

Position of Weavers in the Textile Industries during 18th-19th Century, Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT: *The proposed paper examines de-urbanization in Harauti region of Rajasthan. Primary data from Rajasthan State Achieves, Bikaner, have been used for this purpose. The study of textile workers' position in towns of Rajasthan is quite interesting through the ages. Here, the concentration is to find out the 'Weaver's position in the Textile Industries during the period of 18th -19th century' especially in the urban areas of Kota. For the aforesaid period the main source, toji-do-vakhi-baje-talke¹, provides the valuable information, and the data of AD1741 and AD1751 of qasba Sangod of Kota has been taken as sample study. The series of the toji-do-vakhi-baje-talke furnish valuable data on weavers, and other professional groups, menial castes and their number of houses. This helps us to estimate the population of the above referred classes and castes. The statistical data of the year 1741 and 1751 on tax collection (Kholari-house tax) and number of houses contained in the document are compiled in the form of Tables. The Kholari tax signifies the house tax which was imposed on the different occupational groups. In the Table 3, a comparison of the position of professional groups (especially weavers) had been made between the population of two periods i.e. 1741 and 1751 to the first caste census that was held in 1931. This comparison of the population leads to some very interesting results. In qasba, the leading professional class was that of weavers followed by other classes. But there has been a decline in population of textile workers in 1931. The decline or disappearance of weaver (Julaha) was clearly an outcome of the impact of the competition with the British cloth in the 19th century. The study shows the symptom of de-industrialization as well as the de-urbanization at least in the said town. We can also infer the similar kind of phenomenon in the entire state of Kota.*

Keywords: Textile Workers, Kholari, Assamis, Assumed Conventional Figure, Estimation, Disappeared, British cloth and yarn, Symptom of De-industrialization and De-urbanization, Phenomenon.

INTRODUCTION

Qasba Sangod is situated on the right bank of River *Ujar*, a tributary of the River *Kali Sindh*, seventy five kms. south-east of Kota town with which it is connected by road (*Gupta Savitri, 1982: 508-509*)².

The series of the *toji-do-vakhi-baje-talke* furnish valuable data on weavers, and other professional groups, menial castes and their number of houses. This helps us to estimate the population of the above referred classes and castes. The statistical data of the year 1741 and 1751 on tax collection *Kholari* (house tax)³ and number of houses contained in the document are compiled in the form of the Tables 1 and 2, and in Table 3 the comparison of the available information regarding textile workers in said years with the Castes Census of year 1931.

In Tables 1 and 2 of *qasba Sangod* the total collection under the tax *kholari* and the number of assamis⁴ is recorded. The tax *kholari* signifies the house tax which was imposed on the different occupational groups.

The number of houses belonging to each caste is given, which can help us to estimate the population of the said region. It means that if we multiply the number of houses by 5 (assumed conventional figure for each household; for details, see Gupta S.P. and Bhadani B.L. for Marwar region and Tod James

for Jaisalmer and Bikaner)⁵, then we can obtain a population for practically all the textile workers and other castes in the *qasba Sangod*. Already Table 1 and 2 has been prepared to show the estimation of population in the said *qasba* for the years 1741 and 1751 respectively.

It is quite clear that in 1741, the population of the seventeen castes was 915 (No. of house 183 x 5). And in 1751, the population of the seventeen castes was 840 (No. of house 168 x 5). Consequently, the total castes recorded in 1741 were seventeen and the same in 1751. Of these the Julahas (weavers) were dominating in both of the years i.e.; 1741 and 1751. While the lowest population is of *Khatik* and *Tamoli* in 1741 and *Lohar* and *Tamoli* in 1751 (*GOR, toji-dovarkhi-bajetalke, qasba Sangod, AD 1741*)⁶. Also see appendix-(I) and (II) attached at the end of the paper.

