

CHAPTER-VI

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE WORKERS : A SURVEY REPORT

6.1 INTRODUCTION :

A study of socio-economic conditions of the workers is important for understanding the structure of their living and working conditions. Moreover, massive in scale, seasonal migration receiving a selective process. Age, educational level, sex and economic status, hours of work, working condition, rate of exploitation are some of the obvious factors to which differential results are ascribed in the literature on migration. So, an attempt has been made to assess the socio-economic conditions of the selected seasonal migrant workers evolved in cane-cutting and transport activities in co-operative sugar factories. Details regarding their socio-economic conditions of the selected workers are based on the information collected through a questionnaire. The number of respondents was 421, which was derived from the sugar co-operatives located in Kolhapur and Sangli district.

The total number of migrant harvest and transport workers, who are seasonally employed in sugar factories in Maharashtra is near about 6 lakhs, normally coming from drought zones of the State. The percentages of harvest and transport workers in the total employment in sugar industry is greater. Seasonally employed farm sector workers have been categorised into harvesting (cane-cutters) workers and transport workers (both cane cutters and transport (bullock cart) workers). Further they are again categorised into (a) Head Centre workers, (b) Direct bullock cart centre workers, (c) Tyre cart Centre

workers, (d) Truck/Tractor centre workers etc. Now-a-days the number of in-migrant workers is increasing continually. Since the State level strike of these workers in 1980 and 1986 implied an increase in the bargaining capacity of migrant workers.

Seasonal migration is certainly not new to Maharashtra State, but its present character and scale are indicative of a far-reaching transformation in the country side; a change to new production relationships. This type of seasonal migration is most closely bound with the capitalist development of rural production in this area - a process in which the organisation of the dominant class of farmers into agricultural co-operatives has played an important part. The magnitude of migration towards sugar factories is growing since the drought of 1972-73. Moreover it cannot be denied that during the off-factory season, the rural employment of agricultural labour in the sugar belt has gone up because of the increase in the irrigated area. This motivated some seasonal migrants to stay permanently at their destination, if they have no any attachment with original places.

The socio-economic conditions of the workers is more or less the same in the State.

6.2 CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKERS :

A survey of 421 sample workers belonging to different categories has been done during the season 1990-91. The samples have been selected from two districts viz. Kolhapur and Sangli. The workers (harvesting and transport) belonging to five sugar factories from Kolhapur and four sugar factories from Sangli district have been selected so far

TABLE No. 6.1
CLASSIFICATION OF SAMPLE WORKERS

Area	Total	Head Centre		Bullock-cart Centre		Hired workers on carts
		Truck	Tractor	O.B.C.	H.B.C.	
KD	50	13	36	1	-	-
KP	50	1	1	16	32	-
KW	50	15	33	2	-	-
KR	50	1	-	8	40	1
KG	45	40	1	2	2	-
K - Total :	245 (100.00)	70 (28.57)	71 (28.98)	29 (11.84)	73 (29.80)	1 (0.41)
SV	50	2	4	5	39	-
SR	50	-	2	2	45	1
SK	50	1	5	1	43	-
SM	26	15	9	-	2	-
S - Total :	176 (100.00)	18 (10.23)	20 (11.36)	8 (4.55)	129 (73.30)	1 (0.57)
Grand Total :	421 (100.00)	88 (20.90)	91 (21.62)	37 (8.79)	203 (48.22)	2 (0.48)

- Note :
- 1) O.B.C. = Owned bullock carts.
 - 2) H.B.C. = Hired bullock carts
 - 3) Hired workers are employed either by OBC or HBC on daily wages such workers are paid even when there is no work.
 - 4) The data in parenthesis are the percentages of the respective horizontal total.
 - 5) KD = Datta Co-op. Sugar Factory, Shirol (Dist. Kolhapur)
 KP = Panchaganga Co-op. Sugar Factory, Ichalkaranji (Dist. Kolhapur)
 KW = Warana Co-op. Sugar Factory, Warananagar (Dist. Kolhapur)
 KR = Chh. Rajaram Co-op. Sugar Factory, Kolhapur
 KG = Gadhingla Co-op. Sugar Factory, Gadhingla, (Dist. Kolhapur)
 K - Total = Kolhapur District total above.
 SV = Vasantdada Co-op. Sugar Factory, Sangli
 SR = Rajarambapu Co-op. Sugar Factory, Sakharale (Dist. Sangli)
 SK = Kisan Ahir Co-op. Sugar Factory, Walve (Dist. Sangli)
 SM = Mahakali Co-op. Sugar Factory, Kavathe Mahankal (Dist. Sangli)
 S - Total = Sangli District total above.

