

CHAPTER - V

A SAMPLE STUDY

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Occupational characteristics
- 5.3 Dependent source of income
- 5.4 Borrowing economy
- 5.5 Movement of people
- 5.6 Drought conditions and awareness of people

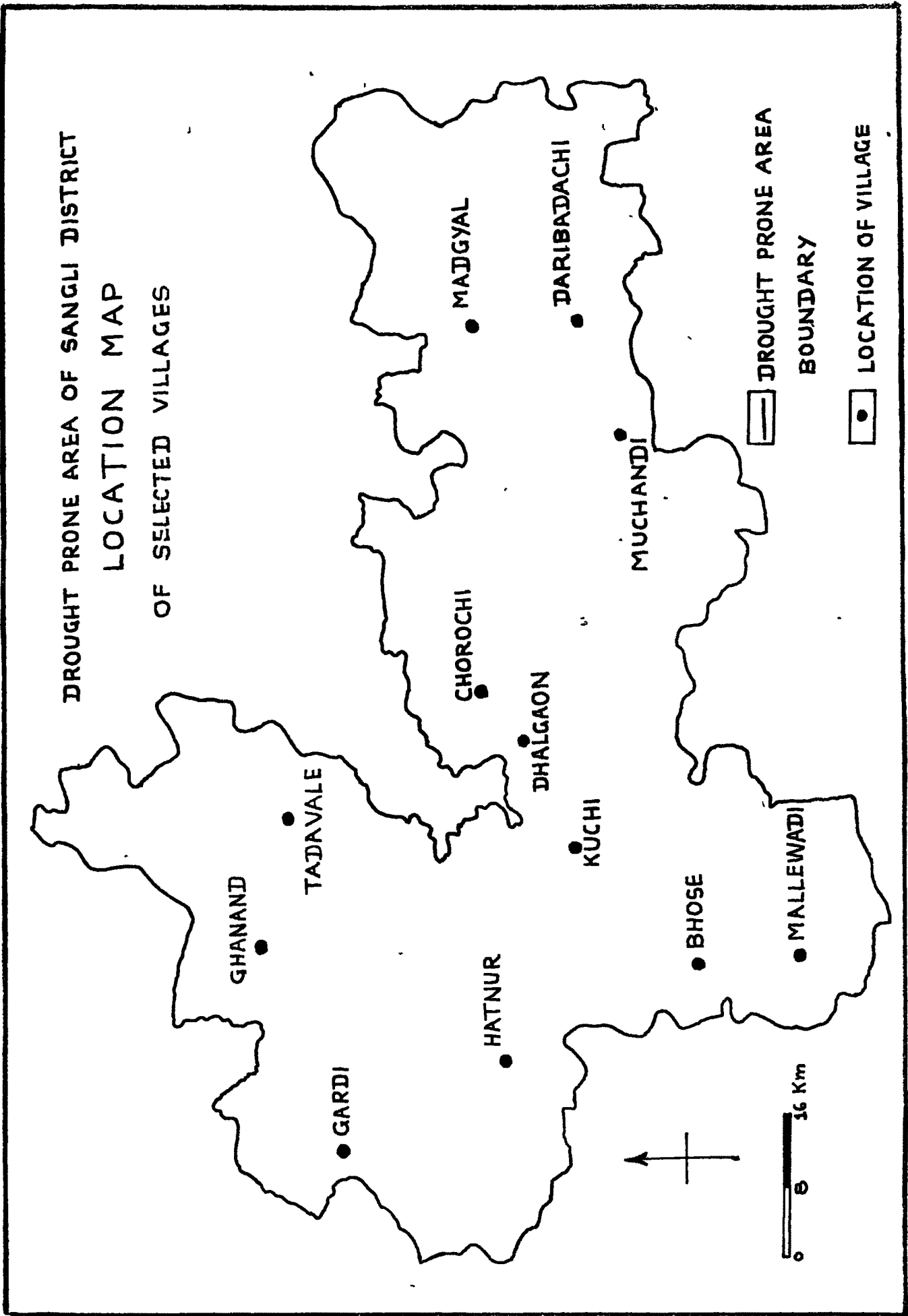
5.1 INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapters the study of physiography, climatic conditions in general, water balance and agricultural situation has been attempted. In the present chapter an attempt has been made to study the socio-economic character of drought prone area. This study is based on intensive field work of selected villages. Out of 276 settlements 12 settlements namely Kuchi, Thalgaon, Chorochi, Muchandi, Madgyal, Daribadachi, Ghanand, Tadavale, Gardi, Hamnur, Bhose and Mallewadi have been randomly selected (Koul, 1984). See figure 5.1 for location of the

Table 5.1 Occupational groups and number of families selected.

