

## CHAPTER - I

### RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

#### I) STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM :

Socio-economic conditions of heavy motor vehicle drivers have not been studied by researchers so far. The present study aims at critically examining the socio-economic conditions of S.T. Drivers with special reference to Sangli depot of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation. (M.S.R.T.C.).

#### II) THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The study has following objectives :

- i) Enumerating the socio-economic conditions of S.T. Drivers.
- ii) Identifying the socio-economic problems of these drivers.
- iii) Identifying the problems of these drivers particularly in respect of their working conditions.

#### III) SCOPE OF THE STUDY :

The study of M.S.R.T.C. is very vast. The scope of M.S.R.T.C. consists of pricing policy, administration, taxation etc. But the driver is one of the important factors in passenger transport services. The efficiency of drivers and conductors has a bearing on the profitability of the corporation. Our study aims at critically examining socio-economic conditions of S.T. drivers. For the sake of convenience and manageability,

We have chosen Sangli depot as a unit of our study. The scope of this study consists of enquiries into aspects like : the socio-economic conditions of drivers and identification of their problems and suggestions regarding remedial measures.

IV) PERIOD OF STUDY :

The study is based on the primary and secondary data collected for the period 1st April, 1988 to July, end 1988.

V) SOURCES OF SECONDARY DATA :

The secondary data is collected from office bearers and records of account office of Sangli depot. Some publications of S.T. are also used for the study.

VI) PRIMARY DATA :

The primary data was generated by conducting a sample survey.

The size of population of drivers as on April 1st 1988 at Sangli depot was 299. Out of these 299 drivers, 200 were on Time Scale, 63 on Temporary Time Scale and 36 on Daily Wages.

Alphabetical lists of these categorywise were prepared separately. 60 drivers, i.e. 20% of the population were selected for canvassing the questionnaire.

**VII) TECHNIQUE OF SAMPLING :**

For the selection of sample drivers the technique of sequential random sampling was used. Out of above 60 drivers, 40 were Time Scale, 12 Temporary Time Scale and remaining 8 were Daily Wages drivers.

A detailed questionnaire was prepared so as to collect following information from drivers, mainly with reference to aspects like family background, occupational information, working hours, wages, bonus, trade unions, loans, income structure, expenditure pattern and saving tendency as well as social status etc.

The draft questionnaire was tested with 6 drivers initially. Appropriate changes were made in the questionnaire on the basis of testing.

Then actual interviews of drivers decided as per random sampling method were conducted. Initially it was found very easy to get the drivers for interviews but when this list was exhausted, it was found that only 37 drivers could be contacted. Despite persistent efforts it was found very difficult to contact the selected ( remaining) drivers either because they were in a hurry to embark on their journey or because they were exhausted by the termination of their days work.

Some straight way refused. 29 drivers of Time Scale, 5 Temporary Time Scale and 3 Daily Wages drivers were successfully interviewed. To complete the sample size of 60 drivers, it was decided to every driver willing to co-operate without reference to the sample list. Finally 63 Time Scale, 8 Temporary Time Scale and 5 Daily Wages Drivers ( Total 76 drivers) were interviewed with the help of the questionnaire. The ultimate size of the sample is thus 25.41% of population. Most of the drivers expressed their inability to give precise information in respect of their wages. Therefore, the relevant information was obtained by approaching the accounts office of the depot.

We reproduce below the English version of the questionnaire which was drafted in Marathi for the convenience of the drivers.

SOCIO ECONOMIC STUDY OF M.S.R.T.C. DRIVERS

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SANGLI DEPOT.

QUESTIONNAIRE

- A) FAMILY BACKGROUND :
- 1) Name of the Driver :
  - 2) Age :
  - 3) Married/Unmarried :
  - 4) Native place :
  - 5) Father's Occupation :
  - 6) Education :

- 7) Religion and caste :
- 8) Type of family  
(Joint/Divided) :
- 9) Do you belong to backward class ? Yes/No.  
If yes, which type ?

FAMILY INFORMATION

Sr.No.	Name	Relation to household	age	sex	Education
1					
2					
3					
4					

- 10) Have you undergone family planning operation ? Yes/No.
- 11) What type of operation ?  
Vasectomy/Tubectomy.
- 12) When was it done ?  
After how many sons ?  
After how many daughters ?  
After how many children ?
- 13) If not, why ?
- A) Other measures of family planning are used.
- B) All daughters.
- C) More sons wanted.

- D) All sons.
- E) No desire.
- 14) Why are you unwilling to undergo planning operation ?
  - A) Religious considerations.
  - B) Medical risk.
  - C) Lack of faith.

B) OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION :

- 1) When were you appointed as a S.T.Driver ?
- 2) Have you worked as a driver else where before joining S.T. ?  
(Yes/No.)
- 3) Were you a license holder before recruitment in S.T.  
( Yes/NO.)
- 4) How did you learn driving ?
- 5) Private driving school.
- B) Training by S.T.
- C) Defence services.
- D) Friends ( working as a cleaner )
- E) Family business.
- F) Others ( specify)
- 5) How much time was required to learn driving ?
- 6) What was the cost of learning driving ?
- 7) Why have you selected this job ?
  - A) Liking.
  - B) No alternative job.
  - C) Low level of education.

- D) Easy job.
- E) Other reasons ( Specify )
- 8) How were you recruited for this job. ?
- a) Routine application procedure.
- B) Defence experience.
- C) Relation with S.T.Employee.
- D) Acquaintance.
- E) Middleman.
- F) Through trade union.
- G) Through reservation for B.C.
- H) Through employment exchange.
- I) Others ( specify ).

C) OVERTIME :

9) Are you interested in doing overtime ? Yes/No.

If yes, how many hours in a month ? Why ?

- A) Additional income.
- B) Orders of the superiors.
- C) No alternative engagement.
- D) Out of friendship.
- E) Out of need.
- F) Unmarried.
- G) Others ( explain )

If not, Why ?



- A) Unwillingness.
  - B) No need.
  - C) No capacity.
  - D) Other engagements.
  - E) Not available.
  - F) Others ( explain ).
- 10) What is the average monthly income by overtime earned by you last year ?
- D) WORKING HOURS :
- 1) How are your working hours determined ?
  - 2) What are your general working hours ?
  - 3) Which are the facilities during working hours ?
  - 4) Is there any relation between working hours and the route ?  
If yes, explain the nature ?
  - 5) What is the maximum duration of continuous driving ?
  - 6) What are the criteria used for determining the drivers route ?
  - 7) Do you get some additional allowances for long continuous driving ?  
If yes, how are they determined ?
  - 8) Which are the fringe benefits you gets from the M.S.R.T.C. ?
- A) Free travel pass ( for self and family members )
  - B) Uniform.
  - C) Wollem coats.



- D) Free housing.
- E) Medical facilities for family members.
- F) Free medicines.
- G) Encashment of medical benefits.
- H) Rain coat.
- I) Others ( specify).

E) INFORMATION ABOUT WAGES :

- A) Designation of employee . . . . .
- B) Working days . . . . .
- C) Minimum wage rate . . . . .
- D) Total income of work . . . . .
- E) Overtime hours and days . . . . .

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Monthly pay		Rs.	Ps.	Deductions		Rs.	Ps.
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I				II			
1)	Basic pay			A)	Provident fund		
2)	Dearness Allowance			B)	Advance on Provident Fund		
3)	Local compensatory allowance			C)	Installment to co-operative society.		
4)	House Rent			A)	. . . . .		
5)	Route allowance			B)	. . . . .		
6)	Overtime allowance			3)	Insurance		
7)	Night allowance			4)	Income Tax.		

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Monthly pay	Rs. Ps.	Deductions	Rs. Ps
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I		II	
8) Post allowance		5) Fine	
9) Laundry allowance		6) Absentee	
10) Vehicle allowance		7) Damage and loss of S.T. property.	
11) Other allowance		8) House Rent.	
		9) Fringe benefits.	
		10) Advances	
		11) Deduction by the order of court or higher authorities	
		12) Other deductions	
(I) Total Pay . . . . .		(II) Total deductions . . . . .	

Net pay = I - II.

- 1) What was your first pay ?
- 2) How are your wages determined ?
- 3) Is your pay fixation system satisfactory ? Yes/No.  
If no, Why ?
- 4) Is there any suggestion you want to make for improvement ?
- 5) Which are the social security facilities given to you ?
- 6) What are the post retirement benefits you get ?

F) INFORMATION ABOUT BONUS :

- 1) Do you get bonus ? Yes/No.  
If yes, how much ? When ? How is it determined ?

