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Chapter - 5**SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS AND POLICY GUIDELINES**

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SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS AND POLICY GUIDELINES

5.1 Introduction

Co-operative sugar factories in Western Maharashtra are considered as the growth centres for rural development and social change. The co-operative sugar factories have two basic objectives 1) to increase sugar production through increasing sugarcane production, 2) to improve socio-economic condition of sugarcane producers and other people in rural area through implementing the various socio-economic oriented schemes, with special focus on targeted groups. This reveals the social commitment of the sugar co-operative towards the weaker sections of the society.

Against this background, two co-operative sugar factories in Kagal taluka namely 1) Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory Ltd., Kagal and 2) Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory Ltd., Bidri have been selected. It was observed that these two co-operative sugar factories in Kagal taluka have been playing important role in stimulating growth prospect of rural areas. Each factory has implemented various schemes for the backward community as well as other community. The purpose of all these schemes is to improve the economic condition of the backward community by providing financial help through government. These schemes are 1) Share Purchase Grant Scheme, 2) Sugarcane Development Schemes, 3) Irrigation scheme, 4) Schemes

for the provision of Inputs, 5) Plantation Programme, 6) Educational Scheme, 7) Medical Scheme, 8) Common Marriage Scheme, 9) Road Construction, etc. In view to know the level of participation of members of these co-operative sugar factories has hundred sample households who were mainly sugarcane growers were selected. Primary statistical information was collected relating to relevant variables from such households. More focus was to know what extents these households belong to backward community have been benefited both economically as well as socially.

5.2 Major Findings of the Study

5.2.1 Progress of Co-operative Sugar Factories

1. Jurisdiction area of Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory consists of 218 villages, in which 590 villages from Radhanagari taluka, 46 villages from Kagal taluka, 115 villages from Bhudargad taluka and 7 villages from Karveer taluka. In case of Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory, there are 82 villages, of which 52 villages from Kagal taluka, 27 villages from Karveer taluka, and 3 villages from Hatkanangale taluka.
2. These sugar factories showed upward trends in the membership during 1980-81 to 2003-04. During this period general membership and members of backward community has increased during this period.

3. The financial progress of Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory showed that the share capital has improved. It was Rs. 1.80 crores during 1980-81, which increased to Rs. 9.10 crores during 2003-04. While Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory's share capital increased from Rs. 1.56 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 17.06 crores in 2003-04. Thus, it shows good sign of achievement in respect of share capital.
4. Production of sugar has made significant progress due to adequate availability of sugarcane, better recovery and better management of cutting of sugarcane and transport facility etc. In the year 1980-81, the total production of sugar was 89.54 thousand bags and sugar recovery was 11.41% of Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory, Kagal. While the position of Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory, Bidri showed that sugar production was 4.36 thousand bags and sugar recovery was 11.51% during 1980-81, which increased to 5.96 thousand quintal and sugar recovery was 12.85% during 2003-04. Thus, both these showed good progress in respect of sugar production and sugar recovery.
5. Rate of sugarcane to be paid by sugar factory to sugarcane producers is quite important. Because the economic condition of such farmers depends upon the rate of sugarcane paid by sugar factory. During the year 2003-04

Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory paid Rs.1021 per tone while Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory paid Rs. 913 per tone. Thus, rate paid by Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory was higher than the rate paid by Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory.

6. Moreover, the two sugar factories have their own distillery plant, which produces spirit, alcohol, country and foreign liquor from the raw materials i. e. by molasses. This activity has created employment opportunities in rural area and additional source of income to the sugar factories and members.

5.2.2 Participation of Farmers of Backward Community in the Socio-economic Oriented Schemes

These co-operative sugar factories started various socio-economic oriented schemes in rural area in their operational area for general members as well as members belonging to backward community. These schemes are as below.

1. Share Purchase Grant Scheme

This scheme was started by the co-operative sugar factory through the Government of Maharashtra. Under this scheme, farmers belonging to backward community encourage to purchase share capital of co-operative sugar factory at concessional rate. Consequently, farmers of backward community have been benefited largely from such scheme.