Sr. No.	Group	Number of families from each villages	Total families
1.	Small farmer	4	48
2.	Medium farmer	4	48
3.	Big farmer	2	24
4.	Landless labour	2	24
5.	Sheep herder	2	24
6.	Trader	1	12
Total		15	180

villages. These villages have been randomly selected. From these 12 selected villages on an average 15 families from each village have been selected with a particular objective. The selection



FIG, 5.1

of families was based on the size of farm holding, landless group, sheep herding and trading activities. The Table 5.1, gives the number of families selected from each occupational group as case studies.

In all 180 families have been selected for case study; in them 120 families (66.67% of total families selected) of cultivators, 24 families (13.33%) of land labourers, 24 (13.33%) families of sheep herder were interviewed.

A questionnaire was prepared (Appendix B) and information was collected regarding all 180 families. On the basis of information collected various tables have been prepared to attempt an analysis of Socio-economic character of the region. All results and inferences in this chapter, are based on the data collected by field work.

5.2 OCCUPATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The selected families are mainly belonging to the occupations which are mainly related to agriculture. However, a few trader families have been included but most of these families also have a close association with the cultivation of land. Here an attempt has been made to find out whether the case study families are totally dependent on a particular single occupation or they are also engaged in some subsidiary occupations. An enquiry was made in this direction, revealed that out of 180 families only 3.9% families are totally engaged in single occupation and all of these families belong to landless labour category (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2 Subsidiary occupations

Number of subsidiary occupations	Number of families	% to total number of families selected
0	7	3.9
1	44	24.4
2	87	48.8
3	37	20.6
4	5	2.8

Nearly 24.4% families have agriculture as main occupation with one subsidiary occupation, mainly animal husbandry (including sheep and goat rearing activity). Large percentage of families mainly cultivators (48.3%) are associated with two subsidiary occupations. The important subsidiary occupations of these families are animal husbandry and either poultry farming or service. Three or more subsidiary occupations are found in the small farmers and sheep herders. Those subsidiary occupations are mainly animal rearing, service, labour and trade.

The analysis leads to the conclusion that since in the drought area agriculture is uncertain people have to depend on other sources of income.

5.3 DEPENDENT SOURCE OF INCOME

Since drought is permanent feature of the area, many families or working age group persons of the families have permanently migrated to metropolitan cities outside the region. General statistics of the area indicates that nearly 18% young population of this region has migrated to Greater Bombay, and 21% young working population have migrated to other parts of the country. However, this migrated population has close family ties. Out of the earned income they regularly send some part to their families living in the region.

Table 5.3 Families receiving money from out side the region.

Group	No.of families of each group	Families receiving money	% of money receiving to total families in each group	% of families to total money receiving families
Small farmer	48	16	33.33	28.57
Medium farmer	48	16	33.33	28.57
Big farmer	24	13	54.17	23.21
Landless labour	24	7	29.17	12.5
Sheep herder	24	2	8.33	3.5
Trader	12	2	16.87	3.5
Total	180	56	31.11	100%

Out of 180 case studies 56 families (31.11% of total families sampled) receive money from their family members living out side the region. A detailed statistics of various groups of families is given in Table 5.3.

The results are very surprising, out of the total 56 families receiving money orders 29 families (51.78% of total money receiving families) are from medium and big farmers category. Only 28.57% money order receiving families are from small farmers group. Out of total 56 families only 12.5% labour families receive money from out side, and negligible percentage of traders and sheep herders (3.6% for each group) depend on outside money.

It is evident from the table that mainly farmer families receive money from outside.

5.4 BORROWING ECONOMY

In order to study the borrowing economy of the people and their repaying capacity the question was asked to find out the source of loan and the reason for which the loans are taken. It is observed that out of 180 families 132 families of different groups procure loan from different sources (73.33% families out of total families), (Table 5.4).

The loans are generally taken from land mortgage bank, scheduled banks, co-operative societies and local money lenders.

Table 5.4 Number of families taking loans.

Group	No. of families taking loans	% of no. of families loan taking to total families of each group
Small farmer	43	89.60
Medium farmer	38	79.20
Big farmer	24	100.00
Landless labour	8	33.33
Sheep herder	16	66.67
Traders	3	25.00

Total	132	73.33

Most of the big farmers take loans and repay it in time. Out of the total small farmers 89.6% farmers take loan. Most of the loan is utilized for the development of agriculture and subsidiary occupations. In respect of medium farmers, 79% farmers take loans and utilize it for agriculture and subsidiary occupations. However, big farmers utilize loan mostly for the development of agriculture. As compared to big farmers loan repaying capacity of small and medium farmers is very low. Nearly 62% medium and small farmers are defaulters. Very few landless labour families (33.33%) take loans. Most of them take loans from local money lenders. In respect of sheep herders, 66.7% sheep herders take loans for the development of main occupation. Only 25% trader take loans and use it for the development of trade (Table 5.5).

Table 5.5 Utilization of loans.

