

**C H A P T E R - V**

**SUMMARY , CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION**

## CHAPTER - V

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The Khanapur Taluka, falling in the Sangli District has been recognised as a drought prone area. The farmers therefore cultivate mainly seasonal crops like Jawar, Wheat, Tur, Channa, Bajra etc. The well to do farmers having irrigational facilities such as well irrigation, lift irrigation etc. also go in for cultivation of crops such as sugarcane, cotton, and oilseeds like ground - nut etc. The lack of adequate help from the government and uneconomic size of individual holding lead the farmers to form themselves in to co - operative societies. This association help even the marginal farmers to get the benefits which would have been impossible for him. Otherwise, it has also been brought out earlier that the lack of water facility has resulted in major portion of the land being left barren. Due to the deficiency, the farmers are also not able to use the land lost in forest for their cultivation. The farmers also take up cultivation mainly with the help of ground water as surface water facilities are deficient. Of late the Government has also started playing its role in promoting supportive agricultural activities in these drought prone areas through the provision of water shade development programmes and Employment Guarantee scheme. As a result of effort substantial number of under ground water bunds, percolation tanks and Jawahar wells have been established in Khanapur Taluka itself.

The Khanapur tahsil also contributes its share to the overall sugar cane production of maharashtra. The producers have shifted from other crops to the production of sugarcane. Though the production of sugar is good but the cost of cultivation is relatively high. This makes the produce of crop from the farmers of Khanapur taluka uncompitative when compared to the output of other farmers in the state. This has also reduced the revenue earning capacity with success of sugarcane and many farmers shifting towards the cultivation of this crop. There has been imergence of a class of cane cutters over the years. With the progress of sugar industry, the class of these workers has also been corresponding increasing. The number of cane cutters has increased to such an extent that the workers started specialising in a part of the cane cutting activity. According to their activity taken up in the overall cane cutting, they have been grouped into four categories.

In order to investigate into the change in of the social and economic condition of the cane cutters, a study of one category of the cane cutters has been taken up in "Yashwant Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Khanapur". The study brought out intresting features about the social and economic condition of the cane cutters. The details regarding the number of cane cutters over the years, their wage earnings, dailly work etc. have also been highlighted.

The review of literature on sugarcane cultivation in Maharashtra has established the fact that the state is the fore runner in the overall production, per hectare production and especially the production of the sugar through the co - operative sector.

It had been observed in the previous chapter regarding the cane cutting workers in the " Yashwant Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana " that they are basically migratory in nature. They migrate mainly from the drought prone districts of Maharashtra like Bid, Jalgaon, Jalana and Ahmednagar. It had been noted that the economic condition of these cane cutting workers is not sound. In these workers the middleman is the main character who plays a very crucial role. They come on work through these middleman and totally depend upon this work for their seasonal employment as they have no alternative source. In most of the cases they are uneducated and unskilled.

The workers have no interest in the political and the social activities.

The main conclusions from the analysis of the above tables can be listed as bellow.

- 1) The occupation requires equal number of male and female workers.
- 2) The cane cutting work requires young persons preferable in the age group of 20 to 35 years.

- 3) The data collected shows that the workers engaged in this activity are mainly uneducated.
- 4) The workers do not continue in cane cutting for long period. They engage in this occupation only in their youth. In the later years having five to eight years of experience in cane cutting, they shift to other less strenuous activities.
- 5) Majority of the workers in the sample were previous agricultural labourers.
- 6) The family size of the workers is not very large.
- 7) Nearly all the workers have both the male and female of the family working.
- 8) On an average the workers are able to earn Rs.1000/- per month from this activity.
- 9) The workers spend the major part of their earnings on necessities such as food grains, sugar, milk, kerosine etc. Relatively negligible workers engage themselves in expenditure on Pan, Tobacco and Bidi etc.
- 10) The workers also own capital assets, which majority of them having un - irrigated land and self houses.
- 11) The cane cutters are not socially active.
- 12) Nearly all the workers take advances from the contractors in the beginning.

- 13) On an average a cane cutter can harvest 1 to 1.5 tonnes of sugarcane per day.
- 14) In a month cane cutter is employed for twenty one (21) days.
- 15) The average monthly expenditure of the cane cutters lies between 500 to 1000 Rs.
- 16) All the workers feel exploited in this occupation.
- 17) All the workers have alternative occupations during the lean season.

#### SUGGESTIONS

- 1) The first aid be provided to the cane cutters and their families. The mobile van be provided by the YSSK.
- 2) To avoid exploitation of cane cutters by middleman, the cane cutters be organised in labour co - operatives. And co - operative sugar factories should give performance to their societies while giving cane cutting contractes.
- 3) A mobile primary school be provided for the education of the cane cutters children.
- 4) An Insurance can be provided to the cane cutters and contribution should come from the sugar factories.
- 5) The cane cutters should be treated as labour force of the sugar factories so that they can get the benefit such as bonus etc.