

C H A P T E R - I V

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

CHAPTER - I V

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 INTRODUCTION :

The cane cutting workers employed in the co - operative sugar factory are basically migratory in nature. They basically do not belong to the regeion where the sugar factories are located in the Maharashtra. They migrate usually from drought prone areas where agriculture is totally dependent upon the nature and it is difficult to employ for them for the whole year. These workers are sometimes brought by the contractors to the sugar factories by giving some amount of advance. Even the workers prefered to take up this assignment as it suppliments their incomes from agricultural activities. More over the cane cutting work is only seasonal, where in a worker has to engage in this activity for five to six months only. After this period they are free to go back to their earlier occupation in the rainy season till the start of the next season.

The details regarding the workers mentioned above are collected with the help of the questionnaire and tabulated. Greater insight into their social and economic condition is also obtained with the help of graphs and pie - diagrams.

SEX WISE CLASSIFICATION OF WORKERS

TABLE NO. 4.1

(Number of members in family & Respondants / Households)

SEX	MEMBER	HOUSEHOLDS	PERCENTAGE
MALE	206	200	-
FEMALE	206		-
	412	200	100

In order to get the information pertaining to the economic and social conditions of cane harvesters in the mentioned co - operative sugar factory, a sample of 200 households with cane harvesting as their main occupation was selected.

From the 200 households it was observed that every male and female member of the family were working. This brought out the fact that the activity of cane harvesting necessarily requires a pair consisting of male and female. The work requires male members for cutting the cane and requires female for cleaning and preparing bundle (MOLI). That is the two members of the family have to put in equal efforts to earn their living from the cane harvests.

Therefore the above table shows that there are equal number of male and female workers.

AGE - WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORKERS

TABLE NO. 4.2

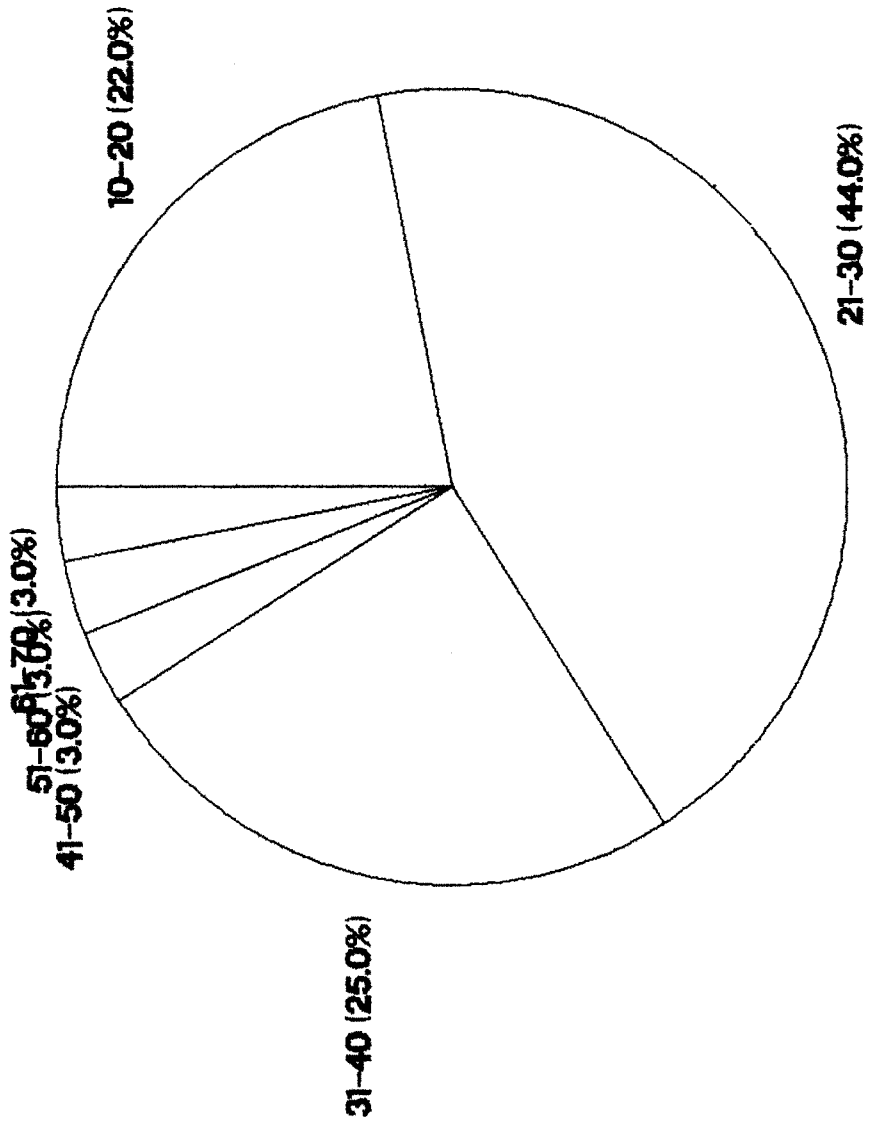
SR.NO	AGE - GROUP	NO OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1	10 - 20	44	22.00
2	21 - 30	88	44.00
3	31 - 40	50	25.00
4	41 - 50	06	03.00
5	51 - 60	06	03.00
6	61 - 70	06	03.00
TOTAL		200	100.00

After establishing the fact that cane cutting requires both the members of a family to work, we wanted to know whether this work requires workers of a specific age group. For this purpose the collected data relating the ages was classified as given in Table No.2.

The table shows that majority of the workers were in the age group of 21-30. This constituted 44% of the total sample observations. There are also approximately equal number of workers in the age group of bellow 20 and 31 to 40 i.e. 22 and 25% respectively. The number of workers above the age group of 40 was relatively negligible. The percentage of the remaining age group is 3% for all age group above 41 and below 70.

TABLE 4.2

CANECUTTERS AND AGE GROUP



From this table one can infer that cane cutting requires workers who are physically sound. Those below a specific age or aged persons are not suitable for this occupation as it involves strenuous physical activity.

