

CHAPTER-III
SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

3.1 ABOUT THE VILLAGE :

The study has been carried out in a village named Koparde of Karveer taluka in the Kolhapur district. It is thirteen kilometers away from the district headquarter and lies in the west of the district place Kolhapur on a State highway Kolhapur-Gaganbavada. The village lies in the Konkan area and has a temperate climate with no extreme cold or extreme hot in the year. The average rainfall is about 50 to 55 inches per year. The soil is deep black and brown soil and the major staple crop is rice along with commercial crop sugarcane, groundnut and chill. Farmers also grow nachani and hybrid jawar.

The village is in the vicinity of Shri Kumbhi Kasari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Kuditre. The river Kumbhi feeds the farm and people of Koparde.

As far as the location of the village is concerned, it is on the State highway and near to Kolhapur and Kuditre factory. This has affected the village in many ways.

3.2 POPULATION :

There has been a continuous increase in the population of the village due to its closeness to sugar co-operative and other institutions established in its vicinity in the last three decades or so.

Table No. 1 gives us detailed information about the population of the village Koparde.

TABLE No. 1
POPULATION OF VILLAGE KOPARDE

Sr. No.	Year	Population			Increase in population per decade
		Male	Female	Total	
1.	1961	715 (50.14%)	711 (49.86%)	1426	
2.	1971	1774 (73.76%)	1131 (47.02%)	2405	979 (68.65%)
3.	1981	1986 (56.43%)	1533 (43.56%)	3519	1114 (46.32%)

Source : District Census Hand Book, Kolhapur,
1961, 1971 and 1981.

The village has been covered under the development programmes and schemes launched by the sugar co-operative, Government and Khadi Gramodyog Mandal. The gobar gas plants were first introduced by the Kumbhi Kasari Sugar Co-operative in collaboration with the Khadi Gramodyoga Mandal and Zilla Parishad (Governmental participation) since then till 1991, there have been 150 gobar gas plants. We have tried to study the impact of gobar gas plant which has changed the structure of the rural house, especially the rural kitchen. The number of gas plants installed till 1990 June, were 100, which have been taken here for detailed study. The actual data was collected from 99 families, as one family was not contacted in spite of our repeated efforts to get the information.

To compare the gohar gas plant adopters group with the non-adopter's group we have interviewed 41 households. The sample is 10% as indicated earlier. Thus, the group under study is composed of gohar gas adopters 99 households and 41 non-adopter households from the village Koparde.

3.3 POPULATION OF THE GROUP UNDER STUDY :

The group under study has a population of 884 with 510 males and 374 females. The demographic details about age, sex of the members of the group under study is given in Table No. 2.

Table No. 2 gives the information regarding the population of the group under study.

TABLE No. 2
AGE AND SEX WISE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION OF THE GROUP UNDER STUDY AND AGE OF THE HEAD'S WIFE

Sr. No.	Age group	Adopters		Age of the head's wife	Total %	Non-adopters		Total %	Age of the head's wife						
		Male	Female			Male	Female								
1.	1 to 10	49	12.96*	29	10.98	78	(12.14)**	14	10.61*	16	14.54	30	(12.39)**	-	-
2.	11 to 20	94	24.87	68	25.75	162	(25.23)	26	19.69	22	20.00	48	(19.83)	-	-
3.	21 to 30	93	24.62	55	20.84	148	(23.05)	32	24.26	26	23.65	58	(23.96)	10	24.39
4.	31 to 40	51	13.49	59	22.35	110	(17.13)	18	13.63	22	20.00	40	(16.52)	19	46.34
5.	41 to 50	57	15.07	28	10.60	85	(13.23)	16	12.12	10	9.09	26	(10.74)	08	19.51
6.	51 to 60	23	06.08	14	05.31	37	(05.76)	12	09.09	08	07.27	20	(08.26)	02	04.88
7.	61 and	11	02.91	11	04.17	22	(03.42)	14	10.60	06	05.45	20	(08.26)	02	04.88
Total :		378	58.88	264	41.12	642		132	54.54	110	45.45	242		41	

*Percentage to the total male
**Percentage to the total group.

Age and sexwise population distribution of gobar gas adopted and non-adopters in the village Koparde.

The information given in the table shows that there are 642 (18.24%) members who have composed the adopters group and 2877 (81.75%) are from the non-adopters group. The non-adopters taken for detail study are 242 (8.41%). The unit of study here being the household we find that the non-adopters group represent less than 10% of the population.

In the adopters group there are 378 males (58.88%) and 264 females (41.12%). The number of males in non-adopters group under study is 132 (54.54%) and the number of females is 110 (45.45%). Thus, the group under study has a population of 884 (510 males and 374 females) which comes to 25.12% of the total population of the village.

