
CHAPTER : VI

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Satara is one of the developed districts in the western Maharashtra because of rich development in agriculture. Karad is one of the economically and culturally prosperous talukas of this district, and is located on the south in the districts. Karad taluka has a total geographical area of 405.80 square kilometers. Its geographical location is $17^{\circ} 06'$ and $17^{\circ}30''$ north latitude and $73^{\circ} 59'$ and $74^{\circ} 54''$ east longitude. It has a population of 4,59,955 persons according to 1991 census.

Karad taluka has physiographically divided in to three zones that is above 900 meters height 600 to 900 meters and 450 to 600 meters height. The region under study is a part of basaltic plateau of Maharashtra with an average height of 600 meters above the mean sea level. From the view point of drainage, the entire land of Karad taluka belongs to the larger drainage, system of Krishna river. Krishna river has two tributaries. Viz. Tarali and Koyna which meet to the Krishna on the right banks at Umbraj and Karad respectively.

The climate of the Karad taluka is monsoon type. The study region neither experiences abrupt changes of

temperature nor extremes of hot or cold. The seasons show local variations. The rainfall is not uniform through out the study region. Rainfall amount decreases from west to east side. 85 per cent of total rainfall is received during the rainy season.

Four types of soils are found in study region. These soil types are laterite soils, black soils, deep black soils and brown soils.

It is observed that the 37.37 per cent of the total villages of Karad taluka have no forest area and 2.19 per cent of total villages have above 45 per cent forest land. Higher area under forest is found in south-western part of the study region. While low area under forest is found in south, south-eastern and north-eastern part of the study region. Geologically the whole of Karad taluka falls within the deccan trap area.

Percentage of net cultivated area was highest in 27 villages of Karad taluka. Only 3.30 per cent villages have below 20 per cent cultivated area. The higher percentage of net cultivated area is found northern part of Karad taluka .

Karad is one of the industrially developed talukas in the Satara district. Two big sugar factories namely, Krishna Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Rethare and Sahyadri Sahakari

Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, are established in Karad taluka. There are three M.I.D.C. areas. The road network is well developed in Karad taluka. The study region has National Highway No.-4. There are five major roads, besides these roads, broadguage railway line passes through the study region.

According to 1991 census the population of the study region is 4,59,955 including 2,31,712 males and 2,28,243 females. 87.64 per cent of the total study regions populations live in rural areas. The study region registered the population growth of 20.19 per cent during the decade 1981-91. However the growth rate of population in study region slightly lower than that of the Satara district (20.24 per cent). The study region has an average density of 430 persons per square kilometer. 1991 census records the sex ratio of 985 families per thousand males in the study region. It reveals that the sex ratio in the Karad taluka increased during 1981-91.

Pursuant to the policy of Government of Maharashtra in regard to establishment and development of agro-based industrial units in the state and district, then chief minister late honorable Yashwantraoji Chavan had appealed to the social workers and leaders in this matter. In response

to the said appeal, the social workers of Karad taluka gathered together, held detailed discussion with sugar cane growers and reached the decision to submit a proposal for permission to establish a sugar factory to the Government of India. As there was adequate quantity of sugar cane crop, availability of water and empty land according a Co-operative Society by name Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd, came to registered under the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies act on 26th August 1969. The completion of all other formalities a foundation stone was laid on shahapur mal (shiravade) on 8th April 1970. Membership of this sugar factory is restricted to sugar cane growers alone from the very beginning. With all the problems, management could complete the project and was ready to take first trial crushing season in the year 1974-75.

In the initial stage of the establishment of Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, the area of operation was comprised of the 150 villages from Satara and sangli districts in 1974-75. Since then the number of villages have increased every year. In 1995-96 five talukas partly and 209 villages come under the catchment area of Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad. Catchment area of the Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana lies in between

17°17'48" to 17°37'06" north latitude and 73°58'11" to 74°32'20" east. longitude. Shareholders of this sugar factory has been increased from 5106 in 1970-71 to 27585 in 1997.