MARITAL STATUS OF WORKERS

TABLE NO. 4.3

SR.NO.	MARITAL STATUS	NO. OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1	MARRITED	166	83.00
2	UN-MARRITED	34	17.00
	TOTAL	200	100.00

The above table gives the information relating to the marital status of the workers. It shows that out of the sample of 200 workers 166 constituting 83% were married and 34 workers (i.e. 17%) were unmarried.

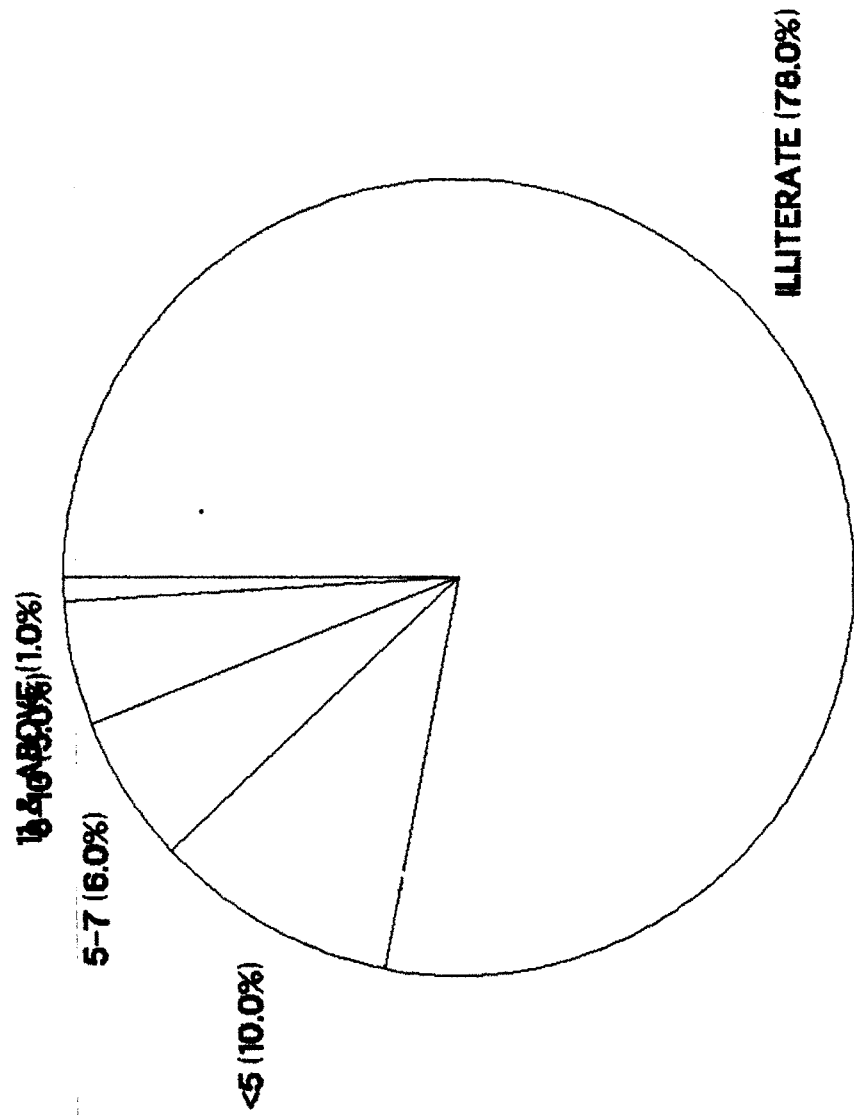
This table when compared to table No.1 shows that all the workers who are unmarried but are taking the help of other female members such as sisters, mothers or other relatives in their family. This inference again emphasises the fact that the cane cutting occupation requires atleast one male and one female members of the family to be employed.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**TABLE NO. 4.4**

Sr.No.	EDUCATION	NO OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1.	ILLITERATE	156	78.00
2.	< V	20	10.00
3.	V - VII	12	06.00
4.	VIII - X	10	05.00
5.	XI AND ABOVE	02	01.00
	TOTAL	200	100.00

The table gives the information about the educational background of the workers. The data reveals that nearly 80% of the workers in the sample are illiterate. The rest 20% had primary education and above. This shows that nearly all the workers engaged in cane cutting either do not have the time and money for education or the facilities are not available at the place of work. The other reason for the lack of education can be the migratory nature of the workers. The workers usually belong to the drought prone area from where they are brought on contract to other fertile areas. They either have to return to their villages or migrate to other areas for their earnings. This may be one of the factors contributing to the low lack of education of the workers.

TABLE 4.4
CANECUTTERS & EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND



WORK EXPERIENCE

TABLE NO. 4.5

Sr.No.	WORK EXPERIENCE	NO OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1.	NONE	22	11.00
2.	1 - 5	102	51.00
3.	6 - 10	50	25.00
4.	11 - 15	12	06.00
5.	16 - 20	12	06.00
6.	Above 21	02	01.00
	TOTAL	200	100.00

The table gives the number of years the workers have been in the cane cutting occupation. It is observed from the table that nearly 50% of the workers had been in the occupation for less than five years. Only 50 workers constituting 25% of the total sample were in this field for 6 to 10 years. There were only minor percentage of people have experience of more than 10 years.

