13.27
5 Mohol	123078	142334	158630	20.53	15.65	11.45
6 Mangalwedha	8989171	107823	117301	27.37	20.92	8.79
7 Pandharpur	153915	187613	237680	19.73	21.81	26.69
8 Songole	128012	155516	182063	23.10	21.49	17.07
9 Malshiras	166521	226480	282300	35.51	36.01	24.65
10 Karmala	128345	151493	165714	28.23	18.04	9.39
11 Madha	156511	192710	207550	28.10	23.13	7.70

Source : Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract
1980-1981 Solapur District.

Out of the total population of 26.10 lakhs in 1981, 18.43 lakhs (about 71%) lived in rural areas and the remaining 7.67 lakhs (29%) lived in Urban areas. It was observed that the percentage of Urban population increased from 27% to 29% during a period of 10 years from 1971 to 1981. As per 1961 census, about 28 per cent population of the district was in Urban areas.

C) SEX RATIO :

The sex ratio is the number of female per one thousand of male population. It is 942 female for 1000 male for the district. We find variation in this sex ratio in Urban and Rural areas. It is 931 in Urban area and 946 in Rural area of Solapur Dist.

These ratios are lower than the State averages which come to 937 female in Urban Area and 987 female in Rural Area.

D) OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN :

" According to 1971 census, out of the total population of 22.54 lakhs in the district 7.59 lakhs were workers. The distribution pattern of workers in different categories reveals that 35% of the workers were cultivators, 33% were agricultural labourers and remaining 32% were other workers. Thus, about 86% of the working population of the rural area of the district sustain their livelihood from agriculture.

70.6% workers were engaged in primary sector of the economy comprising of agriculture, agriculture labour, live stock, forestry, plantation etc. while the secondary sector comprising of manufacturing processing and construction activities accounted for 14.5% of the total workers. The tertiary sector, comprising of trade and commerce and other services had 14.9% workers. Thus it is evident that employment opportunities in the secondary & in the tertiary sector have not yet developed. The development of secondary and tertiary sector is taken as an indicator of development of a region. In that sense this region can be classified as underdeveloped region. The tahasils of Mohol, South Solapur, Sangola and Mangalvedha can be identified as more backward areas of the district, Nowly less than 15% of the workers are engaged in the sectors other than the primary.

E) SPECIAL FEATURE :

1) LABOUR :

Out of the total workers population of 974793 in the district in the census at 1981, 34.4% were farmers, 29.46% were agricultural labour, 3.08% were engaged in manufacture and the remaining 33.6% were other workers. (Data given census of 1984-85, Solapur Dist).

ii) INDUSTRIES :

Due to Nira right Bank Canal a large portion of cultivated land has been brought under irrigation for sugarcane cultivation in Malshiras Tahsil. As such most of the sugar factories are concentrated in Malshiras Tahsil. Out of eight sugar factories in the district four are situated in Malshiras Tahsil alone and one each is situated in North Solapur, Pandharpur, Mohal and Barshi Tahsils. Due to availability of molasses from sugarfactory, the Bhrun Maharashtra Sugar Factory Ltd. Shripur (Malshiras Taluka) manufacturers rectified spirit for liquor.

Solapur City and Barshi are the important textile centres. There were in all four composite textile mills in solapur city. out of which Nursing Girji Mill is run by Govt. and the remaining three were in private sector. At Barshi there are three textile mills. So also two spinning mills in the Co operative sector are established at Solapur proper. Besides there are number of handloom and powerloom centres in Solapur City. There are around 18000 powerlooms in the district and all are situated in Solapur City. Jecquard Chaddar and long cloth and Dhoti are weaven on them There are 15000 Handlooms in the district which have provided economic subsistance to a large population of weavers community.

EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME :

The employment guarantee scheme is being implemented since March 1972. The aim of the scheme is :

- a) Providing employment to all rural adults seeking manual unskilled work and,
 - b) Utilising the manpower so available for the section of a durable productive assets. The scheme has now been extended to the work seekers residing in 'C' class municipal areas.
- T The programmes covered under the Scheme also include minor irrigation land development and afforestation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF POWERLOOM INDUSTRY IN SOLAPUR CITY :

The first mill in Solapur City was established in 1876 which is known as the Solapur Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd. Solapur. i.e. Old Mill (Juni Girni Mill) But in Solapur handloom weavers were there since the period of Peshavas. Solapur City is on the Border of three States i.e. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka. The Migrated workers from these states were easily available and thus responsible for starting handlooms, during the Peshva's period. The handloom are being replaced by powerlooms in Solapur City.

