

# CHAPTER - 1

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# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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## Chapter – 1

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

In a country like India agriculture plays a vital role in economic development, around 70% of people live in rural area and about 40% of the total rural population is living below poverty line. The problem of regional imbalance has become a worldwide phenomenon. Even the intra-regional imbalances in the states and regions have also created some problems of development. Maharashtra state, no doubt usually termed as developed state but within the state the regions like Konkan, Marathawada, and Vidarbha remained backward.

Particularly, the Konkan including Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Alibagh, Port and Partial part of Kolhapur District is situated in coastal and hilly area consequently facing various problems, hence remained economically backward.

The Shahuwadi Taluka, the western hilly part of Kolhapur District, is selected for a study of agricultural labour. The total geographical area of Shahuwadi taluka is 1043.52 sq. kms. About 80% area is hilly. The climatic conditions of these places belong to perennial Monsoon rainfall. The Taluka also covers irrigated, non-irrigated, forest and uncultivable lands. Most of the hilly villages like Save, Yelane, Perid, Koparde, Amba are in the hilly zone of the taluka. Agricultural activity is one of the major sources

of livelihood in Shahuwadi taluka. The cultivable and available land in taluka is good for Paddy, ragi, vari etc. Red soil majorly is seen in the soiling pattern of the taluka.

Over the last forty-fifty years, various scholars and organizations with regard to the problems and conditions of agricultural labours have conducted several studies, but the present study is significant as it is pertaining a case study of hilly region. The main objective is to focus a light on some selected villages in Shahuwadi. An attempt has been made to make an intensive study of the labourers in the hilly area likely to be equally applicable to similar villages in other hilly areas.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The problems of the Indian agricultural labourers have remained unsolved since last many years. At district level, agricultural production is also varies for example, some of the talukas in Kolhapur District like, Kagal, Shirol, Hatkanangale are having less rainfall but are having good quality of soil. On the other side Ajara, Gaganbavada, Panhala and Shahuwadi taluka located in hilly area, get high amount of rainfall but quality of soil is poor. Because of which the farmers are facing many problems in agricultural production. Consequently causing less production, low quality of the yield and cultivation of traditional crop are the main reasons of earning low income. This has again caused to pay less wages. The agricultural labourers are getting low wages for more working hours. Agricultural products are also seasonal due to the topological conditions. Hence the

labourers were having less opportunity of work throughout the year. As a result they can't fulfill their basic needs. So they are miserably poor and their standard of living remain very low. Ultimately they face the problems of poverty, unemployment, exploitation, uncertainty of jobs and consequently, they migrate from home place to urban centres in search of the work.

To rescue the labourers from this critical problem it is necessary to acknowledge the problems and find out the proper remedies which can be identified so as to improve their living conditions by way of various development activities like agro-based industries, animal husbandry, dairying, forestry and small scale industries in the hilly localities.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To account for the agricultural development in the hilly area.
2. To study socio-economic conditions of agricultural labourers in hilly area.
3. Examine the nature of employment of agricultural labourers in the selected villages.
4. To study the pattern of wage determination, conditions of work, working hours in the selected villages.
5. To examine the migration of labour.
6. To suggest suitable measures on the basis of conclusions of the study.

## **1.4 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**

### **1.4.1 Sampling**

**Area** – As discussed earlier the hilly area is purposively selected for studying the various problems of agricultural labourers. Besides there is ample scope of study to solve the critical problems of the labourers.

**Taluka** - The western part of Kolhapur District is situated in hilly area. The Shahuwadi taluka comes under the western part of Kolhapur District. Though it is nearer to the developed district place of Kolhapur, it still remained a very underdeveloped due to topographical reasons. Thus Shahuwadi taluka is selected for conducting the survey so as to find out the ground realities as mentioned in our objectives.

**Villages** - There are 143 villages in Shahuwadi taluka. Five villages were selected from the hilly area. These villages fall under the topographical constraints. Stratified random sampling follows the survey performed for the study with overall 10% of the agriculture labourers in each village who were classified into male and female.

The total number of agricultural labourers from the selected five villages of Shahuwadi taluka is presented in table 1.1

**Table No. 1.1**  
**Agricultural Labourers in the Study Area**

Sr. No.	Name of the Village	Total no of Agricultural Labourers	Male	Female	Selected no. of Samples
1	Save	238	74	164	23
2	Yelane	57	8	49	6
3	Perid	56	16	40	6
4	Koparde	83	2	60	8
5	Shirgaon	200	51	149	20
	Total				63

Source: Census 2001. 401

#### 1.4.2 Research Design

Data collection was made both from primary and secondary sources. The secondary source of data has been collected from the Panchayat Samiti Offices, Taluka office and from each Grampanchyat Office. Besides the required data was accumulated from journals, books, reports and research projects etc.

The primary data was collected from the selected samples by of a structured questionnaire covering the family information and details of agricultural system working out with an annual working days and modes of work, working hours, working conditions, annual income, consumption, expenditure, saving, debts etc. Also it includes the process of wage determination and factors affecting the wage determination.

### **1.4.3 Hypothesis**

1. Agricultural labourers are not getting minimum wages from their work.
2. Working hours of agricultural labourers are not like industrial sector.
3. Working conditions of agricultural labours are not satisfactory.
4. There is no consistency in wages in the selected villages due to various kinds of work, working hours and also mode of works i.e. skilled and unskilled etc.
5. Exploitation has been seen among the agricultural labourers.

### **1.4.4 Tools of Testing Hypothesis**

The useful quantitative techniques like Average, Percentage, Frequencies and Cross-tabulation techniques have been employed to assess the ground realities.

### **1.5 CHAPTER SCHEME**

The introductory aspect of the study discusses briefly the importance of the study with reference to economic development. This has been a further exposed by way of following the objectives of the study, methodology, hypothesis etc.

This is followed by broad geographical observations in the taluka. The second chapter covers the physical features and economical characteristics of Shahuwadi taluka. Then the socio-economic conditions





of the agricultural labourers explained in the third chapter. The working conditions, working hours is dealt in corresponding chapter. The last chapter concludes the analysis and also accounts for some suggestions.