It is revealed from the table that, the respondents under study are in the age group 21 to 61 and above. The number of respondents in the age group 21 to 50 are maximum, it is 89 (89.89%) in case of gobar gas plant adopters and 27 (65.85%) in case of non-adopters. These 11 respondents (11.11%) from the age group above 50 in the adopters group and 4 (9.75%) from the non-adopters group. Thus, it can be seen that majority of our respondents come from the productive and middle age group. The old aged women are comparatively few and the number of persons in the age group below 20 is 240 (37.38%) in the adopters group and 78 (32.23%) in the non-adopters group. This also signifies that the new generation getting benefits of the bio-gas and not getting is almost similar. It is compared here in our study.

Thus, the composition of population under study reveals the details about the group.

3.4 CASTE :

Caste is the important factor in the social structure of the Indian village. In the village under study we find the population has been distributed on the basis of caste. The stratification of the village population is done on the caste basis. This is also revealed in our sample.

Table No. 3 given below gives us the cast-wise distribution of respondents under study.

TABLE No. 3

CASTEWISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Caste	Adopters %	Non-adopters %	Total %
1.	Hindu-Maratha	61 (61.61)	18 (43.94)	79 (56.42)
2.	Scheduled Caste	22 (22.22)	15 (36.60)	37 (26.42)
3.	Hindu-Barbar	03 (03.03)	-	03 (2.14)
4.	Brahmin	02 (02.02)	01 (2.43)	03 (2.14)
5.	Hindu-Gurav	02 (02.02)	-	02 (1.42)
6.	Mahadev-Koli	01 (01.01)	-	01 (0.71)
7.	Hindu-Parit	02 (02.02)	-	02 (1.42)

TABLE No. 3 (Contd...)

Sr. No.	Caste	Adopters %	Non-Adopters %	Total %
8.	Kumbhar	03 (03.03)	02 (04.87)	05 (3.57)
9.	Hindu-Lohar	01 (01.01)	01 (2.43)	02 (1.42)
10.	Hindu-Chambhar	01 (01.01)	01 (2.43)	02 (1.42)
11.	Muslim	01 (01.01)	02 (4.87)	03 (2.14)
12.	Shimpi	-	01 (2.43)	01 (0.71)
Total :		99	41	140

Source : Personal interviews by the researcher.

Table No. 3, given above reveals that the group under study comprises of 11 caste groups from the Hindu group and Muslim religious group. The dominant caste in the sense Srinivas describes it, is Maratha. It is both numerically and economically superior and at number one in the village. There are 79 (56.42%) respondents from the Maratha caste. The caste ^{of} number two is the scheduled caste. It is composed by Mahars. The total number of the scheduled caste respondents is 37 (22 adopters and 15 non-adopters) which is 26.42% of the total number of respondents. The adopters group is having members from Brahmin, Gurav, Chambhar, Barber, Shimpi (Tailor), Kumbhar, Parit (Washerman), Mahadev Koli, and Lohar. There is one Muslim respondent who has adopted the gobar gas plant for his family.

The non-adopters group is composed of Maratha, Scheduled Caste (Mahar), Brahmin, Kumbhar, Lohar, Chambhar, Shimpi (Tailor) and a Muslim.

The caste composition and the adoption of gobar gas has a direct connection. The number of Maratha families is more hence the number of adopters and non-adopters is also more in that caste group. The Gurav, Mahadev Koli, Parit and Shimpi are numerically weak castes, hence they have either adopted the gobar gas plant or have not adopted it.

3.5 MARITAL STATUS :

Table No. 4 gives us the information about the marital status of the family members of the respondents under study.

TABLE No. 4

MARITAL STATUS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE RESPONDENTS FAMILIES

Sr.No.	Marital status	Adopters %	Non-adopters %	Total %
1.	Married	350 (54.52)*	119 (49.18)*	469 (53.05)
2.	Unmarried	262 (40.87)	93 (38.43)	355 (40.15)
3.	Widowed	04 (0.06)	02 (0.82)	06 (0.67)
4.	Widow	26 (4.05)	28 (11.57)	54 (6.10)
		642	242	884

*Percentage to the total of adopters and non-adopters group.

Source : Personal interviews by the researcher.

There are 469 (53.05%) married persons in total. The number of unmarried persons is 355 (40.15%). The widowed are 6 (0.67%) and widows are 54 (6.10%). None of the members from the respondents family is either a divorce or a separated one.

The number of married persons is more in the adopters group and it is less among the non-adopters. Marital status plays an important role in determining individual's status in the entire society.

3.6 EDUCATION :

Education is one of the important factor in determining the socio-economic position of the person in the society. Table No. 5 gives us an idea about the educational attainment of the respondents under study.