The data shows that the workers donot continue the occupation of cane cutting for more than 8 - 10 years. Only when they are in the age between 20 - 30, they prefer to go for this occupation. They prefer to shift to other occupation in their later years as they may not have

the required physical strength to carry on the cane cutting work. Therefore one can say that only the relatively young workers are performed for the cane cutting work.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

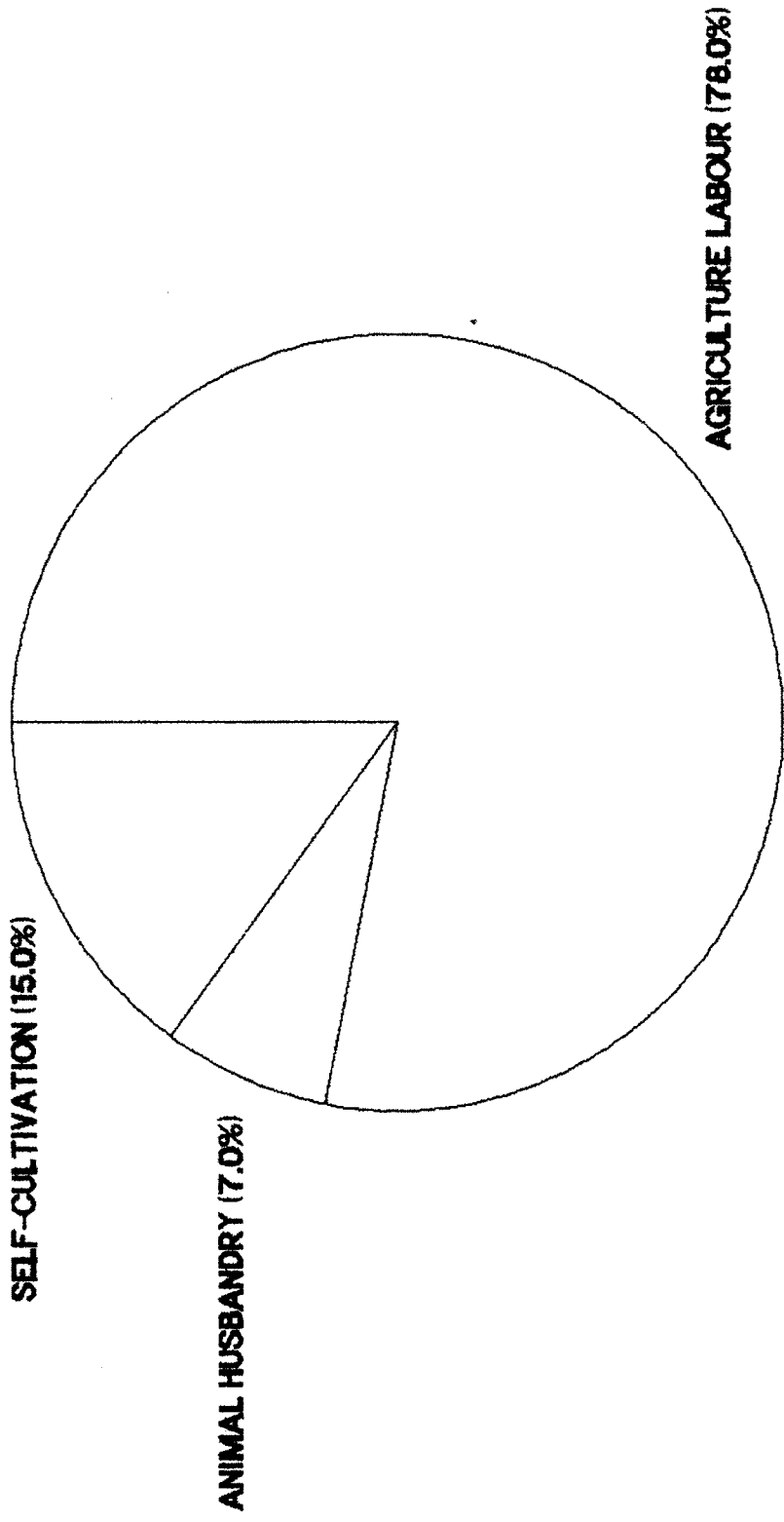
TABLE NO. 4.6

Sr.No.	NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT	NO OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1.	AGRICULTURE LABOUR	156	78.00
2.	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY	14	7.00
3.	SELF - CULTIVATION	30	15.00
	TOTAL	200	100.00

Usually most of the cane cutters depend upon the other Land Lords to get employment because either they are Landless labourers or small Land holders which cannot provide full employment to them. Therefore they accept the employment that they get through migration atleast for a particular season.

This is also shown from the data given in the above table. It shows that majority of the cane cutters were previously agricultural Labours. The number of workers with this particular background is 156 contributing 78% of the total sample. Only a minor

TABLE 4.6
CANECUTTERS & PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT



percentage of the workers has animal husbandry and self cultivation as their occupation. The approximate percentage for the two is 7 and 15 respectively.

SIZE - WISE FAMILY CLASSIFICATION

TABLE NO. 4.7

Sr.No.	SIZE OF FAMILY	NO. OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1.	1 - 3	110	55.00
2.	4 - 6	88	44.00
3.	7 - 9	02	01.00
4.	Above 10	-	-
	TOTAL	200	100.00

It has been already observed that cane cutting occupation requires young Labour contributing couples. Most of the Labourers depend upon agricultural activity for their livelihood.

The above table shows that out of the 200 Labours, 110 Labours (55%) family size is relatively small consisting 1 to 3 members. It means that, either they are newly married couple or a couple of husband and wife along with their parents.

There is also approximately equal number of Labourers having a family size of 4 to 6 i.e 44% and very small number of Labours having family size having members more than Seven (7) is only 1%.

EARNING MEMBER-WISE CLASSIFICATION

TABLE NO. 4.8

SR.NO.	EARNING MEMBER	NO. OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1	ONE	02	1.00
2	TWO	188	94.00
3	THREE	08	4.00
4	FOUR	02	1.00
	TOTAL	200	100.00

As it was noted earlier cane cutting requires at least two members of a family consisting of male and female. So it is expected that there should be atleast two earning members per family.

The table No.8 validates our expectations relating to the earning members per family. It shows that nearly 94% of the workers had two earning members in their family. The percentage of workers who have three or more than three earning members in their family is only 4%. Therefore we can conclude that cane cutting is mainly an occupation preferred by couples as it gives employment to both the members at the same place.