2. Sugarcane Development Grant Scheme

Co-operative sugar factories have started the scheme in which sugarcane growers get good quality of sugarcane seeds to the farmers at concessional rate. This schemes has proved quite beneficial to the farmers of backward community which in turn resulted increased in area under sugarcane and production of sugarcane and thereby improvement in economic condition of farmers of the backward community.

3. Irrigation Scheme

Irrigation raises the productivity of land, by making possible multiple cropping, by increasing the yield per acre and by making possible the production of more lucrative commercial crops. Against this background, these two co-operative sugar factories tried to solve the problem of water in their operational area. They have developed network of lift irrigation schemes for getting assured water for sugarcane crop. Both types of farmers, general as well as farmers of backward communities have benefited from such scheme. In fact, there was 100% participation of farmers of backward community in this scheme.

4. Scheme for the Provision of Inputs

The factory provides good quality of sugarcane seeds, fertilizers for sugarcane crop, pesticides and implements for sugarcane crop at concessional rate to the members. It was observed that farmers of backward community were participated in this scheme and availed the

benefit from such scheme. Consequently, it has resulted to improve the economic condition of such farmers.

5. Training Programme

The factory implements this programme under the Agricultural Development Department, which provides the guidance about sugarcane cultivation to the members. Producers of sugarcane have been largely benefited from such programme, more particularly farmers belonging to backward community.

6. Plantation Programmes

The factory provides different fruit plants and forest plants. The 50% subsidy is given to the members. These schemes have benefited to the both type of members of the factories.

7. Road Constriction

The road construction process has helped to promote infrastructural facility for accelerating the growth of the rural areas. The transport of harvested cane to factory from the fields has been made smooth and convenient. The sugar co-operatives have built up approach roads in its area of operation. As a result of this process by the sugar factory, the sugar factory in turn gets the benefit of the higher recovery of harvested cane due to quick transportation of the cane to the factory of crushing. Consequent all members including the members of backward community have been benefited. Easily they can transport their cane to the sugar factories from their sugarcane fields.

8. Common Marriage Scheme

This scheme is very good and to prevent unproductive expenditure. This scheme has helped in bringing about national integrity. Both types of members general and members of backward community were participated in this programme.

9. Educational Scheme

These co-operative sugar factories established educational institutes from nursery to Degree College. These educational institutes provide various facilities like education, library, study centre, sports ground and other. Education can serve as a catalytic agent not only by imparting certain skill but also by broadening the mental horizons of the people and by creating new aspirations among them. General members as well as members of backward community have been taking benefits from such facilities.

10. Medical Facility Scheme

The sugar factories organize medical camp with the help of Zilla Parishad and government authorities at factory place for members and other people in operational area. Rural people including backward community take advantage of such scheme.

5.3 Policy Guidelines and Suggestions

Among various organizations which are involved in the promotion of co-operative movement the role of government is very crucial. The government has been promoting co-operative movement through financial help, enactment of laws, direct participation and maintenance

of administrative set up for performing various functions. The present study showed co-operative sugar factories in Kagal taluka have been playing important role in promoting socio-economic condition of rural people and backward communities. These factories implement various schemes for the members in view to improve socio-economic condition of rural community. However, it was also observed that the implementation of these was not much speedy. Moreover, members, particularly members belonging to backward community were not much aware about these schemes being implemented by co-operative sugar factories. More importantly, the participation of members of backward community was not at fullest extent. Moreover, it was noticed that the continuity did not maintain in the implementation of the most of these schemes. Therefore, some suggestions would be useful to enhance the efficiency of these schemes. These suggestions can be as below.

Suggestions

1. In further an attempt should be made to increase the membership specially belonging to backward class and as well as marginal farmers.
2. In further development scheme for backward community should be implemented every year, continuity in the implementation of these programmes should be maintained. Moreover, the participation of members of backward community should be increased in the various socio-economic developments. For this purpose, it is required to setup special administrative machinery for the members

of backward community and encourage them to participate in the various schemes being implemented by the co-operative sugar factories.

3. Adequate fund should be made available to the targeted groups while designing the programmes and the evaluation of programmes should be made annually and upgradation of programmes should be made regularly by the co-operative sugar factories so that general members and members of backward community will be benefited at fullest extent from such programmes.