In 1974-75 the initial plant capacity was 1250 T.C.D. Assuming the crushing season lasting for 160 days. In 1980-81 the plant capacity of Sahyadri Sugar factory was raised upto 5000 T.C.D. in 1991-92 now in 1996-97 it has got 7500 T.C.D. crushing capacity. This ratio shows the development of Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad.

Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana has organized a separate sugar cane development cell headed by a qualified and experienced sugar cane development officer to impart advanced knowledge of sugar cane development activities particularly well developed sugar cane seed viz. Co-014, coc-671, Krishna-7741, Nira- 86032 etc. Soil testing activities are also carried on Sahyadri Sugar factory. The compost manure is sold to the farmers at a very concessional rate. Due to scarcity of rainfall, sugar factory give facility of boring and blasting to the member of this sugar factory or farmers. Factory also give subsidy for digging wells. New innovations in sugar cane cultivation is also

communicated with the help of magazines to the members of this factory.

Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana has sponsored many major Co-operative lift irrigation schemes in the operation area of this sugar factory. All the above mentioned efforts done by the sugar factory. As a result, sugar cane cultivation is increased in the operation area of Sahyadri Sugar factory from 4535 hectares in 1974-75 upto 13168 hectares in 1995-96.

From 1974-75 to 1995-96, it is observed that the lowest sugar cane production (60.6 per cent hectare) was recorded in 1983-84 and the year 1977-78 recorded highest sugar cane production (87.8 per hectare) in the sugar factory zone. There was remarkable fluctuation in the sugar cane production for the first two years that is during 1974 to 1976 and continuously increased during 1984 to 1988 and during 1994 to 1996.

From 1975 to 1996, it is observed that the lowest sugar recovery (106.6 Kg in per thousand Kg of sugar cane) was recorded in 1976-77 and the year 1991-1992 recorded highest sugar recovery (124.6 Kg in per thousand Kg of sugar cane) in the Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad.

It is observed that from 1974-75 to 1995-96, the lowest sugar production (18,000 metric tons) was recorded in 1974-75. On the other hand in the year 1995-96 recorded highest sugar production (1,40,000 metric tons) in Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad..

It is found that the percentage of net cultivated area was relatively increased. The lowest sugar cane production (60.6 per hectare) was recorded in 1983-84, due to drought condition in this catchment area, it is observed that the year 1977-78 recorded highest sugar cane production (87.8 per hectare) with 168 crushing days when the crushing capacity was 1250 metric tons in the Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana's zone. It is found that in the year 1974-75 when Sahyadri Sugar factory was started its first crushing season 1,58,552 metric tons, the lowest sugar cane was crushed. On the other hand during 1995-96 there was 12,63,376 metric tons, the highest sugar cane crushed in the Sahyadri Sugar factory when the crushing capacity was 5000 metric tons in total 251 crushing days.

The Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad, is one of the leading sugar industries in Satara district which is more influenced by the sugar cane cutters who come from the drought prone part of the

state, particularly from the Marathwada region. In 1995-96 nearly 12,600 sugar cane cutter migrants come to Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana from various districts of Maharashtra. In 1974-75 when Sahyadri Sugar factory was started, 750 bullock carts were working, 125 sugar cane cutter toils came in that year to cut sugar cane in the study region. Thus in the year 1974-75 totally 3000 sugar cane cutter migrants were working. Form 1974 to 1980 there was no noteworthy increase in the number of bullock carts as well as sugar cane cutters because no increase in sugar cane yield and crushing capacity of this sugar factory.

In 1980 the crushing capacity of the Sahyadri Sugar factory was increased upto 2200 metric tons. At the same time the sugar factory became capable to have 1075 bullock carts its own and more over the land under sugar cane cultivation in the catchment area of the Sahyadri Sakhar Karkhana was increased. Then in 1990 the number of toils were increased up to 195, the total sugar cane cutters were 7905, of which 4990 were males and 3415 female workers.

