

*** CHAPTER FIFTH ***

>>> SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS <<<<<<
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CHAPTER-5.SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter is divided into two parts. In the first part some remedial measures are suggested and second is the concluding remarks of the project.

5.1] The sugar co-operatives and sugar cane processing has initiated a chain reaction of development with far-reaching effects on the area of operation in Maharashtra Sugar factories as development venues of rural areas have brought various gains to our economy in the process of development. A development process on its way creates some good things as well as some harmful situations. But only the efforts have to be brought to minimise or avoid the harmful activities and accept the good things - The problems classified in Chapter-IV are only some of the problems faced by sub-region, the shareholders. Every sugar factory ought to evolve a method of eliminating problems and develop sufficient machinery to execute properly throughout plans.

Following are some of the suggestions put forth to overcome the problems.

1) An issue which is very much debated pertains to farm labourers. The factory engages contract labourers for cutting, dressing, loading and transportation of sugar-cane. Among these operations cutting and dressing requires a

considerable amount of skill. The factory usually passes on the wages to the farm labourers through the contractor. But it is doubtful whether the labourers actually receive full wages paid by the factory. Such payment should be made directly to the labourers.

2) There should be clear recruitment policy made, which would ascertain merit and efficiency. The policy should not at all be based on personal relations and influences.

3) Factory should develop repair work-shops to repair the pump-sets and electric motors owned by members. Several other activities like dairy, poultry, piggeries, cattle feed plants, artificial insemination centres for cattle, bakeries etc. should be developed either through their own funds or through the promotion and encouragement.

4) Factory should employ one agriculture graduate as an expert in each village to guide the member shareholders about the cultivation from tilling to harvesting. These experts should work ^{as a} ~~kind~~ of crop doctors.

5) The provision of health services to shareholders should be provided. Special health education, campaign should be under taken instead of special camps e.g. habit of hygiene, proper sanitary condition, use of proper diets, sex education, eye and dental care etc.

6) Farmers education through seminars visits tours should be arranged through which the knowledge of tilling,

production, processing, marketing, storing etc. would be acquired by the farmers. It is observed that almost all sample shareholders have agreed to arrange visit.

7) The surplus income of the farmers should be further recycled for the development. Income from agriculture should be made taxable like all other income.

8) Price to sugar-cane should be based on the quality of sugar-cane. A common price among all shareholders results in nearby sugar-cane but less in recovery.

9) A plantation plan should be so evolved that all sugar-cane will be harvested at the proper time of 12 months.

10) A factory should provide a special scheme for the people living below the poverty line to uplift the poorest of the poor families .

11) The factory should advise through land development department and Irrigation Department on proper use of chemical fertilizers. New irrigation methods like 'Spinkling method' and 'Drip Irrigation Method ' should be introduced to avoid the problem of salinity. Though these two methods are expensive in long-run they will more profitable as the protection of saline lands will be eliminated.

12) A body of experts should be appointed for suggesting proper utilization of area development fund.

13) No research work of any kind is under taken by a factory. It is essential to assess the impact of its various activities e.g. evaluation of cropping pattern, land use etc. the factory should conduct intensive and detailed techno-economic survey regularly of each village in the sub-region.

14) The working of lift irrigation schemes should be modified and be made more efficiently. The expenses should equally be divided among the beneficiaries according to their acreage and according to the crop. e.g. sugar-cane requires 36 to 40 times water supply during its plantation to harvesting period.

15) A co-operative agricultural labour society should be set up, which could take over inefficient lands for cultivation, if the land owners agree. Deducting the cost of production the total income should be divided between the owner and the society.

16) New methods of sugar-cane plantation and cultivation should be undertaken. For example the 'strip sugar-cane cultivation method'¹. In this method much less amount of water and fertilizer is required. The method gives a better yield and double cropping.

17) The land ceiling act should be implemented.

18) Adequate and regular supply of electricity for irrigation is essential for working of irrigation schemes and development activities.

Ref No-3. 19) Now-a-days an experiment is made in connection with tractorised farms, which require more man-days of labour. Therefore, bullocks should be used in tilling the land. Besides our farmers are in great number, so in a small farm bullocks will be very helpfull. After a gap of three years a tractor may be utilised for ploughing the land. A tractor should not be used every year for ploughing the same land. Farmers favour tractor not for agriculture but for the purpose of transport.

20) Prices of sugar-cane should be paid as early as possible but not later than two weeks, *immediately after the supply of sugar-cane.*

5:2] Concluding Remarks:

In conclusion it is apt to offer some comments which is hoped may offer an insight about the socio-economic impact of the factory.

Though the factory is committed to develop its entire operational area, the north-western part of the sub-region is almost completely neglected and whatever impact is felt it is only where the area is favourable to the operation of the sugar factory.

All political elements and forces are ignored in this study. Despite this one has to admit that even among the shareholders, some have received more benefits than the others, creating a widening inequality. In spite of the commitment to develop the entire such region, all benefits have gone only to the shareholders and the rest of the multitude is left out.

One thing is certain, however, in a decade's time the region under impact has led its traditionalism and has taken a quick plunge to modernity. This plunge brings along with it consequent problems discussed in this dissertation.

One of the biggest benefits of the factory is that the total control of natural forces over agriculture is lessened and now man can attempt to control some of the factors of agriculture not remaining any more at the mercy of nature.

Whether for good or bad, the sugar factory has come to stay and has already set in an irreversible change. Though there are adverse consequences, the favourable consequences have dominated them.

The conclusion of this case study are common among all sugar co-operatives in the state except a few exception where mismanagement, corruption and politics have helped to erode the benefits.