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CHAPTER-II

A WORD ABOUT WARANA CO-OPERATIVE COMPLEX

INTRODUCTION :

Warananagar has an extraordinary standing of being the best example of successful co-operative movement. Since the organisation and registration of a Co-operative Sugar Factory in the year 1955 at Warananagar, the Socio-economic life of the people in Warana valley has undergone total transformation.¹ Exactly 35 years back, Warana Valley was a barren and hilly track. The land was simply overgrown with weeds and wild grass, where one would see flocks of sheep and rams grazing in the bushes. Only under unavoidable circumstances a common man could dare to enter the region. Today this dark picture has totally changed.

The man behind this change is Shri. V.A. alias Tatyasaheb Kore, Chairman, Leader and Founder of Warana Co-operative Complex. His visionary leadership is the inspiration behind sound co-operative sugar unit and many rural developmental activities sponsored by it.²

2.A CO-OPERATIVES :

2.A.1 SHREE WARANA SAHAKARI SAKHAR KARKHANA LTD., WARANANAGAR.

Unprecedented depression in 1951, literally ruined farmers in this area. Growing sugarcane and preparing

jaggery from it was an old profession of the farmers. But it was rarely a profitable enterprise. The cultivators burnt, oftenly their standing sugarcane because the jaggery rates were very low and they could not afford even the manufacturing and marketing expenses. There seemed no way out of it and the prospect offered a gloomy picture indeed.³

Tatyasaheb Kore, a son of this fertile yet starving soil, became restless when he saw this miserable plight of his farmer-brothers and he decided in the year 1954, to set up a modern co-operative sugar factory as a first step towards economic uplift of the farmers and around development of the Warana Valley. It was a herculean task to make the farmers realize the strength of unity, the power of co-operation. Tatyasaheb and his colleagues did all sorts of efforts to make the farmers swallow his idea of setting up a sugar factory owned and managed by the farmers themselves. Tatyasaheb, with dreams of prosperity of the area before him, set out with a bunch of likeminded and devoted social workers, visited almost all farmers of the 80 villages, personally talking with them till they were convinced of the idea.⁴

With such ceaseless and devoted efforts for two years the society was registered on 27th September, 1955 under the Co-operative Societies Act. Thus in 1959, on the barren heath of Warana, arose a modern temple of Co-operation and

Co-ordination. which is ^{known as} / 'Shree Warana Co-operative Sugar Factory'. Gradually poverty began to disappear from the face of Warana Valley. The farmer, who used to make gur could now control processing and marketing of sugar and get an assured and remunerative returns for his product.⁵

The successful running of the factory is testified by the fact that the working efficiency of the factory has broken all the existing records in the long standing history of Indian Sugar Industry. Immediate results of the successful running of the factory are the high returns to the producer members for the sugarcane supplied by them.

But this was not the end ^{itself. It was} / means to achieve the ultimate aim of allround development of the rural area. As the sugar factory started gaining strength and economic stability, the management took up in right earnest, the other developmental activities. Thus the society was not just to be manufacturing and profit making concern for the benefit of cane cultivators but a nucleus of allround development of the area of operation through its co-operative organisation and to help rural population in allround progress.⁶

Tatyasaheb is not a sort of man to become fully satisfied by small success. He has always very high aims. He became successful in giving sure and proper returns to the farmer brothers, but what is about overall development of his people ? Sugar factory proved to be a

first step in this direction. People of Warana understood how co-operative enterprises flourished in Warana, by taking proper guidance and assistance from their parent institution.⁷

In this context following ~~type~~ of activities are also undertaken by the factory.

a) AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT :

An independent agricultural department is set up to execute the agricultural development programme. The department guides the cultivators in the agricultural operations to improve the quality and yield of crop by modern and scientific methods of cultivation. The cultivators are provided with healthy sugarcane seedling by procuring them from Government and University Farms. They are also encouraged to grow their nurseries.

b) IRRIGATION EFFORTS :

Scarcity of water is the main bottleneck for the Agricultural Development. "Warana River" is the main source of water for the region. Factory took up the work of construction of three additional weirs. This was hailed as an unique Engineering achievement.

