

CHAPTER-III

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS

INTRODUCTION :

The study has been conducted in the City of Kolhapur. Kolhapur north latitude $16^{\circ}41'$ and east longitude $74^{\circ}17'$ is the district headquarter. It stands on rising ground about 1790 feet above the sea and about half a mile from the right or south bank of the Panchaganga.

Kolhapur, or as it seems to have been formerly called Karveer is one of the oldest religious and trade centers in Western India.

The city Kolhapur has a population according to 1991 census is 4,17,286. and is divided into 60 wards for the administrative purposes.

The present study concentrates the three vegetable markets namely the Laxmipuri Market, the Rajarampuri Market and the Udyamanager Market. The Civil Hospital, Government Office, the Nehru Vidyalaya and a Co-operative Credit Society are also the area where our respondents are engaged in the gainful employment. All the major places are located in the heart of the city and reveal that they represent the city in general.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND :

The socio-economic background of the respondents under study is analysed here to know the nature of social and economic background in which they have been put and its relation with their life conditions.

TABLE No. 1
POPULATION OF THE WORKING
WOMEN'S FAMILIES UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Number of families	Population		Total
		Male	Female	
1.	110	174 (48.73%)	183 (51.26%)	357

*In the bracket percentage of the population to the total population is given.

Source : Information collected by the researcher.

The table indicates that the number of female members is more than the male in our respondents group. The number of male members being less it seems that numerically the females are dominant in the group. The total number of families in the group under study is 110, and for the purpose of our study we have concentrated on the female working members of the family for the detail information and inquiry.

TABLE No. 2
RURAL-URBAN BACKGROUND OF THE
RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Respondents coming from		Total
	Rural	Urban	
1.	39 (35.45%)	71 (64.55%)	110

*Percentage to the total number of respondents.

Source : Information collected by the researcher.

The city Kolhapur is surrounded by the rural areas and within short time one can enter into the rural area from the city. The information regarding the background of the respondents about their coming from rural or urban area is necessary to point out their position and their roles within and outside the family. The impact of the rural and urban background on the personality and behaviour is visualised and hence it was thought necessary to seek the information about such a background of the respondents.

The table given above reveals that majority of the respondents are from the urban area 71 (64.55%) and only 39 (35.45%) respondents are from the rural area. It was specifically asked to the respondents about their birth in the rural or urban areas and the information was collected. Apart from the difference in the personality it is seen that women born and brought-up in urban areas have shown a tendency to accept jobs outside the family more frequently than their counter parts in the rural areas. The nature of jobs accepted by these also reveals that there is a tendency among urban born women to accept white collar jobs, than accepting jobs which require physical strains. It is also a fact that rural women are less educated and socialized in a manner to accept the household duties only. In this regard the roles they play even outside the family are considered subordinate to males in every respect.

Religion and caste-wise distribution of the respondents is given below :

TABLE No. 3
RELIGION AND CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF
RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Religion/Caste	Number of families
1.	Brahmin	10
2.	Maratha	51
3.	Sonar	2
4.	Gurav	2
5.	Chambhar	7
6.	Khatik	2
7.	Lingayat	1
8.	Shimpi	2
9.	Mahar	5
10.	Bhoi	1
11.	Koli	4
12.	Dhanagar	2
13.	Jain	5
14.	Christian	1
15.	Muslim	15
Total :		110
	^{Hindus} Muslim	- 89 (80.99)
	Muslim	- 15 (13.64)
	Jain	- 05 (4.54)
	Christian	- 01 (0.90)
		<u>100</u>

The sample reflects the local population distribution trend that, there has been the preponderance of Hindus in Kolhapur.

Among the caste-Hindus, Marathas are dominant followed by the Brahmin caste and there are Chambhar (Cobler) and Mahar standing third and fourth respectively in the sample as far as their number is concerned. The Sonar, Gurav, Shimpi and Khatik are having the same number i.e. two respondents from each of them, while only one Christian and one Lingayat woman is there in the sample.

The sample represents the social structure of the city. It is a sample composed of different castes and shows that the women folk in the jobs and trades outside the family comes from almost every caste and there is no exception in general that particular caste has given the freedom to women for jobs outside the family.

The caste-wise distribution of the respondents, thus gives an idea about the position of women workers outside the family.

TABLE No. 4
AGEWISE DISTRIBUTION OF
RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Age Group (in years)	Number of Respondents
1.	Below 30	07 (6.36%)
2.	30 to 45	86 (78.18%)
3.	46 to 60	17 (15.45%)
Total :		110

The age factor is important as far as conflicting situation is concerned. The role adiffers significantly in different periods of women's life. The married women face problems regarding children and parents-in-laws in the early years of married life. The children are small and parents-in-law have more expectations during the early years of married life which are to be fulfilled strictly being a newly entered daughter-in-law.

As the age advances children become able to look after themselves in many respects and tensions are relaxed.