It is found that in the year 1991 the crushing capacity of the Sahyadri sugar factory was again increased upto 5000 metric tons, the total sugar cane cutters were 7665, of which 4370 were males and 3295 were female workers. It is

observed that in the year 1995-96 the total sugar cane cutters increased upto 12,585 during this year of which 6830 are male and 5755 are female sugar cane cutters. The total toils are 390 and the crushing capacity of the Sahyadri Sahakari Sugar factory remains the same. It is concluded that the number of Sugar cane cutter migrants and number of toils are increased as soon as the crushing capacity of the Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana is increased and increase of sugar cultivation in the catchment area of this sugar factory caused the increase of crushing capacity.

The present study revealed that most of the sugar cane cutter migrants come from Beed, Ahmednagar, Usmanabad, Solapur, Parbhani. Vijapur district and a few sugar cane cutter migrants come from Jalana, Sangli and Satara district. The study revealed that most of the sugar cane cutter migrants come from Patoda, Majalgaon, Kej, Gevarai and Ashti talukas of Beed district and Ahmednagar, Jamkhed, Karjat, Pathardi talukas of Ahmednagar district and Bhum, Paranda talukas of Usmanabad district while Satara, Sangli, Jalana, Parbhani, Solapur district reported a few sugar cane cutter migrants towards the Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad.

The sugar cane cutter migrants having age of 15 to 55 come towards this sugar factory. This age is working age group. It is found that out of 272 sampling families nearly 47 per cent sugar cane cutter migrants families come from Beed district, 24 per cent migrants families come from Ahmednagar district, 11 per cent sugar cane cutter migrants come from Usmanabad district, 6 per cent families come from Sangli district and 4 per cent sugar cane cutter migrants families come from Vijapur district. It is found that quantity of girls are more than boys with this sugar cane cutter migrants families.

The present study reveals that the sugar cane cutter migrants themselves are illiterate and have no need to become educated their children. Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana has started seasonal school for the children of this sugar cane cutter migrants. Sugar cane cutter migrants left their boys to their native place for the educational purpose and bring girls here to work on the field or huts. These girls help them various ways to earn more money in the field and take care of their huts and small babies.

It is found that out of 272 sugar cane cutter migrants families 128 families (47.05 per cent)are come from Beed, of which 91.40 per cent families have house holders, Beside

this 8.60 sugar cane cutter families have house less in their own villages and 85.93 per cent land holders, on the other hand 14.07 families are land less in their native place.

It is observed that out of 272 sugar cane cutter migrants families 80 per cent (217) sugar cane cutter families are illiterate. It is also found that the illiteracy of female is more than male sugar cane cutters. It is found dietary deficiencies in sugar cane cutter migrants and necessary that standards of living should rise of this cane cutter migrants.

It is found that only physically fit sugar cane cutter migrants are coming to do this hard work. Their needs are limited and they do not expect luxurious life. These migrants are purely seasonal. They came in November and return back in end of May. They have to face many problems (Viz housing, water, education, health, food, electricity, drainage, transportation and some economical, Psychological, social problems) when they came in Karad taluka.

Although sugar cane cutter migrants have many problems, they have some prospects also. These prospects pull them in Karad taluka, particularly in Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana. This sugar factory take care of these sugar cane

cutter migrants very well. Sahyadri Sugar factory help them to earn more money. Factory also give good treatment for them because of, after all, factory is depend upon workers. The Sahyadri Sugar factory indirectly help to increase the efficiency of sugar cane cutter migrants and in this process sugar factory also stand to gain. These sugar cane cutter migrants also develop a sense of belonging and attachment to the Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad. The total sugar cane cutter migrants or seasonal workers in this sugar factory depends upon the crushing capacity of sugar factory, plant capacity of sugar production and total area harvested of sugar cane to be transported and depends upon distance from which sugar cane is to be procured and also depends upon the composition of the transported team i.e. bullock carts and toils sugar cane cutter workers.