

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 THE GENESIS OF THE PROBLEM
- 1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM
- 1.3 CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS
- 1.4 PROFILE OF STUDY AREA
- 1.5 PROFILE OF THE BRICK-MAKING INDUSTRY
- 1.6 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
- 1.7 THE METHODOLOGY OF INVESTIGATION
- 1.8 LIMITATION

REFERENCES

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE GENESIS OF THE PROBLEM :

The present study owes its birth to my participation as programme officer in the National Service Scheme of my College during 1980 to 1983. Under this scheme Haripur, a village adjacent to Sangli was adopted for social work as a part of N.S.S. activity. Haripur is one of the important seats of brick-making industry in Sangli district. In our frequent visits to Haripur our N.S.S. Unit became interested in the socio-economic survey of the labouring population employed in the brick-making units. The major characteristic of this labour is that most of the workers do not belong to the local area and that they have come there from far flung places like villages belonging to drought prone talukas, (Jath, Atpadi, and Kavathe Mahankal) of Sangli district as also from drought prone districts of Karnataka the neighbouring state.

In general, small and marginal farmers and landless labourers, who mostly belong to backward class communities form the low income groups in the rural economy. To this population living in extreme poverty, is added the growing inflow of the labourers attracted by the local brick-making industry located at certain villages in the vicinity of Sangli, which is the district headquarter as also a rapidly

growing commercial, industrial and cultural centre in the region. These villages are Ankali, Haripur and Sangalwadi all of which are located on the banks of the river Krishna.

Even a single visit to any one of these villages makes a keen observer aware of the isolated settlements of immigrant workers employed in brick-making units. The poverty of these people is evident and extreme. It was on this background that, we were propelled into this area of study. Regarding these immigrant workers, following questions become of analytical interest.

- 1) Why do these workers migrate ?
- 2) Who are these workers who migrate ?
(Pre-migration socio-economic conditions).
- 3) What is the pattern of origins of these
immigrant workers ?
- 4) What are the present socio-economic conditions
of immigrant workers ?

To answer these and other related questions, it was decided to conduct a sample survey of the immigrant workers in these three villages.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM :

In the following paragraphs we make the explicit statement of the problems followed by a discussion regarding the scope of the study. Similarly, all the important terms

and concepts used in this study are carefully explained and defined.

The brick-making industry is by nature labour intensive and raw material located. However, a large proportion of the labour supply which these units get comes from drought-prone areas adjacent to Sangli district (from within the state areas like Jath, Atpadi, Kavathe Mahankal, Solapur, Barshi, Pandharpur etc. and from outside the state mainly Bijapur and Belgaum districts of Karnataka State).

Most of these labourers belong to economically and socially backward classes and depend for their subsistence on the availability of regular and meaningful employment opportunity which they do not get their native areas. This class of labourers apparently leads a life of abject poverty; continuous insecurity and social isolation. Moreover, the large proportion of immigrant workers working in the local brick-making units, has a bearing on the local overall labour market, particularly the labour supply situation.

It also has to be remembered that employment in brick-making is mainly seasonal and not round the year. Moreover, the employment itself is casual in nature. If we look to the location of a brick-kiln in the open field without any barricades or boundry walls we can well imagine

how difficult it would be to keep the labour continuously attached to the production unit.

On the other hand the local labour force is not very much interested in the brick-making activity and as a result owners feel themselves dependent on the migratory labour for running their kilns. Therefore, they are forced to remit thousands of rupees as advances to the immigrant labour. The system of giving advances to the workers is as old as the brick-kilns themselves. Almost all the immigrant workers agree that the advances paid to them in one season are generally greater than the amount due to them for their labour. As a result, they have to come back again the next season for work in lieu of repayment. This practice creates a kind of bondage ensuring a regular but periodic supply of labour. In certain cases an element of compulsion is also involved.

Eventhough most of the labourers in this industry (brick-making) migrate year after year, they do not enjoy reemployment rights in the same production unit. They are not organised in unions and have little access to systematic means of job seeking. It is evident from their extremely poor living conditions that they are subject to a large extent of economic exploitation.

The most important fact is that they have to work in unfavourable socio-economic conditions. Generally, a large proportion of these immigrant workers lives a squalid life in most insecure Zopadpattis. To assess the reality of living conditions of these immigrant workers is one of the major objectives of this sample survey covering three brick-making villages.

