

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

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1.1 INTRODUCTION :

In a country like India, which predominantly is an agricultural one, the conditions of agricultural labour, as revealed by several studies from time to time, have been extremely poor, despite several schemes and various acts passed by the Government to protect the interest of this hard toiling class; even now call for an intensive study which would bring out some more facts of their problems so as to suggest the remedial measures. The present study is one such attempt where the canvass of study is restricted to a small village in the Konkan Region of Maharashtra State.

1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM :

The problem under present investigation can be precisely stated in the following words :

The economic conditions in particular and living conditions in general of agricultural labourers in the village under study are changed to some extent although they still face the problems of underemployment, poverty and indebtedness.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

Following are the objectives of the present study. :

- A) To study the social and economic conditions of agricultural labour in the selected village.
- B) To study the pattern of wage determination of agricultural labour in the selected village.
- C) To examine the nature of employment of agricultural labour in the selected village.
- D) To suggest suitable measures on the basis of conclusions of the study.

1.4 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY :

The present study is basically a case study of one village in the Konkan Region. The selection of the village was mainly guided by the availability of adequate data at the secondary level and possibility of getting appropriate data at the primary level from the agricultural labourers. Since it is a case study, it was decided to go for an intensive study of the agricultural labourers in the village. For this 50% of the total enrolled agricultural labourers were decided to be included in the sample. The actual sampling procedure for selecting 110 agricultural labourers is described in the chapter IV at the appropriate place. This primary data was supported by the relevant secondary data made available from the various offices at the village and district levels. In addition to this a few similar studies concerning the agricultural

labourers have also been reviewed and have been reported in the subsequent chapter.

Thus, the methodology consisted of a case study through a sample survey leading to the primary data, the appropriate secondary data and the processing of both these types of data for their meaningful interpretation.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY :

Over the last forty years, several studies have been conducted by various scholars and organizations with regard to the problems and conditions of agricultural labour but the present study is significant as it is pertaining to one particular village in the Konkan Region. The main objective in concentrating on one village was to make an intensive study of the labourers in the selected village. The inferences drawn therefore are likely to be equally applicable to similar villages in the Konkan Region.

1.6 CHAPTER SCHEME :

The outline of the chapter scheme adopted for the present study is as under. :

CHAPTER : I : INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY.

CHAPTER : II : AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS. : A PRELUDE.

CHAPTER : III : PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA.

CHAPTER : IV : RESULTS OF THE SAMPLE SURVEY.

CHAPTER : V : MAIN FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS.