

--- CHAPTER FOUR ---

|| ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF THE IMPACT ||

CHAPTER-4.:- ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF THE IMPACT :-

It must be admitted that the very process of the rapid expansion of the co-operative sugar industry has brought its own weaknesses. Of course such weaknesses differ relevant to the co-operative system itself. Even a big co-operative unit cannot get shares of all sugar-cane cultivators. Only large land owners share in the establishment of sugar factory. Initially small and marginal farmers cannot become a share-holders due to lack of funds with them. Thus the gains of sugar co-operatives have reached only a small number of cultivators of concerned area.

Some criticism are also leveled against decision making of leaders who manage over co-operative units in Maharashtra. Decision making in co-operatives has right from the beginning centred at the structure of leadership i.e. the elected members of the Board of Directors and the Chairman. The audit reports were reported that, there is unnecessary purchasing, unnecessary travelling expenses of board members in Maharashtra. But all these problems are pertinent to whole sugar-industry, in the state as well as in India.

The present study concentrates only on Shri Datta Co-operative Factory and the Shikol Tehsil as sub-region. The discussion is catagorised under three heads. They are :-

- a) Problems of sub-region i.e. Shirol Taluka
- b) Problems of Shareholders of Datta Co.op. Sugar Factory.
- c) Problems of Irrigation etc.

4.1] Problems of the Sub-region:

The region as a unit has certain problems. Generally the region is facing the following problems.¹

- 1) The north-western part of the region is unirrigated, So it is of no use to the factory. And the factory has done particularly nothing to develop this area.
- 2) The area which is under irrigation is facing the problem of salinated land. Though the percentage of this land is low, it is increasing every year. The farmers are not conscious about this problem. No steps have been taken in this regard. Some affected land area is yielding less than before. This is a red signal about, which the farmers must think over.

1 Performance and problems of co-operatives in IRD: A Case Study of sugar co-operatives in Maharashtra with special reference to Datta Factory Ltd., Shirol. by -V.B. Jugale, A paper presented in the 3rd National convention on studies in co-operation at Andhra-University Waltair DEC. 27th and 28th 1982.

3) People have no knowledge of economic use of water,

For example sugar-cane requires water through-out its life cycle. However, the water requirement is low in the initial stages as well as during the winter months. If excessive water is given during these stages it lowers the soil temperature, which adversely affects germination. To over-come this normally farmers instead of cutting down on water supply use chemical fertilizers in heavy doses, which causes salinity in long-run. For better growth of sugar-cane, water supply should be upto 115 acre inch including rainfall. With 10 to 12 days gap about 36 to 40 times water supply is essential. After full growth of crop it is again necessary to supply water to the extent of 2" to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " inch with a 15 to 20 days gap.² Of course this depends on the quality of soil. In practice nobody follows this.

4) Only rich farmers (or big land holders) have a scientific knowledge of agricultural activities and therefore, they earn rich dividends.

5) There is no unique economic scheme which can uplift the poorest of the poor, even when nearly 47% of the population of the sub region is below the poverty line. The factory has ~~does~~ nothing to uplift the poorest class.

2 Technical catalogue - 3 sugar-cane

(Maharashtra)

6) Most of the irrigated land is covered with sugar-cane only, which has affected the production of food grains. The sub-region has no proper cropping plans, which is significant task in the field of agriculture. People are blindly following the cultivation of sugar-cane without caring their ^{lands} declining quality of soil.

7) The economic inequality between the rich and the poor has increased more after the inception of sugar factory. This created a kind of imbalance in the rural economy. The rich become richer, the poor become poorer and the marginal farmers are on the verge of being wiped out.

8) It is observed that those who have been benefited by a large increase in their incomes do not spend in a productive way. Expenditure items and luxury and other consumption items is increasing. For example purchasing two vehicles when one is sufficient, bad habits like drinking, smoking etc. are generally found in rich families.

9) With more income a sense of false prestige is increasing. — Those with money found it below to do manual labour.

4.2] Problems of Shareholders:

Some times factory favour the gate cane sugar from non-members, because it get profit (normally Rs.10 per tonne) But this attitude affects the member-shareholders, because their sugar-cane cannot be harvested in time, such gate-cane sugar-cane was purchased to the extent of 20 % of the total sugar-cane

supplied by member share holders in 1991-92. This ratio is found in almost all past years in the history of the sugar factory . If timely harvesting is not done then the yield of sugar-cane decreases, that is why shareholders always demand proper management of harvesting the sugar-cane. Upto this stage the factory is unable to manage it properly.

The factory has not undergone any cropping plan for sugar-cane which will ensure harvesting at proper time.

The benefit that share holders get from the factory are very limited in comparison with the ^{total} number of shareholders. Moreover, such benefits are mostly received by the rich and therefore, influential members and others are ignorant.

The member share holders are not getting higher prices for their sugar-cane in comparison with other co-operative sugar factories in Maharashtra . Another defect of the sugar factories in Maharashtra is that the sugar-cane is purchased according to the weightage of sugar-cane, without caring for its quality and recovery of sugar. While the Govt. emphasises the measurement of sugar-cane according to the recovery.

The factory has limited members of backward classes i.e. only 10 % or less. According to the by-laws of the co-operative sugar factories a farmer having less than one acre are not eligible to become member share holder or producer member. And the value of each share is Rs.1000 which again is impossible

to backward class people. This may lead to creation of marked economic and social disparities instead of removing them.

The factory has no full-fledged transport facility for carrying the sugar-cane during the harvesting season, which affects the timely harvesting of matured sugar-cane.

The establishment of sugar factory is the inspiration of a spirit of political party or group, for which the membership also generally belongs to the same political party or group. The anti-group or other party members are kept away from the becoming of a share holders of a sugar factory managed by a earlier group or party.

It is a remarkable fact that the yield per-acre is declining day-by-day, certain remedial measures are essential to improve this yield. The factory has not initiated in this activity.

4:3] Problems of Irrigation:³

It is indeed true fact, that the use of irrigation water to agricultural land has increased the yield per-acre to a

3 Impact of lift irrigation on General Land use, cropping pattern and small Farmers : A case study of village Ales - By V.B. Jugale,
Shivaji University (Humanities) Journal - 1982-83 -
- unpublished .

maximum level. But currently the average yield of sugar-cane is decreasing. It was 43 tonnes in 1972-73 while it is only 28 tonnes in 1980-81. This is because of the reason of improper use of chemicals and irrigation water, which has caused decrease in the fertility of the soil.

2) Lift irrigation water is supplied by a rotation method, which requires 30 days. This has motivated the farmers to supply more quantity of water to a farm units. This decreases the temperature of soil. The black deep soil faces this problem.

3) Most of the irrigated land is covered with sugar-cane only, which has affected in decreasing production of foodgrains.

4) Farmers of the sub-region have no knowledge of modern irrigation methods like sprinkling method, Drip irrigation method etc. only farmers know traditional irrigation method, though the cost of such modern irrigation methods is high, it is necessary to adopt such methods to do away the problem of saline land in this area, and to avail wastage of water.

5) There is a striking irregularity in the frequency of water supply by lift irrigation schemes, which makes the farmers to supply more quantity of water than needed. About 65% of such water goes waste.