Position of Weavers and Textile Workers

The study of position of weavers along with textile workers in the towns of Kota is quite interesting. Though information about textile workers with especial reference to weavers is compiled in the combined Tables 1 and 2, but to highlight their strength, we have formulated separate Table 3, stating their number of houses and the population obtained through multiplying with the conventional rate. This

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Table 1: Qasba Sangod (VS.1798/AD.1741)

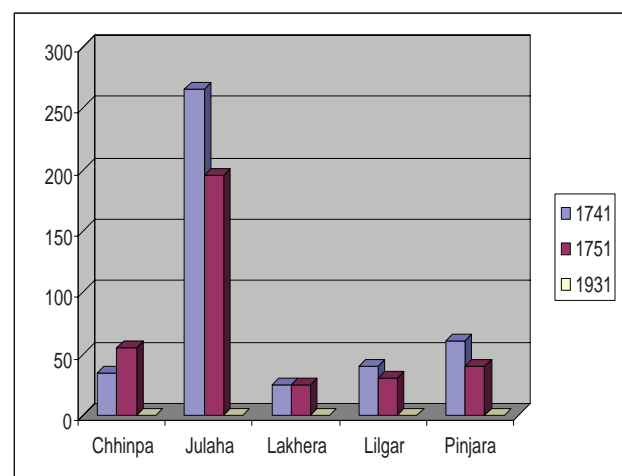
by 5)	Name of the Castes	Total realization in takas (sair kholari tax)	Assami's ghar (No. of Houses)	Population (No. of Houses x by 5)
1.	Chhinpas	111	7	35
2.	Chamar	93	7	35
3.	Gujar	70	5	25
4.	Julaha	588	53	265
5.	Kalal	265	22	110
6.	Kharol	95	13	65
7.	Khati	137	8	40
8.	Koli	113	12	60
9.	Khatik	42	3	15
10.	Kumbhar	97	12	60
11.	Lakhara	66	5	25
12.	Lilgar	102	8	40
13.	Lohar	63	4	20
14.	Pinjara	95	12	60
15.	Sunar	83	6	30
16.	Tamoli	29	3	15
17.	Teli	175	15	75
GRAND TOTAL		2224	183	915

(Source: Based on *Toji-dovarkhi-bajetalke*, a Kota record, available at Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner)

would highlight the strength of individual textile castes. The number of houses of each professional caste of *qasba* Sangod is recorded and is put under the heading of "Textile Workers"⁷, and selected only those castes which are easily identifiable with a particular profession.

The comparison of the population figures of textile workers in the two period's leads to some very interesting results (see Table 3 and also Figure 1). In the *qasba*, the leading professional class was *Julahas* (weavers) with their population 265 and 195 in 1741 and 1751 respectively followed by *Pinjara*, *Lilgar*, *Chhinpa* and *Lakhera* etc. The total population of Five castes in AD 1741 is 425, while in 1751 the dominating position is again of *Julaha* followed by *Chhinpa*, *Pinjara*, *Lilgar* and *Lakhera* etc. and the total population of five castes comes to 345 (GOR, *toji-dovarkhi-bajetalke, qasba Sangod*, AD 1741 and AD1751)⁸. There is a decline of population of these castes between 1741 and 1751 and completely disappeared in 1931 (Cole B.L., reprint-1992:216-217)⁹. The decline or disappearance of weaver (*Julaha*) was clearly an outcome of the impact of the competition of the British cloth in the 19th century. The weavers and

calico-printers suffered in the 19th century because British cloth and yarn became cheaper, and also the demand for British cloth cheapened their product and British cloth increased¹⁰. And gradually the number of textile workers including weavers declined and ultimately they vanished from the scene by the first quarter of the 20th century, which is verified from the census of 1931.



(Source: Based on Table 3)

Figure 1: A Comparison of population of textile workers (Qasba Sangod)

Table 2: Qasba Sangod (VS.1808/AD.1751)

S.No.	Name of the Castes	Total realization in takas (sair kholari tax)	Assami's ghar (No. of Houses)	Population (No. of Houses x by 5)
1.	<i>Chhinpas</i>	155	11	55
2	<i>Chamar</i>	54	5	25
3	<i>Gujar</i>	107	9	45
4	<i>Julaha</i>	366	39	195
5	<i>Kalal</i>	244	17	85
6	<i>Kharol</i>	92	8	40
7	<i>Khati</i>	124	9	45
8	<i>Koli</i>	79	8	40
9	<i>Khatik</i>	52	5	25
10.	<i>Kumbhar</i>	110	10	50
11.	<i>Lakhera</i>	55	5	25
12.	<i>Lilgar</i>	79	6	30
13.	<i>Lohar</i>	59	4	20
14.	<i>Pinjara</i>	98	8	40
15	<i>Sunar</i>	89	7	35
16	<i>Tamoli</i>	36	4	20
17	<i>Teli</i>	169	13	65
GRAND TOTAL		1958	168	840