(See Table No. 6.1). Majority of sample workers i.e. 48.22 per cent of workers belonged to hired tyre cart workers. The tyre carts have been issued to the workers (coming with only bullocks) by the sugar factories on dally hire basis. Now-a-days the sugar factories are making this facility available to the magrant bullock owners on a large scale basis as an incentive. The cost of maintenace of tyre carts is being borne by the sugar factories. Besides tyre carts have a loading capacity of 2-3 tonnes of sugarcane quantity. An ordinary bullock cart has a capacity of 1 to 1.50 tonnes of sugarcane.

6.3 CLASS OF WORK AND SEX :

The involvement of female workers in harvesting and transport activities was little less in comparision with the male workers. However, both in the head centre and bullock cart centre, the female participation was important and noteworthy. Female workers had carried out both household as well as harvesting and transport activities. Basically with a view to help in both activities, the female workers had been brought up with the male workers. The couples migrated with their infants.

The number of children migrated with their parents in Kolhapur district was 249, it means on an average each worker who was interviewed had one (1.02) child at his destination. This average was little less (0.90) in Sangli district. The total number of children at the worker's destination in Sangli district was 159, while the total number of children in nine co-operative sugar factories located in both Sangli and Kolhapur district was 408 (i.e. 0.97 average per sample unit of workers).

TABLE No. 6.2
CLASSIFICATION OF CANE CUTTERS ACCORDING TO CLASS OF WORK
AND SEX (OTHER THAN CHILDREN) AT DESTINATION

Area	Head Centre				Bullock cart Centre				Horizontal Total		Male + Female Total
	Truck		Tractor		O.B.C.		H.B.C.		Male	Female	
	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male			
KD	21	15	45	45	2	1	-	-	68	61	129
KP	3	2	1	1	25	18	53	45	82	66	148
KW	17	18	39	33	2	2	-	-	58	53	111
KR	1	1	-	-	17	13	78	61	96	75	171
KG	41	40	1	1	3	4	4	3	49	48	97
K - Total	83	76	86	80	49	38	135	109	353	303	656
SV	2	2	4	4	6	5	66	51	78	62	140
SR	-	-	2	1	2	1	72	60	76	62	138
SK	2	2	5	3	1	1	61	47	69	52	121
SM	16	16	11	9	-	-	4	4	31	29	60
S - Total :	20	20	22	17	9	7	203	162	254	205	459
Grand Total :	103	96	108	97	58	45	338	271	607	508	1115

The number of male workers, in hired bullock carts is higher than female workers (See table No. 6.2) because the tyre cart has a high capacity to load the sugarcane, which can be pulled by the same bullocks of an ordinary carts. An ordinary cart is little hard to pull the load to the bullocks. The number of male cane cutters and pruners involved in tyre carts was higher than ordinary cart workers. Table No. 6.2 reveals the fact that the ratio of male to female is more than one i.e. in between 1.07 to 1.29.

Some families had involved with young children and elderly or the disabled persons who can look after the children at the camps while the workers were on work. Most of the male workers came with their wives and at least one child each. The labour broker and mukadama sets a limit on the number of non-productive adults in their groups.

6.3 CASTEWISE CLASSIFICATION :

Out of total sample workers 30.88 per cent of workers were belonging to the Maratha caste, and 21.14 per cent workers to Vanjari community, this was followed by 11.16 per cent of Mahar caste, 6.41 per cent of Dhanagers and 5.94 per cent of Chamar caste workers. More than 75 per cent of workers were belonging to a few castes. The Maratha workers generally belonged to small and marginal size of holdings and most of them were cultivators. More than 50 per cent of Maratha workers were engaged in bullock cart works. Besides well-to-do farm families also have involved in bullock carts because of the drought agriculture at their original place. Normally such workers who belongs to joint families, migrate towards factory areas so as to minimise the under employment at their original places.