The major industry that plays an important role in the economy of Solapur District is a textile industry with its composite textile mills, spinning mills, waste cotton mills, powerlooms and handlooms.

In 1936-1938 Shri. Marda Shetji who started first time Piddle looms production of "Dobby Chaddar " and during the same period manufacture of "Dobby Chaddar was started in tikkekar Textile mills at Tikkekarwadi.

In 1942 Shri. Gangaji started production of Dobby Chadder w which is currently known as Jecquard Chaddar.

In 1947 Shri. Krishnaroa Gandappa Kshirsagar who was mill workers started his units with four looms manufacturing chaddars.

1936 to 1947 was a period of gradual establishment of powerloom industry in Solapur City. In 1962 Gani Girni Mill was closed and the workers who were out of job started manufacturing Jecquard Chadders in Solapur city. These chaddars now are known as Solapuri Chaddar.

At present the powerloom industry is quite grownup with consisting of 2750 units with 11000 looms and 20000 workers. One unit generally consist of four looms. Naturally number of 1000 units required 4000 looms and 5000 plain loom workers. Near about 30000 to 50000 workers are dependent on powerloom sector, and they have joint work the weaving and additional processing work.

Currently there are above 15000 powerlooms owned and run by small citizens and they are spread over in small units of 2 to 4 looms. Out of these 11000 powerlooms 8000 looms are engaged in the production of world famous Jecquard Chaddar, Towels and Napkins etc. 40% of which are exported and foreign exchange worth Rs. 20 to 25 crores is earned by them.

Maharashtra accounts for 40% of powerlooms in the country having concentration of about 5 lakhs looms employing around 7 lakh workers.

The production of chadars depends upon the climate which is the natural gift for the district of Solapur. It also requires

availability of raw material and skilled personnel.

These skilled workers are easily available in Solapur at comparatively lower wage rates as a result of which the cost of production is ^{substantially} low and these chaddars can be sold at competitive rates in export market.

Powerloom industry produces beautifully designed and multi coloured chaddars, pillow covers, Turkish towels, shabanam bags, zola and easy chair cloth even dress material and what not.

90% of the production is made for the sake of poor and common man the cost being below Rs. 20 per piece. There are four thousands looms (4000) in this city which produces coarse cloth like Khadi, Dhoti, Long cloth etc. which suit to the pocket of common and the poor. Therefore, the poor people service on the Jecquard chaddar and plain loom industries. On Jecquard

