

CHAPTER - IV

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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METHODOLOGY :

The present study is primarily in the nature of a survey, it was undertaken in sample villages where co-operative Societies of SC/ST were existing. Data was collected mainly through the help of the questionnaire the questionnarire schedule was prepared for the members of the Co-operative societies and it was administered by researcher himself.

Other supplemental methods adopted are the study of both published and unpublished official documents. Participant observation; in formal interviews and discussions with various officials of the Co-operative Department and officials of Co-operative societies.

In the beginning the researcher undertook a study of related literature like books reports and journal articles on the Co-operative movement. A study was also made of the bye-laws. The researcher also made use of the documents like Audit memo's of the Co-operative societies; and visited almost all the Co-operative societies and held discussions with officials and non-officials.

The method of administering questionnaire schedule was adopted as an important tool for research in this study. This has the merit of providing an opportunity to establish rapport to explain

the purpose of the study and to explain the meaning of items that may not be clear. A detailed Socio-economic census of each household regarding family ~~circumstances~~^{condition} land holdings possession of livestock, housing condition sources of income occupational pattern-consumption, literacy, marital status was conducted during the period of investigation.

Participation observation was also adopted as tool of research in this study this method has the merit of providing a means for studying a whole system with its many interrelationship in great detail. Accordingly the researcher attained some meetings of the board of management and general body meetings of co-operative society.

Informal unstructured interviews and discussions was another method adopted in this study. This method proved to be highly successful in eliciting frank and reliable responses from the respondents, concerned senior officials and social-workers were interviewed, some of them several times to discuss various aspects of working and problems of co-operative societies.

Reference Period :

Present study is mainly based on the field investigation during the year 1983-84; by using this one point data socio-economic changes among the SC/ST people through their co-operatives are traced.

DATA AND THEIR LIMITATIONS :

The data collection was limited to particularly co-operative societies formed by SC/ST and hence the generalization have limited validity the types of co-operative societies are not homogeneous.

SELECTION: (Tahsil Hatkanangale)

Definite ^{Criteria} ~~are for~~ adopted for selecting the tahsil as a unit of investigation to facilitate the intensive study of co-operative societies formed by SC/ST and to identify the factors that have led to the success of some, societies and failure of others.

The following criteria were used in selecting one taluka out of 12 talukas of Kolhapur District.

- 1) The extent of development of co-operatives judged by number of societies.
- 2) Persence of various types of co-operative societies.
- 3) The possibility of easy communication with members of the co-operative, societies, and officials of the co-operative Department and societies. Hatkanangale taluka of the Kolhapur District is one of the developed ares and it is connected with bus and railway routes.

SELECTION OF SAMPLES :

Present study aims at knowing the role played by the co-operatives formed by SC/S^T people in Economic up-liftment of these people. Therefore households belonging to these communities and mainly those who were members of various types of co-operative societies were selected for the study.

There were 60 co-operative societies of various types formed by these people. By adopting purposive sampling method, 9 of these co-operative societies were selected. The total number of membership of these '9' societies was 1080. Out of these 108 (10%) households were selected for administering Questionnaire schedule, which was prepared for collecting data form the members of Co-operative societies.

Out of '60' co-operative societies '4' different type of co-operative societies were selected for case studies.