

CHAPTER - 4

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PARTICIPATION OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES IN THE SCHEMES

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Chapter - 4

PARTICIPATION OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES IN THE SCHEMES

In this chapter, an attempt has been made to examine the participation of households belonging to backward community in the socio-economic development schemes and benefits derived from such schemes. 1) Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory Ltd., Kagal and 2) Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory Ltd. Bidri have been implementing various schemes for the betterment of shareholders. In view to examine the nature of participation of farmers belonging to backward communities, 100 farmers have selected from these two factories. Statistical information on their participation in various schemes and other relevant issues were collected from these sample households who are shareholders of these co-operative sugar factories in Kagal taluka. Statistical results derived from the data are presented as below:

4.1 Social Status of Households

Social condition of the household has been examined through the relevant social variables such as education, family size. Of the total households belonging to Scheduled Caste, 94 households were male head of the families and six were female head of the families. Caste based classification of these households shown that 76 households were from Mahar community and 11 from Mang community, 10 from Chambhar and 3 from Khatic community. Thus, members belonging to Mahar community dominated in the total number of households.

4.2 Family Size of the Sample Households

It has observed from the statistical data relating to family size of these households that due to improvement in economic condition and education level, the majority of households were aware about the small size of family. Of the total households, 48 households had family size between 1 to 4 members i. e. husband and wife and their two children, 44 households had family size of 5 to 8 members and eight households had family size of 9 to 12 members. Moreover, families having large members were staying in the joint family.

4.3 Education Level of the Families

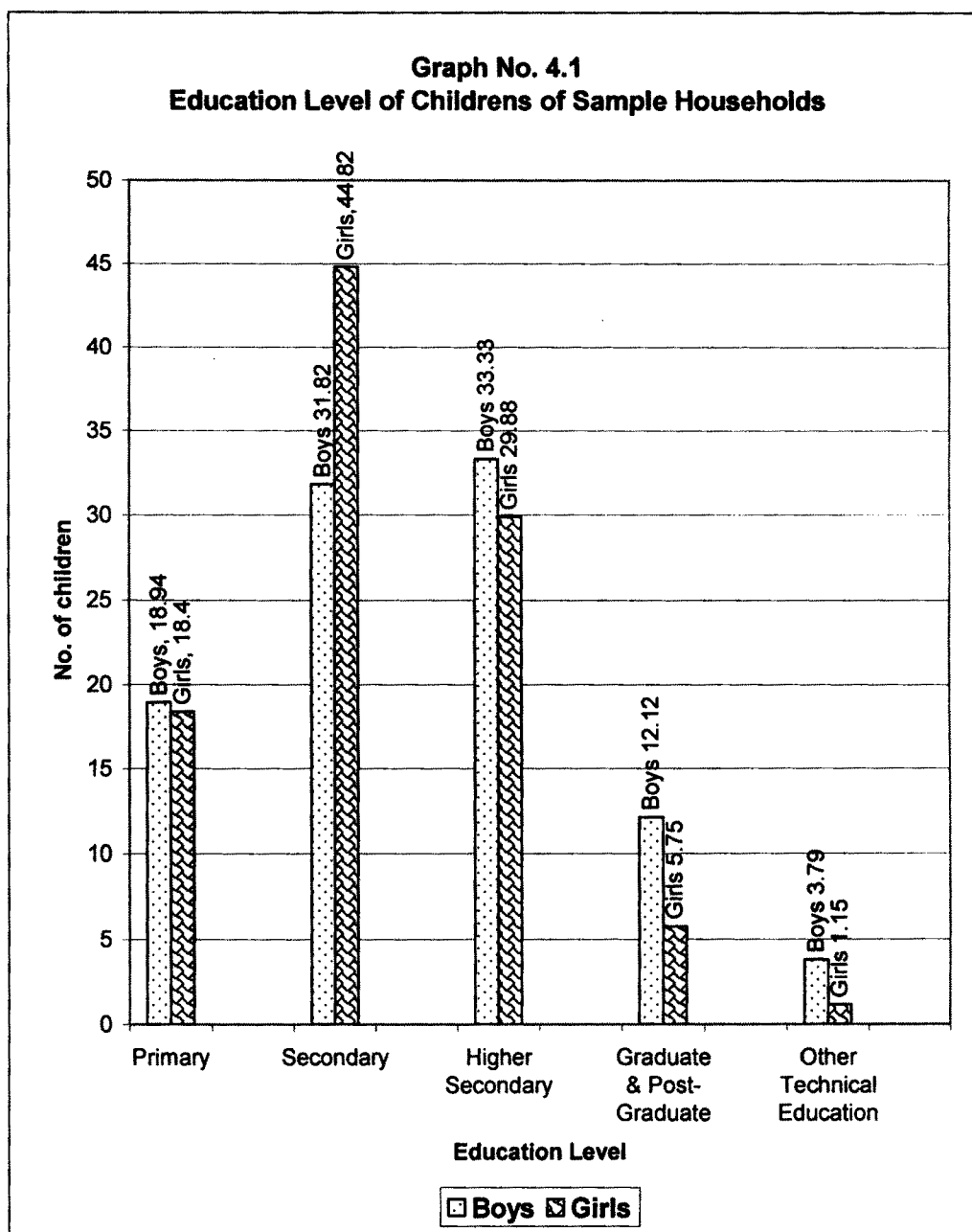
Due to improvement in economic condition of the families, majority of households belonging to Scheduled Caste community were realised the significance of the education. They were interested in getting their children educated. Moreover, due to availability of educational facilities made available in the region by co-operative sugar factories, majority of farmers belonging to backward community started interest in admitting their children in school.