(Source: Based on *Toji-dovarkhi-bajetalke*, a Kota record, available at Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner)

Table 3: Qasba Sangod: A Comparison of caste population with census 1931 textile workers (weavers)

S.No.	Name of the Castes	Urban Population AD1741	Urban Population AD1751	Urban Population AD1931
1	<i>Chinpa</i> (Calico-Printer)	35	55	DA
2	<i>Julaha</i> (Weaver)	265	195	DA
3	<i>Lakhera</i> (Lac-Worker)	25	25	DA
4	<i>Lilgar</i> (Indigo-Dyer)	40	30	DA
5	<i>Pinjara</i> (Cotton-Carder)	60	40	DA
GRAND TOTAL		425	345	DA

(Source: Based on *Toji-dovarkhi-bajetalke*, a Kota record, available at Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner)

Note: DA Denotes Disappeared

This study shows the symptom of de-industrialization as well as the de-urbanization at least in the said town. We can also infer the similar kind of phenomenon in the entire state of Kota.

appendix - (i)

Names of the professional groups, artisans and menial castes in the Kota documents-*Toji - dovarkhi - Bajetalke*

Qasba Sangod (VS 1798/AD 1741)

Chhinpa (7)

- 1. Bhovo
- 2. Kisano
- 3. Khemo
- 4. Todu
- 5. Amro
- 6. Nango
- 7. Rupo Udi

Chamar (7)

- 1. Gangolau Godhra
- 2. Kisanai
- 3. Jairamai

- 4. Lalau
- 5. Lakhmanau
- 6. Savalau

- 7. Nangau

Gujar (5)

- 1. Jeevo
- 2. Vaiso
- 3. Hedaro
- 4. Keso
- 5. Ghasi

Julaha (53): There are two patties one of Patti Saru with 28 names and second is Patti Habib with 25 names.

- 1. Fakir Servadi
- 2. Khanu Chauhan
- 3. Jamal Multani
- 4. Dadu Arsi
- 5. Tadar Gori Javda
- 6. Bheekhe Murmah
- 7. Tadar Gori Sera
- 8. Haji Meratwal
- 9. Barihavavaseed
- 10. Melu
- 11. Khanu Manglo
- 12. Nathu Jaijato
- 13. Khadar Agwan
- 14. Nuro Vaseeh
- 15. Haji Agwan
- 16. Sah Mahatra
- 17. Jamal Lakharo
- 18. Jedovara
- 19. Bheekho Aravi
- 20. Ghasi Gori
- 21. Nathu Salulo
- 22. Hanse Nagori
- 23. Gariva Ghori
- 24. Bandhu Sarvadi Fakira
- 25. Jamal Bheekha
- 26. Bridam Viyavar
- 27. Bridam Ajmeri
- 28. Lalu Mahetri
- 29. Habib Mahetri
- 30. Madaro Vagsu

31. Nuro Jaijuto 32. Mahmud Barmu 33. Rahim Vasu
34. Fakirau 35. Haji Jalavan 36. Geedho Maretuval
37. Peeru Aadhau 38. Nathu 39. Karim
40. Tadar Deidhera 41. Iso 42. Bhovilji
43. Karimi Khokhar 44. Kimal Varuval 45. Chad
46. Vagru 47. Kasu Agwan 48. Danu
49. Lalu Gori 50. Sailemanai 51. Medo
52. Medhu Sergarh 53. Chade Mahi.