TABLE No. 6.3
CASTEWISE CLASSIFICATION OF CANE-CUTTERS AND CARTERS

Area	Langayat	Maratha	Dhangar	Mahar	Muslim	Lonari	Barad	Boudha	Koli	Vanjari	Lamant	Kumbhar	Parte	Bhot	Chambhar	Upper	Ghorapi	Gosavi	Gondhali	Mang	Paradhi	Wader	Holar	Malas	Telli	Sutar	Mali	Dhor	Wani	Takari	Ojar
KD	4	4	6	5	10	3	3	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KP	-	35	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KW	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	5	3	1	1	2	3	-	-	-
KR	-	13	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	18	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KG	-	16	-	10	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K-Total : (245)	4	68	13	42	11	3	5	8	6	19	2	4	1	1	23	1	1	1	3	8	4	2	5	3	1	1	2	3	-	-	-
SV	-	14	2	2	5	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SR	-	20	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SK	-	15	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SM	-	13	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
S-Total : (176)	-	62	14	5	8	-	-	-	1	70	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grand Total (421)	4	130	27	47	19	3	5	8	7	89	4	4	1	1	25	1	1	1	3	16	4	2	5	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	2

Table No. 6.3 illustrates the general fact that most of the workers involved in harvesting and transport activities were belonging to backward communities, who generally hold no land or very less area of land.

6.5 DEPENDENTS OF " THE WORKERS AT
THEIR ORIGINAL PLACES :

Each sample worker had nearly an average of 3 dependents at their original places. Particularly, the female number is higher (35.04 per cent). The male and female dependents generally belonged to age old, school going children, disabled persons and other adult male or female members of the families. The adult and able male/female family members were purposively kept at the original places so as to manage the whole family affairs.

The percentage of male children in the total depending population was 18.15 per cent while the percentage of female children was 14.33 per cent. The school going male children were 27.35 per cent. While that of female children was only 10.22 per cent which indicate the fact that the rate of literacy among these workers is much below the national and State average.

The number of workers who have no dependents at original places was 14.25 per cent, while the percentages of workers who had only one and two dependents were 12.83 and 24.70 per cent respectively. This means that 51.78 per cent of sample workers have small families and 48.22 per cent sample workers have big families.

TABLE No. 6.4
CLASSIFICATION OF CANE CUTTER'S DEPENDENTS AT THEIR ORIGINAL PLACES
(Native Places)

Area	Male	Female	Boys at School their original places	Boys at School going at original places	Girls at School going at original places	Number of families who have no depen- dency at their original places	Number of families who have one depen- dency at their original places	Number of families who have two depen- dency at their original places	Total of Col. 2+3+ 4+6	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7	8.	9.	10.	11.
KD	59	57	37	9	20	3	3	3	12	173
KP	49	49	20	2	14	-	7	9	9	132
KW	28	38	4	-	4	-	12	10	22	74
KR	33	44	17	-	7	-	10	8	20	101
KG	54	56	9	-	12	-	7	1	10	131
K - Total :										
	223	244	87	11 (12.64)	57	3 (5.26)	39	31	73	611
SV										
	36	43	34	5	10	1	9	10	7	123
SR										
	52	57	43	16	42	7	5	7	7	194
SK										
	56	57	42	17	23	3	5	6	11	178
SM										
	31	30	17	12	4	4	2	-	6	82
S - Total :										
	175	187	136	50 (36.76)	119	15 (12.60)	21	23	31	617
Grand Total :										
	398	431	223	61 (27.35)	176	18 (10.22)	60	54	104	1228

Note : The data in parenthesis indicate the percentages to total boys and girls.

Workers generally migrate towards their destination to earn more income, which is not available at their original places. So they keep the number limited at their destination.