Table No. 4.1
Education Level of Children of Sample Households

Sr. No.	Education Level	Boys	Girls
1	Primary	25 (18.94)	16 (18.40)
2	Secondary	42 (31.82)	39 (44.82)
3	Higher Secondary	44 (33.33)	26 (29.88)
4	Graduate & Post-Graduate	16 (12.12)	5 (5.75)
5	Other Technical Education	5 (3.79)	1 (1.15)
	Total	132 (100)	87 (100)

Source : Field Work

Figures in brackets show percentage to the total.



It was observed from Table No. 4.1 that 132 boys had taken education from the primary to post-graduate level, 18.94% children were studying primary education, 31.82% children were in secondary and 33.33% children were studying higher secondary. Moreover, 12.12% children had undergraduate and post-graduate education and 3.79% children were admitted in technical education. Thus, it reveals good

achievement in respect of the improvement in the educational status of the families. There was not single child who was illiterate. Thus, it reveals that Scheduled Caste community now realized the significance of the education; therefore, they are much conscious about their children education. Moreover, it has been good sign of improvement in the education level of girls. Parents have realised the significance of education of girls thereby social status of girls in the society. It now accepted fact the social status of girls can be improved through providing education to girls. Statistical data presented in table No. 4.1 indicates that 18% of the girls of total households were studying primary education 44.82% girls were studying secondary education and 30% girls had an opportunity to study higher secondary education. More importantly, 6.0% girls had an opportunity to study graduate and post graduate education and 1.15% girls were admitted in technical education. Thus, it reveals the fact that there has been social improvement with respect to family size and children education of the sample families belonging to backward community. As compare to old generation, present generation is having scientific attitude, constructive thinking toward their children. They are in the opinion that social transformation in the society can be brought about through education. More significantly, this process of social transformation has been initiated due to availability of social infrastructure facilities made available by co-operative sugar factories in rural area. In fact co-operative sugar factories paid due priorities to develop such facilities in the rural area along with general families, majority of backward families have been benefited from such social

infrastructural facilities. In the village primary school, high secondary schools colleges and technical institutions are opened by co-operative sugar factories and benefits from such facilities have been percolated to the backward community.