In the group under study majority of the working women lie in the age group 30 to 45 which is significant, because most of these women have started working only after marriage and it is due to the necessity of husband's family. The number of women in the age group below 30 is 7 (6.36%) and it signifies that in the initial years of marriage it is not liked by the members of the family that a women should accept jobs outside the household. There are 17 respondents above the age 45 and are in the gainful earning activities for more years.

It also reveals from the table that the productive age group (upto 45 years of age) is more prominently engaged in the working outside the family.

When we look at the age and sex-wise distribution of population of the respondent's families, we find that the dominant age-group of respondents is revealed as the number of persons in the productive age group (16 to 66 years) maximum number of persons (291 out of the total 357) that is 81.51% is covered by this age group.

TABLE No. 5
AND
AGE AND SEXWISE DISTRIBUTION OF
RESPONDENTS - FAMILIES - UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Age group	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total
1.	0 - 15	28 (16.09)*	27 (14.75)*	55
2.	16 - 30	48 (27.58)	61 (33.33)	109
3.	31 - 45	69 (39.65)	66 (36.01)	135
4.	46 - 60	21 (12.06)	26 (14.20)	47
5.	61 and above	08 (4.59)	03 (1.63)	11
Total :		174 (48.73)**	183 (51.27)**	357

* Percentage to the total male and female respectively.

** Percentage to the total number.

Thus, it is clear from the table given above that the number of dependent population is less and 81.51% population has to work for their livelihood.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL :

Educational level is an important factor in the life of a working woman. The nature of job is related to her educational attainment. The occupation she accepts the income she earns from it is determined by the level of education. The more is the education better are the

job prospects. The illiterate or only primarily educated women have to accept jobs which do not require any formal training and minimum educational attainment.

Table No. 6 gives the level of education of the respondents under study.

TABLE No. 6
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Category	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Higher	Total
Petty Traders	42 (76.36)*	13 (23.64%)	-	-	55
Teachers	-	-	-	12 (D.Ed.) (80.00%) 3 (Tail.Dip.) (20.00%)	15
Nurses	-	-	-	30 Nursing* (100.00%)	30
Clerks	-	-	-	10 (100.00%)	10
	42 (38.18)*	13 (11.82%)	-	55 55 (54.54%)	110

* Percentage to the total of the respondents in a particular category.

** Percentage to the total respondents.

It is revealed from the table No. 6 that the majority of the petty trader women are illiterate and only 13 have primary education. None of them has attended high school and hence they have accepted

the job requiring more physical exertion. The teachers are having minimum qualification of Diploma in Education for 12 teachers and 3 teachers are having Diploma in Tailoring. The nurses are trained one and all the clerks are having graduate level degrees in commerce with the exception of two having post-graduate degrees in commerce.

The educational levels of the members of the respondents families reveal interesting things.

TABLE No. 7
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES
OF THE RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Educational Attainment	Male %	Female %	Total
1.	Illiterate	53 (30.45)*	57 (31.14)	110 (30.81)**
2.	Primary	09 (5.17)	14 (7.65)	23 (6.44)
3.	Secondary	38 (21.83)	37 (20.21)	75 (21.00)
4.	Higher	74 (49.67)	75 (50.33)	149 (41.73)
Total :		174	183	357

* Percentage to the total of males and females respectively.

** Percentage to the total number of persons.

It has been revealed from the above table that though the respondents have not been able to attain higher education their family members are more educated and they have realised the importance of the educational attainment.

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION :

The occupational distribution of the respondents by their caste groups is given in the Table No. 8.

TABLE No. 8
OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF
RESPONDENTS BY THEIR CASTE

Sr. No.	Name of the Caste	Occupation				Total
		Petty Traders	Nursing	Teaching	Clerk	
1.	Brahmin	03	05	-	02	10
2.	Maratha	19	21	06	05	51
3.	Mahar	01	-	01	-	02
4.	Gurav	01	-	01	-	02
5.	Chambhar	04	01	01	01	07
6.	Mahar	03	01	01	-	05
7.	Shimpi	02	-	-	-	02
8.	Lingayat	01	-	-	-	01
9.	Khatik	02	-	-	-	02
10.	Bhoi	01	-	-	-	01
11.	Koli	01	01	01	01	04
12.	Dhangar	02	-	-	-	02
13.	Jain	02	-	01	02	05
14.	Christain	-	-	01	-	01
15.	Muslim	13	-	02	-	15
Total :						110

The table reveals that Marathas and numerically at the number are at all the occupations considered for the present study have been accepted by Maratha women. Muslims are more in petty trading, while



nursing has been accepted by Brahmin, Maratha, Chambhar and Mahar caste women. The petty trading has been accepted by all the castes and it seems that as no specific educational qualification is required for it, it has been accepted by all.

The information regarding how many years these women have been in the present job or trading occupation is collected for the present study.

