

CHAPTER - VIISUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The present chapter is devoted to summarize the topic of comparative study of Agricultural and industrial labour in agro-industrial setting, described in detail in earlier chapters.

7.1 AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SETTING OF GURASALE

Gurasale village is situated on the Pandharpur-Ahamadnagar road. It is in Pandharpur Taluka and is 8 K.M. away from Pandharpur City. In the village Gurasale there are farmers and agriculture labourers. The population of the village Gurasale was 2237 as per 1981 census. In Gurasale village there were 391 cultivators and 1144 agricultural labourers. Gurasale village has 2688 acres of land. The farmers from Gurasale cultivate different kinds of crops such as Jawar, Wheat, Sugarcane, Vegetables etc.

People from many castes are living in this village, such as Maratha, Mali, Chambhar, Mahar, Mang, Teli, Wadar Koli etc., but Maratha castes is dominant.

The village Gurasale is having its own Gram-Panchayat and Co-operative credit society. There is also one bank namely "Solapur Gramin Bank" Branch Gurasale.

Due to the Ujani dam, the irrigated area was increased and people from Pandharpur region started to cultivate sugarcane in their fields. The production of sugarcane began to increase, but there was no sugar factory closeby. The sugarcane was sent to the other factories, so the farmers needed a factory of their own in their area. On this background " Shri Vitthal Sahakari Sakhar Karakhana, Ltd., Venunagar-Gurasale was established in 1973 in Pandharpur Taluka, 78 villages from Pandharpur Taluka and 4 villages from Mohol Taluka are under the command area of sugar factory and 4706 producer shareholder's are there. There is a one Chairman and Vice-Chairman in the Sugar factory.

The sugar factory has administrative officers such as Managing Director, Chief Engineer, Chief Chemist, Chief Accountant, Civil Engineer, Labour Officer, Security Officers etc.

The sugar factory has provided many facilities to the workers such as providend fund, quarters for living, insurance scheme, bonus etc. The sugar factory has own technical High-school, buses for workers.

Before the establishment of sugar factory, there were no pakka road and no S.T.bus service. People from village Gurasale use their bullock-cart and bicycle for attending weekly bazar at Pandharpur, but not the road have been constructed and people have started to travel by S.T.buses.

Due to the establishment of sugar factory, many people began to cultivate and increase the production of sugarcane and now there are shops, hotels, stationery stores in Gurasale. At the factory site there is Diesel pump and Kamagar Patapedhi.

The factory provided different schemes to the shareholders and others in its area of operation for the agricultural development, such as supply of chemical fertilizers etc.

7.2 METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

The sugar factory under study is located near village. The factory has drawn a large proportion of their unskilled and semi-skilled labour force from surrounding villages. To measure the impact of industrial employment, the sample of industrial workers is compared with a representative sample of agricultural workers from the village Gurasale near with the sugar factory has been established.

The objectives of the present study were :

- i) To study socio-economic conditions of agricultural and industrial labour.
- ii) To observe the impact of sugar factory on industrial and agricultural labour and
- iii) To compare the position of the industrial with the agricultural labour.

Keeping in mind these objectives 2 schedules were prepared, one for agricultural labour and one for industrial labour. 32 agricultural workers were chosen on the sampling frame of selection list and 32 industrial workers were chosen from muster-list from the Time Officer of the factory.

The information regarding sugar factory was collected from Annual Reports and from Officers and Directors. The data regarding village Gurasale was collected by census Reports and Gram-Panchayat Office. The data regarding industrial and agricultural labour, was collected by using interview schedule.

The data collection work was started on 29th September 1984 and continued upto 15th May 1985. The data regarding industrial workers was collected during the crushing season. The data collection work in factory was completed on 14th January 1985. The data regarding agricultural workers was started on 20th January 1985 and it continued upto 15th May 1985. The respondents were chosen from the voters list. The main difficulty in the data collection for agricultural labour was that they were busy in their agricultural work for the whole day. Many agricultural labourers were illiterate, so researcher followed the method of explaining about the research work before starting the interview to the selected respondent.

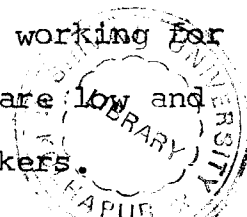
7.3 AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN GURASALE

The facts regarding agricultural labour are presented here. Majority of the agricultural workers were working in

others field. Only 9 (28.1) workers were having their own small land and they had to work in others field also. This shows that when the livelihood is not maintained on the income from small agricultural land, the people will have to go to the field of other and earn daily wages. When the agricultural workers were asked about the choice of work, 8 workers (25.0) favoured agricultural work whereas 24 (75.0) workers favoured industrial work. The reason to choice at industrial work is that the work in agriculture is not throughout the year, daily wages are low, on the other hand the work in industries is for more period of time, the monthly wages are better and the work is for eight hours only.

