



## OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY IN THE CITY OF SOLAPUR

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### ABSTRACT

Solapur is known for its people's occupational proficiency in spinning, weaving, wet processing, tailoring, Beedi rolling, and tradition agriculture, some allied occupational sector like education, small eateries, dispensaries, construction sector, transportation, religious tourism, small scale industries and workshops were the major units of occupations for the people, Government and semi government services too are the units of occupational structure of Solapur city. All the occupation in the city were ancestral, caste based and conventional; the professionals and artisans were using man power and rudimentary technology. It uses to yield less production and less profit. By the advent of 21<sup>st</sup> Century there is gradual modernization, and mobility in the convention occupation, profession and business. The new generation is more adaptive to technology and world around them hence the business, industries, skill, business, per-capita income in the city is increasing.

**KEYWORDS:** mobility, ancestral occupation, rudimentary, modernization, adaptability, proficiency, dynamism.

### INTRODUCTION

Occupation refers to an economic activity which provides means of livelihood; people engaged in those economic activities are called workers, artisans and labourers. Occupational mobility means the capacity or ability of workers to move from one occupation to another or ability to upgrade and modernization his occupation. Solapur is the developing and two tier status city in the southern part of Maharashtra and the administrative head quarter of the Solapur district. The city shares the political border with Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The rail-way connecting the north and south India passes through Solapur, National Highway No. 9 and 13 connecting the city with neighbouring states and Maharashtra passes through Solapur. The city has spinning and weaving mills, unorganized hand-loom and power-loom sector dying industries, Beedi rolling sheds, many small scale industries, sugar mills educational and medical facilities attracted many migrants from Andhra and Karnataka to settle in Solapur. The occupational structure of the city was conventional, ancestral and caste based. Some of the known and distinctive occupations in the solapur were Beedi rolling, powerloom. Dying, Grocery sell, dispensaries, eateries, mechanical workshop, transportation, tailoring, hair-cutting saloons, educational institutions, transportations and news-paper printing etc. the linguistic and religious communities in Solapur had monopoly on a particular occupation. Later due to education, modernization, liberalization, and globalization there is up-gradation and mobilization in the occupational structure of the city as a result of that the per-capita income increased and the standard of living of people raised.

**OBJECTIVES:**

The aim of this paper is .....

To study the traditional and ancestral occupation and professions of different groups and communities in the city,

To see if the communities need technical training,

To study the nature of their job, and services rendered

To study the factors bringing change in occupational structure, nature of work and their attempts for the up-gradation of their occupation.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The objective of this paper is to see the professional mobility, and up-gradation of occupation in the occupational structure of the city. The researcher looked back into the conventional and its rudimentary means of practice.

He observed the gradual changes in and up-gradation of occupation. Visited the textile units, Beedi rolling sheds, market yard, dispensaries, eateries, tailorings shops, educational institutions, construction sites etc. he observed and experienced the mobility and up-gradation of occupation. The owners of the industry, sheds and units, technicians and artisans and artists were interviewed with a view to know about the gradual changes in occupational structure and occupational mobility.

The researcher randomly selected the respondents and data was gathered for an analysis, report writing and conclusion.

**OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE OF THE CITY:**

**Beedi industry:** The industry consists of production of Beedis, the women workers rolling the Tendu leaf with tobacco inside, and shape if in the Beedi, there are variety of Tendu and different quality of tobacco. The industry reminds the Guild system, the Tendu, tobacco and thread was served by the entrepreneur guild, the artisan women used to roll beedis at their home with master artisan women and apprentice, the rolled and finished product is given to the entrepreneur. These women are paid Rs. 140/ for one thousand beedis, every house used to produce nearly 2 to 3 thousand beedis in a day, Provident Fund is deducted from the wages. 70% Beedi roller women were from the Padmashali community (the migrant of Andhra Pradesh) 10% were Muslims and remaining were from Lodhi and schedule caste. The occupation requires no education and technical training. Around 10,000 people are connected with Beedi industry. Every master woman trains the apprentice of her family hence beedi rolling was the conventional and ancestral occupation of Padmashalis. The entrepreneur brands the product for marketing and sale.

