

CHAPTER: II

METHODOLOGY OF STUDY:

INTRODUCTION:

Peth Vadgaon is having powerloom industry since 1960. In 1984 there were 578 powerlooms, on which, 535 weavers were employed. The present study is based on the information from powerloom weavers which is collected by interview schedule. The present study was undertaken to investigate into socio-economic conditions of powerloom weavers in Peth Vadgaon.

The importance of the present study is that it is the first survey of textile weavers at Peth-Vadgaon. Though Peth-Vadgaon is considered as one of the big textile centre in Kolhapur District after Ichalkaranji, the wokrkers were not studied from Sociological point of view. Thus the present study will be able to throw some light on the condition of textile workers at Peth Vadgaon.~~xx~~

The powerloom industry consists of workers working on beams, on cones/threads and on powerlooms. The workers working on powerloom are termed as weavers as they weave dhoti on looms. The present study is concerned with powerloom weavers. Hence forth the word "Worker" has been used for weavers.

2.1 THE OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

The objectives of study were -

- a) To study social conditions of powerloom workers at Peth Vadgaon.
- b) To study the economic conditions of powerloom workers at Peth Vadgaon.
- c) To find out incidence of indebtedness among powerloom workers at Peth Vadgaon.
- d) To analyze the working conditions of the powerloom workers at Peth Vadgaon.
- e) To observe community living of powerloom workers at Peth Vadgaon.
- f) To trace the difficulties faced by powerloom workers.

2.2 SELECTION OF UNITS:

The powerloom factory units were selected for the purpose of data collection. There were 44 powerloom factory units. 535 total weavers were employed in these factories. 10% of the total weavers were decided to be covered under the present study.

2.3 SELECTION OF RESPONDENTS:

The list of 535 workers was prepared taking into account of 44 powerloom factories at Peth Vadgaon.

The workers were selected by interval (Systematic) sampling was thought to be appropriate for drawing samples from units. The list of respondents was prepared by taking into account the interval of 10. The interview schedule containing some questions was prepared and the data collection was undertaken into action.

2.4 THE FIELD WORK AND INTERVIEWING:

The field work was conducted during November and December 1983, and the data presented here refers to the workers at the time of field work.

With the co-operation of factory owners the workers were met at the factory level.

The interview schedule was prepared in the local language i.e. Marathi. The copy of which is given in Appendix. The workers were interviewed in Marathi at the unit personally by researcher. (The interview schedule and the recording of the respondent was done in Marathi. At the code-book stage the responses were transferred into English).

After establishing contact with the desired respondent, he was given to read ~~the~~ the appeal cyclostyled on the schedule. For illiterate respondents, the appeal was read by the researcher. The academic nature of the work and the objective of the study were clearly mentioned in the appeal. The assurance was also given about keeping the details of the interview confidential and of using the information collected only for research purpose.

2.5 WORKERS ATTITUDES TOWARDS- RESEARCHER:

When the respondents were contacted and interviewed at the factory, the respondents were very co-operative in giving necessary information. The attitudes of the workers towards researcher are noted below:

- a) One respondent commented that there were many people who tried solve the problems of labourer, but problems of labour were not being solved.
- b) One of the respondents considered researcher as a member of family planning unit.
- c) Many workers took the researcher as a student of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Master of Social Work. and asked about his chances of becoming Doctor and labour officer.

*sub
clear*

- d) Some of the workers took the researcher as a member of Government Labour office.

These comments show how respondents looked at researcher at the first-sight, but when the nature and objective of study was made clear, they were kind enough to respond spontaneously and to furnish the full information which is the life blood of this study.

2.6 PROBLEMS IN DATA COLLECTION:

1. The most important problem was of time, on part of respondent. The nature of their work was such that it was difficult for them to spare time; and time spent in replies to questions was a loss of money, as the work is piece-rated on the powerloom.
2. Although efforts were made to get correct and reliable information; there maybe some gaps. Some information may be incorrect due to factors like illiteracy, ignorance and hesitation. It has been presumed in the study that the reponses given to the questions are reliable.
3. An other major problem faced was in getting the information on the family income and expenditure on various items of daily expenses, and habits of

the workers.

4. Another problem faced was that, the factory owners looked the researcher as a member of income tax office and they were hesitant to give information about their factory and workers employed in it.

2.7 ANALYSIS OF DATA:

The collected data were analysed by preparing various tables on different aspect of social and economic conditions of the workers. The number of workers were converted into the percentages to the total number of workers.

After locating the proportions through various tables, they were analyzed and attempts were made to find out association between two variables wherever possible.

2.8 PRESENTATION OF DATA:

An attempt has been made to present the collected data in following chapters:

- 1) Social Conditions.
- 2) Economic conditions.
- 3) Working conditions.
- 4) Community involvement.
- 5) Summery and conclusion.