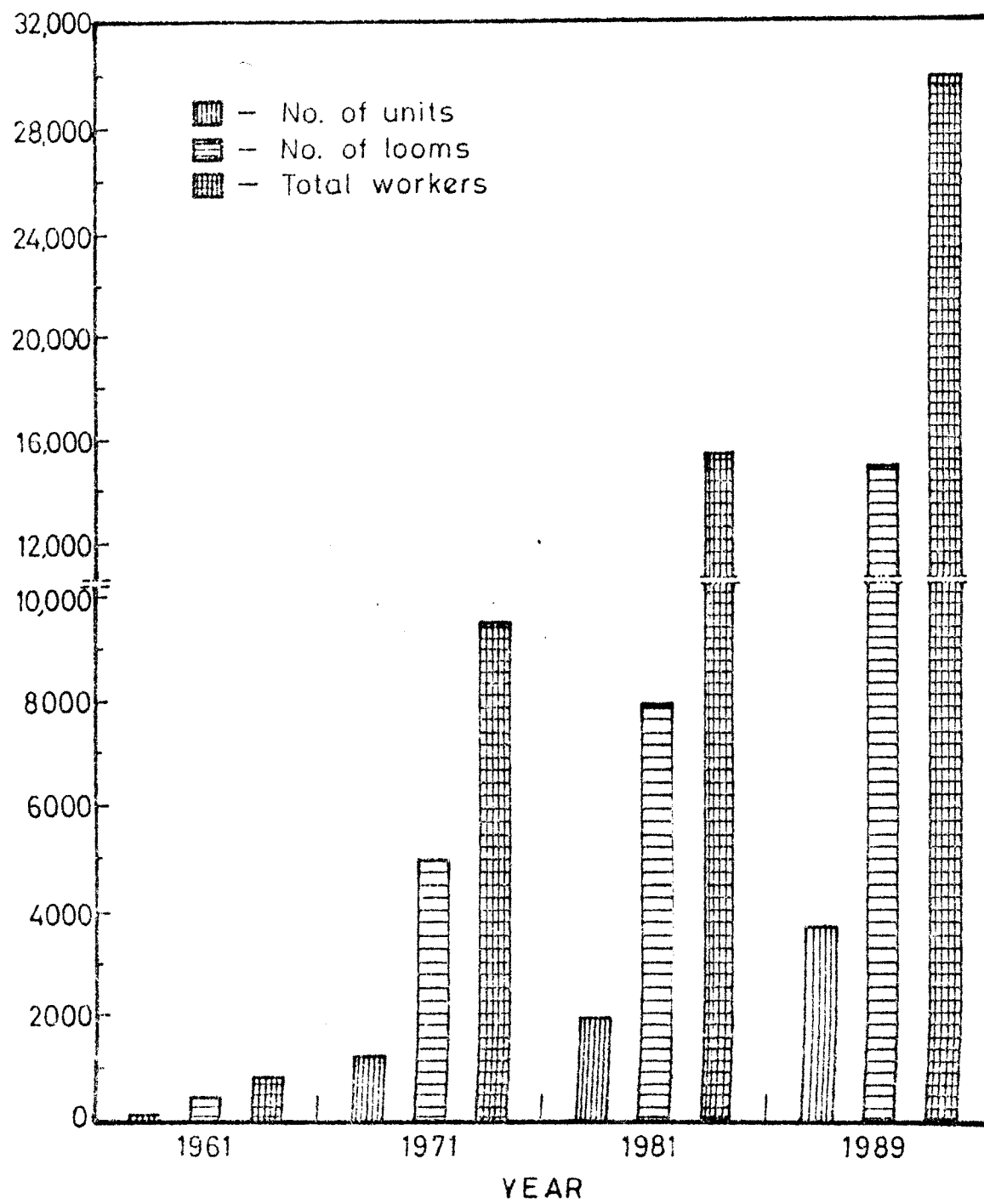
However, the development of powerlooms took place only after the closing of Solapur Spg. and weaving mills (Guni mill) Solapur. This mill was closed due to strike of the workers and change in management. The skilled workers from the closed mills, experienced jobbers, people from weavers community and persons in the cloth business started this decentralised powerloom industries and their own units thus contributing to the development of powerloom industry in Solapur City.

The comparative growth of powerloom industry in different cities can be seen from Table No. 2.2.

CURRENT AFFAIRS RECORDER BY SUB REGIONAL OFFICE POWERLOOM AND HANDLOOM IN SOLARPUR CITY,
REPORT OF NOV. 1989 IS AS UNDER

Sr.No. District.	Before 1985 Records		After 1985 Records		Total
	Having Texmark Authority	P.Loom	Non Authority of Texmark	New	
	Applicant	P.Loom	Applicant	P.Loom	Appl. P.Loom
Kolhapur	76064	18233	700	1902	5767 9696 25902
Ichalkaranji	21296	58854	1750	5580	8452 25554 72886
Sangli	2388	7535	748	2412	1686 4822 16233
Solapur	3694	15712	1489	5473	1288 4663 25848
Satara	192	1014	36	106	178 406 1686
Poona	245	1233	18	126	18 65 1424
Total	34879	102581	4681	4681	7610 25799 47170 14979

SOURCE : Progress regarding Texmark Registration of Powerlooms.
Sub regional Office Powerloom and Handloom Solapur City.



