
CHAPTER ONE : RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

CHAPTER - 1
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1.1 OBJECTIVE

Cooperative activity is considered as an useful panacea over the evils of private enterprise and hence is advocated all over the world. India has, since the beginning of the present century, tried with the course in various areas of economic activity. Consumer cooperation is one of them. In fact, in spite of long existence of cooperative movement in the country, consumer cooperative movement remained all the while a laggard. Eventhen whatever experiments have been done in the various parts of the country should be examined thoroughly in order to understand the course of their development and the extent to which they could fulfil their avowed objectives. The assessment can be done through empirical studies. The present investigation is undertaken on this background. It is a case study of Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali Ltd., Barsi. Specifically, this investigation purports -

- (1) to review briefly the present position of consumer cooperative movement in Maharashtra, Solapur district, Barsi taluka and Barsi town;

- (2) to trace the growth of Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Purvatha Mandali Ltd., Barsi;
- (3) to review the working of the institution and
- (4) to assess the performance of the society.

1.2 INSTITUTION OF STUDY

This study probes the growth and functioning of Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali Ltd., Barsi. The institution is a leading consumer cooperative organisation in Solapur district. During its existence for about four decades, it has grown phenomenally in size and has widened its scope of activities including production of consumer articles. It was appropriate, therefore, to evaluate the performance of the institution and thus it has been selected as the core theme of this study.

1.3 HYPOTHESIS

Consumer cooperative societies run with due care and developed to cater to the multifarious needs of the consumer can certainly be social assets. The success rests largely on the dynamism of the persons at the helm of affairs.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The statistical part of this study is principally derived from secondary sources like the publications of

the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India and Office of the Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperatives, Maharashtra State, Pune. Besides, data has been collected from the offices of the District Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Solapur, Assistant Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Barsi and Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Barsi. All information regarding the Bhagwant Society, the institution under study, was gleaned from the office of the Society and its Annual Reports.

For a smaller portion of this work, viz., development of consumer cooperation in Barsi town, since the official data over years of the existing institutions was not available with the Cooperative Department at Barsi, the researcher had to undertake a survey by using a structured questionnaire. Details in this behalf will appear at the appropriate place.

1.5 SCHEME OF STUDY

After laying down the methodological particulars, the study proceeds in chapter two to get a cursory view of consumer cooperation with reference to its foundations and then with reference to its growth in India in general and Maharashtra in particular.

Chapter three reviews the position of consumer cooperation in Solapur district, Barsi taluka and finally

in Barsi town. Major part of this chapter is devoted to understanding the consumer cooperatives in Barsi town, the details for which were procured by using the tool of a structured questionnaire.

Chapter four is an historical account of Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali Ltd., Barsi. It traces the progress of the Bhagwant Group over its existence for about four decades with reference to the activities it has undertaken from time to time. The chapter brings out the role of the Bhagwant Group as service institution.

The viability of a cooperative society is reflected through its financial operation. Hence, time series analysis of the financial details has been attempted in the fifth chapter. As a further continuation of this probe, analysis of financial performance by means of ratio analysis has been attempted in chapter sixth. Ratios used are Current Ratio, Gross Profit Ratio, Operating Expenses Ratio, Net Profit Ratio, Inventory Turnover Ratio, Working Capital Ratio and Efficiency Ratio.

The last chapter is concluding one.