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SOCIO-ECONOMIC ORIENTED SCHEMES

3.1 Introduction

Co-operative sugar factories have been implemental various socio-economic oriented schemes for the stimulating the overall socio-economic development of the sugarcane growers and the region. In fact, the role of factories plays very important in the process of rural transformation. They have been considered as growth centres for rural development. The area development fund built up by the sugar co-operative factories has helped to finance various schemes of development sponsored by the imaginative leadership of the co-operative factories. In this chapter, an attempt has been made to examine various programmes being implemented by these two co-operative sugar factories in Kagal taluka. These programmes are quite useful for the benefit of member's farmers as well as the entire rural population. These co-operative sugar factories have been implementing various socio-economic schemes. These schemes are 1) sugarcane development scheme, 2) Fertilizer and Pesticides Schemes, 3) Irrigation Scheme, 4) Labour Welfare Scheme, 5) Scheme for Small Farmers and Backward Communities, 6) Education Welfare Schemes, 7) Medical Schemes and Other Schemes. These various programmes undertaken under area development schemes aim to make the living conditions of the farmers more better. In addition, schemes are also implemented and targeted to benefit the weaker sections of the rural society, especially for the farmers belonging to the

SC/ST population. This reveals the social commitment of the sugar co-operative towards the weaker sections of the society.

Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory and Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory not only provide to the sugarcane growers the facilities but also provide scientific information of the agriculture sector. For example information about the sugarcane rate, new sugarcane seeds, sugarcane fertilizers etc. In the following sections, overall review of various schemes being implemented by co-operative sugar factories has been made.

3.2 Sugarcane Development Schemes

Water is essential for sugarcane crops. Kalamawadi Dam is made on Dudhganga River. This dam is blessed for Kolhapur district and catchment area of sugar factory.

A) Sugarcane Seeds of Beasal Dose

The factories get good quality of sugarcane for crushing from the operational area. For this purpose, sugar factories made their own seed plants, thereby plant seeds are provided to the sugarcane growers.

These sugar factories have adopted three tier nursery programmes by which they raise foundation seed in sugarcane farms and distribute it to the cane growers for raising primary nurseries and then secondary nurseries. Under the seed selection and distribution, campaign pure and disease free seeds are raised at the factory farm and supply to the farmers members.

1. In the pre-harvest period factory provides to seeds of sugarcane to the sugarcane producers. This varieties of these seeds are cosi 67, 8014, 86032, 740, 7527, 8021, 37025 etc.
2. Sugar factory also supplies the seeds of sugarcane to non shareholder producers but at full price.
3. The factory provides 50% subsidy to certified seeds for purchases. These seeds are purchased from sugarcane research centre, factory seeds plot and three tiered seeds plot for cultivation.

Table No. 3.1
Distribution of Sugarcane Seeds

(Rs. in lakh)

Sr. No.	Year	Seeds supplied by	
		Shahu	Dudhganga-Vedganga
1	1984-85	0.13	NA
2	1990-91	8.02	NA
3	1994-95	91.63	55.59
4	2000-01	71.53	37.05
5	2003-04	54.56	4.23

Source: Annual Reports

Due to non availability of seeds in 1980-81, Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory has provided sugarcane seed worth of Rs. 0.13 lakh in 1984-85 and Rs. 8.02 lakh in 1990-91 and increased substantially i. e. seed worth of Rs. 91.63 lakh in 1995-96, subsequent period showed declining trend. It was reduce to Rs. 71.53 lakh in 2000-01 and further declined to Rs. 54.56 lakh in 2003-04. In case of Dudhganga

Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory, it showed that factory supplied sugarcane seed worth of Rs. 55.59 lakh to the sugarcane growers during 1994-95. However, it was reduced to Rs. 37.05 lakh in 2000-01 and further reduced to Rs. 4.23 lakh in 2003-04. In sum, sugarcane growers under this scheme are getting good quality of sugarcane seeds, which in turn reflect, in good recovery of sugar.

3.3 Fertilizers and Pesticides Schemes

Tag and Dhencha seeds are given at 50% subsidies to sugarcane producer members under vegetation fertilizers schemes. These seeds are provides to non-sugarcane producers at full prices. Moreover, Tag seeds as well as super phosphate 50 kg. per acre also provided to non members and producers members for mixed crop at full price.

