



CENSUS OF INDIA 1961
VOLUME XI
MYSORE

PART VI
VILLAGE SURVEY MONOGRAPHS

No. 38, KODAGNUR VILLAGE
Afzalpur Taluk, Gulbarga District

Editor:
K. BALASUBRAMANYAM,
of the Indian Administrative Service,
Superintendent of Census Operations in Mysore.

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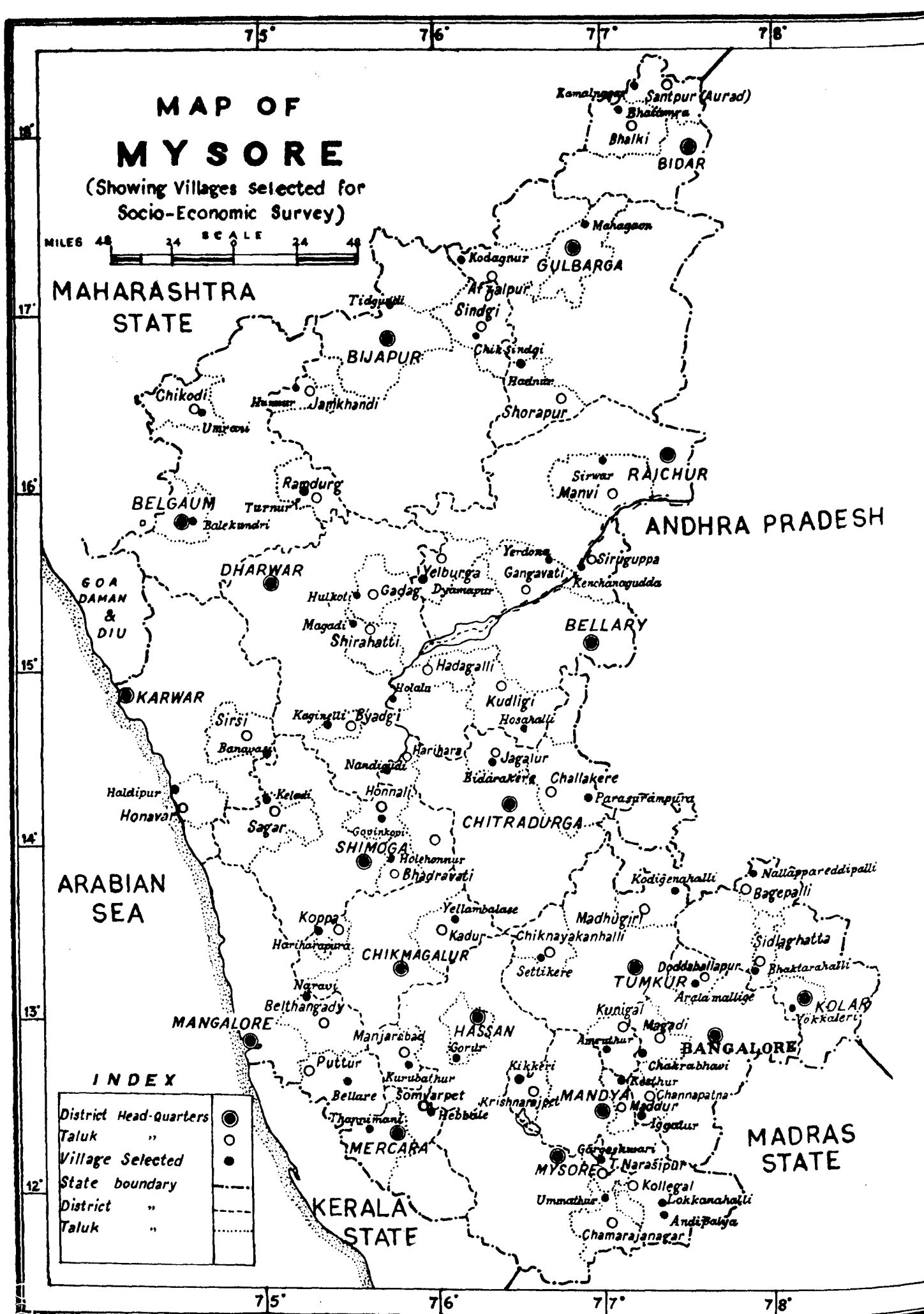
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VILLAGE SURVEY REPORT

ON

KODAGNUR

Field Investigation, and Draft Report

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FOREWORD

Apart from laying the foundations of demography in this subcontinent, a hundred years of the Indian Census has also produced 'elaborate and scholarly accounts of the variegated phenomena of Indian life—sometimes with no statistics attached, but usually with just enough statistics to give empirical underpinning to their conclusions.' In a country, largely illiterate, where statistical or numerical comprehension of even such a simple thing as age was liable to be inaccurate, an understanding of the social structure was essential. It was more necessary to attain a broad understanding of what was happening around oneself than to wrap oneself up in 'statistical ingenuity' or 'mathematical manipulation'. This explains why the Indian Census came to be interested in 'many by-paths' and 'nearly every branch of scholarship from anthropology and sociology to geography and religion'.

In the last few decades the Census has increasingly turned its efforts to the presentation of village statistics. This suits the temper of the times as well as our political and economic structure. For even as we have a great deal of centralization on the one hand and decentralisation on the other, my colleagues thought it would be a welcome continuation of the Census tradition to try to invest the dry bones of village statistics with flesh-and-blood accounts of social structure and social change. It was accordingly decided to select a few villages in every State for special study, where personal observation would be brought to bear on the interpretation of statistics to find out how much of a village was static and yet changing and how fast the winds of change were blowing and from where.