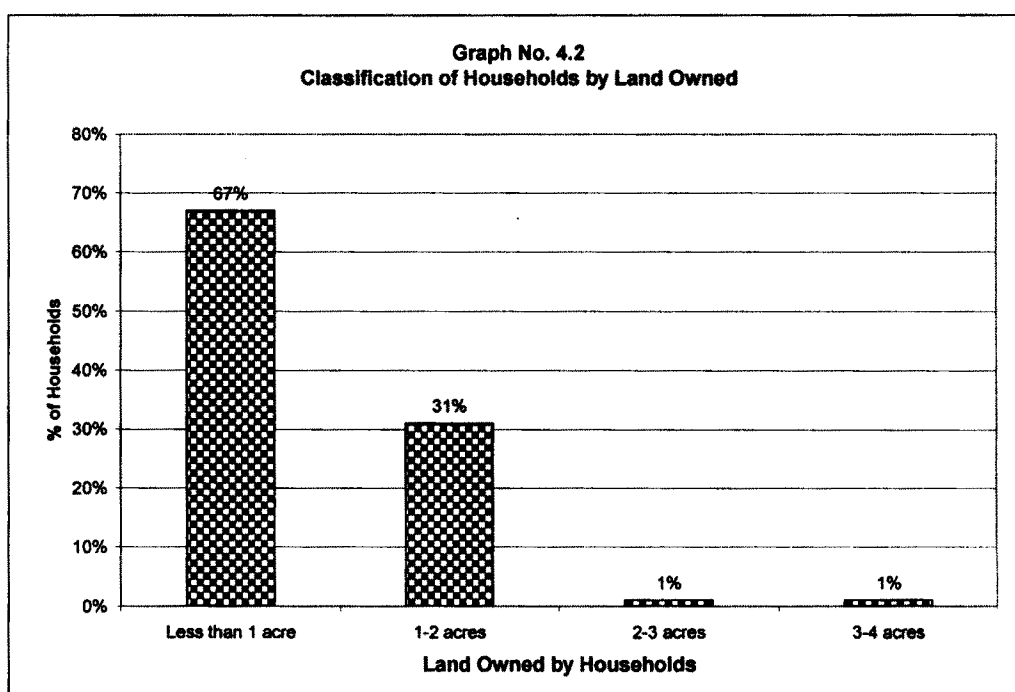
4.4 Land Owned by Sample Households

Economic condition of households in rural area is determined by the economic assets like land, they owned and occupation they carryout. In fact, land is main source of income in rural areas. Due to co-operative sugar factory, it was made possible to improve the economic condition of farmers belonging to backward class through improvement in fertility of land and cultivation of sugarcane. Because these co-operative sugar factories under study have implemented various economic oriented schemes. It was observed from the statistical data that majority of households were engaged in agriculture. Nearly 70% of the households were engaged in agriculture as well as subsidiary occupations. Proper use of land enhanced the economic condition of the farmers. Moreover, the size of the farm also determines the economic status of the farmers in rural areas. Table No. 4.2 shows the classification of households by land owned.

Table No. 4.2
Classification of Households by Land Owned

Sr. No.	Size of land (acres)	% of households
1	Less than 1 acre	67.0
2	1-2 acres	31.0
3	2-3 acres	01.0
4	3-4 acres	01.0
	Total	100

Source: Field Work.



It was observed from Table No. 4.2 that majority farmers belonging to Scheduled Caste community were sub-marginal owning land less than one acre. Of the total farmers under the study 67% farmers were sub-marginal farmer and 31% farmers was marginal farmers owning land less than 2 acres. Only 2% farmers owned land more than two acres. Thus, majority of farmers owned land less than one acre, which is not much economically efficient. Due to irrigation facilities made available to such small piece of land by the sugar factories farmers have changed their tradition cropping pattern and started cultivating sugarcane crop, which is main cash crop in the region.