Sugar factory also makes compost fertilizers at the factory site. This fertilizer is very effective for land and increase the fertility of crops. The factory supplies these fertilizers to members on the basis no profit no loss. Nearly 80% sugarcane farmers in catchment area of factory avail this facility. Majority of the farmers are marginal farmers.

During the year 1980-81 Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory provided 17,521 MT compost fertilizers to the farmers and in the year 2003-04 it was 15,939 MT. In the year 2003-04 16,790 MT compost fertilizers was supplied to the farmers by Shri Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory.

A production of sugarcane gets adversely affected due to disease. Therefore, factory provides information about the pesticides to be used for

sugarcane crop and make sugarcane free from the disease. Moreover, factory also provides modern scientific information about sugarcane, scientific use of fertilizers, pesticides etc. through education conferences. Moreover, factories have started to implement subsidy scheme on sugarcane implements. Consequently, farmers get the implements at subsidized rates.

3.4 Irrigation Schemes

Irrigation raises the productivity of land by making possible multiple cropping, by increasing the yield per unit of land and by making possible the production of more lucrative commercial crops.

In the year 1990-91 water was released from the Kalamawadi dam into Dudhganga river three times and in Vedganga river from Patgaon dam. The Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory and Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory also made attempts and took initiative for the construction of Kalamawadi dam. The co-operative sugar factories contributed to the construction of canals and feeder canals for the benefit of farmers.

The major source of irrigation in the sugar factory areas is wells, river water and borewells etc. The co-operative lift irrigation schemes have been promoted by the co-operative sugar factory. This increased the irrigation potential.

Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory also started 23 irrigation schemes and 25000 acres have brought under irrigation.

Moreover, factories also promoted drip irrigation scheme, tubewell and pipeline schemes by providing subsidy to the sugarcane growers.

3.5 Labour Welfare Schemes

These two co-operative sugar factories have been implementing labour welfare schemes for their employees. Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory Labour Management is very good which protect rights of workers. It also renders the service to the backward community, physical disables, woman and other weaker section of operational area. The factory provided educational facilities for labours children. As well as medical facilities at low price for workers and their families of factories in the commanding area. Workers get loan from the Kagal Co-operative Bank and Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory Labour Co-operative Credit Society. Factory base implemented gratuity scheme, labour accident scheme etc. and other facilities at concessional rates and canteen, library facilities for its employees.

Similarly, Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory has been implementing labour welfare schemes. The facility of indoor and outdoor games has been provided by the Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory. These activities include football, volleyball, carom, chess, table tennis, cricket etc. The factory canteen runs on no profit no loss basis. Health centre is in the premises of the factory with a qualified medical officer and requisite staff. All workers of the factory and their families and harvesting workers get medical treatment at concessional rates. Moreover, library facility with books of well known writers is available for the workers and families residing at the factory site.

The dailies magazines, which are widely popular in Maharashtra, are made available for reading purpose and the workers take the benefit of it. Sugar factory also gives bonus to the workers from time to time.

