

CHAPTER - III

PROFILE OF KOLHAPUR CITY AND SET UP INDUSTRIES  
IN KOLHAPUR

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CHAPTER - IIIPROFILE OF KOLHAPUR CITY AND SET UP OF INDUSTRIES IN KOLHAPUR3.1 PROFILE OF KOLHAPUR CITY :

Kolhapur is well known as a major centre of the "Maratha Empire" right from the days of Shri. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja. Through the ages Kolhapur has been well known as one of the important regions in Southern India both on account of religions and cultural history. Kolhapur became a district place with an independent principality, in the first decade of the 18th century. Since then it has been connected with a series of crucial social and political changes in Maharashtra.

In the 20th century its social and cultural contribution to India's art, music, cinema and drama has been of highest quality and of tremendous consequence. And therefore, its name "Kalapur" ( The city of art).

Kolhapur District was formed in March 1959. It includes 12 talukas. It is spread over major parts of the Krishna-Panchanganga basins and is located between 15-43° to 17-16° North latitude and 73-40 to 74-42 East longitude. It is surrounded by Sangli District on the North and by Belgaum District

(Karnataka) on the South. The total area of Kolhapur District is 8059 Sq.Km. out of which 7867.2 Sq.Kms. is rural area and 191.9 Sq.Kms. is urban area.

In terms of area this district forms 2.62% of the total geographical area of Maharashtra State. The district has a very fertile soil, which can be divided into three broad soil zones. The fertile soil or red clay of the Western Part, which has facilitated the cultivation of paddy crop. The brownish well drained soil is found in the Central Part of the district which has enabled the farmers to cultivate various crops like rice, jawar, and groundnuts in kharif season and sugarcane and vegetables throughout the year where irrigation facilities are available. The deep black soil of varying depth forms the dry eastern zones of Kolhapur district. Such soil has been found suitable for growing paddy, sugarcane and vegetables.

A good scope is provided by the rivers in the district for irrigation and for development of agriculture. There are about 14 rivers flowing through the district. The major ones are Krishna, Panchanganga, Warana, Dudhganga and Vedganga. The Kolhapur District receives rains from South West as well as North East monsoons. However, the main rainy season is from June to October. The pre-monsoon rains are occasionally

accompanied by thunder storms. The rainfall is not uniform in all parts of the district. A portion of the district lies in the Sahyadri ranges. The average rainfall of the district varies from about 500 mm. in Kurundwad area in the North East to about 6000 mm in Gaganabawada area near Sahyadri in the West. Kurundwad has the lowest annual average of 475 mm of rainfall whereas Gaganabawada gets 6100 mm of rainfall. About three fourth of the district receives more than 1000 mm of rainfall annually.

It is well known that the Kolhapur district has achieved tremendous success in lift irrigation. The major irrigation projects of the district are Warana Project, Tulsi Project, Dudhganga Project, Hiranyakeshi Project and Radhanagari Project. The good quality of soil increasing irrigation facilities, favourable weather and sufficient rainfall have all contributed to the agricultural prosperity in the district. The food crops i.e. rice, jawar, bajari, wheat etc. are the predominant crops in the district. Among the cash crops groundnuts, tobacco and sugarcane have large shares in the gross cropped area of the district. Sugarcane occupies a place of pride in the district. The area under sugarcane has been steadily increasing during last few decades. Area under sugarcane has increased from 16320 hectares in 1950-1951 to 31504 hectares in 1960-1961. It's

area in 1973-1974 was 34034 hectares and near about 40000 hectares in 1981.

Increasing area under irrigation stimulated sugarcane production and increasing area was brought under sugarcane cultivation. Consequently a number of sugar factories come into existence. At present there are eight sugar factories operating in the district.

An outstanding feature of the local agriculture is that the average yields per hectare for most of the crops are higher than that of the state as a whole averages. In case of the jawar the district yield is twice that of the state average. The district yield for groundnuts has been observed to be 25 per cent higher than the state average. The district has highest gross value of output per hectare in Maharashtra. The Techno economic survey of Maharashtra estimated gross value of the output per hectare of cropped area, 1965-1966 at Rs. 490.00 for the district against Rs. 190.00 for state and Rs. 315.00 for India.

The agriculturists in Kolhapur District are popular for their progressive nature as they are keen in adopting modern techniques for increasing the productivity of their farms. This is evident from the Table No.3.1 as given below.

TABLE NO.3.1AGRICULTURAL IMPLIMENTS IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

Sr. No.	Details	Y E A R				
		1951	1961	1970	1978	1982
1.	Plough wooden	88434	94846	94375	102608	96249
2.	Plough Iron	6222	7741	9581	11984	17289
3	Carts	30237	39469	49013	51793	50679
4	Sugarcane crusher (power)	1052	1618	1873	1595	1322
5.	Sugarcane crusher (Bullock)	674	319	41	8	15
6	Oil Engine (Irrigation)	2632	7560	12398	17418	13225
7	Electric Pumps (Irrigation)	44	203	6412	18062	14989
8	Tracter (Agri- purposes)	28	103	954	1372	2384

SOURCE : i) District Census Handbook Kolhapur-61.

ii) Socio-Economic Review And District Statistical  
Abstract of Kolhapur. 1971-1972, 1972-1973, 1981-82,  
1986-1987.

The above Table No. 3.1 explains the increasing use of agricultural implements in Kolhapur District, the use of plough both wooden and iron is increasing but the increase in use of iron plough is faster than that of wooden plough.

In case of carts, which is a mode of transportation, the use has also been steadily rising so that the number of carts which are about 30237 in the year 1951 increased to 50697 in 1982, over a period of three decades.

