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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1.0 INTRODUCTION

The historical evidence shows that the cultivation of sugar cane and manufacture of gur was prevalent for several decades in India. The manufacture of refined sugar is, however, a comparatively recent phenomenon. The manufacture of sugar was started by some industrialist in the private sector. After the first world war, the Government of the Bombay Province, with a view to encourage utilization of water from the canal constructed as famine relief works, extended facilities for cultivation of sugar cane and establishment of sugar factories .

Till independence, the manufacture of sugar was most of it in the private sector. At the instance of then provincial Government and due to the efforts of leading Co-operators like D. R. Gadgil and Vaikunthbhai Mehta and some progressive cultivators, the first Co-operative sugar factory (referred to as sugar Co-operative) in Maharashtra, at present named after late Vikhe Patil, an eminent Co-operator, Padmashri Vikhe Patil Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Pravaranagar, was registered in Ahmednagar district in 1948.

The Government made special efforts to establish sugar Co-operatives and as a policy decided to allow the establishment of the sugar factory only in the Co-operative sector¹. Due to constant encouragement and assistance by the Government and efforts of the political leaders and Co-operators, the number of sugar Co-operatives in Maharashtra has rapidly increased during the last three decades.

By 1988-89, 116 sugar Co-operative had been registered and of these 90 sugar Co-operatives were engaged in production of sugar in Maharashtra. In 1995, there were 111 sugar Co-operatives had been engaged in production. Maharashtra is second sugar produced state in India. Nearly 5,30,000 hectares of land is under sugar cane cultivation².

The experience of some of the successful sugar Co-operative is heartening and about 65 per cent of the total population, both India as well as in Maharashtra, is in rural areas and is mostly dependent on agriculture. The opportunities for employment in non agricultural occupations is very limited. In the situation, the sugar Co-operatives which are located in rural areas provide employment to some permanent workers and to a large numbers of seasonal workers during the crushing season. Besides, they promote a number of developmental activities and benefit the population in

the areas in which they are situated. Some of the sugar Co-operatives have created a complex of Co-operatives. The sugar Co-operatives in Maharashtra are mainly concentrated in Western Maharashtra viz. Kolhapur(11), Sangli(7), Satara(6)³.

1.2.0 THE PROBLEM

In view of situation described above, it is considered useful to study the migration of sugar cane cutters. A study of migration of population has become a crucial in the regional development process. The trend of population migration decide the level of development. Migrants from less developed region to comparatively more developed region behave differently and get impressed by the regional geographical aspects.

In the Karad taluka, the Koyna Hydro Electricity Project become a deciding factor in the regional development. The completion of project has resulted commendable increase in irrigation. The cropping pattern has been changed. An increase in sugar cane area caused establishment of big Co-operative sugar factories and a number of gur industries in Karad taluka. Krishna Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Rethare, Karad and Sahyadri Sahakari

Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad, started manufacturing sugar in 1960-61 and 1974-75 respectively⁴.

The Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Yashwantnagar, Karad is one of the leading sugar industry in Satara district, which is more influenced by the sugar cane cutters who come from the drought prone areas of the Maharashtra state, particularly from the Marathwada region. The sugar cane cutter migrants have impressed the sugar cane cultivation as well as the sugar factories in Karad taluka.

During 1995-96, nearly 12,600 sugar cane cutter migrants come under the catchment area of the Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad⁵. These sugar cane cutter migrants in Karad taluka, have certainly their own problems in their native place viz. economical backwardness, drought prone area, employment etc. Besides these, many new problems have been created, where they have migrated viz. housing, transporting of sugar cane, education, social and psychological problems etc. The intention of this work is to highlight the problems faced by the sugar cane cutter migrants in their native place and also field where they work. Present study contributes in a geographical study of problems and prospects of sugar cane cutter migrants in Karad taluka with special references to

Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad.
Such geographical study would be vital helpful for regional
planning.

1.3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the present study are as
follows.