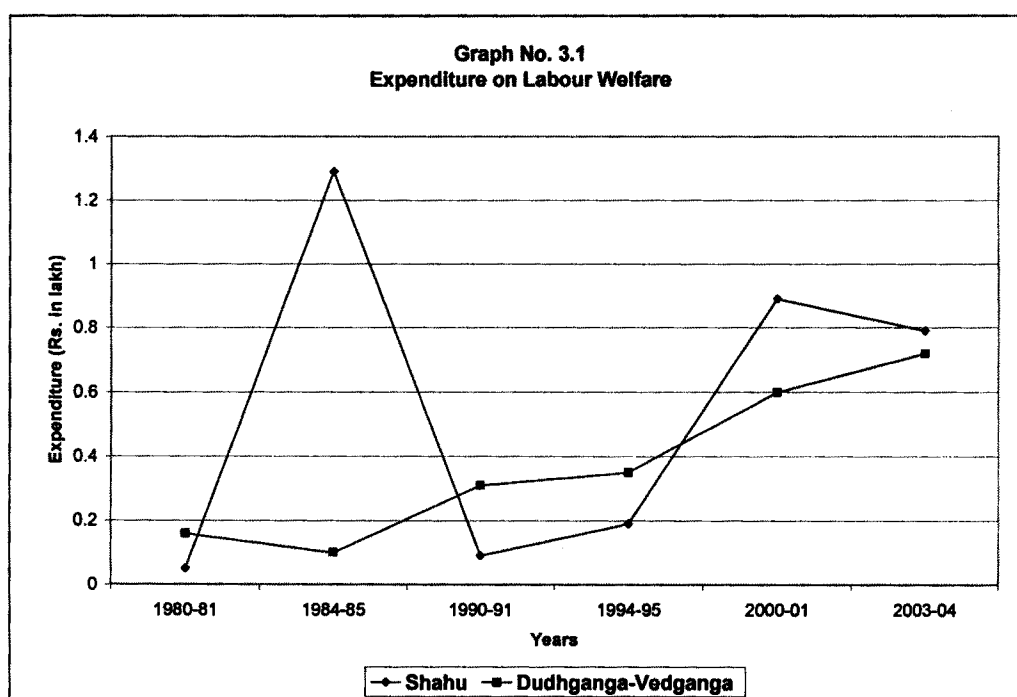
The table No. 3.2 give the details of the amount spent by the sugar factories on labour welfare programme.

Table No. 3.2
Expenditure on Labour Welfare

(Rs. in lakh)

Sr. No.	Year	Labour Expenditure			
		Shahu	% change	Dudhganga-Vedganga	% change
1	1980-81	0.05	-	0.16	-
2	1984-85	1.29	2480	0.10	-37.5
3	1990-91	0.09	-93.02	0.31	210
4	1994-95	0.19	111.11	0.35	12.90
5	2000-01	0.89	368.42	0.60	71.42
6	2003-04	0.79	-11.23	0.72	20

Source : Annual Reports of Co-operative Sugar Factories



Above Table No. 3.2 shows that in 1980-81, Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory spent Rs. 0.05 lakh for this purpose and Rs. 1.29 lakh in 1985-86. However, it was reduced to Rs. 0.89 lakh in 2000-01 and Rs. 0.79 lakh in 2003-04. While the position of Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory showed that in 1980-81 it was 0.16 lakh, in 1984-85 it was 0.10 lakh, in 1990-91 it was 0.31 lakh, in 1994-95 it was 0.35 lakh, in 2000-01 it was 0.60 lakh and during the year 2003-04 it was 0.72 lakh. In sum, it indicates that both these factories have been spending on labour welfare schemes.

3.6 Scheme for Small Farmers and Backward Communities

Co-operative sugar factories are implementing schemes for the small farmers and Backward Communities in view to improve socio-economic conditions of such communities through the participation of government. Under share purchase, grant scheme members belonging to backward communities get 50% subsidy and 50% loan for purchasing of share and for other purposes. Consequently, majority of members under this category have been benefited.

3.7 Educational Welfare Scheme

True to the spirit of the aims and objective incorporated in the bye-laws of the factories. These factories have been undertaken number of social activities directed towards bringing about an all round social and cultural development of their command area. The management was found to be aware of the fact that the long term economic development can accurately rest on an appropriate change in the attitudes of the people.

Their educational level and value system. The management showed and aware that a tradition bound superstition ridden and conservative society can never be able to meet the challenge of the rapidly changing time. Unless the community gets rid off cattiest consideration gives up its blind superstitious and absolute customs and unless it adopts a scientific outlook, it will not be able to make the best use of the opportunities placed at it is disposed by modern science and technology. The change in attitudes habits of mind and values accompanying them is a slow process. This slow process, however can be initiated through education. Education can serve as a catalytic agent not only by imparting certain skill but also by broadening the mental horizons of the people and by creating new aspirations among them. The management of the factory therefore, decided to make investment in education.

Shri Shahu Chh. Co-operative Sugar Factory started kindargard in 1988 and also established Shri Chh. Shahu Shikshan Prasarak Mandal. This mandal has started primary school, named as Shrimant Jaysingrao Ghatage Vidyamandir and secondary school and Jawahar Navodya Vidyalaya.