**Unorganized Power-loom and Dying sector:** Solapur is known for its power-loom production like Chadars, Dhotis and cotton cloth, there were more than 4000 power-looms under different sheds. The men working in the shed is called weaver, 80% weavers were from Padmashali community, remaining were from Muslim and schedule castes. The weaving is skilful job men use to work in two shift each shift runs for eight hours. Their wages were depended on the scale of production. 95% owners of power-loom sheds were padmashalis. Some of the power-loom product then is send to dying industry for Scouring, bleaching and dying. The dying process is totally manual, men work with different colour and huge water basins, the total dying units are own and run by the Padmashalis.

**Market Yard:** The city market yard constitutes Grocery yard and vegetable & fruits yard. All the grocery whole sale agents are Lingayats (migrant of Karnataka). The grains sacks from the neighbouring villages and cities are purchased and later sold to the shoppers in the city. The Lingayats had monopoly in Grocer market; the vegetables and fruit agents and wholesale traders are Muslim Bagwans. The Veg and fruits from the neighbouring villages, towns and cities are auctioned and purchased Bagwans and later given to small

traders, hawkers etc. Lingayat and Bagwans both the communities treat the business as ancestral occupations, and the business is handed down to the next generation.

**Teaching profession:** The educational frame, syllabi and out-come of the education in the city was all traditional. Fourteen schools were run by Municipal Corporation, Ten schools were run by private organizations and there were only four arts commerce and science colleges for the large population. The teacher community in these institutes were from the upper caste with very few teachers from other background; the syllabi and methods of teaching were all traditional.

**Health Professionals:** The city had only one govt. hospital (Civil Hospital) functioning to treat curable diseases it had neither post graduate and super-specialist doctors nor advance machinery, Wadia Charitable hospital was not affordable. SolapurRugnalaya and Utkarshhosp.WalsangkarHosp were struggling for; ten Hospitals were run by Municipal Corporation had only building and nothing else. There were many small dispensaries of general physicians, nephros, dentists working within limited resources. The doctors were mainly from upper castes with few exceptional cases.

**General mechanics:**The city had many small mechanical sheds in MIDC and within city premises it has conventional simple Lethe machines, Welding workshops, Auto mobile workshops, Bicycle repair shops etc. the artisans working-in are skilled and unskilled; mechanical workshops use to produce machine components plus repairs the machines, automobiles, cars and other mechanical appliances. The men at work in workshop had no fixed hours of work, wages were linked to the job completed. These workshops were owned and operated by Muslims and Marathas, the operatives in are too Muslims, Marathas and some scheduled caste men.

**Eateries:**The city have many small eateries of non-veg own and operated by the Muslims. Traditional non-veg is prepared by the Muslim chefs and served to the customer at the small hotel or eatery. The Muslims had monopoly in taste and service of non-veg, many vegetarian restaurants, canteens own and run by Marathas and Lingayats. In olden days having food outside the house was supposed uncivilized hence eateries were not so common.

**Construction sector:** The construction of houses and miscellaneous work like painting, carpentry, plumbing, electrification was not much important. The design and blue print is made by the Engineer and the whole operation of construction, painting, carpentry and plumbing was carried out by artisans; men and women from Muslim, Lodha community and schedule caste were in construction and miscellaneous services. The work was unplanned and unscientific.

**Allied Occupations:**The city hadoccupational communitiesPottery, Saloons, Cobbler,Tailoring and Dairy all performing their ancestral occupations with proud.

1]Pottery was the occupation of Kumbhar community, the community had separate location, art of pottery is handed down from parents to the new generation. All work like claying, doughing, shaping and colouring was manual, earthen pots, clay plates, water container and idols were their major products.

2]The barbar or nhavei community have their ancestral occupation of hair trimmings and shaving, some of them go to door to door for trimming and shaving, some of them have saloons for it, they did nothing but trimming and shaving with tradition manual the art is taught to their new generation. 3] The Mochi community or cobblers too have their ancestral occupation of shoes making and repairing; the artisans have small shops for manually making the all types of shoes, the poor of them sits by roads for mending and repairing the shoes. The skill of shoes is handed to their new generations.