1. To focus the development of sugar cane yield and sugar industry in Karad taluka.
2. To asses the number of sugar cane cutter migrants in Karad taluka.
3. To depict the trends in migration of sugar cane cutters.
4. To demark the geographical areas from which the sugar cane cutters migrate.
5. To identify pull and push factors of sugar cane cutter migrants.
6. To understand the concepts of Bullock carts, Tolis and Mukadam and to study the temporal changes in Bullock carts and Tolis.
7. To highlight the problems and prospects of sugar cane cutter migrants.

1.4.0 SOURCE OF DATA AND INFORMATION

The present study is mainly based on primary data and partially based on secondary data. The interview technique has been effectively used to get authentic information directly from the sugar cane cutter migrants who come from Marathwada region. The Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad, officials, other agencies and management were kind to provide necessary information. The present information has been collected with the help of questionnaire and face to face interview technique. There are 12,600 sugar cane cutter migrants in 1996, of these 7.13 per cent have been interviewed (i.e 898 male and female sugar cane cutter workers).

The required secondary data has been collected from various departments. Geographic setting is taken from the Maharashtra state- Gazetteer of Satara District (1963). Net cultivated areas information is taken from Irrigation Department of Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad. Number of villages are taken from Karad Tehsildar office , and Socio-economic review and district statistical abstract of Satara (1995-96). The Annual reports and official record of the Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad is the main source

of secondary data. Besides above few data and information have been taken from the certain books , periodicals , dissertations that have been mentioned under the heading of bibliography.

1.5.0 METHODOLOGY

In the present study catchment area of Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad has been taken basic unit of investigation. An inquiry about the nature, gravity of the problems has been made with an intensive interview techniques. There are 12,600 sugar cutter migrants, of these we have interviewed about 898 sugar cane cutter (272 sugar cane cutter families) in order to collect deep information, the Sahyadri Sugar Factory officers, member of the board of director and sugar cane cultivators, were interviewed. The present study is entirely based on primary data. The objective of the sample survey was to get a quick, rough and clear picture of sugar cane cutter migrants of Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad. Certain information is collected with questionnaire and empirical method.

For the temporal study of sugar cane cutter migrants of the Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar,

Karad, the period of 1974 to 1996 has been selected and for the special study of sugar cane cutter migrants of this sugar factory, out of 12,600, 7.13 per cent (898 male and female sugar cane cutter migrants) have been interviewed . Collected information is then compiled and inferences have been drawn . Tabulation and percentage have been used for the accurate results with supporting maps , charts, and graphs . Analysis and study of sugar cane cutter migrants have been made with the help of few cartographic methods viz. Compound Bargraph, Choropleth map, Line graph etc.

1.6.0 DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The present study has been divided into six chapters. Introductory chapter is devoted to the introduction ,the problem, objective of the study , source of data and information, methodology adopted in the present study and design of the present study.

The second chapter consists of geographical setting of the Karad taluka has been studied. Besides, in this chapter there are three sections- physical setting, Economical setting and Population characteristics. The physical description largely includes physiography, drainage, climate, soils, forest and geology. While economical setting examines net cultivated area, industry, transport. Third

sections deals with the population characteristics in the study region with compare to the district.

The third chapter deals with a geographical perspective of Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad. In this chapter historical background, command area, growth and development has been studied. Efforts of Sahyadri sugar factory in the development of sugar cane, irrigation facilities, temporal variation in sugar cane yield, sugar recovery and growth of sugar production has been focused in this chapter.

In the fourth chapter migration of sugar cane cutters has been studied. This chapter consist of temporal variation in sugar cane cutter migrants, flow of sugar cane cutter migrants, sex composition of sugar cane cutter migrants, educational status, economical status and salient characteristics of sugar cane cutter migrants in Karad taluka has been studied.

The fifth chapter highlighted the problems and prospects of the sugar cane cutter migrants of Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Yashwantnagar, Karad.

Summary and conclusion of the entire study have been given in the sixth chapter and with the mention of selected bibliography, annexures and questionnaire the work ends.

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