1.3 CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS :

We now explain the basic concepts and definitions adopted in the present sample survey and analysis of data collected.

1.3.1 Household :

A household has been defined as consisting of a person or a group of persons who normally pass nights under the same roof and ordinarily take food from the same kitchen.¹

Thus, in so far as socio-economic survey of immigrant labourers is concerned only immigrant members (which excludes guests and includes temporary absentees) are considered in determining the household size.

1.3.2 Migration :

The dictionary definition of the verb 'to migrate' is to move from one place (country, town, house) to another.² Migration generally refers to the movement or shift of

people from their native place to a new place. The geographers' simple definition of migration is not very different from this general view; a migration is a change in the place of residence.

Nevertheless, the concept of mobility and its sub-set migration, is of use in clarifying what is implied by a residential movement. The patterns of mobility or circulation followed by any particular individual must centre on his place of residence which provides a permanent reference point and base. Hagerstrand (1957) in his major study of Swedish migration fields, has defined migration as the change in the centre of gravity of an individuals mobility pattern.³

1.3.3 Migrant labour :

Workers who seek engagement in seasonal and temporary employment without becoming permanent residents of the areas where they work are called migrant labourers.⁴ The complementary process of emigration means moving out of the place of origin or shift of workers from their native place to a new place and immigration means moving into the place of destination or reaching the place of destination. Immigration generally refers to the permanent change of residence by an individual or a group. Migration thus consists of two sub-sets or processes.. In the definition of migration the concepts of time and of geographical scale

become of vital significance. In general terms, the definition of migration that is operated, for the purposes of data collection is that migration is any residential movement which occurs between administrative units over a given period of time.⁵

1.3.4 In this study, by immigrant labour, we mean those workers and their families who have migrated from outside places to any one of the places under study and have become regular residents of the place for a period of more than a year and are employed in the brick-making units for a major portion of their working days in it.

1.3.5 In brick-making industry following are the types of work in which the division of labour takes place :

A) Brick-Kiln Operator :

In local language, a brick-kiln operator is known as BHATKAR. A brick-kiln operator is the worker who arranges dried bricks in an oven type chamber capable of producing very high temperature ranging between 1600° to 2000°f. This process is meant for firing and hardening the brick in the subsequent process of cooling. The kiln operator requires a fairly good skill and experience. He has to work in relatively more hazardous conditions.

B) Brick-layer :

Brick-layer who is known in local language as VITKAR is the worker who forms the mud and converts that into wet bricks to be placed for drying in sunlight by himself. His work is less hazardous and requires little skill as conversion of mud into brick is made with the help of a wooden mould known as 'Vital' in the local language. However, it is said that traditional potters are generally more adept at this process. This work usually requires assistance of two adults and one child worker.

C) Silt-Clay Transporter :

He is the worker who collects silt clay from the river bank and then loads it on a donkey for unloading at the brick-layers circle which in local language is known as ALI. This work is generally done by two adult workers in pair, one of whom loads the clay and the other drives the donkey and unloads the clay.