As regards the nature of agricultural work, 12 workers (25.0) responded that, nature of agricultural work was seasonal but 24 agricultural workers responded (75.0) that nature of agricultural was yearly. For majority of the agricultural workers, their family members were also working in the field, which shows the fact that the livelihood cannot be maintained only with the work of head of the family.

As far as wages of agricultural workers were concerned, majority of the agricultural workers were getting Rs.8/- as daily wage and only 2 (6.3) workers were getting Rs.7/- as daily wage. Majority of the workers were working for more than 9 hours and only few workers (2/6.3) were working for 6 to 8 hours. These facts shows that the wages are low and working hours are more for the agricultural workers.



All the agricultural workers responded that they have no union. There were no free education facilities available for their children. And all agricultural workers do not know about the minimum wages Act for their agricultural workers. These facts shows that the workers in agricultural field have no agency for putting out their grievances, and they are not aware of the acts meant for them.

7.4 INDUSTRIAL LABOUR IN SUGAR FACTORY

After independence there has been tremendous growth in the co-operative sector creating different types of factories in Maharashtra. The new co-operative sugar factory with the smoking chimneys have sprung up in rural setting. The non-industrial of pre-independence period, have become industrialized. Thousands of villagers are in direct contact with these type of industries and they have been influenced.

The process of industrialization in rural areas tend to affect all members of local community. The industries like co-operative sugar factory here utilized large number of rural people in unskilled and semi-skilled work. Most of these new industrial workers have little or no previous technical training and are most often commuters from their rural residence. The commuting means are walking, bicycles or buses. These industries have provided opportunities for subsistence farmers and redundant labour force to take part-time or full-time non farm employment and the effect has been

an increase in family incomes.

The industrial activity has been increasing in rural areas with the introduction of co-operative sugar factories in Maharashtra. This has resulted in the introduction of wage work for those who want to seek employment out of agriculture.

In the present study the comparative position of agricultural and industrial labour has been covered. The sugar factory in Pandharpur Taluka was studied and the situation of industrial workers in it is presented below.

When the choice of work was asked, majority of the industrial workers have favoured to work in factory, only 3 (9.4) workers have favoured to work in field, 8 (25.0) have favoured to work in field and factory. Thus it can be said that industrialization in rural area is generally beneficial to the local population and the workers would like to continue in the same field.

As far as the recruitment was concerned, majority of the workers (22/68.8) responded that they got service by making application. 6 (18.8) workers have got service by training and few workers (4/12.5) have got service by influence.

When the information regarding agricultural land was analyzed it showed that majority of the industrial workers (27) were having their own agricultural land, 5 worker (15.6)

were not having land. Some of the industrial workers themselves were cultivating their land. The situation of agricultural land thus shows that the industrial workers had background in agricultural or rural setting. The factory in rural setting has provided them an additional income from industrial work.

The housing situation showed that, majority (24) of the industrial workers were staying in their own villages, only few workers 8 (25.0) were staying at the factory site. Thus the industries in rural areas have opened job opportunities for villagers without migration from their places.

The workers have joined trade union on the factory. Nearly all (30) industrial workers told that their intentions behind joining the union was job security and to gain right, only 2 (6.3) workers had intention of getting facilities. So it can be said that the industrial workers are aware about the benefits of jobs and they have joined union for the security of job.

All the industrial workers had Harijan friends and they were working with Harijan workers.

As far as the activities after factory work was concerned, majority of the industrial workers were spending their time in farming and remaining workers were spending their time in reading, playing and in other activities.

The information about social security indicated that all the industrial workers have joined the Employees

Providend Fund in 1983. Under this scheme the loan facility is available but none of the workers have take loan. The factory provided the Gratuity Scheme to all workers. The industrial workers were getting different type of facilities under various Acts, whereas the agricultural were not getting any facility and they were even not aware of the Act meant for them.

7.5 COMPARATIVE POSITION OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

The comparative position of agricultural and industrial labour in agro-industrial setting of Gurasale is presented in this section. The comparative picture shows that, there were more agricultural workers in the age-group of 31 to 50 years than the industrial workers. On the other there were more industrial workers in the age-group of 18 to 30 years than the agricultural workers. Thus there were more younger workers in the industrial field.

As far as education level was concerned, there were more illiterate workers in agricultural category than industrial workers.

There was not much difference in the position of marital status of the workers in agricultural and industrial categories.