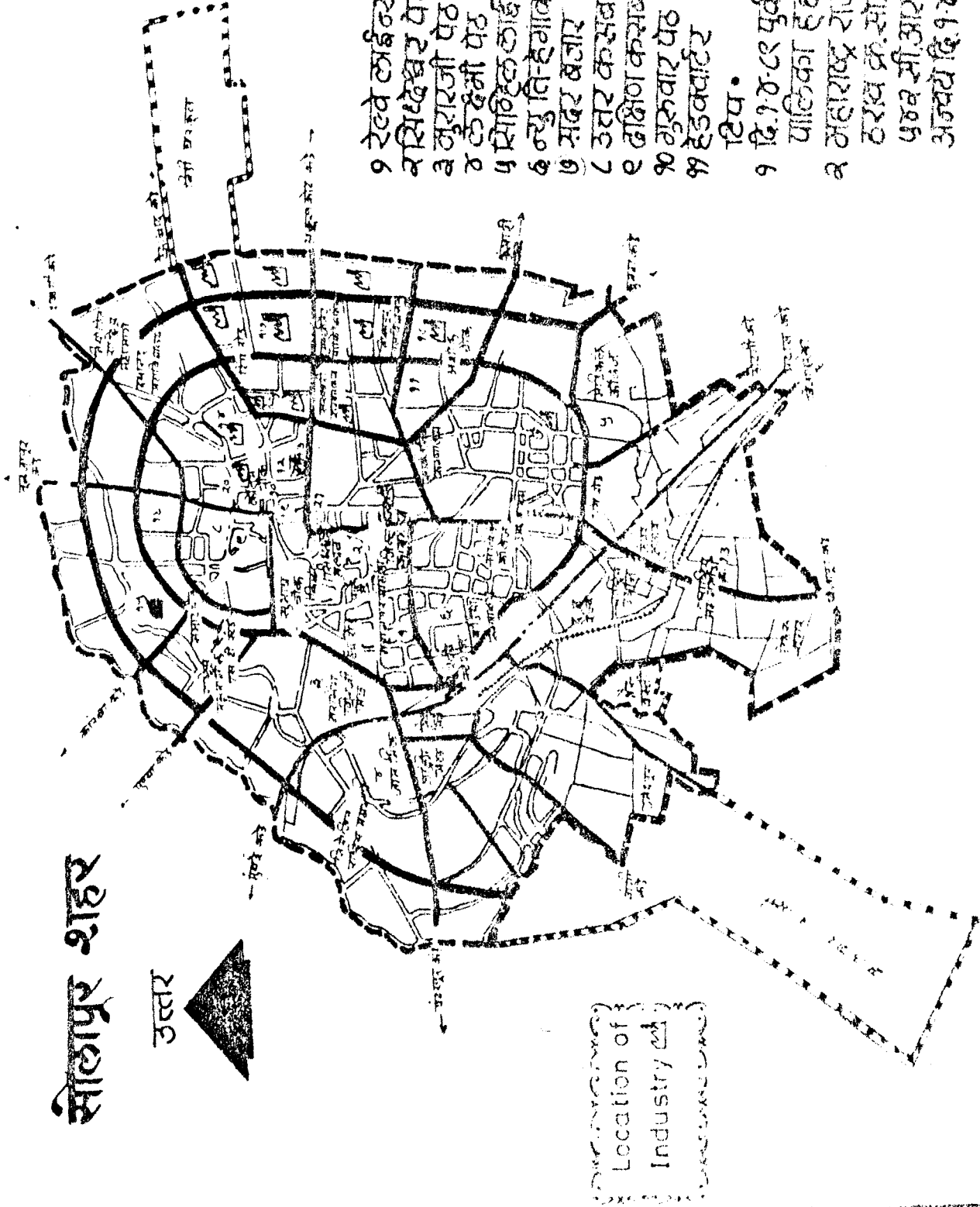
A) EMPLOYMENT :TABLE NO.2.3NUMBER OF POWERLOOMS AND TOTAL NUMBER OF WORKERS

Particulars	Y E A R S			
	1961	1971	1981	1989
Population of Solapur city	518337	620477	766639	-
No.of Units	112	1250	2000	3750
No.of Looms	450	5000	8000	15000
Total Workers	866	9535	15530	30000
Weavers	450	5000	8000	15000
Badli Weavers	100	1000	2020	4000
Jobber	32	215	500	1000
Warper	48	345	750	1500
Winder	51	690	940	1875
Dyer	51	690	940	1875
Pirn	51	690	940	1875
Folder	51	690	940	1875
Helper	32	215	500	1000
6				

SOURCE : Compiled by Researcher.

सीलापूर शहर

उत्तर



- १ रेलवे लाईन्स
- २ सिध्दधर पेठ
- ३ मुराजी पेठ
- ४ लक्ष्मी पेठ
- ५ सिविल लाईन्स
- ६ न्यु ति-हेवाव
- ७ सदा बजार
- ८ उत्तर कसबा
- ९ दक्षिण कसबा
- १० गुरुवार पेठ
- ११ हेडक्वार्टर

- १२ गणेश पेठ
- १३ सारवर पेठ
- १४ जोडभावी पेठ
- १५ बुधवार पेठ
- १६ भवानी पेठ
- १७ टाकवार पेठ
- १८ पाचवा पेठ
- १९ शुक्रवार पेठ
- २० मंगळवार पेठ
- २१ शनिवार पेठ
- २२ राजेंद्र चौक

टिप.

१ दि.१४-८९ पुर्वीची महानगर -

पालिका हद्द

२ महाराष्ट्र राज्य शासन

ठरव क्र.सो.म.म.१५८३ -

५४२ सी.आर.-४५-युडी-२५

अजय दि.१४-१९८९ पासून

The powerloom industry in Solapur City provides direct ~~man~~ employment to 30000 powerloom workers and also it provides indirect employment to near about 12000 workers in an industry like bleaching, dying , sizing and processing etc.