The use of oil engines for the purpose of irrigation also indicates tremendous increase by more than five times from 2632 in 1951 to 13225 by the end of 1982. Similar, is the case with electric pumps for irrigation where the number has increased by around fourteen times over a period of two decades. The number of tractors used for agriculture purpose also show increasing trend.

From the above table it is also evident that animals driven sugarcane crusher is being replaced by power driven sugarcane crusher. We see from the above table that in 1951, 674 sugarcane crusher driven by bullock were used whereas 15 existed in 1982 on the other hand we find an increasing trend for power driven sugarcane crusher. Regardless of the stage of machanization, new power sources are always used first for power intensive operations.

Animals have long driven sugarcane crushers and oil crushers. Animals used in this operations are increasingly being replaced by diesel and electric engines. In India in 1972 the number of stationery engines for power intensive operations was about twenty times that of tractors.

Thus, the rapid progress of mechanisation in agricultural generated an increase in demand for agricultural tools and equipments, oil engines, tractors etc. along with their spare parts which provided fertile ground for rapid development of engineering units in Kolhapur District.

Another outstanding feature of agriculture in Kolhapur is that the demand for chemical fertilizer which is steadily rising which ultimately helps in increasing the productivity of agriculture. Thus, agriculture is the predominant sector of the district economy. The increased agriculture productivity results in the increase in income in the hands of the farmers and therefore, the farmers from the district are in a better position to purchase on the increasing scale, the products of the industrial sector both for agricultural and non agricultural purposes. This creates a demand for the products of the industrial sector and incentive for future industrial expansion.

The entrepreneurship continues to be an outstanding characteristics of people in the district. The engineering



industries in Kolhapur, sugarcane cultivation, development of textile industries, the manufacturing of "Kolhapuri Chhapals, the silver art, the remarkable progress in the field of processing and marketing cooperative etc." are some of the important indicators of entrepreneurship. This quality of the local people if channelised properly, guided and assisted continuously, will promote the development of the district at a phenomenal rate.

In short we may say the natural environment as well as existing socio-economic conditions are favourable for industrialisation of the district. It is quite justified that the district is considered to be one of the better developed district in Maharashtra.

### 3.2 SET UP OF INDUSTRIES IN KOLHAPUR :

Kolhapur District is essentially famous for Small Scale Engineering Industry, Cement Industry, Plastic Industry, Rubber Industry, Chemical Industry, Packing Industry, Refinery Industry, etc.

A special feature of these industries is that most of them are owned and run by small entrepreneurs as skilled workers starting as hired workers in local workshops.

The Shahumaharaj of Kolhapur set up a repair workshop for the maintainance of his imported vehicles which laid to the origin of engineering industry in Kolhapur. He also established one technical school to train some local persons. He could provide employment to a few of products of this technical school. Some of them secured employment outside the district, and rest of them started small workshops of their own within the district mainly in Kolhapur.

In the year around 1915 with the introduction of lift irrigation schemes in district, there emerged a demand for oil (diesel) engines which has to be imported then, the spare parts had also to be imported. During the second world war the imports were hampered due to the war conditions. Gradually local workshops took up the job of repair of engines slowly moving into the manufacture of spares and components of oil engines and eventually manufactured engines themselves.

Immediately after independence, "Grow more food" company was undertaken by the Government. Loans were granted for the purchase of the oil engines to the farmers. This boosted the demand for oil engines and products were encouraged. Consequently some new manufacturing units were started. In 1957-1958 there was a slump in a industry due to a change in the policy of the Government in regard to the grant of loans

to the farmers for the purchase of oil engines. This affected the oil engine producers very badly. Consequently some of them specialised in manufacturing oil engines and at the same time developed themselves as ancillary units to large units.

Up to 1969-1970 the production of diesel engines and their spares was the main line of production in this industry. Recently these industries have diversified their production activities and are producing various types of machinery, agriculture implements, sugarcane crusher, trailer spares, trolleys etc.

Kolhapur City is located on Poona Bangalore Highway and connected to Bombay and Bangalore by road transport. By rail it is on broadgauge and directly connected to Bombay, Kolhapur broadgauge line is connected to Miraj Junction (48 Kms distance) from where it goes south to Belgaum, Bangalore and Madras.

As the third five year plan stressed the need of establishing new industries away from the large congested cities, certain concessions and facilities were given to the industries shifting away from the congested localities. This facilitated the growth of Kolhapur City as an important industrial centre in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) has developed an industrial estate at Shirol, a place 10 Kms

from the city. The total area is 319 hectares. MIDC has decided to set up another industrial estate at "Gokul Shirgaon" 6 Kms. distant to meet the demand of region.

The stupendous work done by the local technicians in their early years, eventually laid to the present industrial growth of the Kolhapur City. A good example in this case is that of "Mahadba Mistry" (Shri. Shelke), It is said that he was one of the Founder member of the "Shivaji Udhyamagar." Initially he was a worker. After some period he started manufacturing the oil engines and set up his organisation under the name of "Kolhapur Auto Works" Shri. Karanjkar, Shri. Y.P.Powar are some of the important dynamic personalities in the history of industrial development of the city. The talent and untiring efforts of the pioneers were of exceptionally high order. Family craftsman of the starting period developed technical skill begining from the mechanical repairing workshops to the manufacturing industries and introduced oil engines as the end products.

As a result of constant efforts of industries in Kolhapur have now established their place as quality manufacturers in the industrial field, such as automobiles, machine tools, agricultural implements, printing machines, gears, water pump, leather machinery, pounding and crushing machinery , real axel pipes, chemicals, tyers, etc.