

A Historical Analysis of Migrant Driven Industrial Growth and Its Contribution in The Evolution of Bangalore City

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Abstract— Presently Bangalore has become the most favoured destination for migrant workers, flowing in from different nook and corner of the country. This process is either called as Migration or Urbanisation. Always Urbanisation and industrialization of a city will be featured by the large influx of population. Historical analysis reveals that, this inflow of population in larger scale has changed the axis of growth and added new dimensions to the growth pattern. Studies identifies that employment opportunities acts as the prime drive for attracting huge population and industries play a major role in providing such employment opportunities. These industrially developed places received migrants and assimilated people as places of refuge, because of its employment providing ability. Employment deposits income in the hands of the workers, due to which their standard of living and quality of living will go up. This has further improved the time of leisure and declined the death rates, especially amongst urban communities. Bangalore has been an industrial hub even during 18th and 19th century. During 18th century, the European colonial rule had brought about sweeping economic and political changes, which has affected the process and growth of urbanization in India in general and in Karnataka in particular. As a result of this, new commercial and administrative cities have grown up. These new born cities occupied a unique position in the development of society and economy in general. Soon they became centers of foreign trade, centers of administration, political functions, for education and social services. These centres were developed as agencies for diffusion of all kinds of socio cultural change and grew rapidly on par with any other modern foreign cities of the world. As a result of localization of benefits, these cities started attracting huge migrants in large scale, permanently shifting for varied purposes like education, employment, health care etc., Bangalore, the capital city of Karnataka state is no exception to this. This comprehensive report delves into the historical underpinnings of Bengaluru's industrial development during the British colonial era. Focusing on the establishment of industries and their profound impact on attracting migrant workers, it explores the intricate relationship between British rule, employment opportunities, and the consequent urbanization of

Bengaluru. By analyzing the socio-economic implications of this historical narrative, the report aims to highlight the pivotal role played by British rule in transforming Bengaluru into a thriving industrial hub. This paper explores the growth and development pattern of Bangalore city and its role and contribution from its historical perspective.

Index Terms- Migration, Urbanisation, Employment, Livelihood, Political Centre, Bengaluru.

I. EVOLUTION OF BANGALORE

Bangalore city is believed to be founded by Kempe Gowda I, the feudatory of Vijayanagara Empire. Kempe Gowda, referred the place as “Gandu Bhoomi”, or ‘Land of Heroes’. The history of Bangalore city is a tale of two cities, which existed as two independent cities, the proper city on the western side and the Cantonment area on the eastern side. Kempe Gowda I founded the western part of the city in 1537. The town was laid by the founder consisted of a mud fort on the site of the present fort area and a residential locality (Pete) with two important streets of Avenue road and Chikpete in the right angles. Different areas of the Pete were occupied by communities of different professions as could be seen by the names of the streets still used in the old city area namely: Cotton Pete, Bale Pete, Gollara Pete, Akki Pete, Kumbara Pete etc., like this the list goes on. Kempe Gowda’s successor, Kempe Gowda II, built temples, tanks including Kempapura and Karanjikere tanks. Kempe Gowda II, forecasted that the town would grow extensively. Therefore, he erected four watch towers at each of the cardinal points to mark the limits up to which the city would extend in due course of time. Even today, one can see these picturesque towers situated at Lalbagh Hillock, Kempambudi Tank bund, Palace Orchards and Ulsoor Tank Bund. There is an inscription dated 1628 C.E in the

Ranganatha Temple in Telugu. The English translation of which is “Be it well, When Rajadhi-Raja-Parameshwara Vira Pratapa Vira-Maha-Deva Maharaya seated in the Jewel throne was ruling the empire of the world: When of the Asannavakula, the Yelahanka Nadu Prabhu Kempanacharya-Gauni’s grandson Kempe Gowda’s son, Immadi Kempegaunayya was ruling a peaceful kingdom in righteousness with the decline of the Vijayanagar empire, the eclipse of the rule of Yelahanka Nadu Prabhus took place at the dawn of the 17th century.”