Factory also created "Shikshan Sankul" that provides living facilities, good playground as well as the higher and technological education facilities for the students.

Similarly, Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory also established an education society for organizing and conducting the educational activities. The education institutes from kindargard to Degree College runs through the "Dudhsakhar Shikshan Prasarak Mandal" which

was established by factory. Factory also takes different sport competition and various good educational sportive programme. The factory also helped colleges, schools in the commanding area of the factory.

3.8 Medical Facility

The sugar factories organized family planning camps with the help of Zilla Parishad and government authorities at factory site. Under family planning camps operations are undertaken. The factory also organizes health camps for various diseases of the eye, teeth, skin, child health, cancer etc. In these camps expert doctors in the respective specialized areas are called and the treatment is given free of charge to the patients. If require operation to be done then some cost is borne by the co-operative sugar factory. During 1981 to 1985 Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory organized these camps and 3031 persons were benefited from such programmes. During 1987 to 1990, the factory organized health camps and 1208 persons were benefited from this facility.

3.9 Other Schemes

1. Land Leveling and Soil Testing Programmes

Land leveling is done by bulldozer, JCB and pockland machines. For this purpose factory gives subsidy to the farmers. Moreover, the soil testing programme is undertaken by the co-operative sugar factory. Consequently the facility of land has been improved in the region. Sugar factory send soil for testing to the national chemical fertilizers lab and soil testing laboratory at Kolhapur. Soil testing and other microbiological

testing are done at free of cost. The Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory has built its own soil testing laboratory on the factory site. For this purpose, loan is taken from Central Government Cane Development Fund.

2. Subsidy for Late Crushing Sugarcane

Sometime due to increased in sugarcane production crushing period is required to increase. Consequently some quantities of sugarcane get late for crushing purpose, which in turn affect adversely recovery rate and weight of sugarcane. Hence, such sugarcane growers have to face economic loss. In order to solve this problem, factory gives partial subsidy to producers and addition amount of Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 per tone. Factory has spent nearly Rs. 2 to 8 crores for this purpose.

3. Common Marriage Scheme

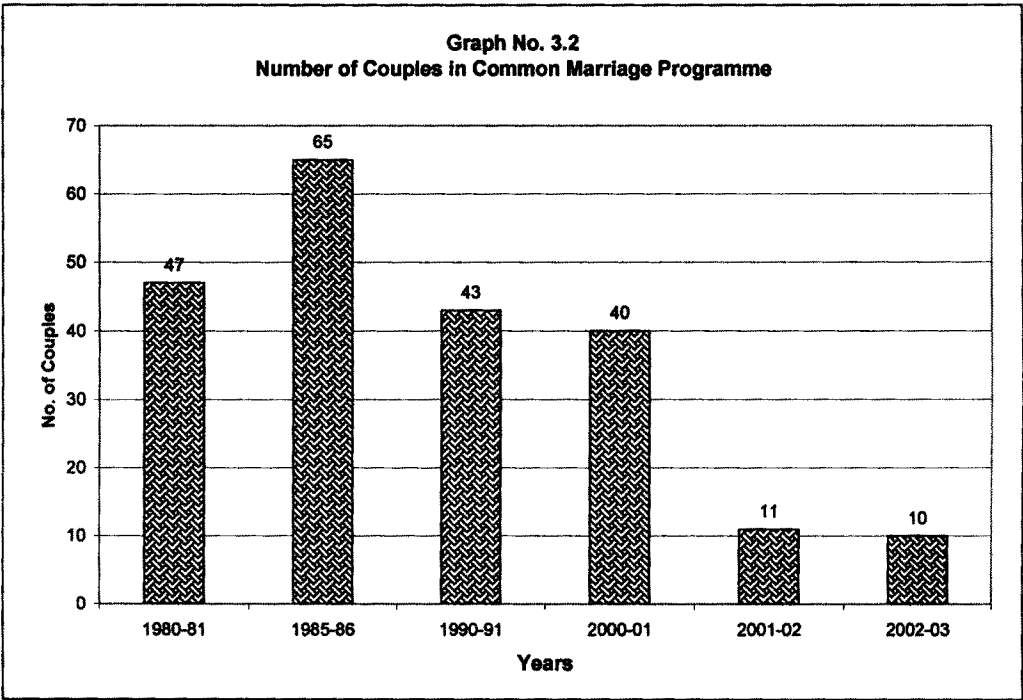
Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory organizes common marriage ceremonies once in a year at the factory site. The purpose of such marriages is to cut down the unproductive expenditure of the rural poor and to create an atmosphere of good relation. In these marriages all the people of different caste groups come together and enjoy the ceremony. All are treated equally. As a result it has helped in bringing about national integrity. The expenses are borne by co-operative sugar factory. In addition to that the sugar factory gives presentation articles and other necessary items of consumer durables to the newly married coupled.

