



## CHAPTER II

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**The Hypothesis, Objectives, Methodology,  
The Sources of Data and The Plan of the Study.**

## CHAPTER - 2

### THE HYPOTHESIS, OBJECTIVES, METHODOLOGY,

### THE SOURCES OF DATA AND PLAN OF THE STUDY

#### 2.1 Introduction :

The countries which have launched upon planned economic development programmes since the beginning of the 1950s, have been facing various kinds of imbalances. Many of the developing countries put emphasis on accelerated industrialisation and neglected wholly or partly the agricultural development. The imbalances with which these countries are confronted are of two kinds : Industrial raw materials and agricultural raw materials which are used for production of final consumers' goods. India is not an exception to these situations. Though India has been facing with these types of sectorial imbalances between the supply and demand, the supply demand imbalances in regard to food articles seems to be chronic and of serious magnitude. In India, the scarcity of food articles has been acute and the tendency towards adulterating food articles has been rampant in the recent past. This could be attributed to the overrun of demand over the supply of essential food commodities. In countries like ours the income elasticity of demand for essential commodities, atleast in the initial stages of the development works

out to be more than unity. Further the high growth rate of population, consequent upon the accelerated enlarges the size of the demand for essential commodities which go into the consumption basket of the population. The scarcity conditions in respect of certain food articles sometimes get accentuated on account of real forces.

Speculation as regards the supply and demand positions of the articles and their relative prices further accentuates the scarcity conditions. The scarcity conditions might not be restricted to only essential commodities but to other non essential commodities. Since the scope of adulteration being large, extending to all scarce commodities subjected to adulteration. Even the scope of adulteration in respect of food items is too large for the individual researcher. That is why the scope of the present research is confined to only edible oils. Among the edible oils the G.N. oil is the principal item of consumption. Thus the chances of adulterating this principal edible oil are more. Hence in this dissertation an analysis of the problem of adulteration is directed towards only G.N. oil.

The food adulteration may not be justifiable on the grounds of social welfare and justice. Still some of the trading firms and even to some extent the manufacturers of these food articles are found to be indulging in adulteration. Some of the adulterated food items suit the consumers, which are not detected even by technical perso-

nnels and/or chemical laboratories. This might have been the cause of the pervasive nature and increasing trend of adulteration of food articles and particularly the adulteration of G.N. oil which is the subject matter of the factual study undertaken for the present dissertation.

## 2.2 Hypothesis of the Research :

The hypothesis of the research with which we start are as follows :

- 1) The adulteration of edible oils in general and of G.N. oil in particular has become the common feature in the market of edible oils and the trend toward adulterating those articles in the recent past has remained unchecked.
- 2) If the adulteration found to be pervasive and rampant it is on account of the wholesalers', retailers' and manufacturers' tendencies to earn more profits.
- 3) The adulteration if found to be pervasive and unchecked it might have been due to the laxity on the part of enforcing authorities of food and drug administration (F.D.A.)
- 4) If the adulteration of G.N. oil and its unchecked growth found to be not on account of manufacturers', wholesalers' and retailers' <sup>desire</sup> to earn more profit and or the laxity on the part of the F.D.A., then there must be some other reasons which could be held responsible for its pervasive and increasing trend.

These hypothesis have to be empirically tested by undertaking field enquiry restricting to either a region or to a part thereof.

### 2.3 Objectives of the Research :

The objectives of the present research therefore will be as follows :

- 1) To explore and locate the possibilities of adulterating food articles in general and of G.N. oil in particular.
- 2) To analyse the factors that induce the manufacturers wholesalers and even retailers to adulterate food articles including G.N. oil.
- 3) To describe both economic and social effects of food adulteration on consuming population with special reference to G.N. oil.
- 4) To suggest the remedial measures to bring down the tendency towards adulteration.
- 5) To evaluate the success of the implimentation of institutional measures adopted so far.

### 2.4 Methodology Used :

As stated earlier the scope of food adulteration being large extending to a large varieties and number of food articles the G.N. oil and its adulteration has been selected for field investigation. G.N. oil being most commonly used by the Indian population, the phenomenon

of adulteration must be all pervasive in a geographical sense. The field inquiry, however, is confined to a case study of G.N. oil adulteration in Kolhapur district of the State of Maharashtra. Geographical coverage of the inquiry has been <sup>re</sup>stricted to Kolhapur district and its interior parts. The justification for selecting the G.N. oil adulteration is that the possibilities of adulteration are large as compared with the other edible oils that go into the consumption of the population. Further G.N. oil being available in liquid form the incidents of adulteration at manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing levels are large, though in varying proportion. The samples of G.N. oil drawn include the samples from wholesalers and retail traders in Kolhapur city. The samples drawn and tested in the laboratories are collected from F.D.A. department. The period covered by the field inquiry extends from 1988 to 1992.

#### 2.5 Sources of Data :

The relevant data concerning the problem under study have been collected from the department of agriculture, government of Maharashtra. These data relate to area, production and yields of various edible oil seed crops in Kolhapur, Satara and Sangli districts. The figures of the arrivals of G.N. oil in Kolhapur from nearby states have been collected from Kolhapur Municipal Corporation (K.M.C.). The figures of supplies of edible oils by the

public distribution system (P.D.S.) are collected from supply department of Collector's Office of Kolhapur. The population numbers have been taken from the district census hand books of 1981 and the preliminary figures published by the Census of 1990. Further authentic information regarding G.N. oil adulteration has been collected from the F.D.A. office of Kolhapur district. Per capital consumption of edible oil has been taken from the survey report of Godrej. The method used for collecting data include both secondary and primary. However, much reliance is placed on the secondary data.

Thus the overall approach to the problem of food adulteration will be from the practical point of view.

#### 2.6 The Plan of the Study :

The research has been phased in the following order of stages :

- 1) First, data with regard to production of ground nut and other edible oil seeds have been collected and worked out the availability of ground nut oil in the district.
- 2) Secondly, data as to supplies of edible oils collected from the district office of the Collector and analysed.
- 3) Thirdly, the arrivals of edible oils including ground nut oil have been calculated on the basis of amounts of octroi collected by K.M.C.

- 4) Fourthly, face to face interviews with the wholesale traders and retail traders have been conducted.
- 5) Fifthly, retail consumers have been contacted with a view to knowing their awareness or otherwise in regard to ground nut oil adulteration.
- 6) Sixthly, samples of groundnut oil drawn tested in the laboratory and the cases launched against adulterators have been collected from the F.D.A. and analysed in view of the hypothesis formulated and the objectives set before us.