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CHAPTER THREE : CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES  
IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT AND BARSII  
TOWN : A SURVEY

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Chapter - 3

CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT  
AND BARSII TOWN - A SURVEY

3.1 OVERVIEW OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT

3.1.1 Geographical Location

Solapur district is one of the five districts of Pune Division in Maharashtra. The district situated on the south-east fringe of the Maharashtra State, lies on the ridge in the Bhima and Sina basins and almost the whole of it is drained by either Bhima river or its tributaries. The district has an area of 15,057 sq. km. The area of Solapur district lies between latitudes  $17^{\circ}$  to  $19^{\circ}$  and longitudes  $75^{\circ}$  to  $77^{\circ}$  on the southern border of Maharashtra. It lies in the centre of a large plain 1,800 feet above mean sea level. It is surrounded by Gulbarga and Bijapur districts of the Karnataka State to the south and from Maharashtra State Sangli district to the south-west, Satara district to the west, Pune district to the north-west, Ahmednagar district to the north and Osmanabad district to the east. Solapur city, the district headquarters, is situated at a distance of about 265 Kms. from Pune city, the divisional headquarter. There are 11 talukas, ten towns and 953 villages in Solapur district.

### 3.1.2 Consumer Cooperation in Solapur District

At the outset, Solapur district can be viewed against other four districts in Pune Division. Referring to Table 3.1, it can be noticed that as regards all types of Cooperative Societies, Solapur district stood second to Pune district in 1984 and 1985 sharing nearly 20 percent of the Divisional total of the societies. Importantly, it has surpassed Kolhapur district in 1985 and has relegated Kolhapur district from its second to the third rank. It is an indication of faster growth of cooperative activity in Solapur district. In 1986, the number of all types of societies in the district rose to 3,960. In the Divisional ranking Kolhapur, Satara and Sangli districts ranked lower than Solapur district.

When it comes to consumer cooperation, Solapur district is top-ranking with 4 to 5 percent of its aggregate cooperatives engaged in consumer service. In 1981 the district had 135 consumer stores in the aggregate societies numbering 2,886 (4.68 percent). The number grew to 166 (4.40 percent) in 1985 and further to 181 (4.57 percent) in 1986. Pune district ranked second (3 to 4 percent) followed by Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara districts. On the whole, in all the districts of Pune division, consumer cooperation has remained a neglected activity.

Table 3.1

Cooperative movement in Solapur district vis-a-vis other districts in  
Pune Division

District	1983		1984		1985	
	All types of cooperatives	out of which consumer cooperatives	All types of cooperatives	out of which consumer cooperatives	All types of cooperatives	out of which consumer cooperatives
1. Pune	5072 (31.56)	147 (2.90)	5518 (31.95)	179 (3.24)	6222 (33.29)	233 (3.74)
2. Satara	2474 (15.40)	35 (1.41)	2682 (15.53)	40 (1.49)	2883 (15.42)	50 (1.73)
3. Sangli	1887 (11.74)	37 (1.96)	1978 (11.45)	45 (2.28)	2095 (11.20)	52 (2.48)
4. Solapur	3060 (19.04)	151 (4.93)	3523 (20.40)	158 (4.48)	3772 (20.18)	166 (4.40)
5. Kolhapur	3377 (21.01)	79 (2.34)	3565 (20.65)	90 (2.52)	3717 (19.88)	95 (2.56)
Pune Division	16070 (100.00)	449 (2.79)	17266 (100.00)	512 (2.97)	18689 (100.00)	596 (3.19)

Note : (1) Figures in brackets under "All types of Cooperatives" are percentages to Pune Division. (2) Figures in brackets under "Consumer cooperatives" are percentages to "All types" for the respective districts.

Source: Cooperative Movement At A Glance In Maharashtra, 1983, 1984, 1985, Office of the Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra State, Pune, Statement No.75.

3.1.3 Talukawise Profile of Solapur District

Talukawise details of primary and wholesale societies for the years 1981 and 1986 are shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2

Talukawise Profile of Consumer Cooperation in Solapur district

Taluka	Primary Stores		Wholesale Stores	
	30 June 1981	30 June 1986	30 June 1981	30 June 1986
1. Pandharpur	6 (4.72)	9 (5.26)	-	-
2. Malshiras	3 (2.36)	9 (5.26)	-	-
3. Mangalwedha	-	4 (2.34)	-	-
4. Sangola	3 (2.36)	4 (2.34)	-	-
5. N.Solapur	96 (75.59)	109 (63.74)	6 (75.00)	8 (80.00)
6. Akkalkot	3 (2.36)	8 (4.67)	-	-
7. Barsi	12 (9.44)	16 (9.36)	2 (25.00)	2 (20.00)
8. S.Solapur	-	1 (0.58)	-	-
9. Madha	2 (1.57)	3 (1.75)	-	-
10. Mohal	-	2 (1.17)	-	-
11. Karmala	2 (1.57)	6 (3.51)	-	-
Total	127 (100.00)	171 (100.00)	8 (100.00)	10 (100.00)

Note : Figures in brackets indicate percentages to total.  
Source : Office of the District Sub-Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Solapur.

