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C H A P T E R : V

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

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CHAPTER - V

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The activities of the milk-men have got the scope in the background of the both the urban centres. In a new set up, the milk-men emerged from the different groups. In the second chapter, their social background and their relations to the milk-producers and the customers have been examined. In the third chapter, the interrelational aspect and the economic factors related to the job of the milk-men have been discussed. Further, the focus of the fourth chapter remained on the sources of those milk-men, and the impact of their adoption of job on the respondents and their families' economic condition. So what the study has investigated regarding the job of respondent milk-men and the improvements in their living, is summarized below :

The social background of the respondents was examined. The job requires a physical strength and a hard labour. This is one of the major reasons that a majority (i.e. 76.59 per cent) of the respondents were belonged to the age-group between 18 to 40 years. The data regarding the marital status show that 86.17 per cent respondents were married, and a noteworthy feature that 50 per cent of the total respondents were the members of their joint families. So far as the sample of this

study is concerned, what was found that the respondents were from different caste and religion background (including the ex-untouchables). But a majority (i.e. 53.20 per cent) respondents were belonging to the Maratha, one of the dominant caste of the region. When the educational level of the respondents was examined, it was found that 68.08 per cent belonged to the category of S.S.C./H.S.C. level.

The nature of the job is discussed. The milk-men has to be busy in his job from early morning to the noon time. He has to be very particular in his duties of collection and distribution of milk. In the region of south-western Maharashtra, the milk-men emerged from different caste-groups since last one and half decade. So far as this job is concerned, caste is no bar even in villages. The milk is produced and collected from any household irrespective of one's caste background. In the study, it was found that 301 out of the total 1627 milk-producers' households belonged to the category of an untouchable origin. But the major milk-producers and suppliers were from the Maratha and the Jain caste-groups. It is mainly, because, those are landholding castes. In the region, the co-operative dairy rate (i.e. Rs. 6/- per litre) was regarded the standard rate for the milk-producers. But the selling rate was varied from Rs. 6.50 to Rs. 7/- per litre according to the quality of the milk distributed

to the customers. While collecting the bill the milk-men had a bitter experience particularly from the hotel owners.

The study has shown that many (i.e. 59.57 per cent) unemployed men have adopted the dairy job as a source of self-employment. As many as 68.09 per cent respondents had attained their S.S.C./H.S.C. educational level. Besides the negative factor of unemployment to a majority, in case of 42.55 per cent respondents the experience in dairy activity as an assistant caused them to adopt the job of milk-men. Further it is important to note regarding the supporting factors such as private financing sources in case of 84.04 per cent respondents and the marginal landholding by 81.91 per cent respondents that contributed towards the adoption of dairy job. Thus, the problem of unemployment alongwith the supporting factors such as the private financing sources and the marginal landholding appear to be the main factors.

So far as the success of the milk-men in their job is concerned, it is difficult to state that all the respondents have become successful. It is because, a majority (i.e. 58.52 per cent) of the respondents were struggling for their survival in their job. However, it



is important to note the certain facts of the improvements both in the living and economic conditions of many respondents. About fifty per cent respondents had revealed that they had started eating the quality food and using better clothes. Some have newly constructed their pakka houses. Some 35 replaced their bicycles and started using motor-cycles. Some started spending more money on their children's education and a few of the respondents became successful in making their sons medical and law graduates. A noteworthy feature of the improvement in the respondents economic condition that a majority (i.e. 65 per cent) of the respondents invested their amount in various forms i.e. insurance, fixed deposit, daily saving and lending money. Some 13 respondents have converted their income into the additional sources of income in certain business such as truck, tractor, brick, poultry, grossary, video, sweet-mart and rearing sheeps. Thus, the changes in the living habits and economic conditions of the milk-men themselves and of their family members are attributed to the adoption of the job of milk-man.