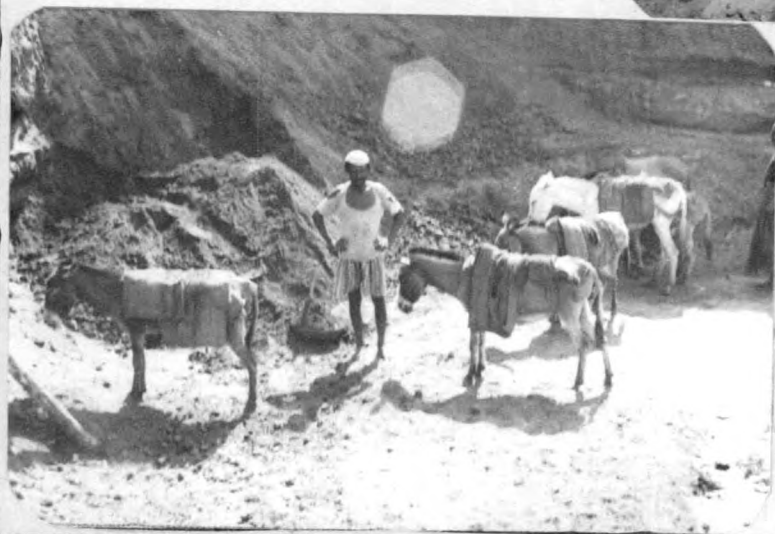
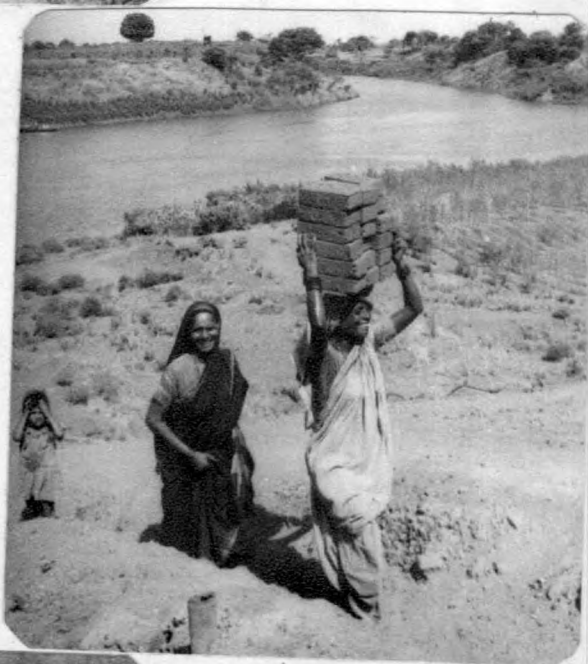
D) Brick-Transporter :

After the bricks are dried in the sun, they are to be handed over to the kiln-operator for arrangement. The distance involved between the kiln and the Ali generally ranges between 200 to 500 feet. However, the weight involved is more important. This work is generally carried out by



Brick-layer (Vitkar)
and his assistants

Brick-Transporter



Silt-Clay Transporter



Brick-kiln Operator
(Bhatkar)



Total Work site or
brick-yard



Hut-ment of the Immigrants
at the place of work site

women workers. It is also to be noted that a woman generally, carries twenty bricks at a time and the wages vary with the distance between the kiln and the ali.

1.4 PROFILE OF STUDY AREA :

The study is mainly concerned with the three important brick-making centres located in Ankali, Haripur and Sangalwadi which are within a radius of 3 to 5 miles from the Sangli city. Sangli is the district head quarters located on the eastern bank of river Krishna. It forms a bordering district with Karnataka. It is bounded on the east by the district of Bijapur in Karnataka State, on the west by the Ratnagiri district, on the south by the Kolhapur and Belgaum districts and on the north by the districts of Satara and Solapur. The district has no important mineral deposits except building stones and clay for brick. The only geological formations in the district are the valleys of Krishna, the Warana and the Yerela rivers. The beds and banks of these rivers are the main source of sand, useful in the construction works. Haripur and Nandre Sands are very much in demand for construction work. Silt is useful for brick and tile making.⁶ The silt is deposited on the banks of the rivers during flood every year. The major activity in brick-making industry is seen at Ankali, Haripur and Sangalwadi. It is also located in many other rural centres along the river banks.