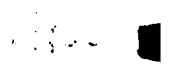
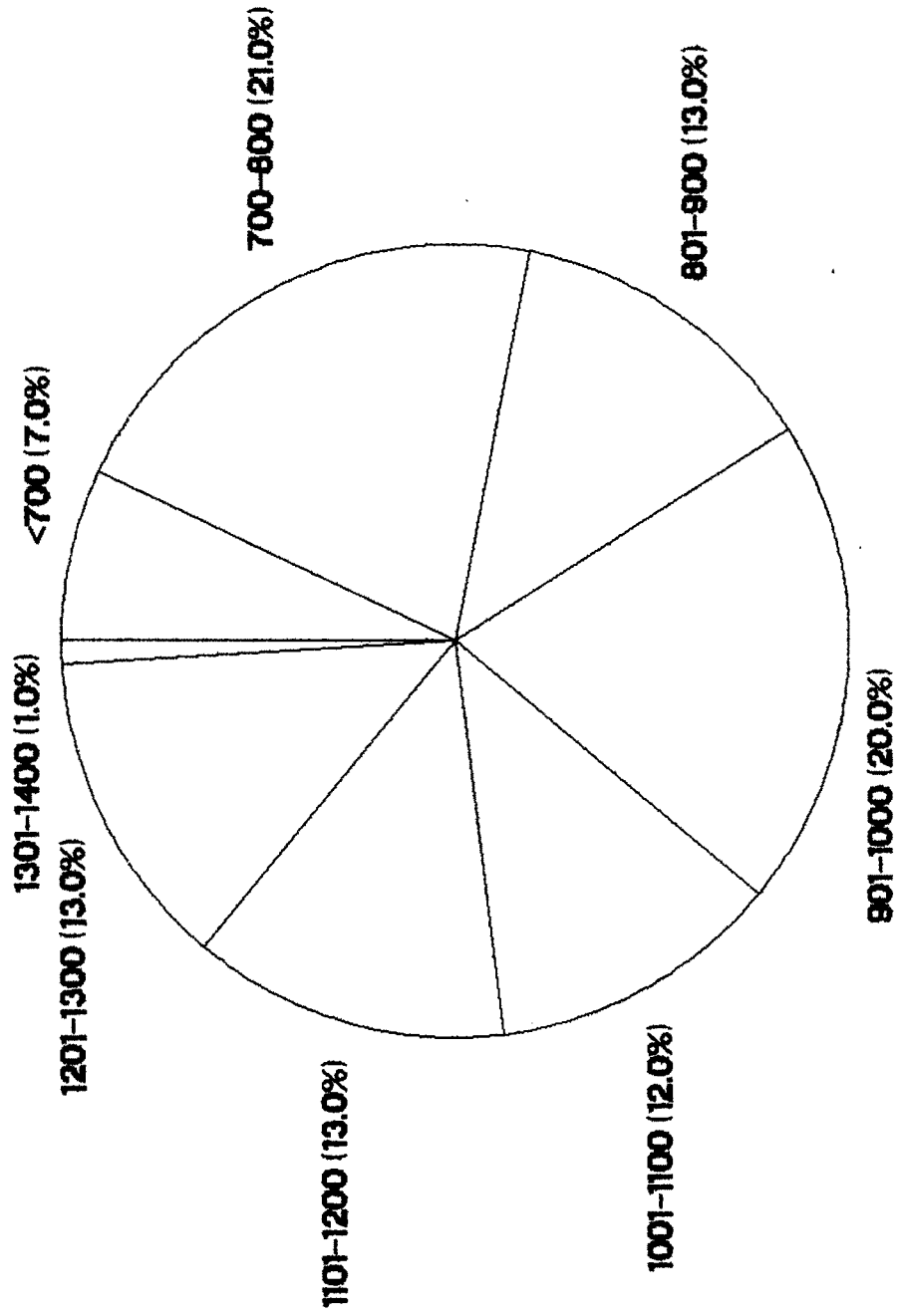
MONTHLY INCOME-WISE CLASSIFICATION**TABLE NO.4.9**

SR.NO.	MONTHLY INCOME (RS)	NO. OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1	< 700	14	07.00
2	700-800	42	21.00
3	801-900	26	13.00
4	901-1000	40	20.00
5	1001-1100	24	12.00
6	1101-1200	26	13.00
7	1201-1300	26	13.00
8	1301-1400	02	01.00
	TOTAL	200	100.00

According to the above table out of 200 labours maximum percentage of labour get a monthly income of more than Rs. 700 and less than Rs. 800. Once again there is an approximately equal number of the labours getting more than 1000/- and Less than Rs. 1200/- per month. This shows that majority of the families are able to earn a minimum sum of Rs. 700/- and maximum Rs. 1000/- per month. But there are relatively less number of families that are able to earn a sum more than Rs. 1200/- per month.

The analysis bring out that the average monthly earning of the cane cutters is Rs. 850/- only a small percentage i. e. 7% of the sample of workers are earning

TABLE 4.9
CANECUTTERS & MONTHLY INCOME



a sum of Rs. less than 700/- per month. It means that the labours in this income category have no other source of income as animal husbandry or self cultivation etc.

SOURCES OF INCOME

TABLE NO.4.10

Sr.No.	TYPE OF OCCUPATION	NO.OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1	CANE-CUTTING	200	100.00
2	SELF AGRI (CULTIVATION)	160	80.00
3	AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	186	93.00
4	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY	074	37.00

The above table is presented to show the major resources of income of the workers in the sample. It is observed that for all the workers cane cutting is the main source of income for 5 to 6 months in the harvesting season. Nearly 93% and 80% of the workers get some income from agricultural labour and self cultivation respectively. Instead of self-cultivation they might

have preferred to go for cane cutting due to lack of irrigation facilities that makes self cultivation has remunerative. They go back to this occupation after the harvesting of sugarcane is complete. Nearly 37% of getting additional income or provide a source of income during non harvesting season of sugarcane.

CAPITAL ASSETS

TABLE NO. 4.11

Sr.No.	TYPE OF CAPITAL ASSETS	YES	PERCENTAGE	NO	PERCENTAGE
1	HOUSE	178	89.00	22	11.00
2	IRRIGATED LAND	04	02.00	196	98.00
3	UN-IRRIGATED LAND	172	86.00	28	14.00
4	ANIMALS (Cow, Buffelows, Bullock etc)	116	58.00	84	42.00

From the Capital Assets points of view of the cane cutting workers it has been observed that most of them have come from the poor family. The above table shows that many of them depend upon the dry land agriculture through which one can not get full employment and basic needs also cannot be maintained substantially. For example, in case of Maharashtra most of the cane cutters belongs to a Marathwada Region like Bid or Aurangabad District, where the agricuature is totally based on Nature, and people migrate for getting employment.

