

## CHAPTER - I

### INDUSTRIAL BACKGROUND OF KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

#### 1. INTRODUCTION :

The present chapter is devoted to analyze the industrial background of Kolhapur District. This has been done in two periods of before independence and after independence. The chapter also presents the situation regarding small scale industries, occupational pattern of workers and the imbalance of industrial development in Kolhapur District.

#### 2. INDUSTRIAL BACKGROUND OF KOLHAPUR DISTRICT BEFORE INDEPENDENCE :

The historical background shows that,<sup>1</sup> "industries began to develop in the old Kolhapur state round about 1925. Cotton textile, sugar, gur, manufacture of small mechanical devices and production of vegetable oil are the important among them. Among village industries handloom-weaving, brick-making, tile-making and pottary, leather working and tanning are important."

The situation regarding sugar industry has been rightly pointed out in the Gazetteer,<sup>2</sup> "due to increase in irrigation facilities and supply of electricity there seems to be sufficient justification for the belief that, the sugar industry would become the most important industry in the district in days to come. Another important prospective industry is the manufacture of

aluminium, when electricity from the Koyna Hydel Project, becomes available. The first sugar factory began to operate in 1932. It was in 1928 that the first power-loom factory was started."

The contribution of Chhatrapati Shahu in the overall development of Kolhapur state is praiseworthy.<sup>3</sup> He, "introduced a number of reforms for social, economic and cultural upliftment of the people. These measures created an environment congenial for talented and skillful persons to develop their faculties. The state made amazing strides both as regards industrial progress and social reforms. In 1912 Edward Agricultural Institute was established. A museum of improved agricultural implements was opened and these implements were loaned to enterprising farmers. An agricultural exhibition was organised in Kolhapur in 1914. The Chhatrapati in his speeches, talks and addresses impressed upon the minds of farmers the importance of agricultural development. Construction of Radhanagari Dam provided water and change the crop pattern from jawar to sugarcane enabling accumulation of capital".

The contribution of Chhatrapati Shahu in the industrial field may be mentioned here,<sup>4</sup> "Rajaram Industrial School (1920) and Jaysingrao Technical School (1921) were opened. Industrious persons were invited to set up industries. The state established industrial units in the joint sector. Commercialisation of agriculture, as described above, created demand for engineering goods like ploughs, diesel engines, pumps, sugarcane crushers, etc. All these reforms culminated into a renaissance leading to building of a new economic and cultural society. The state acting

as catalyser encouraged transformation of the society. The persons born during this period of transformation took to independent vocations. It established a firm relationship between the renaissance, emergence of a middle class and development of an entrepreneurial class with a gap of about a quarter century."

### 3. INDUSTRIAL BACKGROUND OF KOLHAPUR DISTRICT AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

When the comparison of industries before and after independence is made, it is seen that, "the nature of industries before independence was mainly traditional and they were dispersal through out the district in rural areas. After independence the traditional industries declined considerably. The modern industries have been developed and concentrated in urban centres. Today the district is known as one of the developed district of the state and is famous for the various industrial products."<sup>5</sup>

The contribution of the state refers in the industrial development of the district is quite clear. It has been mentioned that, "industries have developed rapidly in the district during the last three decades even through the origin of industrial development in the district is traced to early 20th century, when under the able leadership and foresight of the Late Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaja, the foundation of the industrial development in Kolhapur was laid and further fostered by the Late Rajaram Maharaja. The industrial development in Ichalkaranji is mainly attributed to the efforts of Mr.Ghorpade, the then ruler of

Ichalkaranji princely state. The present development owes its origin to the foresight of the old rulers."<sup>6</sup>

### 3.1 SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT.

There are many small scale and cottage industries like, "handloom-weaving, silver and gold smithy, oil crushing, brick and tile making, carpentry, leather working, tanning, fibre-working and black-smithy, etc., in the district. They engaged nearly 39,000 artisans in 1956."<sup>7</sup>

The Table 1.1 shows various small scale industries and the approximate number of persons engaged in 1956.

The Table 1.1 indicates that, there are various types of small scale industries. The industries like Miscellaneous, brike, tile and pottary, carpentry, handloom, leather working, fibre-working have employed more than 3000 workers. The remaining industries have less than 3000 workers. The important centres for these industries in Kolhapur District are. Kolhapur, Ichalkaranji, Vadgaon, Kagal, Hupari, Rashiwade, Radhanagari, Ajara, etc.

