

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

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India adopted a new Constitution in 1949 and brought it into force from 26th January 1950. India adopted a Parliamentary democracy. However this was not a new experience to this country. During the British regime a democratic form was introduced step by step in India. However it was not a fullfledged democracy. Thus India was well acquainted with a democratic form.

Since independence and particularly after adoption of republican Constitution a fullfledged democratic form was ushered in in this country. A democratic form of government presupposes a typical type of political culture for its success. It is people who make the democracy vibrant and successful. This requires political awareness and active political participation of the people in the political process of the country.

In England parliamentary democracy has proved to be successful and it is operating efficiently. This type of democracy evolved in England. It took three to four centuries to have a mature democracy. The franchise was

given to the various sections of the society in England step by step. And this right was given only after the section concerned was fully aware of the implications of the franchise. The people has to struggle hard for getting the precious right. This made the people politically aware and it let to their active participation in the political process in England.

In India our republican constitution extended franchise to all adult citizens of this country in one stroke, but political awareness lagged behind and hence political participation was sporadic and to a large extent ineffective. It seems it has still not reached the level of political awareness and political participation which is needed for a successful working of a democracy. Ofcourse there are number of reasons for this state of affairs. One has to accept that during last four decades people are slowly becoming politically aware and taking a little bit more interest in political activities. Still we have to go a long way.

GENERAL NATURE OF THE STUDY : -

Against this background this is a small project of assessing political awareness and political participation in a small cohesive sector. However this will throw light on the levels of awareness and participation in India to

an extent. A study of political awareness and participation is obviously vital and important. Solapur district is one of the districts in Maharashtra having certain peculiar characteristics. It is located at the South East corner of the state. It has been influenced by Marathi, Kannada, Telugu and Urdu linguistic groups. The details of the peculiarities of the district will be discussed in the next chapter.

The city of Solapur is famous for its Textile Industry. Upto the last two decades the textile mill industry occupied a prominent place in the economic life of the city. But recently this sector has lost its glamour because of various reasons. However the vaccum created by the diminishing importance of the textile mills has been more than filled up by the Power-loom and hand-loom sector. (The details are discussed in next chapter.)

The Yeshwant Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur employs about 2520 ¹ persons, Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur provides employment for 1645 ² persons.

The workers in two mills constitute a sort of

*1. 24th Annual Report of Yeshwant Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur, Page 6.

* 2. 26th Annual Report of Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur, Page 13.

homogenous group. However these are number of differentiating factors, such as language and urban and rural residence etc. These workers are chosen for this study of political awareness and political participation. A questionnaire was prepared and got in filled in by the workers. The sample is chosen by random method. An attempt is made to assess the levels of political awareness and political participation of these workers.

Various books relevant to the study are consulted. Government publications such as Gazetteers also read. The relevant material from news papers is also used.

SCHEME OF THE STUDY:-

This dissertation is divided into Eight Chapters.

CHAPTER - I : - Introduction : -

This chapter gives a background information and general nature as well as source material of this study.

CHAPTER - II : - Historical Background : -

In this chapter an attempt is made to give historical background of Solapur city and general profile of this city. Besides this the relevant information of the genesis, growth, general information about the two mills, namely,

1. Yeshwant Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur,
 2. Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani Niyamit, Solapur
- is given

CHAPTER III : - Political Awareness and CHAPTER - IV : -
Political Participation : -

In these two chapters a theoretical aspect is studied.

CHAPTER V - Personal Information and Working Conditions of the
Respondents : -

In this chapter personal information and working condition of the respondents are given.

CHAPTER VI : - Political Awareness : -

In the light of the responses of the worker to the queries as to their political awareness are analysed and an attempt is made to assess the level of their political awareness.

CHAPTER VII : - POLITICAL Participation : -

In the light of the responses, this chapter deals with analysis of the replies of the workers pertaining to queries about their political participation.

CHAPTER VIII : - Conclusions : -

In this chapter the conclusions of the study are presented.

This study needs the historical background of Solapur district and city of Solapur as well as the two yarn mills. In chapter II this aspect is covered.