

### CHAPTER-III

#### THE PROFILE OF IMMIGRANTS

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### CHAPTER-III

#### THE PROFILE OF IMMIGRANTS

##### 3.1 INTRODUCTION :

In this chapter we propose to present a comprehensive profile of the immigrant labour working in the brick-making units under study. The information covers aspects related to identification details, demographic characteristics, education, work characteristics, and basic information regarding the number of earners in the family. This profile is based on the classified data, which were collected in the sample survey. The sample survey covered immigrant families working in brick-making units located at three villages Ankali, Haripur and Sangalwadi.

TABLE No. 3.1

#### CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS BY LOCATION (SITE)

Sr. No.	Name of the sample village	Number of respo- ndents selected under study	Total Number of respondents (Households)
1.	Ankali	60	600
2.	Haripur	70	692
3.	Sangalwadi	10	90
Total Number of Sample		140	1382

Table No. 3.1 presents the data regarding classification of respondents by location. According to Sangli District Gazzettes there are mainly six villages where brick-making units, are concentrated. These villages are Ankali, Bhilawadi, Dhamani, Haripur and Sangalwadi. These villages are situated on the banks of the rivers Krishna and Warana. The location of these brick-making units at these particular places is explained by the easy, cheap and abundant availability of the basic raw materials - fine clay, silt and water - along the river banks. Another important consideration regarding location is the proximity of the pucca road link. Of these six villages, we have selected the three villages, i.e. Ankali, Haripur and Sangalwadi which are immediately and easily accessible from Sangli. In the second stage we classified the brick-making units by size of their operations - Large, medium and small - determined by the number of brick-layers units. In this exercise, we have classified brick-kiln with two to four brick-layers units as small size, brick-kiln with five to seven brick-layers units as medium size, and brick-kiln with eight and more brick layers units as large size.

### 3.2. TYPES OF WORK DONE BY THE IMMIGRANTS :

In the process of brick making, four important operations are involved. These are -

- 1) securing the clay and silt and transport them to the brick-layers yards,
- 2) forming and laying the bricks,
- 3) Transporting the sun dried bricks to the kiln,
- 4) Operating the brick-kiln, where the bricks are fired and strengthened.

The division of labour in brick-making activity is based on these four processes.

TABLE No. 3.2

CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS BY THE TYPES OF WORKS

Location (Site)	Type of work				Total No. of Respo- ndents
	Brick kiln operator	Brick layer	Securing silt and transpo- rting	Brick Transpo- rting	
Ankali	5	35	5	15	60
Haripur	6	40	6	18	70
Sangalwadi	1	5	-	4	10
Total Number of samples	12	80	11	37	140

Table No. 3.2 gives classification of sample respondents by the type of work, which they perform. Of course, the classification is given with reference to specific location. In our sample, we have choosen twelve kiln operators, eighty brick-layers, eleven clay and silt

transporters and thirty seven brick transporters. It has been observed by us that the quantative inter-relationship between these various processes in terms of labour units is fairly represented by our sample.

### 3.3 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IMMIGRANTS :

In this section, we examine some of the basic demographic characteristics of the immigrants on the basis of the data collected by the sample survey.

#### 3.3.1 Sex Composition :

TABLE No. 3.3

#### DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY SEX

Location (Site)	Total No. of Respo- ndents	Male	Female
Ankali	60	45	15
Haripur	70	52	18
Sangalwadi	10	6	4
Total No. of Respondents	140	103	37
Percentage	100.00	73.57	26.43

Table No. 3.3 gives information regarding the sex composition of immigrants labour. It is clear from the data, our samples of immigrant workers consist of a larger

proportion of male respondents than female respondents. The male proportion in the sample is 73.57% of total workers and female proportion is 26.43%. It, however, should not be considered as sex ratio for the total population of immigrant families, inclusive of their children. The greater proportion of male respondents is derived from the fact that in the brick making processes excepting the work of brick transportation, other activities are almost invariably performed by male workers.