MIRAJ TALUKA

DIST. — SANGLI

Taluka boundary

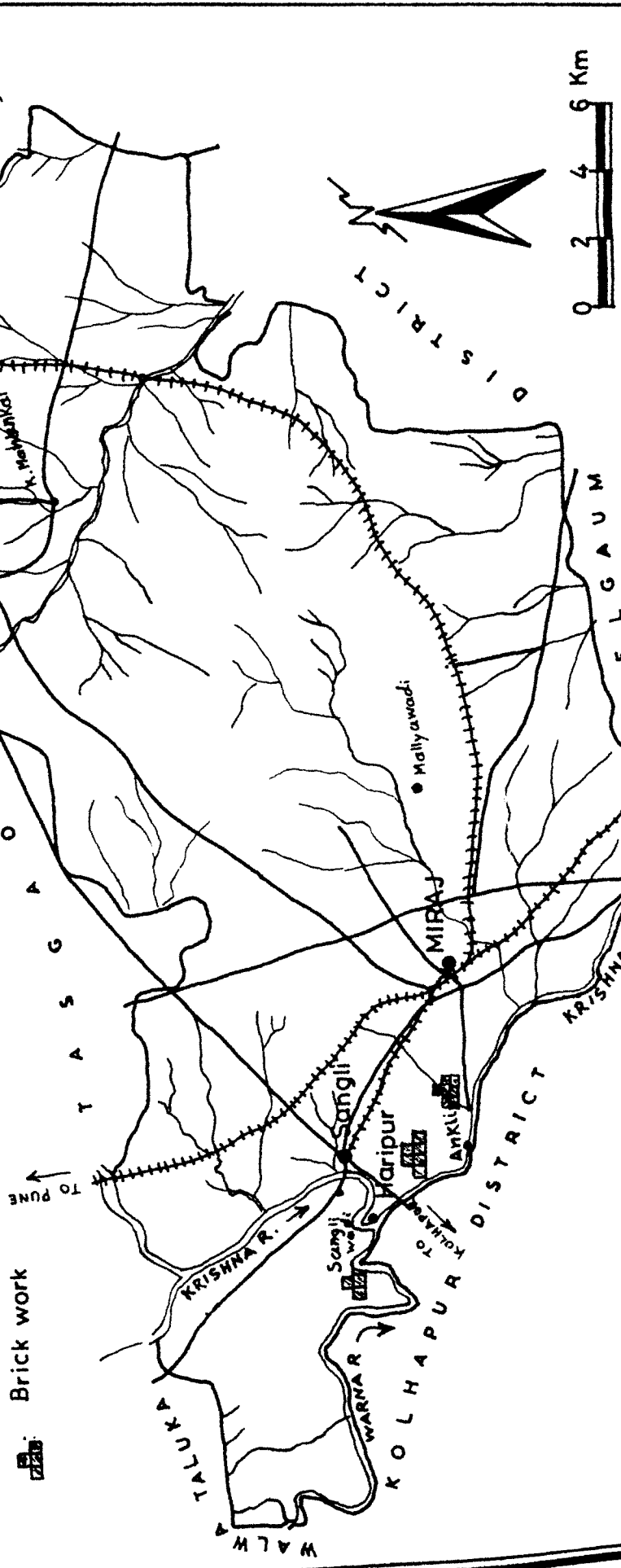
Roads

Railways

Rivers

Nalas

Brick work



The eastern part of the Sangli district (drought prone) comprising areas of Kavathe Mahankal, Atpadi and Jath tahsils and eastern parts of Khanapur, Tasgaon and Miraj tahsils have uncertain rainfall creating drought conditions almost every year.

There is seasonal out-migration from these areas of the district, in which labourers move to the brick-making industry. This seasonal out-migration is mainly from Jath and Kavathe Mahankal talukas of the district.⁷

1.4.1 The Locations of Investigation (Villages) :

A) Ankali Village (Miraj Tehsil) :

The village lies at a distance of 10 kilometres from the district headquarter of Sangli city and is situated on the eastern bank of river Krishna. Ankali is connected by a metalled pacca road with Sangli, Jaysingpur and Kolhapur. A Railway line from Miraj to Kolhapur goes by Ankali. The railway station Jaysingpur is about 5 kilometers from the village. The village is of considerable commercial importance regarding brick production and sale. Even in the early decades of this century, the village of Ankali was famous for its brick-industry. There are 60 individual owners who are engaged in brick-making industry.⁸ The village has no educational institutions except a primary school. It has Gram Panchayat and a branch post office. Its

population is a mixture of many castes and religions with 390 households and a population of 3475 in 1981.⁹ The main occupation of the people is agriculture followed by brick production. These brick-making units come under the cottage industries included in the small scale sector. There is one commercial bank branch, one non-agricultural credit society as also an agricultural multi-purpose society.

B) Haripur :

Haripur is a small village situated at a distance of 8 kilometres from district headquarters of Sangli City. Its population is a mixture of many castes and religions with 350 families with a total population of about 3900.¹⁰ It has a Gram Panchayat and branch post-office. There is one commercial bank and one co-operative society. It has a primary boys school and a primary girls school. The village is connected with Sangli City by a pucca road. But it has no direct rail link. The only means of reaching the village from Sangli City is by the roadways bus. The village actually lies on the eastern side of the confluence of the river Krishna and Warana with two famous temples Sangameshwar and Ganapathi Mandir. This village is of considerable commercial importance with 70 brick making units.¹¹ Haripur is also known for the turmeric pits where the turmeric is stored and on the basis of which the only forward market in

turmeric in India operates. The main business of the people is agriculture followed by brick-making. The characteristic of the people is that they always move to the Sangli city and establish links with the city life. This contact with the urban centre has created considerable impact on their living standards mainly with respect of dietary habits, other habits and other cultural activities.