It appears from Table 3.2 that there were 181 consumers' cooperative societies registered upto 30th June 1986 in Solapur district. Of the 181 societies, 10 were registered as Federal/Central societies while 171 societies as primary societies. As against this, in 1981 the total number of consumers' cooperative societies was 135, of which 8 were Federal/Central and 127 were primary. During the period 1981 to 1986 the aggregate number of consumers cooperative societies increased by 34.07 percent, primary societies by 34.65 percent and central/wholesale societies by 25 percent.

Referring to the individual talukas, primary consumer stores were concentrated largely in North Solapur taluka with 96 (75.59 percent) and 109 (63.74 percent) societies in 1981 and 1986 respectively. Rest of the talukas shared less than 10 percent of the total primary stores. Barsi taluka ranked second with 12 (9.44 percent) and 16 (9.36 percent) societies in 1981 and 1986 respectively followed by Pandharpur and Malshiras talukas.

As regards central/federal stores, they existed in North Solapur and Barsi talukas only with major concentration in the former taluka. They were 8 in 1981 and 10 in 1986. In 1986, Barsi taluka continued with the 2 societies but North Solapur had 8 in place of 6 earlier.

Both the societies in Barsi, taluka were owned by the 'Bhagwant Group'. One of them, viz. Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali Ltd., Barsi, is the subject of the present study.

All these details point out that the consumer cooperative movement in Solapur district is highly concentrated and has as yet failed to be comprehensive over the entire district.

### 3.1.4 Cooperative Societies in Barsi Taluka

A micro-level view of the cooperative movement in Barsi taluka can be had with the help of Table 3.3.

Table 3.3

Network of Cooperative Societies in Barsi taluka

Sr.No.	Types of Cooperative Societies	Number
1.	Solapur D.C.C. Bank (Branches)	9
2.	District Industrial Co-op. Bank (Branch)	1
3.	Primary Agricultural Credit Societies	122
4.	Employees' Credit Co-op.Societies and Urban Credit Cooperative Societies	36
5.	Fisheries Cooperative Societies	14
6.	Labour Cooperative Societies	44
7.	Consumers' Cooperative Societies	18
8.	Industrial Cooperative Societies	31
9.	Housing Cooperative Societies	21
10.	General Co-op. Societies(Automobiles, Printing Press, Power Looms, Hospital,etc.)	5
11.	Agricultural Processing Co-op.Societies	5
12.	Marketing Cooperative Societies	2
13.	Water Supply Cooperative Societies	2
14.	<u>Farming Cooperative Societies</u>	<u>2</u>
	Total	312

Source: Office of the Assistant Registrar Co-op.Societies, Barsi.

It appears from the details therein that credit activity is leading in the taluka, as elsewhere. However, the cooperative activity has covered many other areas like fisheries, labour, consumer stores, industries, housing, services, agricultural processing, agricultural marketing, water supply and farming, eventhough some of the activities appear to be still sporadic over the taluka.

### 3.2 ECONOMIC PROFILE OF BARSII TOWN

Since the institution covered by the present study is located in Barsii town, it will be appropriate to take a glimpse of the economic profile of the town to begin with.