Historical evidences records the ruling of Bangalore by Shivaji’s brother Venkoji/Ekoji Bhonsale. Ekoji, who faced the prospect of losing his jagir to the Mughals, made an offer to sell Bangalore to Chikka Devaraja Wodeyar in 1689 for three lakhs. Several attempts by the British to capture Bangalore were repulsed by the Mysorean Army, most notably in 1768, when Hyder Ali (then fiduciary of Woodeyars) forced Colonel Nicholson of the British Army to lift his siege of Bangalore. Later, Bangalore was given as a personal jagir by the then Woodeyar King Krishnaraja Wadiyar II to his Dhalvoy Hyder Ali in 1759. When Hyder Ali died in 1782, his son Tipu Sultan deposed the weak Wodeyar, proclaimed himself to be Sultan. Tipu Sultan successfully stalled the British in the first and second Anglo-Mysore Wars. Bangalore fort was captured by the East India company armies under the command of company governor general, Charles Cornwallis, on 21st March 1791, during the Third Anglo-Mysore War and formed a centre for British resistance against Tipu Sultan, being incorporated into the British Indian Empire after Tipu Sultan was defeated and killed in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799). A prominent role was played by the Madras Sappers in the capture of the Fort and subsequent development of the cantonment and the city.

II. BRITISH RULE AND ITS IMPACT ON GROWTH OF THE CITY

British founded the Cantonment (on the eastern side) (civil and military station) at the beginning of the 19th century, when they moved the British troops, which garrisoned at Srirangapatna, by 1807, some of the British regiments occupied the barracks built near

Ulsoor village and civil population, attracted by the trade and other employment opportunities offered by these troops, began to settle down near the military settlements. This report delves into the 19th century evolution of Bengaluru as an industrial hub, tracing its transformation from a strategic military Cantonment to a burgeoning center of industrial activity. Examining key factors such as British colonial policies, economic imperatives, and technological advancements, the report illuminates the historical processes that shaped Bengaluru's industrial landscape during this pivotal century.

Establishment of early industries and their pivotal role in supporting military infrastructure during the city's nascent stages. Focusing on the 19th century, the present paper illuminates the symbiotic relationship between industrial development and the strategic military objectives that shaped Bengaluru's trajectory as a burgeoning urban center.

Due to heavy industrialization taking place in the outskirts, the city witnessed an abnormal increase in the population. Availability of Land, Skilled Labour and other facilities has contributed to the industrial growth in and around of Bangalore. Initially people were engaged in the manufacturing of small and fancy goods, cosmetics and incense sticks. Availability of good climatic condition gave good scope for Sericulture development in the city, which received huge patronage under Muslim Rulers.

The Marathas encouraged the trade and commerce in Bangalore to enhance their revenue. By then many skilled professionals were permanently settled in and around of Bangalore city. Further Chikka Devaraja Wodeyar had given the special consideration to the textile industry and sheltered 12,000 weavers from Barha Mahal area after he obtained Bangalore and Hosakote from Mughals. When Hyder Ali, became the ruler, he encouraged Persian weavers and brought specialized weavers of silk and ornamental textile designers of Sourashtra origin from Arcot and made them settle down in Bangalore. Following his footsteps, his son Tipu Sultan brought weavers of Khatri Community of Gujarat from Tanjavor. During his tenure he had established a few new industries across the province. He was enthusiastic to introduce new and modern technological production

units. He invited some artisans from France and asked them to produce and teach the same to natives. He even encouraged to produce paper, textiles of wider width, steel handy weapons and the advanced weapons. But weaving was the prime business of Bangalore. Every weaver was having their own looms at home and weaved cloths according to the specifications of the customers. Francis Buchanan, a British traveler, who visited Bangalore during 1800 AD, made a note on the multi-faceted business activities of Bangalore and its socio-economic life styles. In his words: "The weavers of Bangalore were skilled and brilliant artisans, who were experts in weaving of any kind of artistic and ornamental fabrics". He speaks of the Pattegars and Cutlery community in Bangalore, who used to manufacture the rich ornamental embroidery clothes. They were highly skilled artisans in colour dyeing and were wealthier than their counterparts.

Textile industries received maximum encouragement in the city. The first textile mill on modern lines was established in 1884 in the name of Maharaja of Mysore. It was finally taken over by Binny and Company in 1886. Cotton Yarn, Woolen and Silk Fabrics were manufactured in this unit. In 1919, the Minerva Mills was established for manufacturing of Cotton Fabrics, which was started by Sirur and company. Outbreak of two world wars during the same period, turned out to be a boon for the industrial growth of the city. Import of goods completely stopped during this period and all requirements were supposed to be met with domestic production. Then the princely state Mysore, was the foremost in utilizing this opportunity and bringing in a new revolution in the industrial field. On account of its strategic location and natural facilities, Bangalore was selected by most of the new industrial concerns as the location of their industries.