### 3.3.2 Age Structure of the Sample :

Information regarding age structure of the sample is given in Table No. 3.4. We divided the immigrants workers into six age groups by sex. It is seen that 87.13% of the immigrant workers belong to the age groups falling between 16 years to 45 years. Only 7.85% of the immigrant workers belong to the age groups 46 years and above. Similarly workers below the age of 15 years form 4.99% of the total. It is thus clear that majority of the immigrant workers belong to the more active, productive age-range i.e. 15 years to 45 years. This finding supports the generally accepted, view that it is mainly the young people who migrate.

TABLE No. 3.4

CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS BY AGE AND SEX

Location (Site)	Sex	Upto 15 years	16 to 25 years	26 to 35 years	36 to 45 years	46 to 55 years	Above 56 years	Total No.
Ankali	Male	-	3	17	21	4	-	45
	Female	2	5	7	1	-	-	15
Haripur	Male	1	2	20	23	6	-	52
	Female	4	6	6	1	1	-	18
Sangalwadi	Male	-	2	3	1	-	-	6
	Female	-	2	2	-	-	-	4
Total Number of Respondents		7	20	55	47	11	-	140
Percentage :		4.99	14.28	39.28	33.57	7.85	-	100.00

### 3.3.3 Marital Status of the Immigrant Workers :

85% of the immigrant workers were found to be married. The distribution of the married workers among three locations selected, was almost proportionate to the distribution of total number of respondents among the location. Only 12.15% of the workers were unmarried, and others were widows or widowers. No cases of deserted female workers or divorced workers were reported. We also made enquiry regarding the number of times the respondents married. It was found out that of the 119 married respondents 116 married only once and 3 respondents had married twice. The second marriage in case of 3 respondents was necessitated either by separation or by the death of first wife. No case of second marriage of female workers was reported. It is to be noted here that, the nature of the work in the brick-making units is such that it is more convenient and economically more beneficial, if workers migrate family as a whole rather than singly. In most of the cases the female members of the immigrant worker family get employment as brick transporters and thus can add to the total earnings of the family. The data regarding marital status of respondents are given in Table No. 3.5



TABLE No.3.5DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY MARITAL STATUS

Location (Site)	No. of respon- dents	Married	Un- married	Widow	Wido- wer	Deserted/ Divorced
Ankali	60	52	8	-	-	-
Haripur	78	68	6	3	1	-
Sangalwadi	10	7	3	-	-	-
Total No.of Respondents	140	119	17	3	1	-
Percentage	100.00	85.00	12.15	2.14	0.71	-

3.3.4 Mother Tongue of Respondents :TABLE No. 3.6DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY MOTHER TONGUE

Location (Site)	Total No. of Respo- ndents	Mother tongue				Total
		Mara- thi	Kannada	Kai- kadi	Urdu/ Hindi	
Ankali	60	28	28	3	1	-
Haripur	70	42	11	4	13	-
Sangalwadi	10	10	-	-	-	-
Total No. of Respon- dents	140	80	39	7	14	-
Percentage	100.00	57.14	27.86	5.00	10.00	-

Table No. 3.6 gives classification of respondents by mother tongue. In all the three villages under study the

proportion of Marathi speaking immigrant workers is significantly high. In case of Sangalwadi all the respondents are Marathi speaking. In case of Ankali and Haripur the proportion of Kannada speaking immigrant workers is noticeable. Only 5% the respondents report Kaikadi as their mother tongue and 10% of the respondents report either Urdu or Hindi as their mother tongue. On the basis of this information we can say that a larger proportion of immigrant workers have migrated to these places from within the state where as smaller but significant proportion of immigrant workers come from Kannada speaking areas from the bordering state of Karnataka.

### 3.3.5 Literacy and Level of Education of the Immigrant Workers :

A large proportion (72.86%) of the immigrant workers is illiterate and only 28% are literate. It seems that the observation made by Royal Commission on Labour in India (1931) still holds true.<sup>1</sup> Only 17.14% of the immigrant workers reported a schooling upto the 4th standard, 8.57% upto the 7th standard and 1.43% upto the 9th standard. None of the respondents was found to be matriculate and reported any kind of training. Interestingly, it has to be noted that no local efforts are being made to conduct adult literacy classes for the immigrant workers in these places. Of course, it is also true that these immigrant workers have never demanded any such facility and are indifferent towards the schooling of their children. Similarly, the significantly large proportion

of Kannada speaking immigrant workers also becomes a problem in the organisation of adult literacy classes in these places. Information regarding literacy and levels of education of the immigrant workers is given in Table No. 3.7.