Randomness of selection was, therefore, eschewed. There was no intention to build up a picture for the whole State in quantitative terms on the basis of villages selected statistically at random. The selection was avowedly purposive: the object being as much to find out what was happening and how fast to those villages which had fewer reasons to choose change and more to remain lodged in the past as to discover how the more 'normal' types of villages were changing. They were to be primarily type studies which, by virtue of their number and distribution, would also give the reader a 'feel' of what was going on and some kind of a map of the country.

A brief account of the tests of selection will help to explain. A minimum of thirty-five villages was to be chosen with great care to represent adequately geographical, occupational and even ethnic diversity. Of this minimum of thirty-five, the distribution was to be as follows:

Census Conference in September 1959 the Survey set itself the task of what might be called a record *in situ* of material traits, like settlement patterns of the village; house types; diet; dress, ornaments and foot-wear; furniture and storing vessels; common means of transport of goods and passengers; domestication of animals and birds; markets attended; worship of deities, festivals and fairs. There were to be recordings, of course, of cultural and social traits and occupational mobility. This was followed up in March 1960 by two specimen schedules, one for each household, the other for the village as a whole, which, apart from spelling out the mode of inquiry suggested in the September 1959 conference, introduced groups of questions aimed at sensing changes in attitude and behaviour in such fields as marriage, inheritance, moveable and immoveable property, industry, indebtedness, education, community life and collective activity, social disabilities forums of appeal over disputes, village leadership, and organisation of cultural life. It was now plainly the intention to provide adequate statistical support to empirical 'feel', to approach qualitative change through statistical quantities. It had been difficult to give thought to the importance of 'just enough statistics to give empirical underpinning to conclusion', at a time when my colleagues were straining themselves to the utmost for the success of the main Census operations, but once the census count itself was left behind in March, 1961, a series of three regional seminars in Trivandrum (May 1961), Darjeeling and Srinagar (June 1961) restored their attention to this field and the importance of tracing social change through a number of well-devised statistical tables was once again recognised. This itself presupposed a fresh survey of villages already done; but it was worth the trouble in view of the possibilities that a close analysis of statistics offered, and also be-

cause the 'consanguinity' schedule remained to be canvassed. By November 1961, however, more was expected of these surveys than ever before. There was dissatisfaction on the one hand with too many general statements and a growing desire on the other to draw conclusions from statistics, to regard social and economic data as interrelated processes, and finally to examine the social and economic processes set in motion through land reforms and other laws, legislative and administrative measures, technological and cultural change. Finally, a study camp was organised in the last week of December 1961 when the whole field was carefully gone through over again and a programme worked out closely knitting the various aims of the Survey together. The Social Studies Section of the Census Commission rendered assistance to State Superintendents by way of scrutiny and technical comment on the frame of Survey and presentation of results.

This gradual unfolding of the aims of the Survey prevented my colleagues from adopting as many villages as they had originally intended to. But I believe that what may have been lost in quantity has been more than made up for in quality. This is, perhaps, for the first time that such a Survey has been conducted in any country, and that purely as a labour of love. It has succeeded in attaining what it set out to achieve; to construct a map of village India's social structure. One hopes that the volumes of this Survey will help to retain for the India Census its title to 'the most fruitful single source of information about the country'. Apart from other features, it will perhaps be conceded that the Survey has set up a new Census standard in pictorial and graphic documentation. The schedules finally adopted for this monograph have been printed in Appendices I and II to the monograph on Village Iggalur, Bangalore District.

NEW DELHI
July 30, 1964

ASHOK MITRA
REGISTRAR GENERAL, INDIA.

PREFACE

An interesting feature of the 1961 Census is the preparation of monographs on selected villages. The Registrar General, India, has in his foreword clearly explained the aims and objectives of the village surveys and has also pointed out the basis for selection of villages. In Mysore State, broadly adhering to the principles laid down by the Registrar General, 51 villages have been so selected as to give adequate representation to all the districts and also to the twenty five sub-regions into which the State has been divided by Dr. Learmonth of Liverpool University on a consideration of rainfall, physical features, cropping pattern etc.

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II—SET TABLES

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TABLES

TABLE I
Area Houses and Population

Area in		Density Per Sq. Mile	Number of Houses	Number of Households	Population		
Acres	Hectares				Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2,164	876	176	..	105	615	317	298

TABLE II
Population by Age-Groups

Total of all ages			0-4		5-9		10-14		15-19		20-24		25-29		30-34		35-44		45-59		60+		Age not stated	
Persons	Males	Females	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
615	317	298	42	54	57	53	36	27	26	25	20	24	29	38	21	5	34	28	39	32	13	12		

TABLE III
Size and Composition of Households

TABLE 13

House Type—Roof

Caste / Tribe / Community	Number of Households	No. of Housholds with Mud Roof	No. of Households with Thatched roof	No. of Households with zinc sheet roof
1	2	3	4	5
Lingayat	49	41	6	2
Kabbaligaru	26	11	14	1
Holeya	13	12	1	..
Madiga	8	..	8	..
Kuruba	5	4	1	..
Panchala	1	1	..	..
Muslims	3	3	..	..
Total	105	72	30	3

TABLE 13-A

House Type—Wall

Caste / Tribe / Community	No. of Households	Mud wall	Thatched wall	Stone wall
1	2	3	4	5
Lingayat	49	13	7	29
Kabbaligaru	26	10	14	2
Holeya	13	10	2	1
Madiga	8	..	8	..
Kuruba	5	1	2	2
Panchala	1	1	..	..
Muslims	3	3	..	..
Total	105	39	32	34