The caste composition of workers indicated that, agricultural workers from other castes, such as Lohar, Chambhar,

Mahar, Mang, Wadar, Teli, Kumbhar etc., were more than the industrial workers. In the case of industrial workers, the workers from Maratha caste were more than the agriculture workers.

In this connection it can be noted that, before world war II, industrial jobs were attaching a majority of their workers from the low caste and economically poor substratum of society. But now the higher castes like Maratha are joining labour force markets. The lower castes were also in the industrial and agricultural field for the low caste Harijan's, the work in but it might act as a ladder leading to upward social mobility.

It is observed that the high caste Maratha people own a major share of land, but on the death of the father, the land is divided among sons and fragmented, into smaller pieces. The factors like small land, poor crops and increasing population pressure have driven high caste as well as low caste out of agriculture in order to seek occupational opportunities. This trend has become more common throughout rural India as industries stretch out to encompass rural areas or the workers move to town and cities looking for occupational opportunities.

The family composition shows that there were more workers living in joint families for both the industrial and agricultural workers. The family composition has not much changed in rural setting of Gurasale, because the workers got

industrial jobs without migration from their villages.

Again the comparative picture shows that all industrial workers were having their annual familial income of Rs.10,001/- and above. In the case of agricultural workers, there were more agricultural workers having less income categories than the industrial workers. This was due to the facts that industrial workers were having their own agricultural land they were getting income from such land. On the other hand the agricultural workers were not having their own land and the family members were also agricultural labourers. So their income was low.

The information about agricultural land showed that, there were more agricultural workers who were landless. On the other hand there were more industrial workers who were having their own agricultural land than the agricultural workers. Thus the position of industrial workers in the case of agricultural land was better than agricultural workers of Gurasale.

The comparative economic position shows that, there were more agricultural labourer who were having low monthly income than the industrial workers. Thus the economic position of earning for industrial workers was better than the agricultural workers. The reason behind this trend were than the agricultural workers were getting wages on daily basis, whereas industrial workers of pay-scales. Again the work for

agricultural workers was not certain throughout the year on the other hand the work in industrial field was more stable.

As far as expenditure was concerned, there were more agricultural workers in less category of monthly expenditure than the industrial workers. In short, the agricultural workers were not having many economical sources, they had to depend on daily wages. When the figures of income and expenditure are taken into account, we can say that, agricultural workers were living in poor condition and the level of income and expenditure was also low.

There were more agricultural workers who were in less annual agricultural income category than industrial workers. In the case of industrial workers, there were more workers who had their annual agricultural income of more than Rs.3001/- . Here also the position of industrial workers was better than agricultural workers as most of them were having the additional source of income from agriculture.

As far as loan position was concerned, there were more agricultural workers who were taking loan than the industrial workers. The comparative picture shows that, there were agricultural workers who have taken loan of more Rs.2001/- than the industrial workers.

As regards the saving was concerned the comparative picture shows that there were more industrial workers who were having higher saving amounts than the agricultural

workers. Thus here also the situation of industrial workers was better than agricultural workers. Thus in general it can be said that the saving and loan positions indicates better situation of industrial workers than agricultural workers.

The housing is one of the basic necessities of human being. The housing position shows that, there were more agricultural workers who were living in huts than the industrial workers. In the case of industrial workers, they were living in pakka houses in more number than the agricultural workers. Thus the position of industrial workers housing was better than that of agricultural workers.

Again there were more agricultural workers who were living in one room than the industrial workers. In the case of industrial workers, there were more workers who were staying in 2 and more rooms when compared to the agricultural workers.

Apart from these two points, there were more agricultural workers who were living in rented houses than the industrial workers. In the case of industrial workers, the factory had provided residential quarters to the some of it's workers. Thus in the case of ownership pattern, the position of industrial workers was better than agricultural workers and the facility of residential quarter was also available to them. Thus the housing in terms of ownership pattern, type, and number of rooms for the industrial worker

was better than agricultural workers. They were also having quarters facility at the factory site.

There were more agricultural workers who were using water from well and bore than the industrial workers. In the case of industrial, there were more workers using water from tap and river than the agricultural workers. Thus here also the position of industrial workers was better than that of agricultural workers.

Thus in brief it can be said that the overall position of industrial workers was better than that of agricultural workers. The establishment of Shri Vitthal Sahakari Sakhar Karakhana near village Gurasale has opened opportunities of industrial job to the villagers. The villagers have taken up these opportunities and their income has been increased. This was possible due to the establishment of sugar factory in agricultural setting. Along with the employment opportunities, other agricultural development facilities were also made available by the sugar factory. Thus the sugar factory has influenced to a greater extent in the region and it has improved the situation of industrial workers than that of agricultural workers of the same area.

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