C) Sangalwadi :

This small village situated at a distance of about 5 kilometres to the west of Sangli city lies on the western bank of Krishna river. Sangalwadi is almost a part of Sangli but being separated from Sangli by the river Krishna gives it a separable identity. The connecting link is the bridge on the river over which the roads to Poona and other places get connected. This village has also (in a small proportion) brick-making units. This village is a part of Sangli Municipal Corporation. There are only 10 units of brick-making. It has one primary school. The population of the village consists of about 110 families and about 477 people.¹² With the above description of the geographical and general features of the selected villages we shall now discuss the brief history of brick-making industry.

1.5 PROFILE OF THE BRICK-MAKING INDUSTRY :

The brick was first produced in a sun dried form at least 6000 years ago. The majority of bricks for most construction purposes have dimensions of approximately $2\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ inches (5.5 x 9.5 x 20 centimeteres).¹³

This industry is found in almost all big villages in the Sangli district. It is in a way a traditional occupation of Kumbhars, a community of artisans known as balutedars. They manufacture the bricks and tiles in the basins of the rivers Krishna and Warana where ample water and clay are available. Mud brick (dried in the sun) is one of the first building materials. The silt is deposited on the banks of the Krishna river during flood every year. This mud or silt cracks and forms cakes that can be shaped into crude building units to build huts. Burned brick requires firing.

Ankali, Bhilawadi, Haripur, Dhamani, Sangalwadi and Bramhnal are important centres of this industry in Sangli district. About 1,000 labourers were engaged in the industry in 1951. This number increased to 1934 in 1961,¹⁴ 5000 in 1981 and 7000 labourers in 1983.¹⁵ Data on the quantity of bricks produced through out the 6 villages (Sangli district) is not available. Data regarding production at higher levels (State or Country) are not available in India.

The United States Bureau of Commerce has fairly accurate data indicating that 650 crores bricks are produced annually (1970). Other data indicate that England produces about as many bricks per year as the United States. Austrilia is high in per capita production.¹⁶

1.6 TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT :

The equipment for making bricks includes moulds, sieves, kiln, buckets etc. Most of the work is done manually.

1.7 RAW MATERIALS :

The industry requires black and red (silt) clay, sand, ash, groundnut husk. Silt clay is available on the river sides. While ash coal is obtained from Miraj market or from outside areas, generally a railway station.

1.8 PRODUCTION/MANUFACTURING PROCESS :

Basically the process of making brick has not changed since the first fired bricks were produced. The steps used then are used today but with refinements. The various phases of manufacture are as follows. Securing the clay or silt, mixing the clay, moulding and forming the brick, drying, firing and cooling. Clay used today are more varied than those used by the first brick-makers.

Digging, mining and various methods of grinding enable the modern manufacturer to utilize many raw materials.

1.8.1 Preparation or Mixing
and Forming :

Proportionate and suitable silt (earth) is mixed with coke or ash and soaked for sometime in water. The mixture is then properly kneaded and prepared for making a brick.

1.8.2 The process of brick-making is very simple one. This water is removed during drying and firing which causes shrinkage of the units. It is from this process that the terms wood-mold, sand struck or water struck brick were derived.

1.8.3 Firing and Cooling :

Bricks are fired and cooled in kiln an oven type chamber capable of producing temperature of 1600° to over 2000°f (870° to 1100°c), depending on the type of raw material.¹⁷ There are two general types of kilns, periodic and continuous. The earliest type of kiln, the scove is merely a pile of dried bricks with tunnels at the bottom allowing heat from fire to pass through and upward in the pile of bricks. In so-called periodic kilns, the bricks are placed with sufficient air space to allow the heat from the fire to reach all surfaces. They are placed directly

from the drier and heat is gradually increased until the optimum firing temperature is reached. When they are sufficiently fired the heat is reduced and they are allowed to cool gradually before removal from the kiln.

1.9 USES OF BRICK AND MARKETING :

The largest use of bricks is, as it always has been in building construction. 65% of all the bricks in the world go into dwellings and 35% go into commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. Nearly 90% of the product of these units is sent to consumers in adjacent districts like Belgaum, Kolhapur, Satara, Ratnagiri and Solapur etc., which are the major fast growing urban centres in this area.