TABLE No. 5
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE
RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Sr. Respondents No.	Educational Attainment					Total
	Illiterate	Pr.	Sec.	Higher	Special	
1. Adopters	36 (25.71%)	58 (58.58%)	05 (5.05%)	-	-	99
2. Non-adopters	23 (56.0%)	16 (39.02%)	02 (4.87%)	-	-	41
Total :	59 (42.14)	74 (52.85)	07 (7.0%)	-	-	140

Thus, it is revealed from the above table that the number of illiterate respondents is 59 (42.14%) and those having primary level



education is 74 (52.85%). The respondents having secondary education is 07 (5.0%). It clearly signifies that importance of education is yet to be revealed by the rural population. The attitude towards woman's education is of negligence and in rural areas still today women education is not given any significant thought.

When enquired about the educational status of the family members of the group under study, it is found that, in the younger generation the spread of education is more in case of men. The women-folk gets education but it is limited upto primary level. Table No. 6 gives us the details about the educational status of the members of the respondents families.

TABLE No. 6
DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY
ACCORDING TO THEIR EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Sr. No.	Education	Adopters %	Non-adopters %	Total %
1.	Illiterate	235 (36.60)	74 (30.37)	309 (34.95)
2.	Primary	301 (46.89)	64 (28.46)	365 (41.28)
3.	Secondary	039 (06.07)	51 (21.07)	90 (10.18)
4.	Higher	052 (08.10)	47 (19.42)	99 (11.20)
5.	Special	015 (02.34)	06 (2.48)	21 (02.37)
Total :		642	242	884

Source : Personal interviews by the researcher.

The number of illiterates is sizeable one, 309 (34.95%). Those having primary education, that is, upto the seventh standard of primary school is also considerably higher 365 (41.28%). The bulk of population received secondary education, upto secondary school certificate education is 90 (10.18%) which is compared with the previous figures is less. There has been a population of 99 (11.20%) having higher education. The Kuditre Sugar Co-operative and the local educational institution has taken efforts to establish the college (Arts, Commerce and Science) which has made it possible for the younger generation to receive the higher, university education. The number of respondents family members having been received I.T.I. (industrial training) and diploma in Engineering is 21 (2.37%).

The educational status of the members show that the new generation members are getting better education than their parental generation.

3.7 FAMILY TYPE :

TABLE No. 7

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR FAMILY TYPE

Sr.No.	Family Type	Adopters	Non-adopters	Total
1.	Nuclear Family	68 (68.68%)	26 (63.42%)	94 (67.14%)
2.	Joint Family	31 (31.31%)	15 (36.58%)	46 (32.85%)
Total :		99	41	140

Source : Personal interviews by the researcher.

The type of family in which one leads his life is important as far as the social life of that individual is concerned. Predominance of the joint family is supposed to be the feature of rural society. However in our study we find that nuclear families are more in number than the traditionally important joint families.

There are 94 (67.14%) nuclear families and 46 (32.85%) joint families in the group under study.

The reason for more number of nuclear families given by the respondents is that, the Kuditre Sugar Co-operative initially distributed shares on the basis of individual holdings of land. The factory used to purchase only one acre sugarcane per share.

3.8 LAND HOLDING :

To sell more sugarcane to the factory the then joint families were divided into nuclear families officially. The landed property was divided among the brothers equally. In the later period these divisions took place as a necessity of the time. This is revealed by the fact that the landholding per family is of a marginal size.

Table No. 7 given below gives us the land holdings of the respondents under study.

TABLE No. 8
LAND HOLDING OF THE RESPONDENTS PER FAMILY

Sr. No.	Land holding	Adopters %	Non-adopters %	Total %
1.	up to 1	54 (54.54%)	14 (36.16%)	68 (48.57%)
2.	1 to 2	23 (23.23%)	04 (09.76%)	27 (19.28%)
3.	2 to 3	10 (10.10%)	01 (02.44%)	11 (07.85%)
4.	3 to 4	04 (04.04%)	-	04 (02.85%)
5.	4 to 5	01 (01.01%)	02 (04.87%)	03 (02.14%)
6.	5 and above	03 (03.03%)	02 (04.87%)	05 (03.57%)
7.	Nil	04 (04.04%)	18 (43.90%)	22 (15.71%)
Total :		99 (70.71%)	41 (29.28%)	140

Source : Information gathered from village level worker,
Koparde, Tal. Karveer, Dist. Kolhapur

The number of families holding only upto one acre of cultivate land is 68 (48.57%) and those who hold upto two acres is 27 (19.28%). It means that the number of respondents having land less than one hectre is sizeable and it signifies that the majority of our respondents are small land holders. They number to be 95 (67.85%). The respondents having land holding in between two to four acres are 15 (10.71%). Those having four acres and above are 8 (5.71%) and there are landless families 22 (15.71%).