G) TRADE UNIONS :

- 1) Are you a member of a trade union ? Yes/No.
- 2) Name of the Trade Union. . . . .
- 3) To which federation is your trade union affiliated on state and national levels ?
- 4) What is the membership fee of your trade union ?
- 5) How do you pay it ?
- 6) What is the total membership of your trade union ?
- 7) Are you an office bearer of your union ?
- 8) If yes, in what capacity ?
- 9) Are you satisfied with the work of your union ?
- 10) What benefits do you get from the union ?
- 11) What are the problems of being a union member ?
- 12) Does the management of your union work democratically ?  
Yes/No.  
If not, what is the way of its working ? Why ?
- 13) What is your opinion about your trade union's leadership ?
- 14) How many times did you participate in strike ?
- 15) How was the decision of strike taken ?
- 16) What were the causes of the strike in which you have participated ?

- 16) What method was used to end the strike ? which method of strike settlement is most suitable in your opinion ?
- 17) Do you give any amount to the trade union except membership fees ?
- If yes, what is the purpose ?
- How many times do you have to pay such contributions ?
- approximate amount ( annually Rs.)
- 18) Is your trade union related to any political party ? Why ?
- 19) Is there any alternative trade union in your occupation ?
- Yes/No.
- If yes, why did you not become the member of the alternative union ?
- 20) Is your trade union recognised and considered as representative by S.T. Management ? Yes/No.
- 21) What type of welfare activities are undertaken by your trade union ?
- 22) Does your trade union get participation in management ? If yes, of what nature ?
- 23) Has your trade union undertaken any cooperative society ?
- If yes, which type of society ?
- What are the objectives ? Are they fulfilled ?
- H) INDEBTEDNESS :
- 1) Are you indebted ? Yes/No.

If yes, what is the amount ?

- 2) What was the purpose of your borrowing ?
- 3) Was the amount of loan used for the purpose it was taken ?  
Yes/No.
- 4) From what agency did you borrow ?
- 5) Have you repaid the loan ? If yes, fully or partially.
- 6) What are the other agencies you can borrow from ?
- 7) Which of the credit agencies do you consider the most convenient ?
- 8) Have you a cooperative credit society ?  
If yes, of which type ?  
What are the facilities given by the cooperative society ?

I) INCOME STRUCTURE :

- 1) Do you own agricultural land ? Yes/No.  
If yes, Hectares - - - - irrigated/ unirrigated.
- 2) What is the amount of your agricultural income ?
- 3) Is any other member of your family employed ? Yes/No.  
If yes, what is his monthly income ?
- 4) What is your annual income as a S.T. Driver ?  
What is the composition of your last years income ?

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**Earning Unit** ----- **Yes/** ----- **No** -----  
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- 1) Salary
- 2) Bonus
- 3) Business
- 4) Profession
- 5) Interest on bank deposits.
- 6) Interest from other sources
- 7) Dividend
- 8) Rent
- 9) Pensions
- 10) Royalty
- 11) Capital gains
- 12) Remittances
- 13) Agricultural income
- 14) Agricultural wages
- 15) Income from Animal husbandry
- 16) Others ( Specify ) 1) . . . . .(2) . . . . .(3) . . . . .

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 J) SAVING BEHAVIOUR

What are the reasons for which you normally save ?

- A) LONG TERM NEEDS : Yes/ NO
- 1) Provision for old age.
- 2) Provision for children's education

- 3) Provision for children's marriage
- 4) Provision for acquiring farm assets ( land bullocks etc)
- 5) Provision for improving and expanding business.
- 6) Provision for acquiring house and property.
- 7) Provision for acquiring durable consumer goods.
- 8) Provision for repayment of debts.
- 9) Earning additional income.

**B) SHORT TERM NEEDS :**

- 1) Provision for emergencies ( Sickness, accident etc.)
- 2) Provision for meeting expenditure on festivals.
- 3) Provision for pilgrimage
- 4) Provision for payment of taxes.

**C) OTHERS ( SPECIFY )**

- a) . . . . .
- b) . . . . .

How regularly do you save money ?

- 1) Regularly
- 2) Occassionally
- 3) Not at all.

**K) HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE :**

How much expenditure did you incur on the following items during the last month.

- A) FOOD ( PER MONTH ) Amount in Rs.
- 1) General provisions.
  - 2) Milk and milk products
  - 3) Vegetables.
  - 4) Meat, fish and eggs.
  - 5) Fruits.
- B) NON FOOD ( PER MONTH)
- 6) Rent.
  - 7) Education
  - 8) Medical bill
  - 9) Cooking fuel.
  - 10) Transport.
  - 11) Electricity
  - 12) News paper/ periodicals.
  - 13) Toilet items.
  - 14) Cinema/ theatre
  - 15) Restaurants
  - 16) Pan/Beedi/Cigarettes
  - 17) Liguor/ alcohol
  - 18) Other ( specify)