1.10 EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR :

The industry is seasonal and works for about six months i.e. from November to May. In one unit on the average 20 to 30 persons are employed. Most of the labourers are paid on the basis of piece rate. Most of the labour supply which these units get comes from outside area and villages adjacent to Sangli district. The proportion of women workers in this industry is quite significant. They are mainly the transporters of unfired bricks and/or mixers of clay.

1.11 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The major objectives of the present study are given below :

A) To examine the nature, extent, degree and composition of immigrant labour in brick-making units, their demographic characteristics (age, sex, marital status, religion, caste, educational background) occupation prior to outmigration, income of the household labour and the place of origin of migration as also the causes of migration.

The above information will reflect the nature of migration. As regards the causes of this phenomenon, it is believed that these are mostly economic. If a community is unable to provide jobs even to its own residents it is but natural that some of them would migrate to other places to earn a livelihood for themselves. It would, therefore, be necessary to collect information about causes and/or regions of migration.

B) To conduct a socio-economic survey of the conditions in which these labourers live at present. It would, therefore, be necessary to collect information from the sample of immigrants as to their present state of working conditions, whether they are satisfied with its current work and wage and if not why.

1.12 THE METHODOLOGY OF INVESTIGATION :

In this section we describe the nature and source of data, procedure for the selection of our sample, tools of research and the techniques of data analysis.

The study is conducted mainly with the help of an intensive sample survey representing the three centres adequately. The actual conduct of the survey consists of (A) A questionnaire for the immigrant labours. (B) Interview with the leaders of labours (C) On the spot observation.

The survey covers all socio-economic aspects like wage levels, employment, recruitment methods, standard of living, earnings, indebtedness, health, education, housing, transport facilities and working conditions of the labourers and causes of migration.

In addition to this the information of brick-making units regarding process of production, cost of production, method of recruitments, wage and other general information was collected with the help of personal interview with the owners brick-making units. Such information is not available from the present sources.

Secondary data on number of units, their division among different villages etc. and other published data are obtained from the official records or published gazettes of

the Government and theoretical literature regarding economics of migration was obtained from Shivaji University Library and the library of Chintamanrao College of Commerce, Sangli.

1.12.1 Sampling Frame :

A) Selection of the Villages :

It is observed that six villages or Sangli district namely (1) Ankali, (2) Bhilwadi, (3) Bhramhnal, (4) Dhamani, (5) Haripur and (6) Sangalwadi have brick-making units and the working labour force comes from outside area. The selection of villages could have been made on two basis (i) simple random sampling and (ii) purposive selection of the sample. Looking at the historical, political and contact conditions it was decided to choose Ankali, Haripur and Sangalwadi in the same taluka. Moreover, Sangli being the immediate focal point and marketing and communication/transport centre, the gravitational force of these villages will be naturally greater and as such will have a greater proportion of immigrant labour.

B) Selection of Immigrant Households' Sample :

The villages selected by us are Ankali, Haripur and Sangalwadi (all Miraj Tehsil). The next step after determining the universe of the study was the selection of sample for gathering the requisite primary information.

Since no record of the immigrant families are available with village Panchayats and also with the owners of the units it was felt necessary to conduct a census of each selected village for such immigrant labour. The numbers of immigrant families in each of the 3 villages are given in Table No. 1.

Keeping in view the number of families of labourers in each of the selected villages, we selected a sample of about 10% of the families from each village. The actual total size of the study thus consists of 140 families. In ultimate analysis, the sample turns out to be purposive random sample.

C) Investigation Procedure :

All the units of three villages selected for the study were visited before drawing the actual sample because it was necessary to collect primary data of immigrant labour. During these visits census revealed 1340 families of the labours in three centres. We got our data with the help of local labourers primary school teachers and owners of the units. The census data on immigrant labour in brick making industry are not available officially. Data regarding brick-making units (list of the owners of the units) was obtained partly from owners of the units and partly from Grampanchayat and Revenue offices.

TABLE No. 1

NUMBERS OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES (LABOURS) IN THREE VILLAGES (CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO TYPE OF WORKS)

Site/ Village	Total No. of immi- grants families	Selection of immigrant families by types of works				Total
		Bhatkar/ kiln operating families	Brick-layer families	Silt transporting families	Brick Transporting families	
Ankali	590	5 (50)	35 (340)	5 (50)	15 (150)	60
Haripur	680	6 (56)	40 (400)	6 (56)	18 (168)	70
Sangalwadi	80	1 (10)	5 (40)	Nil	4 (30)	10
Total :	1350	12 (116)	80 (780)	11 (106)	37 (348)	140 (1350)

Note : Figures in parenthesis show the size of population and the selected sample figures are given openly.