4] The Khetri or tailor community is dominant inthe city, they own the tailoring shops and tailored garment shops. They use to tailor simple and casual cloth, many of them are entrepreneur having wagons of plain

cloth, the work of making half pant, full vijar, shirts, bags are assigned to others and get it done, the tailor were paid for each tailored cloth; community had monopoly in tailoring and garment shops. 5] The Gavali community breeds the cows and buffalo for milk, cud, cream, butter and ghee. The Milkman or gavali serves the milk at the door of the customer, some of them have dairy to sell milk and milk makes, they breed desi cow and buffalo for milking; occupation is ancestral and handed down to the new generation 6] Transportations: The means of transporting the passengers and goods is the life line of the city. The city haveMunicipal corporation bus service, other means like auto rickshaws, tempos, trucks, pulling cart etc are operated by the Muslims, Marathas and Scheduled cast men; being in the transportation was not the monopoly of anyone. All means were simple traditional, old and sick.7] Washer-men: the occupation was restricted with the Dhobi community or washer-men. As the city was not much advance hence the occupation was slow. The men go door to door to collect cloths, bed-sheets and related material for washing and pressing. Washer-men goes to Wells and ponds to wash and dry. It is their ancestral occupation and is handed down to the next generation.

### **OBSERVATIONS:**

Occupational mobility in Solapur city is being observed, experienced and enjoyed since the beginning of this decade. Mobility in occupation refers to the ability and capacity of a person to mobilize from one occupation to another or his ability, promptness, and skill to upgrade his occupation up-to the present mark. There are several causes of occupational mobility. A) The occupational mobility and labour mobility depends on education, formal education technical, industrial, medical management etc. give new knowledge and skill and create confidence to upgrade the occupation or to change it. B] Industrial development in the city creates new opportunities of jobs for educated and technicians irrespective of caste and sex; industries are employing the persons possession the required qualification rather than caste, individualism is cause of occupational mobility. C] Means of transportation and communication are acknowledging the people and creating awareness. The advertisement of job, demo of new machineries, broadcasting of media, awareness campaignetc helped people to mobilize for new jobs and to acquire new knowledge to update their occupation. D] The urge for better and civilized life made optimistic, broadminded labours, artisans and technician and entrepreneur to bring better changes in their business, occupation and professions.E] The social structure and social institutions are also changing. People leaving their joint families for new opportunities, inter-caste marriages, social interaction, individualism, materialism, cultural resistance and tolerance makes people to adapt every new change. F] liberalization and globalization giving opportunities to mix-up with the world business community people are launching new industries, hotels, workshops, show rooms many are enter into new occupation and business. Because of the above prevailing factors in Solapur the occupation, profession in the city are changing as observed below.....

### **MOBILIZATION IN BEEDI INDUSTRY:**

The convention beedi industry is upgrading by the time, many units have closed by enforcement factory act and labour welfare laws, and Narcotic law. The working units are upgrading, rollers are issued permanent card, are entitled for PF and ESI and housing scheme, their product is branded and recognized. The girls and women of closed units are taking education in colleges likeBurla Women's College, LBP women's college and other co-education college. Now the Beedi rollers girls are educated and are teacher, nurses, computer operators, receptionists, sales executives etc. mobility in occupation raised their standard of living.

### **POWER-LOOM SECTOR:**

The unorganized power-loom sector giving employment to thousands of people was the occupation of Padmashali community, now besides Padmashalis now the Marwadi and Jains have entered into the occupation; the new generation of these communities acquired degree and diploma into Textile and mechanical engineering; new machineries and techniques are being adapted, now they have Automatic

powerlooms, Dropbox Looms for fancy cloths, Dobby looms, Jecquard looms for chaddars. The production is fast, pretty and marketable, the workers too are getting better wages, every new trend, new design and new technology adopted, all the spinning mills are automatic, required less man power and efforts, the dying process is not manual colours textures are decided on computer, and are processed on machines. The Chaddar, towel, bed-sheets, pillow covers, cotton bags, mats and wall hanging are more demanded in the whole India. Solapur is known for its textile products.