TABLE No. 3.7

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Location (Site)	Total No. of respondents	Levels of Education			
		No Edu- cation	Upto 4th Std.	Upto 7th Std.	Upto 9th Std.
Ankali	60	42	12	6	-
Haripur	70	53	10	6	1
Sangalwadi	10	7	2	-	1
Total No. of Respon- dents	103	102	24	12	2
Percentage	100.00	72.86	17.14	8.57	1.43

3.3.6 Children per Family :

Table No. 3.8 gives information regarding number of children in the families of the immigrant workers employed in the brick-making unit. In case of 22.14% of the families no children were reported. Mainly because, these respondents were found to be unmarried workers included in the sample by random choice. However, few of these respondents were just

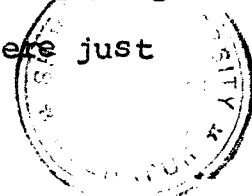


TABLE No. 3.8

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER FAMILY

Location (Site)	No. of Respondents	Nos. of children					
		Nil	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 6	7 to 8	9 to 10 and over
Ankali	60	14	18	22	5	-	1
Haripur	70	14	17	30	8	1	-
Sangalwadi	10	3	5	2	-	-	-
Total No. of Respondents	140	31	40	54	13	1	1
Percentage	100.00	22.14	28.57	38.57	9.29	0.71	0.71

recently married. In case of 28.57% families the number of children reported was 1 to 2. In case of 38.57% of families this figure was 3 to 4 children. Only in case of 10.71% of the families the number of children was 5 or more. We can say that a significant proportion of immigrant families (49.28%) report more than three children in the family.

In view of the fact that a very large proportion of these worker-families have on an average a stay of more than three years at the place of migration indicates that, the family planning awareness of these people is not very keen, and perhaps, the family welfare department of the government could not reach this section of the population effectively.

TABLE No. 3.9

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSEHOLD  
SIZE (Total Nos. of Members)

(Household size) Members in the family	Ankali	Hari- pur	Sangal- wadi	Total Nos. of respo- ndents	Perce- ntage
1 to 2	-	-	-	-	-
3 to 4	13	10	4	27	19.29
5 to 6	23	36	4	63	45.00
7 to 8	18	13	-	31	22.14
9 to 10	6	9	2	17	12.14
10 Over	-	2	-	2	1.43
Total No. of respondents	60	70	10	140	100.00

Table No. 3.9 gives information regarding the classification of immigrant households according to the household size. The average size of the household (the total number of members in the family) is found to be 5.8. However, it is to be noted that a significant proportion (45%) of the worker families report a household size of 5 to 6 members, 22.14% report a size of 7 to 8 members, followed by 19.29% reporting a family size of 3 to 4 members.

### 3.3.7 Caste Composition of the Immigrant workers :

In this survey an attempt was made to find out the caste composition of immigrant workers. Information regarding this aspect is given in Table No. 3.10. On the basis of religion it can be said that only 10.71% of the immigrant workers belong to Muslim religion and rest belong to Hindu religion. Among the immigrant workers who belong to Hindu religion a very high proportion of respondents (45.71%) belong to the backward classes generally described as the Harijan.

It is really surprising to note that only 2 immigrant workers (1.43%) of the sample belong to the Kumbhar communities the traditional balutedar, who are supposed to be potters and brick-makers. The other immigrant workers belong to the Lingayat (12.15%) and Maratha (9.29%) communities, the rest belong to other balutedar categories

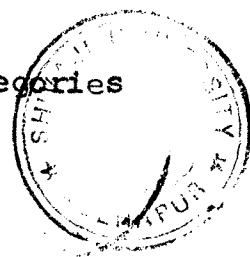


TABLE No. 3.10

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THE CASTE

Location (Site)	No. of Respon- dents	Types of Caste						Others including Parit, Chambhar, Gavandi, Nhavi, Bhui, Shimpi, Wadar etc.
		Harijan (B.C.)	Lingayat	Maratha	Kumbhar	Beldar/ Kaikadi	Muslim	
Ankali	60	30	87	6	1	6	3	6
Haripur	70	12	5	5	1	6	13	9
Sangalwadi	10	2	4	2	-	-	-	2
Total No. of Respondents	140	64	17	13	2	12	15	17
Percentage	100.00	45.71	12.15	9.29	1.43	8.57	10.71	12.14

like washerman, cobblers, masons, barbers, tailors and fisherman etc. The fact that the high proportion of immigrant workers belongs to the backward classes can be explained on the basis of social and other handicaps which they face in the interior & rural areas, which induce them to migrate in the first place and make them stay at the place of migration for a longer period.

