

## CHAPTER - III

### LITERATURE ON AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION :

The present chapter deals with the literature regarding agricultural and industrial labour in Indian situation. As far as the comparative study of agricultural and industrial labour is concerned, S.K.Kuthiala has done comparative study of this type in 1943, in his book "From Tradition to Modernity".<sup>1</sup>

#### 3.2 STUDY AREA, SAMPLING AND DATA COLLECTION FOR COMPARATIVE STUDY :

Two towns namely, Yamunanagar and Kharar, were purposely selected by Kuthiala as representative of towns having small and medium size industries, and drawing a part of their labour force from rural area.

Until 1967, both these towns, located 108 miles apart, were in the State of Punjab. However in 1967, the State was divided on linguistic basis and reorganization created two States of Harayana and Punjab. Yamunanagar was incorporated in Harayana State and Kharear in Punjab State. Both towns have had small and medium size industries growing since 1950's and have continuously drawn their unskilled and semi-skilled labour force from surrounding rural area.

The sampling plan for Kuthiala's study consisted of drawing a representative sample of 100 industrial workers, fairly representing the rural labour force employed in industry. A list of workers having rural residence and employed in industry for over one year was compiled.

In Yamunanagar, the sample list based upon the criteria laid, had 267 workers. A random sample of 53 workers was drawn out of 267 workers. In Kharar, the sample list based upon the criteria laid, had 95 sample. A random sample of 49 workers was drawn. A total of 102 workers from the two sub samples were listed for interview. Two among these could not be interviewed as they left industrial jobs and nine other did not respond to the schedule in an accurate way or provided incomplete information. These nine cases were dropped from his analysis, leaving a total of 91 respondents.

The criteria for selecting the agricultural workers were most narrowly defined. Selection was restricted to a total of four villages; two surrounding Yamunanagar and two surrounding Kharar. It was found that these four village provided a large number of labour force members to industry. These village were within six and one-half miles of Yamunanagar and Kharar.

A list of all the households in these villages was compiled. Agriculture workers in the sample were those who

were employed full-time in agriculture, were under age 60 and had no member of their household regularly employed in industrial sector.

From the two villages in Yamunanagar area, the list contained 152 households, list gave a total of 50 households to contact and in each household, the head was interviewed. This group was called a sample of agricultural workers, and was designated as "compare group".

In this way Kuthiala has used sampling plan for agricultural and industrial workers. The interview schedule were prepared to obtain pertinent information.

### 3.3 FINDING OF THE COMPARATIVE STUDY :

The median age for industrial worker was 33.6 years and for agricultural workers 42 years. Only a small minority of both the industrial and agricultural were unmarried.

The economic difficulties are said to be the predominant factors responsible for compelling villagers to assume industrial employment. Reflecting these conditions were the housing of the industrial workers. They not only had smaller houses averaging 3.1 rooms, as compared to 4.8 rooms among the agricultural workers.

Some of the industrial workers were not exclusively engaged in factory jobs. In fact, 28.6 per cent of the industrial workers have ownership of either land, a tenancy, or shared crops. These respondents could not support their

families job. Another 13.2 per cent considered themselves to be doing their off days. Only 44 per cent of industrial workers were exclusively in factory employment.

Those industrial workers who owned land, had small size farms. A majority of them, 83.5 per cent reported the size of their farm at less than 5 acres. Among agricultural workers, only 34 per cent had less than 5 acres.

Only 6.6 per cent of industrial workers wanted their sons to be in farming. Even among agricultural workers only 33.3 per cent, wanted their sons to be farmers. Almost a third of the industrial workers ( 29.7 per cent ) and a fifth ( 18.0 per cent ) of the agricultural workers wanted their sons to be in industrial occupations.

Industrial workers did not indicate a great amount of satisfaction from their industrial jobs and the reasons given were : low pay scales, relative insecurity of the jobs, and little chance for advancement. Factory employment is not deemed to be attractive either by industrial or agricultural workers. About 70 per cent of the industrial workers. About 70 per cent of the industrial workers wanted to enter jobs than in industry and 31 per cent of agricultural workers wanted to enter into jobs other than in farming, preferably governmental job.

According to the socio-economic status of industrial and agricultural workers, a six item scale was

constructed constituting housing, material possessions, education, caste land and income. Industrial workers were found to have a lower socio-economic score than agricultural workers.

The employment in the industrial labour force, however, does not upset the social position of the worker in his village. His contact, to a large degree, still moulded by village folkways and mores. Consequently he finds it hard to become a committed member of an industrial labour force.

Thus Kuthiala has given a comparative picture of industrial and agricultural labour in Punjab and Harayana. On this background an attempt is made to observe the comparative picture of industrial and agricultural labour in agro-industrial setting of Maharashtra.