Group	Miscellaneous purpose	Main occupation	Subsidiary occupation	Total loan taking families
Small farmer	93.02	4.70	2.3	43
Medium farmer	73.70	23.70	2.6	38
Big farmers	12.50	79.20	8.3	24
Landless labour	-	-	100.0	8
Sheep herder	-	87.50	12.5	16
Trader	-	100.00	-	3
Total	53.80	35.60	10.60	132

The analysis clearly indicates that the area needs more money for the development of agriculture and services. However, for the development of economy it is essential to provide long term subsidised loans to the farmers and sheep herders of the area.

5.5 MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE

Migration, temporary or permanent is a universal character of drought area. People from all occupational characteristics think of migration from this area to other areas of attraction. There are several 'Push' factors dominant in drought area. Uncertainty of agriculture and low agricultural production has always played an important role as push factors in the area. However, the entire agriculture economy is of subsistence nature.

Naturally, dependent activities are also affected by this poor agricultural economy of the area. People engaged in other than agriculture activities are also attracted by 'Pull' factors of the other areas; and migration becomes a common feature of the drought region. Speaking about the study area, one must mention that if a person visits only important cities of India and moves into stock market one will come across one or two families belonging to the study area particularly from Khanapur and Atpadi tehsil. These people are engaged in purification of gold and silver.

Permanent migration :

The sample study shows that the average size of family is 6.9. Out of 180 families including 1151 members 152 members have permanently migrated to other parts of the country, it comes to 13.30% of the total population sampled. As mentioned earlier most of these persons are engaged in gold and silver purifying activities, a few are employed in army services, and some are found in textile mills of Greater Bombay.

Temporary migration :

The seasonal migration takes place with certain motives, and normally it is of a short duration and short distance migration. People from this area migrate seasonally because, during severe conditions of drought it is very difficult for farmers and sheep herders to graze their animals. Naturally they

take their animals to the better areas where fodder and grass is available. Most of the landless labourers and small farmers migrate to sugar factory sites where they get employment and fodder for their animals. The seasonal migration in respect of traders and big farmers is negligible because for big farmers there is no need to migrate and traders can not migrate because their trade is established in the area.

Table 5.6, shows the temporary migration of persons from 180 selected families.

Table 5.6 Temporary migration of persons from 180 selected families.

Group	Total families	Total population sampled	Total temporary migrants
Small farmer	48	226	33
Medium farmer	48	344	21
Big farmer	24	184	0
Landless labour	24	100	25
Sheep herder	24	195	30
Trader	12	102	0
Total	180	1151	109

It is observed that out of total families studied from different groups more people of small farmers and sheep herders migrate seasonally. Comparatively medium farmers and landless

labours have less percentage of seasonal migration.

5.6 DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND AWARENESS OF FARMERS

In order to find out awareness of farmers regarding various dry farming techniques and government efforts in this direction, particularly about the introduction of drought resistant varieties. Several questions were asked to the farmers and results have been tabulated.

Questions regarding the knowledge of dry farming techniques were asked. The first question was, regarding the mulching and not picking pebbles. Out of 154 farmers families only one family knows the technique and surprisingly enough no one has adopted the technique in the area.

In respect of contour ploughing it is observed that all 154 families know the technique, but only 64.9% families have adopted the technique, 13.6% farmers are careless. About 19.5% families depend on hired working force and 18.8% families could not apply the technique because their fields are rectangular, the long side of the rectangle lying in the direction of slope.

A question was asked related to knowledge of watershed approach. Out of 154 families 17 families know about the effort of government regarding watershed strategy, and out of the total families only 2 families know the benefits of the schemes and 15 families do not know the benefits.

Regarding the knowledge of drought resistance varieties, it is observed that out of total families, 3 families from small farmers, 6 families from medium farmers group and 9 from big farmers group know about the drought resistant varieties. Two traders and one sheep herder family also know the technique. Overall 15% of the sampled families had a knowledge of drought resistant varieties (Table 5.7).

Table 5.7 Knowledge of drought resistant varieties.

Group	Total farming families	Number of families knowing drought resistant varieties	% to total families
Small farmer	48	3	6.2
Medium farmer	48	6	12.5
Big farmer	24	9	37.5
Sheep herder	23	1	4.3
Trader	11	2	18.2
Total	154	21	15.6

As far as the application of these varieties is concerned the picture is disappointing. Application of drought resistant varieties is the prime need of the region but people are not eager to use such varieties. This may be due to lack of communication gap between the developmental agency and people.

A question was asked about the Social Forestry Scheme. About 67.33% of 154 families of farming activity know about it; but only 4 families have implimented the scheme.

Concluding the salient features of the first hand information collected, one may observe that the poor agricultural economy of the area is an important reason for the backwardness of people. Socially people are attached to the region but economically they are detached from it. This must be a reason for migration and lack of awarness of various developmental programmes. However, for the rational development of agriculture the development agencies will have to make very hard efforts to bring awarness among the people of the region, so that some developmental efforts can be activated in the region.

R E F E R E N C E

1. Koul, Lokesh (1984). Methodology of Educational Research.
New Delhi : Vani Educational Books. p.107-110.