Lift Irrigation Schemes on Co-operative basis are encouraged by providing finance, technical know-how and managerial help. An independent irrigation department is opened to maintain and run the Co-operative Lift Irrigation Schemes.

c) GOBAR GAS PLANTS :

International oil crisis and consequent spralling prices of crude-oil have made the fuel problem Burning Topic. Fortunately, rural India has tremendous potential source in the form of cow-dung. If all this could be converted into Gobar-Gas and Manure, country's supply of organic manure will increase.

Government of India has, therefore, rightly given priority to this project with many incentives. Factory has taken up construction of Gobar Gas Plants for farmers by arranging finance from Nationalised Banks, subsidy, Technical know-how etc.

d) COMMUNAL MARRIAGES :

Traditional marriage system is a curse on our society. Common man is not only deprived of his life-time savings, but also he has to carry substantial burden of loan throughout his remaining life for marriage of daughter.

Factory, therefore, started arranging communal marriages at the community centre of factory site. The auspicious dates are selected and published. The needy

people, who would like to minimise ceremonial expenses register their names. Factory arranges the functions and bears all the expenses incurred.

e) UPLIFT OF HARIJANS :

The society is not yet free from the ugliest of our cultural heritage viz. "Untouchability" and cast system. Lives of Mahatma 'Ambedkars' the constitutional and legal provisions have failed to wipe out this blot on our social life.

The sugar factory ^{has been} / making humble attempt in this direction. For their economic progress, grant-in-aids are given for agricultural development works / ^{such as for} construction of wells, irrigation schemes, land development etc. Students from backward class studying in educational institutes ^{have} been / given special concessions. ⁸

2.A.2 SHREE WARANA KAMGAR VIVIDH KARYAKARI SEVA SOCIETY LTD., WARANANAGAR. :

Warana Kamgar V.K.S. Society was registered in 1960, to provide the credit requirements and essential services to members. The objectives of this society are -To inculcate habit of self-help, mutual aid and co-operation among the workers.

2.A.3 PCULTRY CO-OPERATIVES :

For the promotion of poultry industry, two co-operatives namely 'Shree Warana Kombadi Sahakari Sangh' and 'Sahayadri Kukkut Palan Sanstha' were established in December, 1963 and July, 1968 respectively.

These societies act as a central organisation for the poultry development in the 80 villages of Warana Valley. These societies provide layers and arrange to collect eggs daily from the members. They also provide veterinary services, poultry feed and cattle feed to its members.⁹

2.A.4 SHREE WARANA SAHAKARI BANK LTD.,WARANANAGAR :

For the promotion of all the above schemes, there felt the need of having a financing agency. Shree Warana Sahakari Bank, therefore, came into being in 28th February 1966, with objectives of to encourage thrift, self-help and cooperation among the members and also to do all types of banking business.

Thus, the bank helps to create banking habits among the rural population. This institution has played its part in social responsibility by providing loan at subsidised interest rates to weaker sections (i.e. small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans etc.) to establish their small industry like Poultry, Dairy, etc.

2.A.5 SHREE WARANA SAHAKARI DUDH UTPADAK PRAKRIYA SANGH
LTD., AMRUTNAGAR :

Sugar factory and sugarcane development improved the lots of cane growers, who were only 20% of the rural population. But something was required to be done for the remaining 80%, who were depended mainly on dry-farming. a way has, therefore, to be found to supplement their income.

Tatyasaheb Kore, thought that dairy and poultry were the only two agricultural based industries, which should be adopted for rural population. Hence, 'Shree Warana Co-operative Dairy' was established in 20th July, 1968, with the objective of economic upliftment of the weaker sections living in Warananagar area through dairy industry.

This project has been set up on the lines of "Anand" Dairy project in Gujarat. The plant processes about two lakh litres of milk per day which is collected from farmers and surrounding 176 villages. It has ensured a steady disposal of their milk and also sound returns on them. veterinary service, credit and other facilities are provided by the society to the farmers for purchasing high yielding cattles. The compact automatic plant processes milk into products like pasturised Milk, Milk powder, Ghee, Butter, Shrikhand, Lassi, Mango-G, Warana Spray for better marketability.