6.6 CHILDREN AT DESTINATION :

Mostly the workers try to keep the number of children limited at their destination. Only in rare and unavoidable cases the limited number of child migration was allowed. The survey reveals the fact that 53.63 of total children were belonging to category. Among them 34.24 per cent of children belonged to the age group of 3 to 4 years, followed by 27.39 per cent female child population belonging to the age group of 6 to 9 years. The percentage of male children migrated with their parent was 46.32 per cent during the survey period. In which 61.37 per cent child population belonged to 3 to 9 years (See table No. 6.5).

The total number of school going children at destination was only 12 (i.e. 2.94 per cent); in which, 8 children (4.23 per cent) were male and four (1.82 percent) were female. In fact these children were totally in the verge of dropouts from school education. This condition is prevailing in almost all workers who migrate towards sugar factories, so a plan of 'Sakhar Shala' (sugar schools) was submitted by an eminent educationist of Kolhapur District (Dr.M.G.Mali, Gargoti) to the Government of Maharashtra requesting the Government and Sugar Factories' Federation and the individual sugar factories to run primary schools at the sites of sugar factories. Recently Sukhathankar Committee appointed by Planning Board also emphasized the case of kid's education

TABLE No. 6.5

AGEWISE CLASSIFICATION OF CHILDREN AT DESTINATION

Area	Male Children					Female children					Total		M + F Total
	1-2 3-5 6-9 10-12					1-2 3-5 6-9 10-12					M	F	
	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12		1-2	3-5	6-9	10-12				
KD	12	8	12	3		13	13	11	6		35	43	78(a)
KP	5	8	8	2		3	11	10	4		23	28	51(e)
KW	6	6	3	4		6	9	4	7		19	26	45
KR	10	9	7	4		3	7	16	5		30	31	61
KG	-	5	1	1		1	1	3	2		7	7	14
K - Total :													
	33	36	31	14		26	41	44	24		114	135	249
SV	2	9	18	3		7	10	5	2		32	24	55(b)
SR	6	4	4	3		8	11	6	4		17	29	46
SK	6	8	2	4		5	7	5	6		20	23	43(b)
SM	1	1	3	1		2	6	-	-		6	8	14(c)
S - Total :													
	15	22	27	11		22	34	16	12		75	84	159
Grand Total :	48 (25.39)	58 (30.68)	58 (30.68)	25 (13.22)		48 (21.91)	75 (34.24)	60 (27.39)	36 (16.43)		189 (46.32)*	219 (53.63)*	408

Notes : 1) (a) Includes 1 male and 3 female children who were studying 1 to 2 standards (classes)

(b) Includes 2 male children studying at 1 & 2 standards.

(c) Includes 2 male children studying at 1 & 2 standards.

(d) Includes 1 female child studying at 1 & standard.

(e) Also includes 2 male children studying at Std. 4 and 7 standards.

Includes 1 male child studying at 7 standard.

2) 12 children were school going students at destination with their parents.

3) The data in brackets are the percentages to the male total and female total.

4) *are the percentage to total male and female.

at sugar factories while their parents are on work at destination. Kisan Ahir Co-operative Sugar Factory, Walwa (Dist.Sangli) is running such school at its site. Milk and food is being provided free of cost to the school going children of harvesting and transport workers. Even food to the workers at fair rates (Rs. 2 per plate) has been made available at the factory site. Besides Kisan Ahir Sugar Factory has built up 500 dwelling units at its site for migrant harvesting and transport workers. The workers of this factory are more satisfactory than other. Even the harvesting and transport management is very systematic and noteworthy. This factory in fact initiated to organise State Level Conference of the sugar workers, to discuss the problems.

6.7 FREQUENCY OF MIGRATION :

Migration of agricultural workers towards Western Maharashtra (Sugarcane belt) is not a recent phenomenon. The rate of migration is increasing since 1972-73 famine in Maharashtra. Simultaneously, the number of sugar units and expansion of crushing capacities of sugar factories in Western Maharashtra is continuously increasing.