### 3.2 DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

The following section shows, the development of industries in Kolhapur District. "Kolhapur district has gained importance, with the development of oil engines, textiles and silver jewellery industries in the past three decades. The initiative and enterprise shown by the people who are industrial mind have helped to build up successful industrial ventures mainly on co-operative lines. The sixties have reported high degree of growth of small

TABLE - 1.1

## SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

Industry	No. of persons engaged	Important Centres
Handloom	3,900	Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur, Vadgaon, Kagal, Kodoli, Halkarni, Bhirawadi, Rendal, Nandani, Sarud.
Brike, Tile and Pottary	6,140	Kolhapur, Rashiwade, Hupari, Sarud, Halkarni, Radhanagari and Kagal.
Carpentary	4,810	Kolhapur, Ichalkaranji, Ajra and Rashiwade.
Leather-working	3,508	Kolhapur, Ichalkaranji, Vadgaon, Gargoti, Alate, Nandani, Male, Mudsingi.
Fibre-working	3,661	Alate, Kabnur, Vadgaon, Hupari, Kodoli.
Black-Smithy	2,663	Kolhapur, Rashiwade and Radhanagari.
Silver & Gold-smithy	2,500	Hupari, Kolhapur, Kagal, Madilge and Gargoti.
Oil Crushing	1,150	Vadgaon, Halkarni and Kodoli.
Tanning	609	Kolhapur, Vadgaon, Gargoti, Ichalkaranji and Male.
Bamboo-working	1,090	Kolhapur, Kagal and Ichalkaranji.
Bidi-making	450	Kolhapur, Jaysingpur and Ichalkaranji.
Pohe and Churmure making	189	Kolhapur, Rashiwade, Walve, Nigwe, Nesari, Murgud and Ajra.
Agriculture	150	Kolhapur, Radhanagari and Shelap.
Snuff manufacturing	50	Halkarni and Nandani.
Leaquer work Industry	32	Patgaon, Kale and Ajra.
Miscellaneous	7,350	Patgaon, Kale and Ajra.

scale industrial units. The medium and large scale industrial units are also developing fast. The spatial distribution of the existing industries is, however, relatively limited. Industrial development in the district has not been uniform. The industrial base has developed very well in the eastern part of the district. Industrial units manufacturing oil engines and machinery components ( spare-parts ) are concentrated in Kolhapur city. Ichalkaranji has been an important textile centre. Jaysingpur, Vadgaon and Hupari are other centres which are coming up. The sugar mills are in the eastern side. Gadhinglaj, Vadgaon, and Jaysingpur have acquired commercial prominence. In the western part, the industrialization was absent until recently and now some sporadic developments have taken place. But still, in the west, the process of industrialization is very slow. Mainly some agro-processing and service centre activities are noticeable in this part of the district. Dispersal of industries is mainly conspicuous in the case of sugar industry, cotton - weaving on powerlooms and handlooms, engages the largest proportion of non-agricultural working population in the district. Next comes light engineering industry".<sup>8</sup> In the Kolhapur district, the Karveer, Hatkanangle, and Shirol talukas are centres of industries. On the basis of 1981 Census Kolhapur, Jaysingpur, Ichalkaranji and Vadgaon are the four major industrial centres.

The occupational pattern of workers shows, whether the percentage of workers in agricultural or non-agricultural sector is increasing or decreasing. The details in this connection are presented in Table 1.2.

TABLE - 1.2

## OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN OF WORKERS IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

Occupation of workers	Percentage of Total workers		
	1961	1971	1981
Cultivators	64.19	56.48	52.63
Agricultural Labourers	14.46	16.01	14.96
House-hold Industry	05.34	03.49	02.82
Other workers	06.12	06.71	29.59
Mining, Quartzing, Livestock, Fishing, etc.	00.61	01.41	-
Manufacturing industries other than household industries.	04.79	08.21	-
Construction	00.70	01.15	-
Trade and Commerce	02.90	04.90	-
Transport, Communication and Storage	00.89	01.61	-

Sources : 1) District Census Handbook ; Kolhapur, 1981.

2) Socio-economic Review and District Statistical  
Abstract of Kolhapur District, 1971-72, 1972-73.

The table shows, decreasing trend in the percentage of of cultivators and workers in house-hold industries. The percentage of agricultural labourers has shown fluctuating trend. In 1981 census, the classification category has been changed and other workers is including six catagories. So it shows higher percentage at 1981. On the basis of the percentage of 1961, 1971, it can be said that, the percentage of other workers might have increased.

REFERENCES

- 1 Government of Maharashtra : Maharashtra State Gazetteers, Kolhapur District. 1961, p.207.
- 2 Ibid : p.207.
- 3 Bhanushali, S.G. : Entrepreneurship Development (An Interdisciplinary Approach) p.27.
- 4 Ibid : pp.28-29.
- 5 Khadke, S.G. : A Geographical Analysis of Village and Cottage industries in Kolhapur District. Unpublished Ph.D.Thesis, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. August 1983, p.29.
- 6 Muktali, R.C. : Industrial Development in Kolhapur District. Unpublished Ph.D.Thesis, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. September 1977, p.356.
- 7 Government of Maharashtra : Op.Cit. p.368
- 8 Muktali, R.C. : Op.Cit. p.356