2.A.6 SHREE WARANA VIBHAG SAHAKARI GRAHAK MANDAL
LTD., WARANANAGAR (WARANA BAZAR) :

An economic progress achieved by the rural population would serve the end, only if it could help improve the living standard. Without proper consumer service, the surplus generated would be wiped out by the private traders. Factory, therefore, embarked on the consumer service project.

Thus 'Shree Warana Vibhag Sahakari Grahak Mandal Ltd., which is popularly known as "Warana Bazar" was set up in 2nd April, 1978, with special emphasis on requirements of rural population the main objectives of the Grahak Mandal are- to serve common people residing in this area by making availability of all daily needed consumer goods at reasonable rates with assured good quality.

Further step is, to reach the rural interior by opening a chain of mini-departmental stores. At present eleven retail outlets and two departmental stores are opened by the Grahak Mandal. The annual sale picked up from Rs. 80 lakhs to 11 crores within a short period of twelve years, showing the faith created by the store in the rural mind.

2.A.7 WARANA PAPER PLANT :

To suppliment sugar manufacturing activity, industrial development was felt necessary, due to fluctuating sugar

market and disposal problems of by-products like bagasse and molasses. Bagasse, a valuable raw material for paper production has to be disposed of at throw away price for lack of demand. Government of India has also announced incentives for production of paper from non conventional material to stop fast depletion of already scare forests. Thus, paper manufacturing plant, at a cost of Rs. 7.00 crores was set up in 1983.

2.B EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX :

Education is a potent and formidable agent of socialization and a vehicle of social mobility. Education alone can open up a new way of life, new horizon, new aspiration and new opportunities to children and youth. It is most powerful weapon of social transformation and moulding the new generation into a "New Man" with scientific outlook and conscious of its social and national responsibilities.

Education activity was, therefore, taken up by establishing an educational society named "Shree Warana Vibhag Shikshan Mandal" in 1964. The main objective of the Shikshan Mandal is to provide educational facilities for rural population.

Following are some of the faculties of this Shikshan Mandal :

a) KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL :

Pre-primary Education is not financed by Government. Generally, therefore, villages do not have kindergartens. Realising the necessity, factory sponsored kindergarten in villages by providing finance for salaries of trained montensory teachers and administrative expenses to manage the schools.

b) PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL :

Primary and Secondary School named 'Shree Warana Vidyalaya, Warananagar' was established in 1969 on public school pattern with emphasis on character building and discipline.

c) ARTS SCIENCE AND COMMERCE COLLEGE :

In 1963, a survey of all Secondary Schools in the area was taken. This revealed that, only 10% of the students completing secondary education, joined the University education. Rest had to drop out, as they could not afford to join a city college due to prohibitive expenses. The mandal, therefore, opened a college of Arts, Science and Commerce which is known as 'Shree Warana Mahavidyalaya, Warananagar' in June 1964. Within a short time, the college earned the reputation of being one of the best in the Shivaji University jurisdiction.

d) ENGINEERING COLLEGE :

This institute was set up in September, 1983, for providing Degree and Diploma Courses. Within a short span of seven years the institution has developed into an ideal Institute fully equipped with laboratories, workshops and libraries. Academically it stands at top among all non-grantable engineering colleges in Shivaji University jurisdiction.

e) INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE :

To enhance the future generation for 21st Century, due emphasis must be given for technical education, to meet the demand of rapidly growing industrialization and high technology wave. Therefore, an industrial training institute named, "Tatyasaheb Kore Industrial Training Institute", was opened in 5th August, 1983. Similarly, Tatyasaheb Kore Training-cum-production Centre, also set-up in 5th August 1984, to absorb newly trained craftsmen. These two centres provide training for sheet metal worker, welder, craftsman, mechanic and electrician. An industrial estate has been set-up to provide infrastructure, to enable technically qualified boys to set up their small scale industrial units.

f) PHYSICAL EDUCATION :

"A Sound Mind is in a Sound Body". No educational project would, Therefore, be complete without covering the

aspect of physical education. A modern and well equipped gymnasium named 'Warana Vyayam Mandir' provides facilities for training in traditional wrestling.

2.C. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND :

2.C.1 SHREE WARANA KAMGAR KALYAN MANDAL,WARANANAGAR :

'Shree Warana Kamgar Kalyan Mandal' was established in 1966, with the intention of welfare of workers through various activities. The amenities provided to workers are the noteworthy features of Warana Sugar Factory.