#### 3.2.1 Geographical location

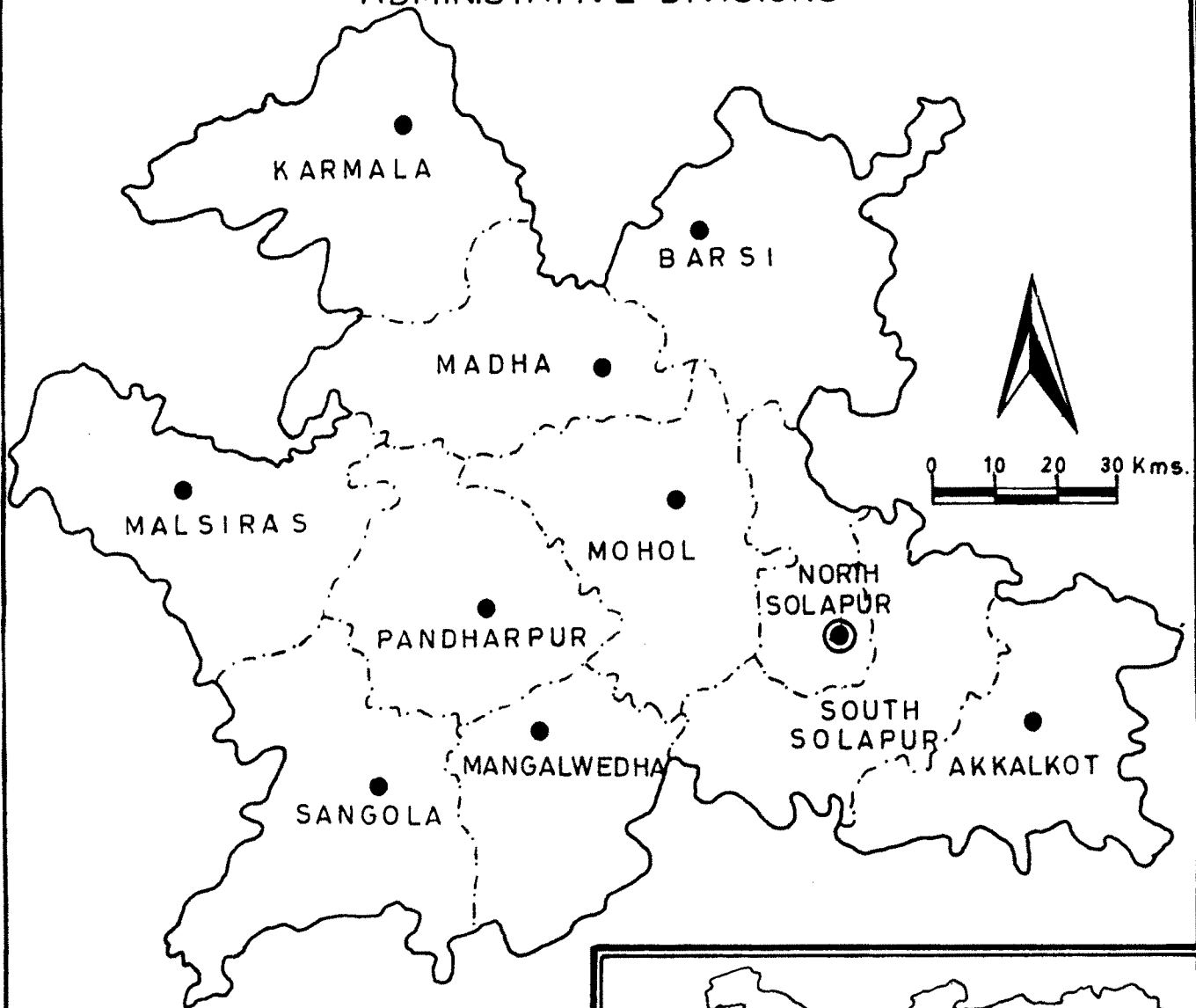
Barsii became a part of the district as a separate tahsil from 1920. This taluka is situated to the north-east side of Solapur district bordering, Osmanabad district on the north. The area of Barsii Municipal Council is 36.27 sq.km. and the population of the town was 73,537 according to 1981 census.

#### 3.2.2 Transport and Communication Facilities

The town is linked with important places within and without Solapur district by both roads and rail along with necessary communication facilities. Road transportation takes lead in goods and passenger transportation. Barsii is well connected by road with

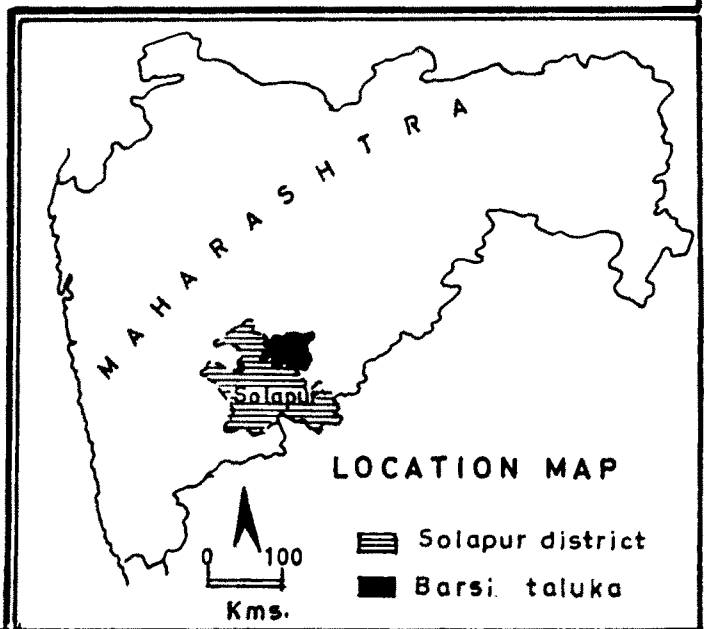


# SOLAPUR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS



- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- - - TALUKA BOUNDARY
- ⊙ DISTRICT H. Q.
- TALUKA H. Q.