The information gathered shows that the average respondent is coming from the small landholding group. However, the land possessed by them is fertile and having superior qualities.

3.9 ANNUAL INCOME :

TABLE No. 9
ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME OF THE
RESPONDENTS UNDER STUDY

Sr. No.	Annual family income (Rupees)	Adopters %	Non-adopters %	Total %
1.	^{UP} 1 to 5,000	16 (16.16%)	09 (21.95%)	25 (17.85%)
2.	5,001 to 10,000	09 (09.09%)	04 (9.75%)	13 (9.28%)
3.	10,001 to 20,000	14 (14.14%)	08 (19.51%)	22 (15.71%)
4.	20,001 and above	60 (60.60%)	20 (48.79)	80 (57.14%)
Total :		99	41	140

Source : Information collected through personal interviews of the respondents.

Table No. 9 gives us the information about the annual income from all sources of the respondents families. The major occupation being agriculture, there are other subsidiary occupations like dairying and non-agricultural services at the nearby factory and the city Kolhapur. The major crop is sugarcane and it is reported that the per acre yield of sugarcane in this area is about 45 to 55 metric tonnes. The respondents

having two to three acres of land under sugarcane cultivation is able to produce about 100 metric tonnes of sugarcane per season. The factory buys the sugarcane of their shareholders regularly and hence the farmer gets the income from sugarcane as the guranteed one. Thus, though the respondents fall from the small holdings group, they get better income from commercial crop sugarcane.

The number of respondents having annual income more than Rs. 20,000/- and above is 80 (57.14%) and those belong to the income category of Rs. 10,000/- to Rs.20,000/- is 22 (15.71%). It shows that out of 140 respondents 102 (72.85%) have their annual income more than Rs. 10,000/- per year. Only 25 families (17.85%) have their income less than Rs. 5,000/- per year and 13 respondents (9.28%) have their income less than Rs. 10,000/- per annum.

The installation of gobar gas is a costly affair. Though the adopter of the gobar gas plants gets subsidy, it is realesed only after the work of installation is completed. The initial investment can be possible only to those who have sufficient financial sources.

The income table gives us the understanding that our respondents come from better economic strata.

3.10 DOMESTICATED ANIMALS :

TABLE No. 10
INFORMATION ABOUT DOMESTICATED ANIMAL
OWNED BY THE RESPONDENTS

Sr. No.	Type of animals	Adopters	Non-adopters	Total
1.	Milch animals			
	a) Cow	46 (23.23%)*	05 (20.83%)*	51 (24.05%)**
	b) She buffallow	53 (26.76%)	13 (54.16%)	66 (31.13%)
2.	Others			
	a) Oxes	40 (20.20%)	02 (1.01%)	42 (19.81%)
	b) He buffallow	45 (22.72%)	03 (1.51%)	48 (22.64%)
	c) Sheeps/Goats	14 (7.07)	01 (0.50%)	15 (7.07%)
Total :		198 (93.39%)	24 (11.32%)	212

* Percentage to the total number of animals adopters group/non-adopters group is having.

** Percentage to the total number of animals with respondents (140) group.

Domesticated animals are the integral part of the peasantry. Rural house without any domestacted animal is not imagined. The group under study reveals that, the number of adopters have the maximum number of animals. 117 milch animals are with the respondents, out of which 99 are with the gobar gas adopters and 18 are with the non-adopters group. The animals used for agricultural work like ploughing,

tilling and transportation are also more in number with the gobar gas plant owners group. The gobar gas requires cow dung and it is the main raw material used for the production of gas. The non-adopters have domesticated animals for milch purposes. The respondents having meger land possession do not rear oxes and he-buffallows. They get the farm work done by mechanical devices like tractor or they hire a pair of bullocks for their work from the village farmers.

Thus, it can be said that the domestication of animals in more number is a supporting factor for the adoption of gobar gas plants.

CONCLUSION :

The socio-economic characters of the respondents are considered here to a greater extent. The age and sexwise distribution of the population of the respondents give us an idea about the bulk of population under study. The castewise distribution of respondents reveal the dominance of Maratha caste, it is being the numerically superior in the village also. The marital status gives us an idea that none of the members from the respondents group has been a divorcee or a separated one. The educational status of the respondent gives us an understanding that, only in recent years the importance of education has been felt by the people. This can be seen in case of young people who are more educated than their parents. It is the nuclear family type which is prominent in the group under study. The new economic achievements through sugar co-operatives are indirectly responsible for the shift from joint family system to nuclear family system. The impact

of sugar co-operative on the economic life of the ruralites is visualised by the fact, that though the land possessed by the respondents is below one hectare possession, due to commercialised crop sugarcane they earn better than before. They are able to invest in gohar gas plants and are in a better economic position than ever.