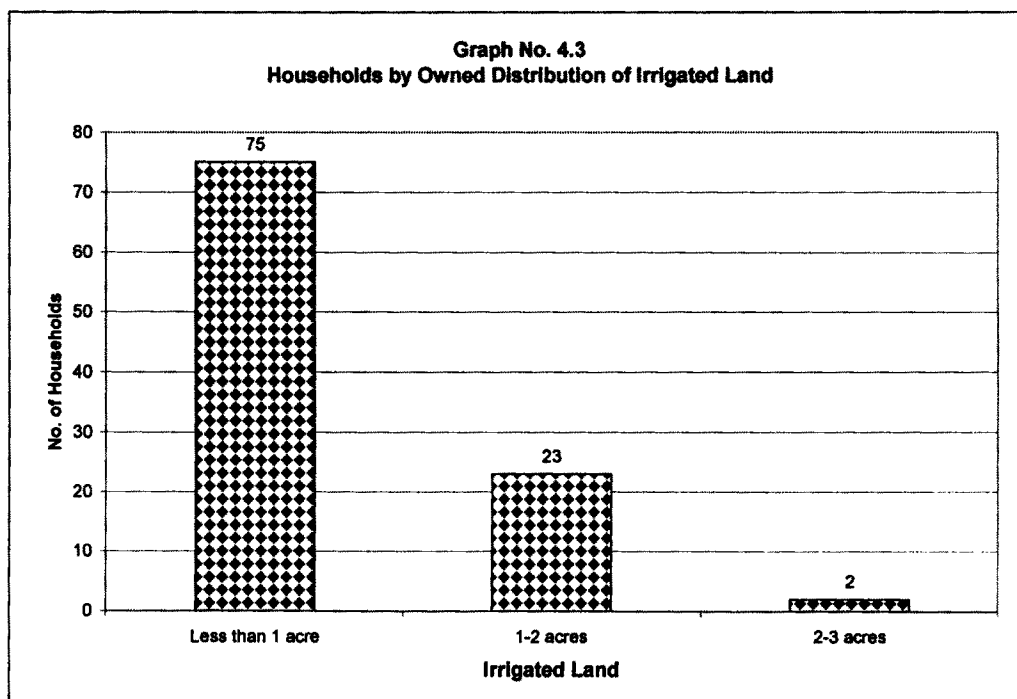
In fact all farmers owning small piece of land have brought their land under cultivation and irrigation. Nearly 75 families owned irrigated land having size less than one acre and 23 families have irrigated land in the range of 1 to 2 acres and two families had irrigated land ranged

between 2 to 3 acres. In this area irrigated land is used for sugarcane crop only. Change in the cropping pattern in favour of sugarcane has improved the economic condition of these farmers through the improvement of fertility of land and reasonable price offered by the sugar factories.

Table No. 4.3
Distribution of Households by Owned Irrigated Land

Sr. No.	Irrigated Land (acre)	No. of families
1	Less than 1 acre	75
2	1-2 acres	23
3	2-3 acres	2
	Total	100

Source : Field Work



It was observed that out of total sample households 78 households stated that average income from sugarcane was increased upto Rs. 40000 per acre annually. Remaining households reported that average income increased less than Rs. 40000 per acre annually. Thus,

it reveals the fact that there has been improvement in the condition of farmers who grow sugarcane.

Moreover, the category wise position of the farmers showed that out of the total farmers who cultivate sugarcane. Nearly 75 farmers were sub-marginal farmers using land less than one acre and 33 farmers cultivated sugarcane on the land having size of land between 1 to 2 acres, 2 farmers used irrigated land having size more than two acres for the sugarcane were concentrated in the category of marginal farmers. Moreover, beside agriculture, majority of farmers were engaged in subsidiary occupation, mainly in dairy occupation etc. and earn sufficient income. Out of hundred households nearly 88 farmers were engaged in dairy enterprise. In this region co-operative network of dairy is well organized. Farmers sell milk to dairy co-operative at reasonable price. Hence assurance of market for milk has facilitated the growth of dairy enterprise. Obviously large number of farmers belonging to backward community has been benefited from such subsidiary occupation.