TABLE No. 9

LENGTH OF SERVICE AND THE YEARS SPENT IN THE
OCCUPATION OF THE RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Length of service/ Years spent	No. of Respondents
1.	Below 5 years	34 (30.90%)
2.	6 to 10 years	34 (30.90%)
3.	11 to 15 years	27 (24.54%)
4.	16 years and above	15 (13.63%)
Total :		110

The table reveals that the years spent in the job/service or occupation of the respondents show that as respondents have spent 15 years or less in the job which coincides the age-group of the respondents in majority. The majority of the working women under study lie in the age group 30 to 45, and thus the years they have spent in the work outside the family are below 16 years.

It is necessary to know about the other members of the family as far as their status as a working person or a non-working person is concerned.

TABLE No. 10
WORKING AND NON-WORKING POPULATION OF THE
RESPONDENTS FAMILIES UNDER STUDY BY TRADE

Sr. No.	Name of the	No. of Families	Population				Total
			Working		Non-working		
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
1.	Petty Traders	55	55 (31.97%)	66 (38.37%)	25 (14.73%)	26 (15.11%)	172
2.	Nursing	30	32 (29.35%)	30 (27.52%)	16 (14.67%)	31 (28.44%)	109
3.	Teaching	15	14 (29.16%)	16 (33.33%)	14 (29.16%)	04 (8.33)	48
4.	Clerk	10	09 (32.14%)	10 (35.71%)	04 (14.28%)	05 (17.85%)	28
Total :		110	110	122	59	66	357

Working Population : 232 (64.98%)
Non-working Population : 125 (35.01%)

The information given in the above table signifies that the working population is more in the group under study. In the petty trading the all the members of the family are engaged in one or the other activities and hence the working population is more in the petty trading as compared with the other occupations.

TABLE No. 11
INCOME LEVELS OF THE RESPONDENTS
UNDER STUDY BY THEIR OCCUPATION

Sr. No.	Name of the Occupation	Number of respondents as their income per month in Rs.					Total
		0 to 1000	1001 to 2000	2001 to 3000	3001 to 4000	4000 and above	
1.	Petty Traders	53	02	-	-	-	55
2.	Nursing	-	06	12	10	02	30
3.	Teaching	-	13	02	-	-	15
4.	Clerks	04	04	02	-	-	10
Total :							110

The petty traders earn just for their survival. The average earning of such petty traders is Rs. 30 to 35 per day and a full day is engaged in the work. Apart from full days involvement they have to face ups and downs in the market. It due to Bundh or any unexpected climatic or other situation they are not able to sale their goods they are at a loss. In case of nursing occupation, they are earning better and 12 nurses are earning between Rs. 3000 to 5000 per month.

The teachers and clerks are also earning more as compared with the petty traders with no risk as such. The petty traders are in state of conditions requiring contineous attention towards their occupational activities.

The information about occupation of the husbands of the families of the respondents is collected to understand the income level of the total family of the respondent as such.

TABLE No. 12

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE HUSBANDS
OF THE RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Name of the occupation	Number of persons including husband
1.	Petty Traders	62 (56.36%)
2.	Riksha Drivers	02 (1.81%)
3.	Other Agencies	02 (1.81%)
4.	Mechanical work	08 (7.27%)
5.	Artist	01 (0.90%)
6.	Service	27 (24.54%)
7.	Doctor	01 (0.90%)
8.	Advocate	01 (0.90%)
9.	Retired	04 (3.63%)
10.	Idle No work	02 (1.81%)
Total :		110

The occupational status of the husband in the family is important denometer of the family. In our society it is the husband who is having a higher status as the bread winner.

In the group of respondents under study the majority of the husbands (62 = 56.36%) are engaged in the petty trading, either they are in the same trading or some of them have coconut dealing, grocery shops along with the vegetable trading. Two (1.81%) persons are riksha drivers, on daily wages and eight (7.27%) persons are engaged in mechanical work. One (0.90%) is an artist (painter doing sign boards). The number of persons in the service at private and semi-government level as clerks, bus conductors and peons is twenty seven (24.54%), one is a doctor, one is an advocate, 4 persons (3.63%) are retired and two (1.81%) do nothing.

The heterogeneous picture of the occupations mentioned above shows that with the exception of two members all the remaining members from the husbands group are engaged in the gainful employment.

The income level of the husbands is shown in the table No. 13.

TABLE No. 13
INCOME LEVEL OF THE HUSBANDS OF
THE RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Name of Occupation	Income per month (No. of husbands)					Total
		0 to 1000	1001 to 2000	2001 to 3000	3001 to 4000	4001 and above	
1.	Petty Traders	46	14	02	-	-	62
2.	Riksha Drivers	02	-	-	-	-	02
3.	Other Agencies	-	-	02	-	-	02
4.	Mechanical Work	02	03	01	-	-	08
5.	Artist	-	-	01	-	-	01
6.	Service	-	06	20	01	-	27
7.	Doctor	-	-	-	-	01	01
8.	Advocate	-	-	01	-	-	01
9.	Retired	02	-	-	-	-	02
10.	Idle (no work)	02	-	-	-	-	02
Total :		52	23	27	01	01	110