Above table shows that out of total 200 labours only 4 of them have an irrigated land which constituted only 2% and very large number of them depends upon un-irrigated land for their livelihood that is which constitutes 86%. But in case of houses, it is some what extent satisfactory because out of 200 Labour there are 178 who have their own houses which constitutes 89% and comparatively less number of labours who could not construct their own house so far as 22 and it constitutes 11%.

In case of capital assets in terms of animals like cows, buffelows, bullocks are concerned, it is an important source of income of the poor and marginal farmers. The above table shows that out of 200 labourers 116 have their own cows and buffelows etc. for milk. But quite large number of them have no such capital assets that is 84 which constitute high percentage, 42%.

MONTHLY EXPENDITURE PATTERN**TABLE NO. 4.12****(ACTUAL EXPENDITURE in Rs)**

Sr.No.	TYPE	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-250	251-300	ABOVE 301	NONE	TOTAL
1	Foodgrains	-	04	20	42	04	08	122	-	200
2	Sugar-Tea	28	154	06	04	-	-	-	08	200
3	Milk-Kero	28	38	38	86	02	08	-	-	200
4	Cloth	118	74	02	06	-	-	-	-	200
5	Fuel	30	02	-	-	-	-	-	164	200
6	Medicine	196	04	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
7	Pan, Tobacco etc	156	06	-	-	-	-	-	38	200
8	Loan Instalment	100	44	02	10	02	-	-	42	200
9	Money order	80	44	08	46	02	04	-	16	200
10	Religious Programme	190	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	200
11	Monthly Saving	64	24	-	-	-	-	-	112	200

In order to know the monthly expenditure pattern of the cane cutters, the data pertaining to the expenditure on necessaries was collected. The daily items of consumption for which a worker incurs expenditure are foodgrains, sugar - tea, milk, kerosine, fuel, medicine etc. as shown in the above table.

The table shows that foodgrains being the staple food of all the workers, the expenditure on this food item is the highest when compared to the other necessaries. Nearly 122 workers incur an expenditure of more than Rs. 300 per month on food grains. The expenditure on sugar-tea is comparatively low. Atmost all the workers spend on an average between Rs. 50 to 100 on sugar tea and 8 workers even do not have any expenditure on this item. Again the workers on an average spend Rs. 150 per month on milk / kerosine. As for as clothes are concerned, more number of workers spend Rs. 50/-. For all the workers the expenditure on clothing factors, only 36 workers incur an expenditure on fuel and that too less than Rs. 100. Nearly 164 workers do not spend on fuel. This is because the collected from the place where harvesting is done or from near by forests. Nearly all the workers incur an expenditure of Rs. 50 to 100 on medicines shows that the workers seek medical advice only for minor ailments and do not approach the doctors for major disease, as commonly observed in Indian rural areas. The tobacco chewing is commonly observed practice among the cane cutters too. But there are also some workers who are not addicted to pan tobacco chewing.

Almost 150 workers pay amonthly instalment of about Rs. 100 as repayment of loan and about 40 persons have not awaited any loan facilities.

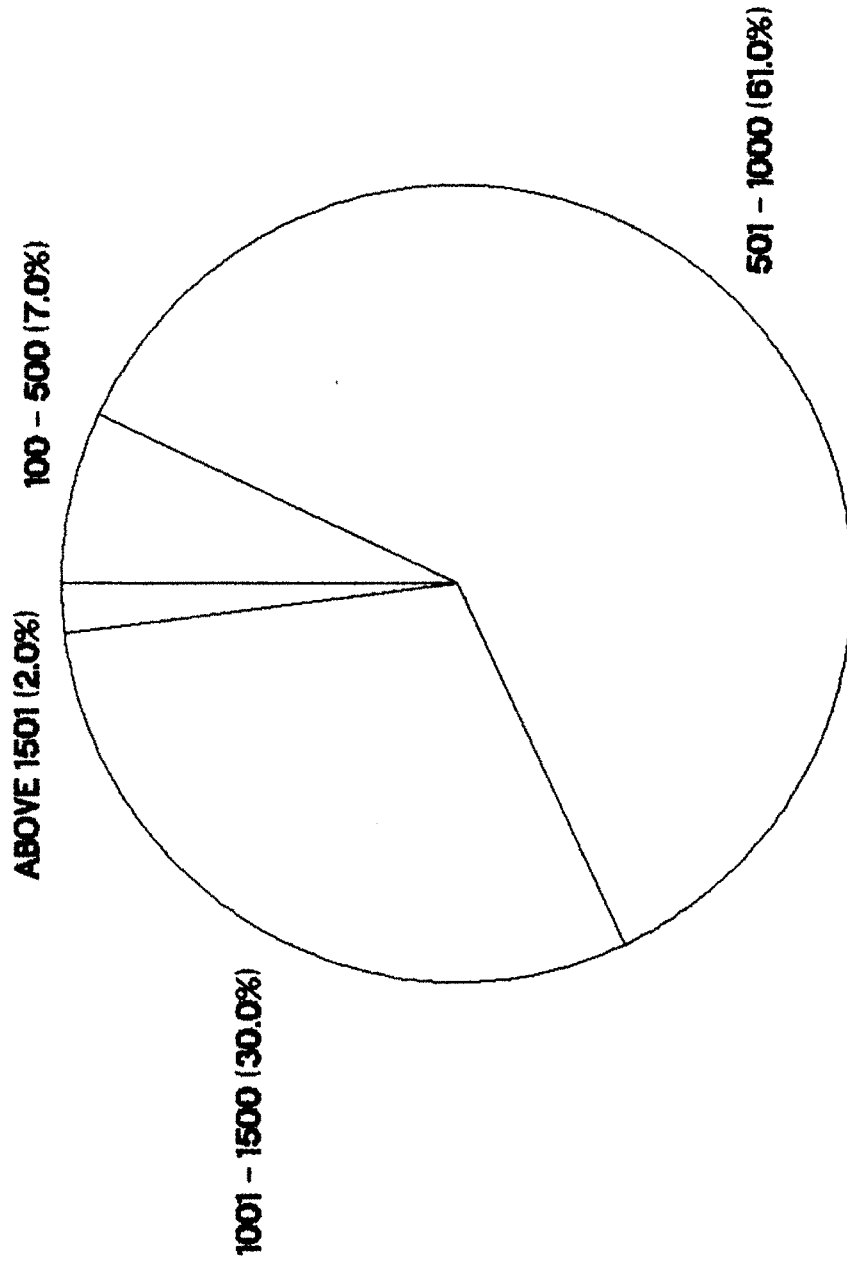
The table also shows that the workers have to send money to the family members in their homes such as parents, in - laws etc, who depend on the earning of the workers. The workers also contribute to religious programmes that are arranged at the place of their work. Lastly the table shows that the workers are not left with much savings after the expenditure they incure on the necessary items mentioned above. As 112 workers are not left with any savings, this shows that the incomes they earn through cane cutting is just suifficient to meet their daily requirements.