7000  
A.



## LOCATION MAP

- ▨ Solapur district
- Barsi taluka

Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Nanded, Parbhani, Amravati, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Pune, Bombay etc. in Maharashtra State. The Pune-Hyderabad National Highway passes through Solapur district for a distance of about 125 km, it passes almost tangent to the out-skirts of Barsi town. The erstwhile narrow guage Barsi light Railway linking Miraj and Latur passes through Barwi town. The Bombay-Madras broad guage railway line passes through Kurduwadi, 36 km. away from Barsi. On the side of communication, the All India Radio broadcasts the commercial news of agricultural products transacted in Barsi market.<sup>1</sup>

### 3.2.3 Industrial and Commercial Activity

There are two industrial estates in Solapur district, one in Solapur city and the other in Barsi town. An engineering unit is coming up in Khandavi near Barsi town to produce nut bolts and agricultural implements. The Bhogavati Cooperative Sugar Factory started production from 1979. Dal making, groundnut oil extraction, bidi making, jaggery making, printing process, textile processing, etc. are the activities of Barsi town. In brief, the industrial activity in Barsi town is prominently linked intimately with agricultural produce and hence agricultural business

predominates the industrial scene. Table 3.4 throws light on this.

Table 3.4

Agricultural raw material processing units in  
Barsi town

Sr.No.	Industry	No.of Units
1.	Spinning Mills	2
2.	Textile Mills	1
3.	Oil Mills	7
4.	Turmeric polishing	2
5.	Chaff cutting units	15
6.	Dal Mills	22
7.	Oil ghanis (Rotary)	6
8.	Sugar factories	1

Source : Agricultural Produce Market Committee,  
Barsi, Annual Report, 1983-84, p.9.

Table 3.4 indicates that of all the industrial activities of the town, dal-making is conspicuous by the number of mills. Barsi is famous for this activity. Details of other economic activities in the town are given in Table 3.5.

From Table 3.5 it appears that Barsi town though small, is an industrial and commercial place with potentialities of development of industries based

Table 3.5

Other establishments in Barsi town

Kind of Unit	Year	No. of Establishments registered	No. of Workers
1. Shops	1976-77	1,757	1,771
	1983-84	2,192	3,268
2. Commercial Establishments	1976-77	504	1,440
	1983-84	615	1,905
3. Factories	1976-77	N.A.	N.A.
	1983-84	235	N.A.
4. Hotels	1976-77	173	552
	1983-84	271	759
5. Other establishments	1976-77	34	66
	1983-84	42	102

- Source :
1. The Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Barsi, Annual Reports for 1976-77 and 1983-84.
  2. Barsi Municipal Council, Year Books, for 1976-77 and 1983-84.

particularly on agricultural production side by side the prospects for humming commercial activity.

### 3.3 CONSUMER COOPERATION IN BARSII TOWN

#### 3.3.1 Survey Experience

Necessary detailed information about consumer cooperatives in Barsi town was unfortunately not available with the Office of the Assistant Registrar, Cooperative

Societies, Barsi, except the particulars about the names and addresses of the consumer societies on roll in 1986. The reason given was adoption of 'Lakina Pattern' in the administration. Consequently, the office maintained record for the current year only and all other previous record was destroyed. The only alternative left for the researcher was to approach personally the existing societies and elicit required information.

A questionnaire as shown in the Appendix was employed for the purpose. The initial draft of it was discussed with the experts, secretaries of consumer societies and the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Department, Barsi. The questionnaire thus finalised was mailed to the consumer cooperatives in Barsi town. There were 14 consumer societies in the town in 1987. It was noticed that 4 of them were dormant and hence the remaining 10 active societies were contacted; two of them were central societies and 8 primary societies of which 3 were recently established.

The researcher, having failed in getting responses to the mailed questionnaires, had to personally undertake the task. Responses and reactions of the office-bearers of the societies were very discouraging. The society officials were very reluctant to fill in the

questionnaire, provide required information from their records, make available their files for taking notes and reveal details of their financial operations. To them it appeared to be a worthless and time-consuming exercise which would confer no benefits on the society. The researcher had a very hard time in converting their negative attitude into a positive action. Additionally, it was noticed that the societies were quite negligent in systematically maintaining their records and accounts. That too added to the difficulties. With great efforts the problems were overcome and questionnaires were completed, but not to the extent required. The information on various subjects was sought from the inception of each society. But due to non-availability of past records and information with the concerned society as well as the cooperative department, the researcher had to remain content with the details for the period from 1981-82 to 1985-86.