Following table No. 3.3 shows that the number of couples who benefited from the common marriage ceremony during 1980-81 to 2003-04.

Table No. 3.3
Number of Couples who participated in Common Marriage

Year	Number of couples
1980-81	47
1985-86	65
1990-91	43
2000-01	40
2001-02	11
2002-03	10

Source: Annual Reports of Co-operative Sugar Factories



It was observed from Table No. 3.3 that Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory has arranged common marriage programme every year during 1980-81 to 2002-03. People of the operational area participated in this programme. Every year most

of couples have married in "Common Marriage Programme". During 1980-81, 47 couples were married it raised to 65 in 1985-86 and 43 couples in 1990-91 and in 2002-03. Such programmes undertaken by a co-operative sugar factory have social relevance and show the social commitment of the factory.

4. Gobar Gas and Biogas Plants

Gobar gas is produced mainly from animal dung. This produces smoke flame and rich organic manure traditionally the cattle dung is mostly used in making dung cake for fuel. However, when dung passes through the gas plant not only fuel in the form of methane gas is produced but a good quality of organic manure too is obtained.

Gobar gas plants help the community to convert waste into wealth. There is no danger of explosion of the gas plant near the residence. Such important gobar gas plant schemes have been promoted by sugar co-operatives. Apart from subsidies given for obtaining loan from financial agencies, the factory also helps to secure technical guidance and subsidy from 'Khadi and Village Industries Board' Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory gives grant of Rs. 500/- per plant. It has started to give guarantee letters right from 1979-80 to members for constructing of gobar gas plant which are the best alternative source of fuel and also produce good quality of manure.

Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory has played an important role for promoting the gobar gas plant programme. There were 354 gobar gas plants constructed and Rs. 177 thousand were spent

on the construction of gobar gas. Consequently, members have been benefited from such programmes. In fact in rural area gobar gas plants are necessary as alternative solution to the problem of fuel and also important from ecological point of view. Sugar factory also provides biogas plant at subsidized rate to the members.

5. Supply of Molasses

Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory distribute molasses to farmer members. Molasses has become a very valuable raw material for the chemical industry. It is also used as fertilizers into field as well as for the burning coke. Molasses is a good manure for the fields growing sugarcane.

6. Road Construction

Efforts have been made by the sugar factory for the development of roads in rural area. This process has helped to build up infrastructural facility in the rural area. For accelerating the transport of harvested cane to factory from the fields the sugar co-operative has built up approach road in its areas of operation. Sugar factory has been constructing cross ways across the river and streams by using culvert pipe to reduce the distance between the factories and the area of harvesting. Government grants are made available to the factory to make use of the bulldozers for road leveling purpose. As a result of these efforts made by the sugar factory, the sugar factory, in turn gets the benefit of the higher recovery of harvested cane due to quick transportation of the cane to the factory for crushing.

7. Supply of Fruit Plants

Co-operative Sugar Factory has paid attention to this programme in a big way. In this programme sugar factory has obtained plants of coconut, lime, orange, subabhul, nilgiri etc. and distributed them to the members and non-members in its areas of operation with nominal rates or even free of cost in some cases. Sugar factory has also given subsidy for this purpose. Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory gives 50% subsidy to purchase of the fruit plants.

3.10 Conclusion

Both these factories have been implementing various socio-economic oriented schemes for their members and non-members. These schemes have helped in bring about dynamic change in rural areas. Economic oriented schemes helped to improve the economic condition of the sugarcane growing farmers and also helped to improve operational efficiency of the sugar factories. Social oriented programmes particularly education, health services helped to improve the social condition of the people in the rural area.