Educational aid in kind such as uniforms, books etc. is given to the poor and needy students in the primary and highschool at warananagar, every year. Free medical camps such as ENT, Dental are arranged every year for the benefit of the poor people. Bonus and incentive schemes have been in practice. This has made workers really devoted towards their duties. Apart from above facilities for workers, a new scheme named, "Nivrutyi Vetan Yojana" has been implemented in all co-operative institutions of Warana Complex.¹⁰

2.C.2 SHARADA VACHAN MANDIR, WARANANAGAR :

Library is a powerful tool of adult education and of enlightening the common man on literature, national and international scene etc. 'Sharada Vachan Mandir', therefore,

was set-up in 1967 for looking of library. It also organises lecture series to educate general public on various topics.

2.C.3 SHREE WARANA VIBHAG SATKARYA SANVARDHAK
MANDAL, WARANANAGAR :

The mandal was set up in 2nd October, 1968, with the objectives of, to sponsor rural development activities, as well as to run kindergarden schools and adult education programme. With the establishment of this Mandal, children and adults in rural area of Warananagar are benefited by providing them educational facilities.¹¹

2.C.4 SHREE WARANA BAL VADYA-VRINDA :

A children's Musical Orchestra, which is popularly known as 'Warana Bal Vadya-Vrinda is highly lauded cultural activity, which was set up in 1970. It is absolutely amazing to see small children ranging from the age ^{of} 6 to 14 years ready to treat the audience with enchanting music.

The team went from success to success. It won the hearts of audience in the cities. The moment of highest honour dawned, when the group was invited to present their Orchestra before the President, Prime Minister ^{of India} and the Ambassadors of the various countries and high dignitaries on the occasion of Children's Day function in New Delhi on 14th November, 1975.

The children's Orchestra has made a name not only within the country, but ^{also} /has international recognition through their heartwarming and impressive performance at Sibenik, Yugoslavia in 1976 and at Mauritius in 1989.¹²

2.C.5 SHREE WARANA BHAGINI MANDAL, WARANANAGAR :

Shree Warana Bhagini Mandal was established in 1975 to help the needy house-wives and therefore, various edibles, pickles, spices are prepared by them. Besides, Chutney -machine, Grinding-mills, tailoring and cutting classes, stitching of school uniforms and other dresses are also made by these house-wives. Similarly, with starting of branch of "Lijjat Papad Mahila Udyog Ltd.," in 25th September, 1974, many workers-wives have got work of rolling papad in their leissure time and share some financial burden of their families.

Thus, this Bhagini Mandal gives a helping hand to these house-wives Therefore, we can say that because of the Bhagini Mandal there is a marked change in the life of women of this area.¹³

2.C.6 MAHATMA GANDHI MEDICAL TRUST :

Medical care is a basic need of the common man. Rural people have to run to cities for special medical treatment. For poorest section, this is financially not possible and is deprived of expert medical aid during critical illness.

Factory therefore, has built a well-equipped hospital, specially for workers. A Charitable Trust named, "Mahatma Gandhi Medical Trust" is registered with a view to establish a 200 beds hospital, equipped with modern and latest facilities available in medical field. Construction of the hospital building is under progress. This will make available to best possible medical aid to everybody in the region.

This is the brief review of history of "Warana Co-operative Complex". The Sugar Factory Acts as a nucleus for these various developments/activities and Tatyasaheb Kore is the pioneer and Chief architect of the warana complex.¹⁴ He is endowed with extraordinary qualities of head, hand and heart. His mind is always in search of new ideas that will bring the betterment of his people. He has the objective of 'Allround Development' of the area for economic progress of all sections of Rural Society. He has chosen band of dedicated and devoted friends and followers. They give him full co-operation. Their combined efforts have made Warananagar an ideal township, internationally famous as a successful centre of co operation.¹⁵

Thus, "Co-operative Principles" are brought into practice in real sense of words for an integrated Development of the Rural Society. Still lot more is required to be achieved for a real "RAMRAJYA". The wheels are moving in right direction and dreams of a prosperous and happy life are slowly coming within reach of the rural society.¹⁶

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