### 3.3.2 Role of Consumer Societies

Name list of the 14 consumer societies in Barsi town is given in Table 3.6. Between the two Central societies, 'Bhagwant' is the oldest. The other, 'Madhyavarti Sahakari Grahak Bhandar' was established 15 years after the 'Bhagwant' began its

Table 3.6

Consumer cooperative societies in Barsi town

Sr.No.	Name of the Society	Date of establishment
<u>I. Central Societies</u>		
1.	Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali Ltd.	8-3-1949
2.	Barsi Madhyavarti Sahakari Grahak Bhandar Maryadit	5-3-1964
<u>II. Primary Societies</u>		
1.	Barsi Hotel Malak Sangh Sanstha Maryadit	29-12-1960
2.	Barsi Taluka Khadi Gramodyoga Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd.	16-3-1966
*3.	Sanmati Sarva Vyavasaik Grahak Bhandar Maryadit	1974
4.	Vinayak Sarva Vyavasaik Sahakari Grahak Sanstha Maryadit	16-4-1975
5.	Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Sahakari Grahak Sanstha Ltd.	15-7-1975
*6.	Jijamata Mahila Sarva Vyavasaik Sahakari Grahak Bhandar Ltd.	1976
*7.	Laxmi Narayan Sarva Vyavasaik Sahakari Grahak Bhandar Ltd.	1977
8.	Siddartha Sahakari Grahak Sanstha Maryadit	25-1-1983
*9.	Vishwajit Sarva Vyavasaik Sahakari Grahak Bhandar Ltd.	1984
10.	Shree Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Vidyarthi Sahakari Grahak Bhandar Ltd.	4-2-1986
11.	Barsi Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Vidyarthi Sahakari Grahak Bhandar Ltd.	13-3-1986
12.	Silver Jubilee Prashala Vidyarthi Sahakari Grahak Bhandar Ltd.	1986

Note : \* Dormant Stores

Source: Office of the Assistant Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Barsi.

operations. Thereafter no other wholesale society could appear on the scene.

Of the 12 primary societies, Barsi Hotel Malak Sangh Sanstha is the oldest and was established at the fag-end of 1960. Excluding the four dormant stores, remaining 8 stores do not appear to be covering very big clientele in the town. Four of them are the stores run by educational institutions and hence their operations are very much restricted mostly to the students and employees of the institutions. As such, remaining four - 'Barsi Hotel Malak Sangh', 'Barsi Taluka Khadi Gramodyog', 'Vinayak' and 'Siddhartha' - are the only stores that cater to the needs of the consumers at large besides the two central stores.

Decadewise position of the establishment of these 14 societies is as shown in Table 3.7.

Table 3.7

Decadewise position of establishment of Consumer stores in Barsi town

Period	Central Stores	Primary Stores	Total
1948-60	1	1	2
1961-70	1	1	2
1971-80	-	5	5
1981-87	-	5	5
Total	2	12	14



3.3.3 Membership

The data relating to the membership of 10 active consumer stores (Central and primary) in Barsi town is presented in Table 3.8. As compared to 1981-82,

Table 3.8

Membership of Consumer Stores in Barsi town

Consumer Store	No. of Members		
	When established	1981-82	1985-86
1. Bhagwant	22	1,300	1,338
2. Madhyavarti Grahak	905	1,287	1,297
3. Hotel Malak Sangh	101	223	261
4. Khadi Gramodyog	19	75	80
5. Vinayak	260	260	260
6. Shivaji Grahak	258	381	411
7. Siddhartha	342	-*	443
8. Shivaji Vidyardhi	282	-*	282
9. Barsi Shikshan	825	-*	825
10. Silver Jubilee	47	-*	47
Total		3,526	5,244

Note : (1) -\* Established after 1981-82.  
 (2) In case of Bhagwant Society figures in all columns pertaining to 1985-86 are for the year 1984-85.

Source: Field Survey.

membership in 1985-86 shot up by 1,718 but 1,597 of them (92.96 percent) were due to establishment of four new societies during the intervening period. Therefore,

there was only a marginal increase (121) in the membership of the 6 societies existing in 1981-82. Half the membership in 1985-86 was commanded by the two central societies. Bhagwant society had the largest membership.

### 3.3.4 Branch Expansion

Opening of branches is one of the indicators of the growth of the stores. Therefore, the position of 10 stores of Barsi town could be understood with the help of details in Table 3.9.

Table 3.9

Branches of consumer cooperatives of Barsi town  
(as on 30th June, 1986)

Sr.No.	Name of the Society	Number of branches	% to the total
1.	Bhagwant	21	72.41
2.	Madhyavarti Grahak	3	10.34
3.	Hotel Malak Sangh	3	10.34
4.	Khadi Gramodyog	-	-
5.	Vinayak	-	-
6.	Shivaji-Grahak	2	6.90
7.	Siddhartha	-	-
8.	Shivaji -Vidyarthi	-	-
9.	Barsi Shikshan	-	-
10.	Silver Jubilee	-	-
	Total	29	100%

Note : In case of Bhagwant Society, figures in all columns pertaining 1985-86 are for the year 1984-85.  
Source: Field Survey.