#### 3.4 LENGTH OF IMMIGRATION AND JOB EXPERIENCE :

The Royal Commission on Labour (1931) discussed the problem of Semi-permanent nature of labour force. According to the Commission, the semi-permanent labour force is constituted by those workers who after migration have permanently settled in the city or work place and/or workers who follow industrial or other occupation and have lost all contact with their villages.<sup>2</sup> In our study we have tried to find out this aspect of the immigrant workers with the help of indicators, firstly, the length of stay of the workers at the place of work and secondly the length of their job experience in the brick-making industry. This information is given in table numbers 3.11 and 3.12.



TABLE No. 3.11DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS BY  
DURATION OF STAY AT DISTINATION

Location (Site)	Total No. of Sam- ples	Duration of Stay						
		Rece- ntly Less than 1 yr.	1 to 2 yrs.	3 to 5 yrs.	6 to 10 yrs.	11 to 15 yrs.	16 to 20 yrs.	Above 21 yrs.
Ankali	60	-	5	15	15	10	13	2
Haripur	70	1	4	19	20	10	12	4
Sangalwadi	10	-	2	-	2	3	1	2
Total No. of Respo- ndents	140	1	11	34	37	23	26	8
Percen- tage	100.00	0.71	7.86	24.29	26.43	16.43	18.57	5.71

In Table No. 3.11, it is clearly seen that in case of all the three places, the proportion of immigrants workers whose length of stay at the place has been more than three years is 91.43% whereas only 8.57% of the immigrant workers have less than two years settlement history. If we look at the data in a different way, we can say that 67.14% of the immigrant workers have been staying at the place of work for more than six years. In other words, we can say that these immigrant workers are almost permanently settled.

TABLE No. 3.12

CLASSIFICATION OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS BY  
LENGTH OF JOB EXPERIENCE

Location (Site)	Total No. of samples	Length of Service				
		1 to 5 yrs.	6 to 10 yrs.	11 to 15 yrs.	16 to 20 yrs.	Above 21 yrs
Ankali	60	20	17	11	10	2
Haripur	70	24	22	6	15	3
Sangalwadi	10	2	5	2	1	-
Total No. of respondents	140	45	44	19	26	5
Percentage	100.00	32.86	31.43	13.57	18.57	3.57

Data regarding length of job experience given in Table No. 3.12 shows that 67.14% of the immigrant workers have more than six years job experience in brick-making industry. In other words, the dependence on this particular source of employment is very much evident and may perhaps be considered as a kind of necessary attachment if not voluntary commitment to this job. Another implication of this job commitment may be that they find the particular work more remunerative or alternatively more remunerative job opportunities are not available in the local areas.

### 3.5 EARNING AND DEPENDENT MEMBERS :

As stated earlier in case of most of the immigrant workers families the total earning is the result of the working head of the family a long with the earnings of some of the members of families who also work mainly in the brick-making industry. This particular fact is revealed by the data in Table No. 3.13.

TABLE No. 3.13

#### CLASSIFICATION OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS OF EARNERS IN THE FAMILY

Earning members	Ankali	Haripur	Sangal- wadi	Total No. of res- pondents	Percentage
One	1	-	-	1	0.71
Two	12	8	-	20	14.29
Three	17	32	6	55	39.29
Four	14	15	2	31	22.14
Five	6	10	2	18	12.86
Six	7	3	-	10	7.14
Seven	3	1	-	4	2.86
Eight	-	1	-	1	0.71
Total No. of Samples	60	70	10	140	100.00

It is seen that 75.72% of immigrant families have 2 to 4 earning members where as there was found to be only one family which had a single earning member unit. It is also seen that 20% of the immigrant families report 5 to 6 earning members. In other words we have to conclude that in case of the immigrant families both the husband and wife are invariably earning members of the family and the increasing number of earning members in certain families may be due to higher proportion of grown-up children. This is easily varified if we look at the data given in Table No. 3.4.