**Market Yard:** It has two phases of business one is Grocery yard and another one is vegetable Yard. Formerly Grocery was the monopoly of Lingyats and Vegetable yard was dominated by Muslim Bagwans. By the advent of advance means of transportation and communication and business technique other youngster too are entering into the business. There are young and high tech traders who never go to the yard and play their transaction through E.mail and What App. Grocery grains are book through Email and the truck straight goes to the godown of the seller. The vegetable seller bagwans are no more hawkers, they collect the monthly orders of supply to the Hotels, restaurants, eateries, hostels, mess, industrial canteen, malls, now their business is upgraded and became sophisticated. Some are engaged in exporting the vegetables and fruits.

**Commercialization of Education:** The schools of Muncipal Corporation are being closed, the older education institutions are where there were. New educational institution like Degree college, engineering colleges, medical colleges, paramedical colleges, pharmacy college, law colleges, English medium schools, are emerging. All are running on commercial base, the city has two private medical, two pharmacy, three paramedical, two law college, six engineering colleges and more than twenty English medium school are charging heavy fees, all institutions serves with hostel, mess, medical aid, uniform study material etc. it is totally commercialization of education. Many School and colleges in Solapur have Digital class rooms teachers are using I pad, power point, question papers syllabus and notes are mailed to the student. In addition to this we have dozen of coaching classes charging heavy fees for the science and engineering aspirants. Youngsters of all communities are in the race of running the business of education.

**Health Professionals:** There are radical changes in medical and paramedical professions; a new generation of post graduate doctors and paramedical experts from all communities is emerging in Solapur. The city has eight super-speciality Hospitals and research centre. fifteen speciality hospitals and more than fifty hospital. Our specialist are Neuro surgeons, neuro medicine, cardio surgeon, cardiologist, Urologist, Nephros, Cancer specialist, Diabetic, Dermetologists, Gastroenterologist, Orthopaedics, Gynaecologist, paediatrics, psychiatrist, Nepthos, Dental surgeons; besides there are hundreds of paramedicals like radiologists, Dietician, Psychiatrist, Anesthecians, Pathologists, X-ray technicians, Lab technicians, Nurses, Pharmacists etc. Besides the Allopath the city has Ayurvedacharyaand Homeopaths, All hospitals are well equipped having ICU, special rooms, dyalosis machines, MRI ,CT scan, Pathological labs, bothe the doctors and Paramedicals are expert, commercial and master in their profession. Solapur is known for its medical services.

**General Mechanics:** The lathe machines, welding work, compressor machine, die makers, automobile workshops are being modernized. Engineering education, growing market, availability of automatized machine brought revolution in mechanical world. The workshops are safe, clean, auto running and updated. Local mechanics are supplying machine components to big companies and machines are maintained and repaired by. Artisans, technicians and workers from all caste and religion are working in workshops, every now and then the owners are trying to update their knowledge, process and business.

**Eateries:** The food culture in Solapur is changing with the speed of time. The traditional style non-veg eateries of Muslims, and vegetarian restaurants of Lingayats and Marathas are not their monopoly. Medical tourism, commercialization of education, religious tourism, business, urbanization, information technology,



resistance of culture has brought change in food rituals. There are hundreds of non-veg eateries and restaurants serving, Biryani, mutton chops, chicken 65, fry, butter chick varieties, fish varieties, Arabian and continental dishes are being eaten, the Veg. restaurants are serving Punjabi, Gujrathi, Rajasthani and south Indian dishes. The city has one five star hotel eight three stars hotels and hundreds of A grade hotels. Fast-food culture too is growing, there are Dominos, McDonalds, Pizza huts, Windys, Chinese beverages, hundreds types of chips, fries, deserts, starters in service of consumers. Eateries and Hotels are not the Monopoly of any religious or caste group; the new generation is advance in Hotel management, cuisines and hospitality.