D) Preparation and Pretesting
of Questionnaire :

For the collection of necessary information we prepared a detailed four part questionnaire in view of the illiteracy or low level of education of the respondents, the questionnaire was infact used as an interview schedule. The first part of the interview schedule contains questions, regarding the family background of the immigrants (identifying information). The questions in the second part relate to the causes and pattern of migration. The third and fourth parts contain questions on the socio-economic and working conditions of immigrant labour.

The framing of the questions was done in such a way that respondents could easily understand and their responses could be quicker and easily recordable. Leading questions were avoided. Questions pertaining to the private life of the labourers and owners of the units were also as far as possible excluded. The questionnaire was pretested in the village Haripur on 5 respondents and in the light of this experience, some questions were modified whereas certain questions were dropped. The questionnaire was prepared in Marathi. Specimens of these questionnaires are given in Appendix-I.

E) On the Spot Observation :

It was thought necessary, in such a study, to undertake observational data regarding the day-to-day life of the immigrant families. We, therefore, spent a few days in each village. These observations included such aspects as light, water, living accommodation, housing structure, work schedule, working process, work site etc.

The establishing rapport with the respondents was a rather difficult job. Being strangers we did not quite understand the local Kannada and Marathi dialects. In order to overcome these difficulties we spent a great deal of time among the labourers in order to win their confidence and to pick-up their dialect. We also sometimes took the help of local primary teachers and students and owners of the units.

F) Tabulation and Interpretation :

After the field work was over the data were processed and tabulated manually and according to the requirements of the various aspects of the study, simple statistical methods like averages, ratios and percentages were used in appropriate places.

1.13 LIMITATION :

This study has certain limitations which are listed below :

1) The size of the sample is roughly 10% of the population of immigrant labour. To the extent the immigrants have a greater diversity regarding the origin and distances of their migrations, the conclusions may not be truly representative for the total mass of immigrant labour.

2) Most of the immigrant families concerned as respondent, were found to be illiterate, as a result of which their responses were sometimes uncertain, hesitant and vague. Moreover, most of these immigrant families use a typical dialect of Kannada prevalent in drought prone areas of Bijapur and Belgaum districts. This created a certain degree of difficulty in mutual communication of questions and responses.

3) It can be argued that an increasing proportion of immigrant labour supply in a local labour market has both social and economic effects on the economic variables in the labour market. In this study we have not gone into this aspects of the problem.

4) This being a case study of a localized industrial activity belonging to unorganised industrial sector; the findings may not be applicable on a generalised plane to different types of immigrant labour in other industrial activities at other places.

R E F E R E N C E S

- 1) The National Sample Survey - 1959-60, No. 156, p. 3, Government of India.
- 2) Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. VI, p. 88.
- 3) Hagerstand, T. (1957), 'Migration and Area in Sweden', in "The Geographical Impact of Migration" edited by Paul White and Robert Woods, p. 3, Longman Group Ltd., London, 1980.
- 4) Encyclopaedia Britannica (Macropedia), Vol. No.12, p. 175.
- 5) The Geographical Impact of Migration, edited by Paul White and Robert Woods, Longman Group Limited, London, 1980, pp. 4-5.
- 6) Sangli-Miraj Regional Planning Board, Study Report, 1971, p.
- 7) Census Hand Book and Gazettes of the Sangli District, 1969.
- 8) Ankali Gram Panchayat, Professional Tax Records, 1983, Ankali.
- 9) District Gazettes of Sangli, 1981.
- 10) Ibid.
- 11) Haripur Gram Panchayat Record, 1983.
- 12) District Gazettes of Sangli, 1981.
- 13) Encyclopaedia Britannica (Macropaedia), Vol. 3, pp. 162-65.
- 14) Sangli District Gazettes, 1969, Government of India, p. 335.

- 15) Personal Investigation.
- 16) Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. No. 3, pp. 162-63.
- 17) Encyclopaedia Britannica (Macropaedia), Vol. No. 3,
p. 163.
- 18) Sangli District Gazzettes, 1971,p. 225.