#### 3.5.1 Partially dependent relations at the place of origin :

We have seen earlier the position regarding the number of earning members in the families of immigrant workers under para No. 3.5. It can be said that the total earnings of the immigrant workers family depend on the total earning members of the family but total earnings thus arrived at, will not be available for disposal locally if the immigrant workers have some partially dependent relations at the place of origin, to whom he has to remit certain amount periodically. In such a situation the economic conditions of the immigrant workers families suffer to a certain extent despite the hard work of the locally earning members. We have tried to find out information in this regard which is given in Table No. 3.14.

TABLE No. 3.14DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES BY PARTIALLY  
DEPENDENT RELATIONS AT THE PLACE OF ORIGIN

Nos. partially distant dependents	Ankali	Haripur	Sangal- wadi	No. of immigra- nts	Perce- ntage
Nil	41	58	8	107	76.43
One	6	3	2	11	7.86
Two	7	7	-	14	10.00
Three	-	1	-	1	0.71
Four	1	1	-	-	-
Five	-	-	-	-	-
Six	-	-	-	-	-
Seven	-	-	-	-	-
Total No. of Respondents	55	70	10	135	

From this table it is clear that 76.43% of the immigrant families do not have partially dependent relations at the place of origin. This fact implies two things. Firstly, these immigrant families have migrated for good and secondly, they have severed all their economic links with the place of origin. In case of other immigrant families the number of partially dependent relations at the place of origin varies between 1 to 4. The percentage of such

immigrant families is less than 20%. Of the 140 families covered 5 immigrant families did not respond to queries in this regard.

### 3.5.2 Non-earning Dependence :

By non-earning dependence, we have in mind two categories - one non-earning members residing with the immigrant family we designate as local non-earning dependents and two, fully dependent relations at the place of origin which we call as distant non-earning dependence. In the first group, are generally included minor children of the immigrant workers and/or invalid or sick adult members of the family. In the second are generally included the old parents of the immigrant workers as also the partially dependent relations at the place of origin. For practical purposes we can say that larger the number of such local and distant non-earning members, the more difficult it will be for immigrant family to make its both ends meet. Information regarding such non-earning members of the family is given in Table No. 3.15.

It is seen that majority of the immigrant families (80%) have from one to three local non-earning dependents. On the other hand 65% of the immigrant workers have no non-

TABLE No. 3.15

DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES BY NON-EARNING  
DEPENDENT IN THE FAMILY

Non-earning dependent	Ankali		Haripur		Sangalwadi		Total Non-earning dependent	
	Local	Distant	Local	Distant	Local	Distant	Local	Distant
Nil	6	41	5	42	4	8	15 (10.71)	91 (65.00)
One	17	9	20	11	1	-	38 (27.14)	20 (14.29)
Two	16	10	24	10	1	2	41 (29.29)	22 (15.71)
Three	16	-	15	2	2	-	33 (23.57)	2 ( 2.43)
Four	5	-	4	-	-	-	9 ( 6.43)	-
Five	-	-	1	-	2	-	3 ( 2.14)	-
Six	-	-	1	-	-	-	1 ( 0.71)	-
Total No. of Respondents	60	60	70	65	10	10	140	135

N.B. : Figures in the brackets are percentage.

earning dependents at the place of origin. 30% of the immigrant workers have one to two distant non-earning dependents. Even if we examine this information with reference to individual villages, the pattern remains almost the same. From these observations it becomes clear that, majority of immigrant families have become paramanently attached to the local brick-making industry.



REFERENCES

- 1) Govt. of India, Report of the Royal Commission on Labour in India (1931), Vol. I, Part-I, p. 27, "In India nearly the whole mass of industrial labour is illiterate a state of affairs which is unknown in any other country of industrial importance."
- 2) Report of the Royal Commission on Labour, 1931, Vol. I, Part-I, p. 13.