

CHAPTER - V

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In the preceding two chapters the concepts of political awareness and political participation are discussed. In the light of this discussion political awareness and political participation among the workers of two co-operative spinning mills i.e. Yeshwant Sahakari Soot Girani and the other is Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur is to be ascertained. Initially personal information and working conditions of the respondents can be presented.

In the Yeshwant Sahakari Soot Girani there are total 2512 workers and out of them 271 are female workers.¹ In Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani there are 1619 workers and out of them 75 are female workers.² Thus total 4131 workers are there. Out of these workers 200 (5 %) samples are selected. In these respondents 185 (92 %) are male respondents and 15 (8 %) are female respondents.(Vide Table 1).

In all 200 questionnaires are got filled in by the workers. From the Yeshwant Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur³ 125 and from the Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur⁴ 75 questionnaires are filled up.

*1. As per Nov. 1990 Muster Strength of the Mill.

*2. As per Nov. 1990 Muster Strength of the Mill.

*3. Hereinafter called Yeshwant Mill.

*4. Hereinafter called Solapur Mill.

The questionnaire consists of four parts namely,

- 1) personal information, 2) working condition, 3) and 4) information about their political awareness and participation.¹

Table 1 : - Number of workers in the two Mills.

Sr. No.	Department	No. of Workers in Yeshwant Mill.	No. of Workers in Solapur Mill.
1	Administrative Staff	90	115
2	Mixing	48	19
3	Blow Room	34	27
4	Carding	53	59
5	Drawing & Roving	206	120
6	Ring Frame	614	612
7	Winding (Female)	136	257
	(Male)	263	-
8	Doubling	399	29
9	Reeling (Female)	135	205
	(Male)	240	75
10	Bundling & Bailing	60	34
11	Maintenance	100	-
12	Electric/Mechanic	60	42
13	Watch & Ward	22	25
14	Canteen	52	-
15	Others	-	-
	Total	2512	1619

(As per Nov.90 muster strengths of Yeshwant mill and Solapur mill).

*1. The questionnaire is appended vide Appendix.

The first part of the questionnaire consists of personal information of the respondents which is as below.

AGE : - According to the provision of Factory Act the minimum required age of the worker should be 18 years and the age of retirement is 60 years. The respondents of these two mills belonging to the age group 18 to 35 are (48%,64%).¹

It means that in one mill half of the workers belonging to this age group and more than 3/5 of the respondents belong to these age group respondents of the later mill. The age group 45 to 60 covers an insignificant percentage of workers viz., 5 % and 3 % respectively. It shows that most of the workers are relatively young (see table 2).

Table 2 : - Classification of respondents by age group.

Sr. No.	Age Group	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
		No. of Respondents	Percent-age.	No. of Respondents	Percent-age
1	18 to 25	9	7	12	16
2	26 to 35	51	41	36	48
3	36 to 45	59	47	25	33
4	45 to 60	6	5	2	3
Total		125	100	75	100

 *1. The percentages given in the brackets denote the percentages pertaining to 1) Yeshwant mill 2) Solapur mill respectively.

MOTHER TONGUE :- Mother tongue of half of the workers is Telugu. These workers migrated from Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh. They belong to traditional weaving community. They formed the backbone of the weaving population in this city. Marathi speaking workers rank next to the Telugu speaking respondents (36%,24%). They are followed by the workers whose mother tongue is Kannada (13 %, 20%). Hindi and Urdu speaking workers formed a small minority.(Vide table 3).

Table 3 :- Classification of the respondents according to their mother tongue.

Sr. No.	Mother Tongue	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
		No. of Respondents	Percentage.	No.of Respondents	Percentage.
1	Marathi	45	36	18	24
2	Hindi/Urdu	11	9	3	4
3	Telugu	53	42	39	52
4	Kannada	16	13	15	20
	TOTAL	125	100	75	100

RELIGION : - The Hindu workers constitute the bulk of the total number of respondents (91 %, 91%). They are followed by the Muslims (8%, 4%). About 2/3rd of the total number of workers belong to the traditional weaving community, i.e. Padmashalies. About 1/8th of the total number of workers belonging to the Scheduled Caste. About 12 % and 15 % of the workers are from the Lingayat community. There is a small percentage of the workers in the advanced community. (Vide table 4)

Table 4.1 - Distribution of respondents by religion.

Sr. No.	Religion	Yeshwant Mills		Solapur Mills	
		No.of Respondents	Percent-age	No.of Respondents	Percent-age
1	Hindu	114	91	68	91
2	Jain	1	1	4	5
3	Muslim	10	8	3	4
	Total	125	100	75	100

Table 4.2:
Distribution of respondents by caste

Sr. No.	Caste	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
		No.of Respondents	Percent- age	No.of Respondents	Percent- age
1	Brahmins	7	6	2	3
2	Jain	1	1	4	5
3	Padmashali (Weavers - Community)	53	42	32	43
4	Muslims	10	8	3	4
5	Marathas	4	3	3	4
6	Lingayats	15	12	11	15
7	Scheduled Caste	16	13	10	13
8	Other Castes	19	15	10	13
	Total	125	100	75	100

LANGUAGE KNOWN : - As most of the respondents learnt through Marathi medium they can read and write marathi well. (95%,93%). Hindi is taught as a third language in secondary schools, therefore, the workers who are educated atleast upto SSC level, they knew Hindi well (70%,64%). The Hindi movies enhance this acquaintance with the language.

The ability to read and write Marathi language as well as other languages must have developed the respondents to get themselves acquainted with the developments particularly political developments around them and in the country. This helps to increase their political awareness and political participation. (Vide table 5.1 and 5.2).

Table 5.1 : - Classification is made according to the language they can speak.