In addition to chaddars, powerlooms also manufacture Dhotie Matmal Turkish Towells long clth etc.

B) LOCATION OF INDUSTRIES :

The present study shows that out of 15000 powerlooms in Solapur City 8000 powerlooms are being run in households partially making no difference between the place of work and the place of living. The rest 7000 looms are better organised. Most of these units in the city are located in Sadar Bazar, Dattanagar, Ashokchouk, Rajendra Chouk, New Pacchapeth, Daji Peth, Sakharpeth, Kontam Chouk, Bhudhwar Peth, Jodbaswanna Chouk. etc.

C) POWERLOOM FEDERATION :

Powerloom federation in Solapur City set up in December 1966 and has been assisting the powerloom societies in securing raw material for them and also in selling the goods produced by them.

Thus the powerloom federation supplies the raw materials to the members which have small scale powerloom industries in household.

At the end of June 1987 the total number of powerloom federation in the State, the State comes to 238 and handloom federation 69 the total membership is 34155.

The powerloom sector faced many difficulties after March 1987 which affected its production. These difficulties include shortage of raw material, high cost of yarn, low level of market price etc.

At present the District Indl. Co operative Bank which provides some finance, under the NABARD scheme, that is District Industrial Cooperative Bank in Solapur only and no other District Central Cooperative Bank in State Forthcoming to finance under NABARD scheme, insists upon two personal sureties as collateral securities, in addition to the usual mortagage the property (Machinery). In view of the total lack of proper facilities for financial assistance at present, we feel that separate financial institution should be established for powerloom sector and mentioned above should be avoided for the supplying adequate and timely financial assistance to the powerloom sector.

D) COTTON PURCHASE SCHEME :

In Solapur city there are many yarn brokers, Some of them are authorised dealers of the various spinning mills and they sell the yarn in cotton market. The owner of powerloom factory

purchases this yarn from time to time. This yarn probably is made in Solapur city and also made in Jayshankar Mills, Barshi, Madhavnagar mills Sangli Gokak.

The powerloom owners usually are in need of 6^s, 20^s yarn. The yarn count range 2120, 6120 that is readily consumed for Solapur powerloom industry.

E) PRODUCT MANUFACTURED :

The powerloom started production of cloth, the qualities manufactured were mostly greay long cloth, Dothies, medium coating saries, shirting, waste blankets, Turkish Towals, Chaddars etc. The powerloom factory runs hard shift, each shift is of 12 hours.

F) GENERAL :

Quality of Cloth of Chaddar has been a factor of prime consideration and the history of the powerloom industry had created and maintained a good name for their products. The export market includes advanced countries like U.K. Russia, Middle East and Australia. The Powerloom Association has been endeavouring to develop new markets and making ceaseless effects to maintain strong hold on the market already captured in the face of very difficult export market conditions.

F) LABOUR WELFARE FACILITIES :

The owner of powerloom factory is not interested in providing welfare facilities. In these powerloom factories, factory act employees state insurance act, family pension act, gratuity scheme, provident fund etc. are yet not applicable.

Several mill owners found the production on these powerlooms cheaper due to extremely low rate of wages and practically no service conditions. Since these powerloom were not governed by the Factories Act, they could work 12 hours a day without payment of any overtimes. They are free from the purview of all the labour legislations.

The owner of the powerloom factory is not providing any statutory or non statutory labour welfare facilities.

The Govt. of Maharashtra has given effect to the Factories Act of 1948 and E.S.I. Scheme for powerloom Sector. But the owners conveniently neglect these values and regulations.

The Indian Industrial workers has often been condemned as lazy and inefficient, but as pointed out by Bombay Textile Labour enquiry Committee. "It is axiomatic that in all pursuits a high standard of efficiency can be expected only from persons who are physically fit and free from mental worries, that is only

from persons who are properly trained, properly housed, properly fed and properly clothed. The need and importance of welfare measures in India. Which are designed to bring about an all round improvement in the whereas standard of life can not be over emphasized."⁴

R E F E R E N C E S

1. General Report : All India Powerloom workers convention, August, 1989.
2. General Report : Solapur Zilla Yantramagdharak Sangh, 15th July, 1988.
3. Gadgil D.R. A Socio Economic Studies in Solapur Dist. P. No. 4.
- 4 Note : The Information in This Chapter is based on GAZETTER OF INDIA ; Maharashtra State, Solapur Dist. Gazetter 1980-81.