
CHAPTER - III

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

C H A P T E R - 3

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1. INTRODUCTION :

B.S. Baviskar's study of co-operative Sugar factory is considered as classic in the field of Sociology. This chapter presents a brief sketch of the book, " The Politics of Development " ¹.

Baviskar's study focuses on the Kisan Co-operative Sugar Facotry located in a rural area of Kopargaon Taluka in Ahamadnagar district of Maharashtra. The Kisan is an integral part of economic, political and social life of the taluka and district. The development of Kisan is studied in relation to other structures of power, such as Panchayat Raj bodies and political parties. The author has studied and discussed the political involvement of co-operatives both for the co-operatives themselves and for the wider social and political system.

The analysis shows that the different social groups in Kopargaon Taluka perceived their interest and their interest and attitudes influenced ability to employ the new opportunities.

2. IRRIGATION :

The event of construction of irrigation canals brought out significant change. It has become factor of social change because skilled and experienced irrigated farming paved way to capital resources. The capital resources enabled

to change over from subsistence to commercial farming. Also it has changed the nature of behaviour of people living in that area, now they are ready to migrate from one area to another in search of better opportunities.

3. CASTE FACTOR :

There are four major castes living in that area. Those are Maratha, Mali, Lingayats and others. Among all these, Malis were in a favourable position, because they were wealthy since their forefathers. So they could benefit more than other caste. In the course of time the local Marathas gained necessary skills and joined in the process of commercial farming.

The Marathas were more enthusiastic in establishing Kisan Co-operative. The Malis and other minority castes were reluctant. Here one point is to be noted that the hesitation on the part of the minority caste resulted not from economic but political consideration. The successful, wealthy, farmers economically sound and socially privileged farmers realised that economic benefits of establishing a sugar factory. Also they realised its effects on relative balance of power among the different caste group. They thought the new emerging class will snatch the power which they were holding. Their opposition could not stand for long period. However, they could not stop the expansion of co-operative movement and consequently political advantage gained by the Marathas. The co-operatives helped the Marathas to improve their economic position. The minority wealthy castes opposed co-operative through their economic interest.

4. ORGANIZATION OF THE FACTORY :

The researcher further described the organisation of factory i.e. location physical layout, the relation with society and other governmental agencies and political structure. There are three classes of shareholder or members of Kisan (1) producer member referred to as class 'A' members (2) ordinary or class 'B' members (3) Nominal are class 'C' members. Among these producer members are most important.

The management of factory directors comprised of 24 directors on board. Nineteen of them are elected from shareholders. Other directors are from different agencies. The Managing Director is an ex-officio members of the board.

Kisan is closely engaged with various types of co-operatives. These co-operative factors are members of factory. The shareholders of Kisan are the members of other co-operative agencies at village level. They derive maximum benefits from these agencies.

The link between Kisan and State and Central Government are important. The expansion and smooth running of the factory is purely depended on above government agencies.

5. POLITICAL DIMENSION :

The local leaders have close links with the ministry of State. The political structure of the leadership at the state level has direct relation with the political structure of leadership at the factory level. This further extends upto village level.

It is found that, there is a ladder of power between Kisan Co-operative and Zilla Parishad and Taluka Panchayat Samitis. The Chairman and Directors of Kisan Factory are seen to be holding higher positions i.e. the local bodies such as Zilla Parishads and Taluka Panchayat samitis.

These local bodies are directly related with the National Development. Many schemes of Central Government and State Government brought into force for the development are executed through these institutions and agencies. These agencies are functioning at the bottom of scheme and they are directly related to the persons for whom these schemes are related. The persons are shareholders of Kisan. These higher authorities at these local bodies are their power for the more benefits of shareholders. Because shareholders' betterment is Kisan factories better most or vice-versa.

The shareholders to some extent are decision makers. They are also raw material suppliers. The functioning is directly related to shareholders. The management Executive Administration is directly related to shareholders. These are unique characteristics of co-operatives. This applies to Kisan co-operatives.

Also it is related to the economic life of people in area. It intimately involved social and political development of people in area.

6. IMPACT OF CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR FACTORY :

The sugar factories eventually become centres of growth in the area of operation. This brings change in their economic, educational, communication health, employment, social life. It also imbibes skills and favourable attitudes which help the people to lead improved and peaceful life.

The emergence of co-operative changed old trends of functioning of society and saved societies from liquidation. Also it helped the shareholders person to escape from exploitation of local many leaders by bringing all round development. The shareholders can rely on the factory to help them during critical periods. The shareholders are supplied with good quality fertilizers by factory. Also new disease free seed are supplied.

The introduction of new varieties of fertilizers and seeds forced to change their attitude. Now the cultivators-farmers have become more and more scientific and technological in using their seeds and fertilizers. They are always stirring to produce yield having quality and quantity. This attitude has indirectly affected on the beliefs, such as superstitions, black magic etc.

Irrigation plays an important role in sugarcane growing. It is fully dependent upon the perennial irrigation. The farmers and shareholders are more conscious about irrigation and supply of electricity to their motors. This attitude of farmers has forced the leaders to pay more attention to these factory. This resulted in creating various kinds of lift irrigation systems.

The farmer is more conscious about his income from his crop. They have active interest in the larger income of factory.

The factory provides them common platform for their interest. So they discuss and solve their problems at factory level when they come at factory platform. There they found that their co-shareholders are divided into multi interested groups. Through multi interest they come to common interest. The common interest is root of democracy. Then the factory plays a vital role in inculcating or imbibing democracy in their shareholders, ultimately farmers from the area operation. Thus the co-operative movement is centre of democratic movement.

The sugar factories have forced to change an attitude towards vehicles. If we look back before two decades, we would have observed that to have a vehicle (two wheeler or four wheeler) was looked upon as a sign of luxurious living. Only wealthy people could keep vehicles. Now due to co-operative movement, we will find that farmers own fleet of tractors, trucks, bull-dozers, jeeps etc. Now there is no monopoly of few to possess vehicles. To have motor cycles has become a common feature of middle class farmers.

The shareholders in Maharashtra have active interest in the functioning of factory. The reason beyond this is that the members are sugarcane growers. Also the degree of authoritarian is also low in the case of co-operative in the Maharashtra. Because this attitude hampers the good will of leader and results in reducing the opportunities of re-election. There is a keen competition among leaders. Thus, it will be seen that some democratic elements are observed in co-operative movement.