The number of branches reveals the scope of business operations of the consumer store. It is seen from the Table that out of ten consumer stores only four could have their branches and the remaining six were by June 1986 unitary indicating thereby very limited scope of their operations. Three of these six happened to be the stores of educational institutions.

Out of total 29 branches 3 branches each or 10.34 percent branches, were opened by Hotel Malak Sangh and Barsi Madhyavarti Grahak Sahakari Bhandar. All the branches were located in Barsi town only. As against this, Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Employees Consumer Stores opened two branches and both of them were out of Barsi town to suit the convenience of the employees of the institutions outside Barsi town. Importantly Bhagwant society was the only society which had to its credit 21 out of 29 branches (72.41 percent). Of these 21 branches <sup>of</sup> 'Bhagwant' 17 were located in ~~the~~ different parts of Barsi town and 4 were at Paranda (district Osmanabad), Solapur, Pangri and Vairag (district Solapur). Thus, Bhagwant society ranked first in respect of branch expansion and thereby remained as the most active institution of the region.

### 3.3.5 Paid-up Capital

Details about paid-up capital of the consumer stores in question are given in Table 3.10. Some

Table 3.10

Paid-up capital of consumer cooperatives in Barsi town

Sr. No.	Name of the Society	Paid-up Capital ('000)		Change in 1985-86 over 1981-82
		1981-82	1985-86	1981-82
1.	Bhagwant	505.23	499.20	- 1.19
2.	Madhyavarti Grahak	227.37	236.92	4.20
3.	Hotel Malak Sangh	14.30	13.82	- 3.36
4.	Khadi Gramodyog	9.63	9.95	3.32
5.	Vinayak	5.03	5.03	0.00
6.	Shivaji Grahak	283.90	556.99	96.19
7.	Siddhartha	-*	44.30	-
8.	Shivaji Vidyarthi	-*	2.82	-
9.	Barsi Shikshan	-*	5.00	-
10.	Silver Jubilee	-*	0.94	-

Note: 1)\* Not in existence in 1981-82

2) In case of Bhagwant society, figures in all columns pertaining 1985-86 are for the year 1984-85.

Source: Field survey.

noteworthy changes have occurred in this respect.

Bhagwant and Madhyavarti Grahak, the two central societies, had different behaviour over the period. In both the years, 1981-82 and 1985-86, paid-up capital of the Bhagwant was more than double of the Madhyavarti

Grahak. However, in 1985-86, Bhagwant's capital base declined by 1.19 percent whereas Madhyavarti Grahak improved marginally by 4.20 percent. Among the four societies for which time comparison was possible, Shivaji Grahak had the most illuminating rise from Rs.283.90 thousand in 1981-82 to Rs.556.99 thousand in 1985-86 amounting to 96.19 percent increase. No other store could match this performance. Consequently, the store ranking second in 1981-82 became top- ranking in 1985-86 as regards paid-up capital. Shivaji Grahak could well surpass the otherwise top-ranking Bhagwant society. Shivaji Vidyarthi, Barsi Shikshan and Silver Jubilee, being the stores of educational institutions had a very narrow capital base. Shivaji Grahak, on the other hand, in spite of being an educational body, could build a sound capital base for the sole reason that the store comprised membership mostly of the employees of the various educational institutions it was running. It is worth noting that Shivaji Grahak could do this in spite of the fact that its membership was just 30 percent of the Bhagwant society in 1985-86. Vinayaka retained its status quo while Khadi Gramodyog improved by 3.32 percent only.

### 3.3.6 Reserve and Other Funds

Financial stability of any cooperative concern generally depends on reserve fund and other funds, which

can be used as a safeguard against unforeseen risks. Hence the position of reserve fund and other funds of consumer cooperatives of Barsi is depicted in Table 3.11. Reserve fund of 'Bhagwant' was maximum and it increased from Rs.138.64 thousand in 1981-82 to Rs.153.92 thousand in 1985-86, that is by 11.02 percent. Eventhough the amount of reserve fund of Bhagwant society was the highest for both the years, percentage increase in reserve fund during the same period, was phenomenal in case of 'Shivaji Grahak' (162.59 percent). Khadi Gramodyog's reserve fund decreased by 14.98 percent while Vinayak's reserve fund remained stable. It is interesting to note here that Khadi Gramodyog's percentage share of reserve fund to total fund was the largest at 100 percent as it did not maintain other funds. Similarly Vinayak's share of reserve fund to the total funds was also quite larger (76.47 percent) and constant for both the years. Simply because its amount of reserve fund was very negligible, i.e., Rs.0.26 thousand, and the amount of other funds too was quite low. Out of three new students' consumer stores, two stores did not maintain any reserve fund while one store's funds were very negligible.