During the 2nd World War, the country again faced difficulties in foreign trade. This contributed too many new industries to come up in Bangalore, When England and its allies entered into war with Japan, they were badly in need of an over hauling station and assembly line for aircrafts in India. With this intention, the HAL at Bangalore was started. Even after the war, they did not discard the industry in view of its useful nature and allowed it to expand gradually. In addition,

a number of engineering industries, including power looms were established in various parts of the city. These factors resulted in a tremendous increase in the population of the city.

Several incentives offered by both Central and State government, to achieve self sufficiency. As a result many private large scale industries came up such as: Kirloskar, Mico etc., with all this, the size of the city grew by many times. The beginning of 20th century brought about brighter prospects for industry in the city, due to State Government setting up hydro electric power station at Shivanasamudra in 1902. Bangalore is the first city to get electricity in 1905. Therefore re-tracing the history of Bangalore, unveils many milestones, through which the city has passed over the years. In wake of this, the present study has been undertaken to identify the footprints of Bangalore city and industrial development associated with it.

Objectives of the study:

- To understand the Industrial growth of Bengaluru city during different phases.
- To identify the impact of British Rule on the Industrial growth of the city.
- To explore the growth and development pattern of Bangalore city.
- To study the evolution of employment opportunities and skill migration.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Type of Research: It is a historical research.

Sources of Data: The present paper is a desk report and has been prepared using only the secondary data collected from various books, Ephigraphia Karnataka, Various articles published in several national and international journals, websites etc.,

Summary:

The availability of natural resources, the dexterity of the natives, availability of raw materials and climatic conditions have contributed, in Bangalore becoming a natural hub for all kinds of industries. Bangalore reached its own glory and legacy due to its handicrafts and other industrial products. Establishment of many industries in the city has attracted many skilled workers and artisans to migrate and to settle in this

place. From many decades, Bangalore was known for its reeling and weaving industries. Bangalore had trade relations with other places such as Dharmavaram, Penugonda, Kashi, Tanjavooru, Vellore, Kanchi etc., Industrial revolution of England, changed the fate of our artisans. Britishers used to procure raw materials from India, take it to their native, convert them into finished products using mechanisation. The products produced using machineries were finite and qualitative. It drove out the demand for native products. Many native skilled professionals lost their bread and became poor refugees. Due to mechanisation, the thread and textile products were cheap and were available with a tag of 'Made in England'. As a result of all this, the native weaving industry lost its prominence and weavers became totally jobless.

Later, the internal insurgency in America during 1860's led to establishment of industrial mechanaries in Bangalore. Around 1850, several medium and large scale industries came up in Bangalore city. In 1896, Tata Silk Farm was established near Basavanagudi. In 1910, Mane Roller Flour Mills Private Limited, in 1912, the Imperial Tobacco company India Limited and the Government Porcelain factory, in 1915, United Breweries Limited, in 1916, the Bangalore Printing and Publishing Company, in 1918, The Mysore Government Soap Factory, in 1934, the Government Electric Factory (KAVIKA), the AMCO Limited, the Mysore Lamp Works in 1936, the Mysore Chemical Manufacturing Limited and Mysore Vegetable Oil Products in 1938, the Mysore Glass and Enamel Works limited in 1939, Kirloskar Electrical Company in 1946, the Mysore Commerical Union and Rodick Pen company to produce the fountain pen in 1943 and several such other industries were established in Bangalore.

CONCLUSION

The first Prime Minister of Independent India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, on his visit to Bangalore said, "Bangalore is very much in picture of India of the future, especially because of the contribution of science, technology and industries in the public sector here. The state Government of Karnataka was the first state to bring out a new industrial policy of the state in conjunction with the National Industrial policy. Due to this and several other factors, many industries came up

in Bangalore. The state government has encouraged the inflow of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and has established specialised agencies such as Karnataka Small Scale Industries Development Corporation (KSSIDC), Karnataka State Financial Corporation (KSFC), Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB), Karnataka State Industrial Investment Development Corporations (KSIIDC) etc., these institutions have contributed in their own way for the industrial development of Bangalore. Last but not the least, efforts of visionaries such as Sir M. Vishweshwariah and Mirza Ismail, have contributed to the over all development of Bangalore city by setting up a strong foundation for Agricultural, Industrial and Socio developmental projects.

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