AGREGATE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE

TABLE NO. 4.13

Sr.No.	MONTHLY EXPENDITURE(Rs.)	NO OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1	100 - 500	14	07
2	501 - 1000	122	61
3	1001 - 1500	60	30
4	ABOVE 1501	04	02
	TOTAL	200	100

TABLE 4.13
CANECUTTERS AND MONTHLY EXPENDITURE



Above table No. 13 shows the situation of monthly expenditure of the cane cutting workers. The table shows four categories as given above. Out of 200 surveyed cane cutting workers, only 14 families having a percentage of 7% come under the category of Rs.100 to 500. But quite large number of them means 122 comes under second category which is above Rs.501 to 1000. constitutes 61%. And there are 60 families of labours having expenditure between Rs.1001 to 1500 which constitutes 30%. But there is very little number of families that is 4 (2%) whose monthly expenditure is above 1500 Rs.

With the help of the situation given above, one can conclude that most of the cane cutting workers can just fulfill fair basic needs and maintain ordinary standard of living with the help of fair earnings.

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT

TABLE NO. 4.14

Sr. No.	TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	NO. OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1	FULL EMPLOYMENT	-	-
2	HALF EMPLOYMENT	200	100.00
3	LESS THAN FIVE MONTHS	-	-
	TOTAL	200	100.00

The data collected regarding the nature of employment in cane cutting shows that this occupation is only a half yearly activity during the harvest seasons. In the rest of the months the cane cutters have to seek other alternative income sources such as animal - husbandry, self - cultivation etc.

EMPLOYMENT AVAILABLE TO CANE - CUTTERS

TABLE NO. 4.15

Sr.No.	No.of Days	No.of Labourers	Percentage
1	1 - 10	-	-
2	11 - 20	-	-
3	21 and above	200	100.00
	TOTAL	200	100.00

Further, in the 6 months of work all the cane cutters are able to find work for at least 21 days in a month for holidays in a month the workers donot get any remuneration. Therefore total earnings per month comes to Rs. 966. (21*46=966) per labourer.

QUANTITIES HARVESTED**PER-DAY TO CANE CUTTERS AND REMUNERATION**

TABLE NO . 4.16

Sr. No.	QUANTITY OF SUGAR CANE (Tonnes)	NO. OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1	0 - 0.5 T	-	-
2	0.6 - 1 T	126	63
3	ABOVE 1 T	74	37
	TOTAL	200	100.00

It has been observed that generally one cane cutting worker (KOYATA) along with his companion can harvest near about one or one and half tonne of sugarcane for which they get near about Rs.42 to 60 perday as given in table No. 16. But the remaining part of the sugarcane after cutting or the wastage which can be utilised as fodder crop (WADA). Labourers can sell it either in the market or to the sugarcane landlord, for which they get Rs.5 to 6 daily (per tonne sugarcane). It has been observed that they do not get any type of remuneration or the prize (BAKSHIS) from the sugar cane owner because usually they come on the work through the middleman or contractor, who are called NUKADAM and the landlord keeps direct relation with the contractor but not with the workers.

The contractor is an ultimate figure because he is an important person who is a link between the factory, landlords and the workers as far as the cane cutting is concerned. Every worker takes advance from the contractor before coming on the work between Rs.5000 to 8000 per head.