As regards the amount of other funds of consumers cooperatives for the years 1981-82 and 1985-86, Bhagwant was at the top while second, third and forth

Table 3.11

Reserve and other funds of consumer cooperatives in Barsi town  
(Rs. in thousands)

Name of the Society	Reserve Fund		Other funds		Total funds		% change in 1985-86		
	1981-82	1985-86	1981-82	1985-86	1981-82	1985-86			
			change in 1985-86	change in 1985-86					
1. Bhagwant	138.64 (52.49)	153.92 (54.96)	11.02	125.49 (47.51)	126.09 (45.03)	0.48	264.13 (100.00)	280.01 (100.00)	6.01
2. Madhyavarti Grahak	49.22 (43.67)	60.33 (41.72)	22.57	63.48 (56.33)	84.29 (58.28)	32.78	112.70 (100.00)	144.62 (100.00)	28.32
3. Hotel Malak Sangh	19.91 (38.30)	26.39 (39.24)	32.55	32.07 (61.70)	40.86 (60.76)	27.41	51.98 (100.00)	67.25 (100.00)	29.37
4. Khadi Gramodyog	2.67 (100.00)	2.27 (100.00)	-14.98	-	-	-	2.67 (100.00)	2.27 (100.00)	-14.98
5. Vinayak	0.26 (76.47)	0.26 (76.47)	-	0.08 (23.53)	0.08 (23.53)	-	0.34 (100.00)	0.34 (100.00)	-
6. Shivaji Grahak	11.60 (41.87)	30.46 (42.52)	162.59	16.10 (58.12)	41.17 (57.48)	155.71	27.70 (100.00)	71.63 (100.00)	158.59
7. Siddhartha	-*	-	-	-*	-	-	-*	-	-
8. Barsi Shikshan	-*	-	-	-*	-	-	-*	-	-
9. Shivaji Vidyarthi	-*	1.70 (97.14)	-	-*	0.05 (2.86)	-	-*	1.75 (100.00)	-
10. Silver Jubilee	-*	-	-	-*	-	-	-*	-	-

Note: (1) \* Not in existence in 1981-82 (2) In case of Bhagwant Society figures in all columns pertaining 1985-86 are for the year 1984-85. (3) Figures in the brackets are percentage to Total funds (4) Figures in the brackets 'Other Funds' include development, market fluctuation, dividend, bad debt, special emergency funds etc. Field Survey.



stood Barsi Madhyvarti, Hotel Malak and Shivaji Grahak respectively. For others, other funds were either negligible or non-existent.

Like reserve fund, in the case of other funds also, Shivaji Grahak stood first in percentage increase (155.71 percent). Barsi Madhyvarti, Hotel Malak and Bhagwant stood second, third and fourth with the percentage increase of 32.78 percent, 27.41 percent and 0.48 percent respectively. The percentage shares of three stores, namely Bhagwant, Hotel Malak and Shivaji Grahak decreased during the period 1981-82 to 1985-86, while Vinayak's share remained constant. Only one store i.e. Barsi Madhyavarti, experienced a marginal hike in this percentage from 56.33 to 58.28 percent during the period.

The pool of funds maintained by Bhagwant, Madhyavarti Grahak, Hotel Malak, Shivaji Grahak and Shivaji Vidyarthi enhanced, of Vinayak remained unchanged and of Khadi Gramodyog receded. Siddhartha, Barsi Shikshan and Silver Jubilee had no pool of funds. Thus, Table 3.11 brings out that Bhagwant's reserve fund, other funds and total funds were quite sizable compared to those of other stores. Barsi Madhyavarti, Hotel Malak and Shivaji Grahak too had good reserve base. Remaining stores had very poor reserve base.



### 3.3.7 Total Sales

Table 3.12 indicates the total sales of consumer cooperatives in Barsi town. No doubt Bhagwant's

Table 3.12

Sales of consumer cooperatives in Barsi town

Sr. No.	Name of the Society	Total Sales		Percentage increase in 1985-86
		1981-82	1985-86	
1.	Bhagwant	14886.38	13462.59	- 9.56
2.	Madhyavarti Grahak	2920.37	3735.66	27.92
3.	Hotel Malak Sangh	590.59	885.73	49.97
4.	Khadi Gramodyog	13.70	49.41	260.66
5.	Vinayak	201.53	18.86	- 90.64
6.	Shivaji Grahak	743.26	1729.68	132.72
7.	Siddhartha	N.E.	64.42	-
8.	Shivaji Vidyarthi	N.E.	8.38	-
9.	Barsi Shikshan	N.E.	-	-
10.	Silver Jubilee	N.E.	0.40	-

Note : (1) N.E. = Not in Existence in 1981-82.  
(2) In case of Bhagwant Society, figures in all columns pertaining 1985-86 are for the year 1984-85.