Kalal (22)

1. Jaudo deili 2. Ramaiji 3. Soramai
4. Bhaigvanai 5. Gharivo Naharo 6. Karamchand
7. Narharau 8. Godau 9. Lalu
10. Ramji 11. Ramansagi 12. Jeevo
13. Modinai 14. Harajai 15. Nathu
16. Bakhatau 17. Bheevo Teji 18. Nango Deevo
19. Natho Bharna 20. Lodore Kavaru 21. Dharmo
22. Jaramo Saga

Kharol (13)

1. Thakursi 2. Khemo 3. Deva Hemo
4. Deepo 5. Aaso 6. Khemo Dore
7. Kheewasi 8. Devo Nandgaon 9. Cheekho
10. Nango 11. Mano Devo 12. Bhagato
13. Khemo Gidhra

Khati/Khatri (8)

1. Lалуasa 2. Kisanau 3. Devo
4. Puro 5. Jedo 6. Geedho
7. Dudo 8. Gangaram

Koli (12)

1. Manoro 2. Ramaiji 3. Udi
4. Netau 5. Bhamau 6. Udhou
7. Hemau 8. Ramau Hema 9. Sago
10. Ghasinai 11. Nathau 12. Gogalau

Khatik (3)

1. Bhagirath 2. Bhodar 3. Gego

Kumbhar (12)

1. Moto Patal 2. Pramadi 3. Keso
4. Keelani 5. Nango 6. Ramji
7. Vachhau 8. Isar 9. Lalu
10. Lalo Vavan 11. Vandhu Ghasi 12. Bhovo

Lakhera (5)

1. Ramchand 2. Vagsu 3. Lalji Derikhera
4. Gangaramai 5. Sevochhetra

Lilgar (8)

1. Dathu 2. Gothu 3. Sama ki Bahu
4. Jamalau 5. Nangau ki Bahu 6. Isai
7. Naharau 8. Vandhu

Lohar (4)

1. Nango 2. Savji 3. Gangaramai
4. Kisanai

Pinjara (12)

1. Davahai 2. Ghazi 3. Ramo Nadar
4. Sedhu 5. Nathu 6. Haji
7. Ghasau 8. Methu 9. Bheekhao
10. Khanu 11. Methau 12. Khradarai

Sonar (6)

1. Kaso Ghasee 2. Udo Sahe 3. Peermai
4. Udo Narsaug 5. Charanau 6. Nangau

Tamoli (3)

1. Kubho 2. Lalu 3. Hairani

Teli (15)

1. Hemo Kanha 2. Jaudo 3. Veno
4. Chhajau 5. Natho 6. Ghasi Patal
7. Dharmo Phuda 8. Uro Sudar 9. Khemo Vavan
10. Upo Galari 11. Hemo Dharna 12. Puro Dalu
13. Puro Dharna 14. Nani Gatharalai 15. Pri Rago

appendix - (ii)

Qasba Sangod (VS 1808/AD 1751)

Chhinpa (11)

1. Kisanau 2. Devidas 3. Khemo
4. Amaro 5. Nango 6. Udho
7. Devakersa 8. Keso 9. Bhopo
10. Dugo 11. Harajai

Chamar (5)

1. Gango Lamori 2. Lakhmanau Pakhri 3. Sudhagra
4. Veermau 5. Lakhmanau

Gujar (9): There are five Gujars and 4 Gadari therefore this is Gujar Gadari.

1. Gujar Jeevo 2. Gujar Vodho Dahara 3. Gujar Purokeso
4. Gujar Ghasi 5. Gujar Nanrano 6. Bhopo Gadari
7. Modu Gadari 8. Khemo Gadari 9. Puro Gadari

Julaha (39): Two patti, Patti Saru (22) and Patti Habib (17)

1. Rahim Gori 2. Dadu Aarsi 3. Sero Savaj
4. Bheekhe Aarvi 5. Bheekho Gori 6. Natho naram
7. Tadar Gori 8. Tadar Jeedo Su Gori 9. Jedo Chauhan
10. Bhan Chauhan 11. Tejo Sarvo 12. peero Kacharo
13. Mahatri Saru 14. padhu Saafadi 15. Mahasam Niti
16. Hasan Gori 17. Peero Sagval 18. Noor Deeva Sadi
19. Lala Saru 20. Nadaro Gori 21. Khanau Gori
22. Teko Karal 23. Habi Mahatri 24. Chad
25. Karamo 26. Mahemado Karim 27. Nuri-Jajalo
28. Medano Merativale 29. Malai Chauhan 30. Rahimo vad
31. Bhikho khal 32. Natho Chauhan 33. Fakiro Alalgas
34. Haji Jajan 35. Iso Latar 36. Garadio Desus
37. Tadar Mohi 38. Dhrata Majtas 39. Mehar Khachu

Kalal (17)