**Construction sector:** The Real Estate and construction is boosting in Solapur. Education Hub, Medical Hub, textile hub. Location of the city on rail connecting south and north India three national highways giving jobs, business, and occupation to professional in the city. The land mafia, land lords, new generation of civil engineers, architecture, interior designers brought revolution in construction sector. The city has MHADA, CIDCO, HUDCO, twin city, hundreds of housing societies and apartments and shopping complex. The personnel in construction sectors have upgraded their knowledge, skill and technology and mobilizing into upper grade of real estate business. Latest brick, steel, glasses, door and window, window frames, tiles, water taps, Lifts, water tank, colour texture, attached furniture, Air conditioners etc are latest and advance.

**Allied occupations:** 1]The new generation of potters is artist, painters and designers. Modern men using traditional local clay and clay from other states for better look. Earthen pot, water taps, ranjans, Surahi, plates, statues, idols, toys are being made, product is sold in malls, exhibitions and other states too. 2]The barbers are no more traditional; as the standard of living increased, civilization developed the barbers too are updating. The new general of barber is trained, professional and updated. Many of them Saloon, Hair clinic and Men's parlour in market place, malls and busy areas. Hair trimming (western, Indian as per the album and fashion) shaving, hair colouring, facial massage, bleaching, body massage are their services. Some of the saloons have computer data of customers. 3] The Cobblers community too is enhancing their occupation. They are importing the leather, lotion, thread and sole to produce new design shoes, sandals and chappals. The present generation is educated, skilled and trained in the field; many of them have small workshop, shops and show rooms. 4] Khetri or tailor community too is advancing and upgrading the occupations. The men tailoring simple pant, shirt and inner wears are now have tailoring workshops. Besides the tailor community people from other occupational background too are entering into the business. The garment business is giving Casual wear,, official wear, and party wear, there are variety of T shirts, Jeans, Track suits, Jacket, Blazers, ladies wear, gents wear, Kids wear produced and sold in the city.5] The Gavali community had monopoly of trading Milk and Milk products; increase in population, urbanism, mobility of occupation and fast food culture brought changes in product and sales. There are co-operative dairies and milk factories collecting, making milk products like cud, butter, cheese, ice-cream, ghee, and milk made sweets. packing and distributing the milk. The city has hundreds of milk dairies, diary product bakeries, milk made sweets etc. 6] The transportation has become an occupation of the people in the city. Men of all communities and groups are in the occupation. The city has three thousand auto rickshaws, One hundred Ola cabs, around one hundred fifty school buses, around fifty buses for the company staff. Several government official like railway, LIC, BSNL, Govt. Hospital officers are hiring private car services on contract basis. All private transportation services are quick and luxurious. 7] The washer or Dhobi community still has occupation in its hand, now the method of washing, pressing and rendering services have developed and up-graded. The new generation of the community have wet cleaning and dry cleaning machines. Washermen have big units in bazars, shopping malls, hotels and in civilized societies.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

1]The occupational mobility and up-gradation of occupation is observed and experienced since the beginning of this decade.

- 2) New education, industrialization, new technology, urbanization, migration, individualism and materialism are the causes of occupational mobility in the city.
- 3) No occupation has remained the monopoly of a particular community or group, any person irrespective caste, religion and region can enter into occupation of his choice provided if he or she has the ability, skill and qualification.
- 4) Men and women particularly of the new generation are more ahead and enthusiastic in occupational mobility.
- 5) The consumer or customer of the new professionals and business are the young generation upto the age of 40 years.
- 6) Individualism, materialism and consumerism in the city is increasing day by day.
- 7) The new occupations, professions and business in Solapur is better than neighbouring cities.
- 8) The new generation of the city is adaptive, accommodative and resistant to cope up with new occupations.
- 9) The per capita income of the city is more than the past.
- 10) By the advent of new technology, computerization, urbanization and mobility in occupation everything is modernizing and upgrading ; the old artisans and artists are losing and forgetting the traditional and conventional arts and skill.

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