Source: Field Survey.

total sales were the largest one in comparison with other consumer stores in Barsi but its total sales decreased by 9.56 percent in 1985-86 as against 1981-82. Strikingly,

Vinayak's total sales decreased by a very high percentage, i.e. 90.64 percent during the same period. This was the worst performance among all the cooperatives that were functioning. On the other hand, conspicuously good performance was recorded by the upswing in the sales of Khadi Gramodyog by 260.66 percent from Rs.13.70 to Rs.49.41 thousand followed by Shivaji Grahak by 132.72 percent from Rs.743.26 thousand in 1981-82 to 1729.68 thousand in 1985-86. Hotel Malak's total sales increased by 49.97 percent while Barsi Madhyvarti's by 27.92 percent during the same period. Remaining four stores were not in existence in 1981-82. In 1985-86, Barsi Shikshan did not do any transaction, Silver Jubilee was content with the turnover of Rs.0.40 thousand and Shivaji Vidyarthi recorded a small turnover of Rs.8.38 thousand. Compared to these three institutions, Siddhartha did much better with a sale of Rs.64.42 thousand.

Thus, Bhagwant society emerges as the largest selling society commanding nearly three and a half times turnover compared to that of the second best, viz. Madhyavarti Sahakari. Therefore, Bhagwant was in commanding position without any close rival to it.

### 3.3.8 Gross and Net Profit

Table 3.13 indicates the comparative position of the gross and net profit of consumer cooperatives in

Barsi town.

The data reveals that there was an increasing tendency in gross profit, net profit and percentage of net profit to gross profit of two stores namely, Bhagwant and Hotel Malak Sangh during the period 1981-82 and 1985-86. Shivaji Grahak and Khadi Gramodyog's gross profit and net profit had increased but percentage of net profit to gross profit had decreased from 51.22 to 48.72 percent and 56.21 to 40.23 percent respectively. Madhyavarti Grahak's gross profit increased, but net profit decreased from Rs.12.72 thousand in 1981-82 to Rs.7.15 thousand in 1985-86 bringing down the percentage of net profit to gross profit from 15.53 to 8.22 percent. Vinayak's gross profit decreased from Rs.7.16 thousand in 1981-82 to Rs.0.31 thousand in 1985-86 and net profit for both the years was zero. Of the 4 institutions started after 1981-82, Barsi Shikshan remained defunct in 1985-86, Silver Jubilee earned no profit, Shivaji Vidyarthi had a meagre profit of about Rs.5,000 while Siddhartha was in red. Thus, the performance of these institutions was not at all remarkable.

Now, in the final analysis, the gross and net profits of the Bhagwant institutions can be viewed against their sales. Percentage of gross profit to total sales was the highest in case of Khadi Gramodyog

followed by Shivaji Grahak. Typically, both the central institutions - Bhagwant and Madhyavarti Grahak - were operating with a profit ratio of just 2 to 3 percent indicating thereby their intention to pass on maximum benefit to the consumers. More striking is the proportion of net profits to total sales of these two institutions which was less than one percent in spite of voluminous sales. The reason was that they were interested more in ploughing back their profits for expanding the scope of their activities. The case of Bhagwant Society itself is vivid; it floated four institutions between November, 1980 and October 1983. Hence, there appears to be a big gap between its gross and net profits in 1981-82 and 1984-85.

### 3.4 CONCLUSION

A study of consumer Cooperatives in Barsi leads to the following broad conclusions :

(1) There were total 14 existing consumers' cooperative societies in Barsi town in 1987 but 4 of them were dormant, units. Remaining 10 units responded to the enquiry and as such data pertain to the 10 units surveyed.

(2) Out of these 10 units, three students' consumer stores were recently opened. Their business operations were negligible; so they couldn't be compared with the remaining 7 older units.

(3) Out of 7 units 2 units were central stores and 5 units were primary stores.

(4) In the 5 primary stores, Shivaji Grahak and Hotel Malak Sangh's position was much better.

(5) Among not only 2 central stores but also all the 10 consumer stores in Barsi town, Bhagwant's position in all respects i.e. membership, branches, paid-up capital, reserve fund and other funds, total sales, gross profit and net profit, etc. was very sound. In fact, in 1987 both the central societies and one of the primary stores among 10 consumer stores in Barsi town belonged to the Bhagwant Group. As such it was the biggest consumer cooperative agency of the region. So it has been picked up for the present study.

#### REFERENCES

1. Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Maharashtra, Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Solapur District, 1976-77, p.33