

CHAPTER - II

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

2.1 INTRODUCTION :

The present chapter indicates the methodology which was adopted for the present study. Shri Vitthal Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Venunagar-Gurasale established in 1975 near the village Gurasale, Taluka - Pancharpur, District Solapur. The sugar factory is established in rural setting and had provided employment for the people in the surrounding region. The industrial labour have received housing, medical and educational facilities. Apart from the industrial labour there are agricultural labourers working on fields in the village Gurasale. The present study tries to present a comparative picture of agricultural labour and industrial labour in the agro-industrial setting of Gurasale.

2.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The study has been carried out taking into consideration the following objectives.

- i) To study socio-economic conditions of agricultural and industrial labour.
- ii) To observe the impact of sugar factory on industrial and agricultural labour, and
- iii) To compare the position of the industrial with the agricultural labour.

2.3 SAMPLE FOR THE STUDY :

The study covers labour in agricultural and industrial fields. The agricultural labour from village Gurasale, having own agricultural and some land-less labour were covered under the study. The industrial workers from sugar factory were covered.

The list of voters of Gurasale village prepared for the Assembly elections held in 1985 was used as a sampling frame for selecting workers in agriculture field. There were 1300 voters and with the interval of 30 the respondents were selected. In all 43 respondents were on the list, but the agriculturists and persons not engaged as agricultural labour were dropped. 32 agricultural labourer were selected for interview.

For the selecting industrial workers, the list from time-office was obtained. There were 320 workers and 10 per cent of the sample was covered by making the interval of 10. The first respondent was selected by random number and afterwards the interval of 10 was kept.

Thus 32 workers both from agricultural and industrial field were selected to make a comparative study in an agro-industrial setting of Gurasale.

2.4 TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION :

(A) Information Regarding Sugar Factory :

The sugar factory was established in 1973, and the production started in 1981. From 1981 the Annual Reports were published. With the help of these Annual Reports, the information about the factory and labour welfare and some of the information is taken from Managing Director and from Officers in Time Office.

(B) Data Regarding Village Gurasale :

The information about population, female and males are taken from the Census Report. The information about the socio-economic conditions of villagers and Gram Panchayat was obtained by personal enquiry.

(C) Data Regarding Industrial and Agricultural Labour :

The data for the present study were collected by using interview schedule which were prepared keeping in view the objectives of the study. One schedule was prepared for agricultural labour and second schedule was prepared for industrial labour.

The interview schedule was preferred to that of questionnaire for the following reasons :

- i) Some agricultural labourers were illiterate and the information could only be obtained

with the help of the interview schedule.

- ii) Some industrial workers were less educated so the information was collected with the help of interview schedule.
- iii) The sugar factory and village Gurasale are very close to each other, and it was possible to contact all the respondents.

All the respondents were knowing Marathi, therefore both the schedules were prepared in Marathi (an English version of the schedules is attached in the Appendix)

2.5 DATA COLLECTION PROCESS :

The data collection work was started on 25th September 1984 and continued upto 15th May 1985.

(A) Data Regarding Industrial Workers :

The data collection took long time than expected. The collection of data was undertaken for factory workers first as crushing season was in operation. There were three shifts in factory, that is first shift was 4 a.m. to 12 ^{noon} ~~p.m.~~, second shift 12 ^{noon} ~~p.m.~~ to 8 p.m. and third shift 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. The 320 workers were divided into three shifts. The shifts were changing after 8 days. The workers were chosen from 320 and they were in all the three shifts. Many of the industrial workers were coming from their own villages and it was not possible to meet them in

their villages. In data collection period Time Officer has given full co-operation to the researcher. Due to the shifts, for some of the interviews the researcher has to wait for 2 to 3 weeks. When the information about industrial workers was obtained by interview schedule, every worker use to ask the researcher why he was taking information? The researcher then had to clarify about the research work.

In the sugar factory there are two main section namely Pan Section and Juice Section. Some of the selected workers during their shifts, so the researcher requested them to come one hour before their duty. The workers were kind and they came before their duty and gave information. Many of the industrial workers became friends of the researcher. They use to serve the sugarcane juice in the factory to the researcher. Some of the workers use to request the researcher for a cup of tea out-side the factory.

Sometime interviews were conducted in time keepers office. The Time Officer was very experienced person as he had completed services in many factories. So he had experience of research work. Then he also became close friend of researcher.

The data collection work in factory was completed on 14th January 1985.

(B) Data Regarding Agricultural Labour :

The data collection work for agricultural labour was started on 20th January 1985 and it continued upto 15th

May 1985.

The respondents were chosen from the voters list. The main difficulty in the data collection for agricultural labour was that they were busy in their agricultural work for the whole day. They were free only after evening, so the researcher started to meet them after 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Many of the agricultural workers were illiterate. When the researcher approached with the interview schedule and started to ask some questions, they were frightened. Then the researcher told them that he was not any officer, but a research student.

Taking into account of the first experiences, the researcher followed the method of explaining about the research work before starting the interview to the selected respondent.

In the village Gurasale the researcher use to go daily. The agriculture labour began to know the researcher. So every respondent was able to give good support. One of the industrial worker was from the village Gurasale, he told all the respondent about the nature of research work and to give the information.

Four respondents were from "Harijan Wasti". When the researcher started the interviews in that area, nearby 50 persons came around and asked about the interview. The researcher told them that the information was only for research purpose.

Some agricultural workers were interviewed on the fields, during their lunch time. In this way the data collection for agricultural respondents was completed on 15th May 1985.

2.6 ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF DATA :

After collection of data, the information was coded so as to facilitate analysis. The data were sent to Electronic Data Processing Unit at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, for processing. The data are classified, analysed and interpreted with the help of simple statistical techniques such as percentages and by giving references of studies of Agricultural and Industrial labours.

Before the presentation of data from the study, it will be appropriate to have a look at the literature regarding Agricultural and Industrial Labour in India. This has been done in the following Chapter-III.