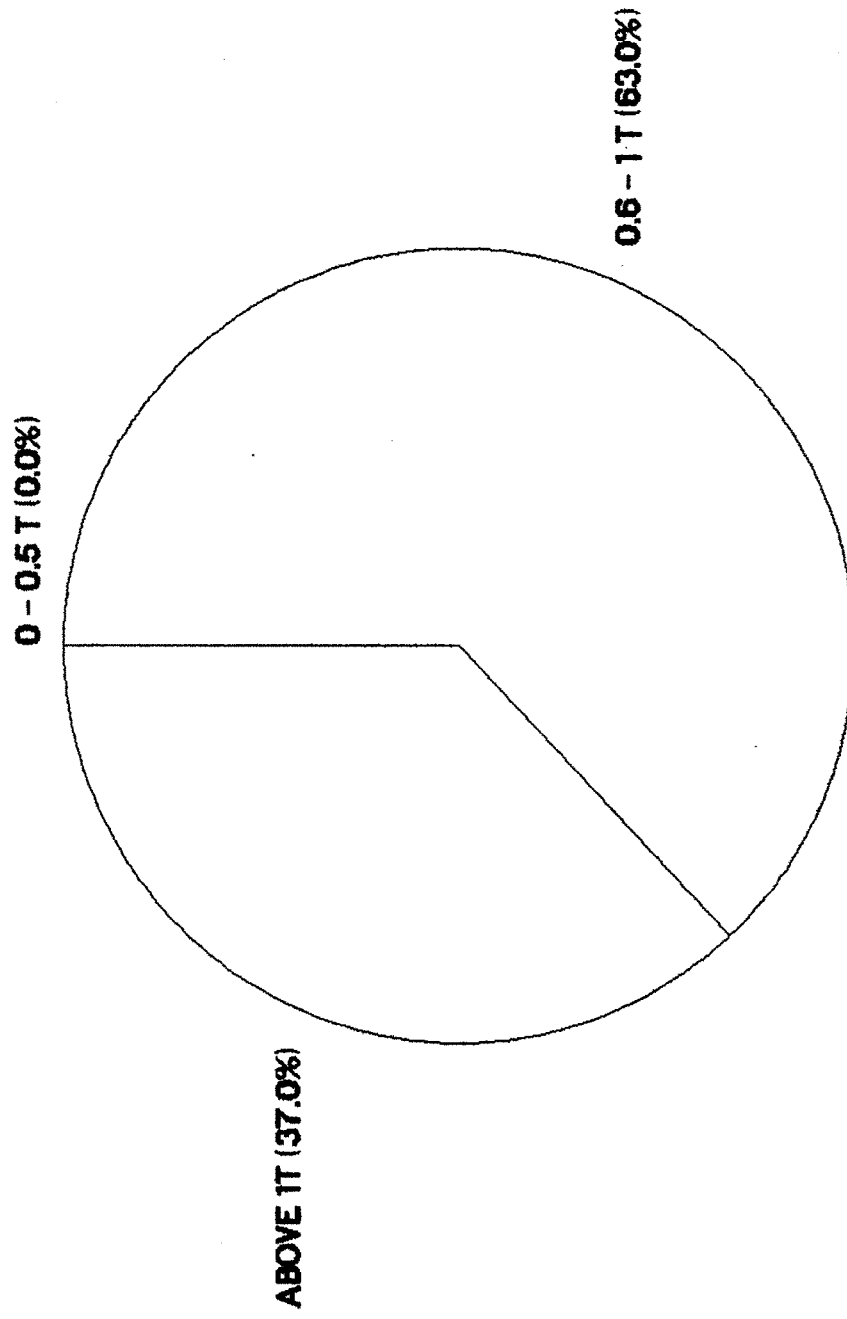
WORK SITUATION AND REIMBURSEMENT FACILITIES :

It has been also observed that generally the cane cutting workers have to be out of their house or their respective village for six months. Therefore while coming on the work, they have to carry their animals like cows, buffelows and cattle along with them. This solves problem of fodder for animals.

It has been observed that while working or cutting the sugarcane, some small accidents may take place as cuts through cane cutting knife (KOYATA), snake bite, scorpion bite etc. But for all sorts of these accidents, the sugar factory or the middleman or landlords donot provide first aid.

There is also no life Insurance facilities available to the cane cutters. They cannot save money or insure their lives. In their life (Six months in a year) Contractor plays very crucial role which starts from the advance distribution upto the salary payment. These contractors exploit the cane cutters.

TABLE 4.16
CANECUTTERS AND QUANTITY HARVESTED



ADVANCES TAKEN FROM CONTRACTORS BY THE CANE CUTTERS**TABLE NO. 4.17**

SR. NO.	AMOUNT RS.	NO OF WORKERS	PERCENTAGE
1	NONE	06	03.00
2	1 - 1000	-	-
3	1001 - 2000	22	11.00
4	2001 - 3000	18	09.00
5	3001 - 4000	24	12.00
6	4001 - 5000	98	49.00
7	5001 - 6000	14	07.00
8	6001 - 7000	14	07.00
9	7001 & ABOVE	04	02.00
	TOTAL	200	100.00

It has been noted in the previous table that the incomes that workers get through cane cutting is just sufficient for their daily needs. Therefore it is expected that the workers will have to go in for advances in order to meet unforeseen expenditures such as expenditure on marriages and other social functions. In order to investigate this aspect, the data relating to the advances taken by the workers has been collected. The table shows that nearly 50% of the workers have taken an advance ranging from Rs. 4001 to 5000/-. There are also some workers who have taken an advance of Rs. 7000/- and above who constitute 2% of the total sample.

Many of the workers i.e around 10% have also availed minor advances to the tune of Rs. 1000 to 2000/-. There are only 6 workers constituting 3% of the total sample who have not taken any advances. This figures show the delicate economic position of the cane cutters.

SOCIAL SURVEY

INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC LIFE

TABLE NO. 4.18

SR.NO.	TYPE OF ASSOCIATIONS	NO.OF WORKERS
1	SOCIAL BODIES (Charitable Trusts etc.)	12
2	POLITICAL PARTIES	16
3	NONE	184

In the earlier table we tried to throw some light on the economic condition of the cane cutters. Here we try to look into the social activities of the workers and their involvement in them. For this purpose we collected the data that tells about the involvement of workers, in social bodies such as charitable trust etc. and political parties.

The data presented in the above table shows that only 12 workers are associated with the activities of social bodies and 16 involve themselves in political activities. These figures indicate that the cane cutters are not socially active and just concentrate on earning their daily bread through cane cutting activity. The twelve(12) workers are members of social bodies as well as political parties.

CANE CUTTERS OUTLOOK TOWARDS OCCUPATION

TABLE NO. 4.19

SR.NO.	OUTLOOK	YES	PERCENTAGE	NO	PERCENTAGE
1	EXPLOITED	146	73.00	54	27.00
2	RESPECTED FROM SOCIETY	08	04.00	192	96.00

The analysis so far of the data collected shows that the economic condition of the cane cutters is not satisfactory. He has to work hard in order to get his ends meet. The low level of wages have given him the feeling that the work they perform is more but the remuneration is low. This has led to the feeling that they are being

exploited and the society too do not hold them in high esteem. So it is important that measures are taken to overcome their defeatist tendency and at the same time enhance their wages.

ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORUNITIES

TO CANE CUTTERS

TABLE NO.4.20

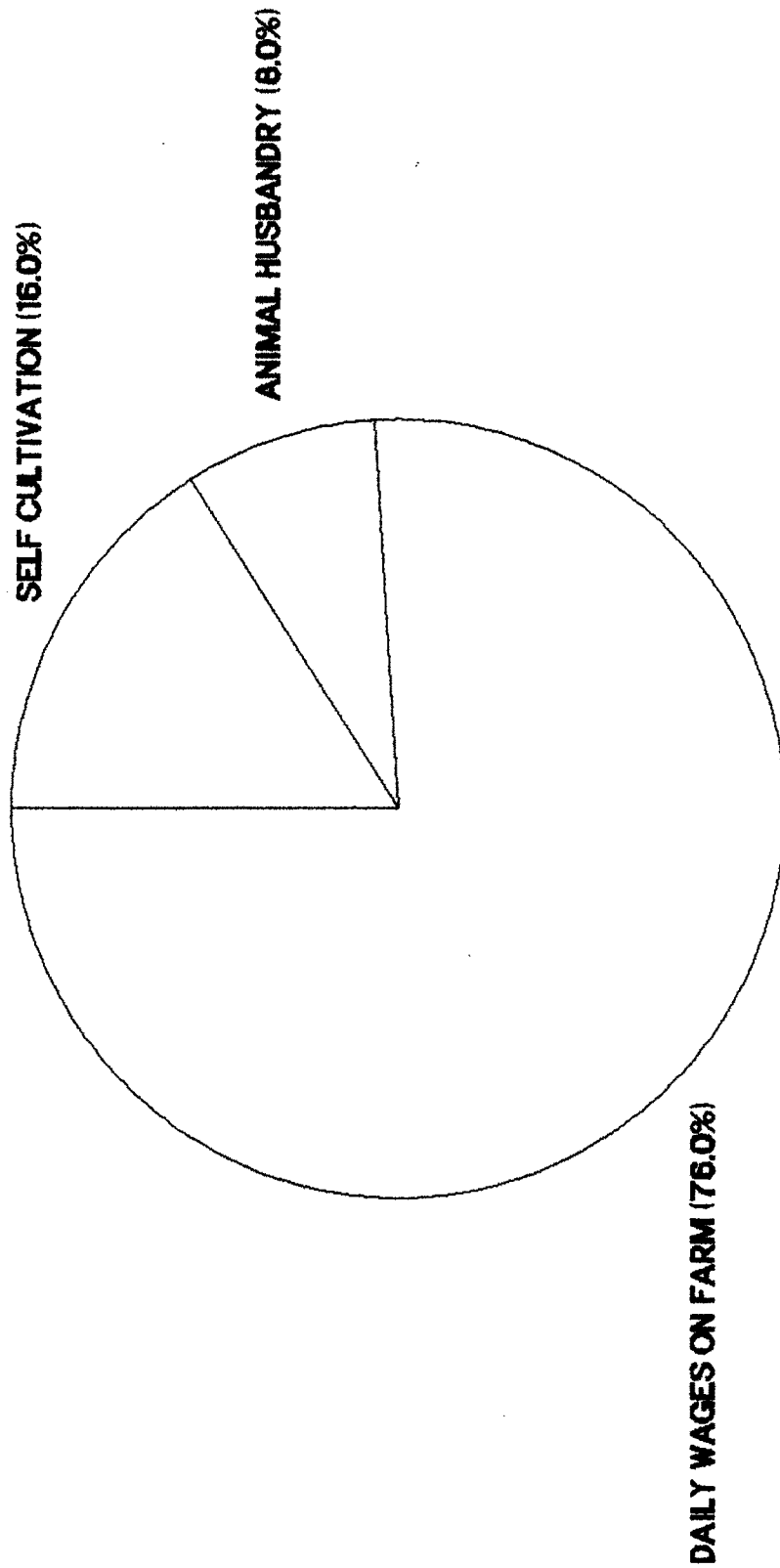
SR. NO.	TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT	NO.OF	PERCENTAGE
1	SELF CULTIVATION	32	16.00
2	ANIMMAL HUSBANDRY	16	08.00
3	DAILY WAGES ON FARM	152	76.00
	TOTAL	200	100.00

It has been already observed that the cane cutters donot have their own irrigated land to get work through out a year. They can get only a seasonal work on their land, so they have to migrate from their village for the employment.

As given in the above table out of 200 workers observed only 32 of them have their own cultivation or the cultivable land which constitute only 16%. As far as the capital assets of the workers are concerned animal husbandry is the most important source of income for this

TABLE 4.20

CANECUTTERS & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



people. But here out of 200 workers only 16 workers have their own animals through which they get low amount of income that is which constitutes 8%.

As mentioned earlier most of them depend upon daily wages for their livelihood. It has also been observed through the sample surveyed that nearly 76% of the workers depend on the daily wages. Through this, one can conclude that either they are landless or having a little piece of un - irrigated land through which they cannot fulfill their basic needs also and are totally depending upon the cane harvesting work.

CONCLUSION OF CHAPTER IV

The districts in Maharashtra like Bid, Jalana, Parbhani, and Orangabad etc. are rainfed area. The main sources of cane cutting population from the co-operative sugar factories. The details these cane cutters collected through the questionnaire has been tabulated and analysed in this chapter.

The analysis has brought out that the cane harvesters are uneducated and are mainly in the age group of 20 to 35 years. The main reasons for their migration from their respective districts is to earn a constant and assured income for at least five to six months in a year. In the remaining part of the year they derived income from

other alternative sources such as self - cultivation, animal husbandry and daily wage work etc. The earning of these workers through cane cutting activity gives them a reasonable standard of living in the rural area with these earning they are able to provide the basic necessities to their family members.

As far as their life away from the fields is concerned the data reveals that these workers are not socially or politically active. The attitude of cane cutters towards the work is not that healthy. The majority of the workers feel that they are exploited by the middleman. But they are forced to remain in the present occupation as an alternative source of income during the lean season in their respective fields.

Other major findings of the study are elaborated in the subsequent chapter.