Language	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Respondents	Percent- age.	No.of Respondents	Percent- age
Marathi	119	95	70	93
Hindi	88	70	48	64
English	19	15	12	16
Telugu	66	53	37	50
Kannada	58	46	21	28

Table 5.2 : - Classification is made according to the language they can write.

Language	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Respondents	Percent- age	No.of Respondents	Per- centage
Marathi	103	82	65	87
English	48	38	27	36
Kannada	11	08	04	05
Hindi	90	72	43	57
Telugu	06	05	15	20

MARITAL STATUS : - Among the respondents bulk of (94%, 93%) the workers, are married. It means that the workers get marry at an early age as age of 18 years being the minimum required age for getting employment in the mills.(Vide table 6).

Table 6 : - Classification of respondents according to their marital status.

Sr. No.	Marital Status	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
		No.of Respondents	Percent- age	No.of Respondents	Percent- age
1	Unmarried	3	2	5	7
2	Married	117	94	70	93
3	Widow	5	4	-	-
4	Widower	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		125	100	75	100

FAMILY SYSTEM (JOINT/ SEPARATE) :- Almost half of the families of the respondents are joint families and half of the families are the separate families (vide table 7)

Table 7 : - Classification of respondents according to their family system (Joint/Separate)

Sr. No.	Nature of Family	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
		No.of Respondents	Per-centage	No.of Respondents	Percent-age
1	Joint Family	53	42	32	43
2	Separate Family	72	58	43	57
	Total	125	100	75	100

SIZE OF FAMILY : - As the respondents are married the size of family is rather big in Yeshwant Mill, Solapur mill. The number of members of a family belonging to group 3 to 5 are (40 %, 68%) and the number of members belonging to group 6 to 10 are (47 %, 31 %) respectively. But the members belonging group 11 or more are (7%, 1%). (Vide table No.8)

Table 8 : - Classification is made according to size of family.

Sr. No.	Number of Members	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
		No.of Respondents	Percent-age	No.of Respondents	Per-centage
1	1 to 2	7	6	-	-
2	3 to 5	50	40	51	68
3	6 to 10	59	47	23	31
4	11 and above	9	7	1	1
Total		125	100	75	100

Replies of the Second Part of the questionnaire pertaining to living conditions of the respondents are analysed in the next chapter.

LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE WORKERS :

The second part of the questionnaire contains living and working conditions of the workers. Replies to these questions are analysed below.

LOCALITY : - Nearly 7/8th of respondents are living in the city of Solapur. However there are a few respondents who are residing nearby villages. Thus 1/8th of the respondents are from the Kumbhari, Valsang, Boramani, Shelagi. These villages are within the periphery of 10 km. from the mills (See Table 9).

Table 9 : Classification of respondents according to their locality(urban/rural)

Locality	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Respondents	Percent-age	No.of Respondents	Percent-age
Urban	108	86	71	95
Rural	17	14	4	5
TOTAL	125	100	75	100

TENEMENT : - The majority of the respondents are from low income group. Therefore almost 1/3rd respondents have single room houses. But the respondents who have joint family have two or more than two room houses. Thus 1/3rd respondents have two rooms houses and 1/3rd respondents have more than two room houses (See table 10).

Table 10 : - Classification of the respondents according to their tenement.

No.of Rooms	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Respondents	Percent- age	No.of Respondents	Per- centage
One	52	42	18	24
Two	40	32	32	43
Three or more	33	26	25	33
TOTAL	125	100	75	100

ACCOMMODATION : - As the respondents are workers, nearly 1/2 of the respondents are living in a rented house, (42%, 53%). However, it seems that nearly half of the respondents have their own house, (57%, 47%). The mills did not provide accommodation to the workers (See table 11).

Table 11 : - Accommodation of respondents (own/rented/mills)

Kind of Accommodation	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Respondents	Percent-age	No.of Respondents	Percent-age
Own	72	57	35	47
Rented	52	42	40	53
Mills	1	1	-	-
Total	125	100	75	100

NATURE OF HOUSES : - The bulk of workers are living in the urban area. Nearly 3/4th of the workers are living in pakka houses having^a/cement concrete slab. However there are a few workers who are living in huts and about (20%, 6%) of the workers are living in tin sheet roofed house. Most of the respondents have pakka house to live in. (see table 12)

Table 12 : Nature of the house (slab/hut/tin)

Nature of the House	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of respondents	Percent- age.	No.of respondents	Percent- age
Slab	89	71	67	90
Hut	11	09	03	04
Tin	25	20	05	06
TOTAL	125	100	75	100

AMENITIES : - The workers are living in the urban area, therefore, nearly 3/4th workers can enjoy the amenities like tap water supply latrines and about 9/10th of workers have got electricity supply in their houses(see Table 13).

Table 13 : Classification of the respondents according to the amenities.

Amenities	Yeshwant Mills		Solapur Mills	
	No.of Respondents	Percent- age.	No.of Respondents	Percent- age
Tap	91	73	64	85
Latrines	86	67	54	72
Light	103	82	69	92

In short most of the respondents have necessary amenities and a satisfactory accommodation which afford them favourable atmosphere for leading a comfortable home life. This is conjenial, for developing political awareness and increasing their political participation.

THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS : -

1. For the workers who are permanent enjoy the facilities of paying a subscription of Provident Fund scheme.
2. The workers are covered by the Employees State Insurance Scheme which enables them to have certain amount of medical care. The workers as per the rules are entitled to receive gratuity after retirement. Thus the workers rest assured about receiving retirement benefits. This may enable them to live an assured life after their retirement. This assurance may facilitate increase their political awareness and political participation. A rested mind can think of political participation to an extent.

In the next chapter the levels of political awareness of the respondents are analysed.