#### 3.4 AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MAHARASHTRA :

This section presents the picture of agricultural labour in Maharashtra. The figures are obtained from the book entitled "Agricultural Labour in Maharashtra".<sup>2</sup>

The figures regarding male and female workers during the last three decades is presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1

FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MAHARASHTRA

( Figures in Lacks )

Occupation	1961		1971		1981				
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female			
	47.4	39.9	87.3	49.2	16.2	65.4	56.7	27.9	48.6
Agricultural	21.1	24.0	45.1	29.3	24.6	53.9	31.3	33.7	65.0
Labour	116.6	72.9	189.5	136.0	47.9	183.9	168.7	74.0	242.7
All Occupations									

The table clearly indicates that ( except the number of females in agricultural and all occupations during 1961-71 ) the number of males and females have grown in all the categories during the last three decades. In 1971 the definition was changed and due to this change the number has been decreased.

As far as the total in agricultural labour is concerned there has been constant rise during the three decades. In 1961 there were 45.1 lakhs agricultural labour which has increased upto 65.0 lakhs in 1981. Thus it can be said that in 1981 there were 65.0 lakh persons in Maharashtra depending on agricultural labour for their livelihood.

The agricultural labour are indebted in Maharashtra. They have taken loans from money lender, bank, owners and co-operative society. The following table presents a picture in this regard.

Table 3.2

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MAHARASHTRA  
POSITION REGARDING INDEBTEDNESS

Indebted	1974
Total indebted families per 100 families	50.1
Average amount of Rupees loan for an indebted family	514
Loan taken from ( 100 % )	
Relatives/Other Private Sources	37
Money Lenders	25
Co-operative Societies	17
Banks	10
Owners	5
Shopkeepers	6

The table clearly indicates that many agricultural labour takes loan from relatives/private sources and money lenders. Half of the families in Maharashtra are indebted and Rs.514 is the amount of loan for an indebted family.

**3.5   HARD AND PAINFUL LIFE OF THE AGRICULTURAL LABOUR :**

In last 25 years we find some facilities like roads, city bus service, electricity, school, hospitals etc. But these facilities have not utilized fully by agricultural labour as he is illiterate, he has no sufficient land and



skill. His life is to work on others field and earn his livelihood.

In the last 20 years there is an increase in the market prices of the agricultural product. The agricultural labour use to get grains for his work but now it has been stopped which makes the life of agricultural labour more miserable. He is unables to maintain his livelihood on the wages he gets.

Upto this point, we had seen the situation of agricultural labour in Maharashtra. Now we will focus our attention towards industrial labour.

### 3.6 THE PLACE OF MAHARASHTRA IN THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT :

The Annual Industrial Survey of 1979-80 shows that Maharashtra State has an unique place in the industrial development of India. Maharashtra's contribution in productive capital and employment has been onesixth in the nation. The productivity based on per worker productivity in Maharashtra was 94 thousand rupees whereas in India it was 68 thousand rupees.

The figures are obtained from the journal Sadhana<sup>3</sup> regarding industrial labour in Maharashtra.

Table - 3.3

FACTORIES AND WORKERS IN MAHARASHTRA

Type of Factory	December 1961		December 1971		December 1981		June 1983	
	Factory	Average : Workers : per day	Factory	Average : Workers : per day	Factory	Average : Workers : per day	Factory	Average : Workers : per day
Factories having less than 50 Workers	6,101	120	7,197	138	13,392	203	14,823	207
Factories having more than 50 Workers	2,132	667	3,044	860	3,202	989	3,158	934
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,233</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>10,241</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>16,594</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>17,181</b>	<b>1,141</b>

The Table 3.3 indicates that the number of factories having less than 50 workers has been increasing since December 1961. As far as the number of factories having more than 50 workers are concerned, it also shows increasing trend upto December 1981 and it has decreased in June 1983.

With the exception of average worker per day in June 1983, for factories having more than 50 workers the remaining figures also shows the growth.

In general at the total with the exception of average worker per day in June 1983, there has been increase in the number of factories and average worker per day.

Thus we can say that there has been growth in the number of factories and average worker per day since 1981.

Upto now we have seen the situation of agricultural and industrial labour in Maharashtra. Maharashtra is considered as a progressive State in the fields of agriculture and industry. The attempt has been made in this study to present a comparative picture of labour in agricultural and industrial fields.

The following chapters have been devoted to analyze the situation of agricultural and industrial labour in the agro-industrial setting of Gurasale.

REFERENCES

- 1 Kauthiala S.K. : From Tradition to  
Modernity
- 2 Brahme Sulabha : Agricultural Labour in  
and Nene R.P. Maharashtra (in Marathi)
- 3 Journal Sadhana : Special Issue, May Day,  
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