1. Naatho Deepo 2. Nango Deva 3. Harajai Heera
4. Bheepo 5. Jado Dali 6. Soranau
7. Bakhto 8. Teki Lahu 9. Jarana Keevas
10. Dharna Gangaram 11. Bheekho 12. Bhagvanam
Gangaramai
13. Uvoruwo 14. Jeevo Deva 15. Udo Neeraj
16. Ramji 16. Natho

Kharol (8)

1. Keso 2. Bhopon Fursi 3. Devo Mono
4. Deva ki Bahu 5. Dolaram 6. Deepo
7. Pemo Furas 8. Mano

Khati/Khatri (9)

1. Khati Jedo 2. Khati Deepo 3. Khati Vali
4. Khati Girdhar 5. Khati Mekhu 6. Khati Puro
7. Khati Maru 8. Khati Narnaugi 9. Khati Tulo Nandgira

Koli (8)

1. Ram Jamau 2. Bhamau 3. Ramau Tila
4. Udhou 5. Dhole 6. Hemo
7. Dalai 8. Natho Nadargau

Khatik (5)

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Bhodar | 2. Gego | 3. Nanago |
| 4. Bheevado | 5. Dhanau | |

Kumbhar (10)

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1. Keso | 2. Lalo | 3. Isar |
| 4. Lachhai | 5. Vachhai | 6. Vailu |
| 7. Voitho Ramji | 8. Ramo Ajnava | 9. Fakiro |
| 10. Veeram | | |

Lakhera (5)

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1. Ghasi | 2. Kusali | 3. Bhopo |
| 4. Vagasu | 5. Dhepo | |

Neelgar (6)

- | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Dathau | 2. Guto | 3. Jamal |
| 4. Bheekho | 5. Datau | 6. Chadau |

Lohar (4):

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------|
| 1. Nango | 2. Kisno | 3. Gangaram |
| 4. Soj | | |

Pinjara (8)

- | | | |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Dayad | 2. Chand | 3. Methu |
| 4. Harikho | 5. Dolo | 6. Kaji Lada |
| 7. Prataro | 8. Kumal Vakulodavad | |

Sunar (7)

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. Ghasi | 2. Udho Navsada | 3. Charnau |
| 4. Mekhbhara | 5. Peermo | 6. Hemo |
| 7. Udho Sedho | | |

Tamoli (4)

- | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| 1. Kumho | 1. Lalu | 3. Bhopau |
| 4. Soji | | |

Teli (13)

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Ghasi | 2. Venau | 3. Soj Debho |
| 4. Prasau | 5. Nathau | 6. Dharmau |
| 7. Veerago | 8. Namvanau | 9. Hema |
| 10. Rupa | 11. Dalu | 12. Jaramau |
| 13. Nangau | | |

NOTES

1. *Toji-dovarkhi-bajetalke* of different years of different *parganas* is available in the Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner. See Girija Shankar Sharma, *Sources on Social and Economic History of Rajasthan (17th-20th century)*, Bikaner, 2005, pp. 43-55.
2. Rajasthan *District Gazetteer*, Kota edited by Savitri Gupta, Pub. Jaipur, 1982, pp. 508-509
3. Literally a Kholari is a house tax on a professional who was engaged in production in village or town.

4. The term assami indicates an individual (*Toji-dovarkhi-baje-talke, qasba* Sangod, VS.1798/AD.1741 and VS.1808/AD.1751).
5. S.P.Gupta and B.L.Bhadani assumed this figure 4.5 for the Marwar region. James Tod (in his monumental work *Annals and Antiquities*) assumed 4 or 5 at different places such as Jaisalmer and Bikaner respectively. Tod visited Jaisalmer in AD. 1815.
6. *Toji-dovarkhi-baje-talke, qasba* Sangod, Op.cit.
7. Five castes are included in textile profession: *Julahas* (weavers), *Chhinpas* (calico-printers), *Lakheras* (lac-workers), *Lilgars* (indigo-dyers) and *Pinjaras* (cotton-carder).
8. *Toji-dovarkhi-baje-talke, qasba* Sangod, Op. cit.
9. B.L. Cole, *Census of India, 1931*(Rajputana Agency), reprint, 1992, pp.216-217.
10. *Kalals* (wine distillers) were also disappeared probably due to use of British Wine in that region.

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