4.5 Participation of Households in Socio-Economic Development Schemes

Sugar factories have been implementing various schemes as discussed earlier for the betterment of the socio-economic condition of the shareholders. These schemes are as below:

1. Share Purchase Grant Scheme For Backward Community
2. Sugarcane Development Subsidy Scheme for Backward Community

3. Irrigation Scheme
4. Scheme for the Provision of Inputs
5. Training Programme
6. Plantation Programme
7. Instruments Distribution Scheme
8. Road Construction
9. Common Marriage Scheme
10. Educational Scheme
11. Medical Facility

Co-operative sugar factories have been giving priority to develop the backward communities socially and economically and hence factories implement various developmental schemes for the backward communities as well as general category. Objective of the scheme are :

1. To increase number of shareholders belonging to backward community and provide all facilities through sugar factory.
2. To help to promote sugarcane production on the lands owned by backward community.
3. To provide agricultural inputs such as quality seed, fertilizers etc. to farmers at reasonable price.
4. To provide irrigation facilities to sugarcane crop and other crops also.
5. To provide chemical fertilizers for raising lands productivity at reasonable rates.
6. To provide protect sugarcane crop.

7. To protect environment in the surrounding area.
8. To provide the agricultural implements at concessional rate to shareholders
9. To provide transport facilities.
10. To save unproductive expenditure.
11. To provide educational facilities for children of shareholders and rural people in the region.
12. To provide medical facilities.

Statistical information was collected from the sample households about their participation in these schemes and what extent they have been benefited from such schemes. Scheme wise participation of these households is given in table No. 4.4.

Table No. 4.4
Schemewise Participation of Households

Sr. No.	Name of the Schemes	Beneficiaries
1	Share Purchase Grant Scheme for Backward Community	80
2	Sugarcane Development Subsidy for Backward Community	25
3	Irrigation Scheme	100
4	Scheme for Seeds	46
5	Fertilizers Supply Scheme	47
6	Medicine for Sugarcane Scheme	17
7	Training Programme	10
8	Plantation Scheme	6
9	Instruments Distribution Programme	6
10	Road Construction	63
11	Common Marriage Scheme	6
12	Educational Scheme	27
13	Medical Facilities	29

Source: Field Work

It shows from the table No. 4.4 that all hundred sample households were participated in various schemes being implemented by sugar factories. Their participation was in multiple programmes. All farmers belonging to backward community were participated in irrigations scheme and derived economic benefits from such scheme through change in cropping pattern in favour of sugarcane. There were 80 households who were participated in share purchase grant scheme. This scheme is basically meant for the farmers belonging to backward community, encourages farmers to purchase share capital of sugar factory. Under this scheme government gives 50% grants and 50% amount to be contributed by the shareholders.

Moreover farmers have been benefited from scheme relating to agricultural input. Under the scheme shareholders get good quality of seed of sugarcane, chemical fertilizers and other inputs at concessional rate. Their participation in this scheme reveals good sign of awareness about the significance of modern inputs for raising crops and enhancing sugarcane productivity. Moreover participation of these farmers in other various schemes at varying level is quite noticeable. Definitely the participation of these households in these socio-economic oriented schemes has helped to enhance the status of the households. Scheme of the share purchase scheme and sugarcane development subsidy scheme a being implemented by the sugar factories exclusively for the backward communities in the state.

4.6 Social Oriented Scheme

Sugar factories have also been implementing social oriented schemes for the improving social status of the society and for developing social interaction across different social groups. These schemes are -

1. Common Marriage Scheme
2. Medical Scheme
3. Scheme for Education

Under common marriage scheme, group marriages are encouraged by the factory and thereby reduce on such unproductive purpose. This initiative taken by the sugar factories lead to increase social interaction across various social groups. Farmers belonging to backward community were participated in such programme. Moreover, households were also participated in medical scheme. Under this scheme, medical facilities are provided at concessional rates. More importantly, as economic condition of farmers belonging to backward community improved their participation in such social oriented scheme to increase. Households have realised significance of education participation of households in other schemes namely training programmes, plantation schemes, scheme for agriculture inputs was also quite significant.

4.7 Conclusion

Shri Chh. Shahu Co-operative Sugar Factory and Shri Dudhganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory, both these factories have started various schemes for the backward community and other communities for improving socio-economic condition of their members particularly

sugarcane growers and also for other people in rural areas. Thus, socio-economic transformation has been brought about through implementing these schemes in rural areas. Rural community as whole and backward community have been benefited from such programmes. Economic oriented schemes have proved to be effective in raising economic condition of the backward community and social oriented schemes have crated significant impact on improving the social status of the backward community in the rural areas.