Table 6.6 reveals the fact that, more than 50 per cent of sample workers were migrating since last 5 to 10 years. While 17.57 per cent of sample workers were migrating towards their destination since last 15 years. New additions to this labour force has been made every year. Good number of mukadamas and workers were habituated to migrate every season. Workers always preferred to accept the work of sugar factories where harvesting plans are systematic and well planned, however this depends on the mukadamas and contractors and their relations with the factory management. A few mukadamas and

TABLE No. 6.6
FREQUENCY OF MIGRATION OF SAMPLE RESPONDENTS*

Area	First year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-7 years	8-10 years	11-13 years	14 and above years
KD	5	5	10	14	11	2	3
KP	-	-	3	6	15	9	17
KW	4	5	10	16	12	3	-
KR	1	4	17	17	5	1	5
KG	2	-	2	19	21	-	1
K - Total :	12	14	42	72	64	15	26
SV	1	5	8	9	11	3	13
SR	5	4	6	8	9	3	15
SK	3	-	9	9	9	-	20
SM	-	-	6	9	11	-	-
S - Total :	9	9	29	35	40	6	48
Grand Total :	21 (4.98)	23 (5.46)	71 (16.86)	107 (25.41)	104 (24.70)	21 (4.98)	74 (17.57)

*Frequency is not concerned only to the respective sugar co-operatives.

Note : The data in parenthesis indicate per cent to total sample (N = 421).

contractors have established good relations with the factory management. A professional mukadamas and contractors always manages every thing in their favours. Harvesting and transport workers are wholly dependent on their mukadamas and contractors in respect of migration and the work at destination. An experienced worker with sufficient capital may prefer to work as mukadama or as contractor.

It is reported by majority of the harvesting and transport workers that, their choice of sugar factory depends on the will of the majority of workers in general and mukadama in particular. A few sugar factories gives incentives to the workers to attract the labour force, particularly at the time of scarce labour supply, the factories give some more incentives. Moreover, factories have to maintain a collective will and desire of these workers, otherwise they will disturb the whole schedule of sugarcane harvesting. Generally shortage of labour force occur, if the climatic conditions are better in drought prone areas of Maharashtra. A flow of labour supply increases if drought is serious. It is obvious that, workers and mukadamas have been attracted by the Kisan Ahir Co-operative Sugar Factory, Walwa (Dist.Sangli), because of the better facilities available at the factory site for harvesting and transport workers. The Kisan Ahir's harvesting plan schedule is systematic in comparision with other sugar factories. The factory manages different gangs/groups of harvesters and transport (bullock carts) workers comprising a day time workers and night time workers, who are rotated frequently. Night duty workers have been paid higher wages. Every worker is given a good quality woolen sweaters, mufflers and woolen rugs. The night harvesters receive a generator and fuel from

a sugar factory free of cost, which will be recovered after the harvesting season. This type of harvesting plan is helpful to attain the good sugar recovery. The factory seriously manages to lift the sugarcane within four hours of its harvesting. Therefore, workers prefer to accept the job of Kisan Ahir. The factory pays the wages as per the award. The workers earn good amount of income in this factory. The Kisan Ahir Sugar Factory prefers the services of bullock carts, because their operational area is within the radius of 15 km. of the factory site.

6.8 CAUSES OF MIGRATION :

Admitting the multiple preference of causes of migration it is seen that, there were seven causes of worker's migration. The most important causes of the migration were :

- 1) No employment at original places or under employment.
- 2) Low wages at original places.
- 3) To reduce the indebtedness.
- 4) Domestic disputes.
- 5) To earn more income, even when sufficient land holding is available.
- 6) To improve economic condition.
- 7) Other causes.

'No employment at original place' was the major cause of migration, followed by the other causes like 'earning more income', 'reducing indebtedness' and 'improving the economic condition' etc.

TABLE No. 6.7
CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF MIGRATION
(Multiple Preference admitted)

Area	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<u>Kolhapur</u>							
KD	43	14	19	-	24	18	-
KP	49	2	21	3	23	1	-
KW	48	1	38	1	5	4	-
KR	34	8	14	-	36	-	-
KG	42	13	9	1	2	4	-
K - Total :	216	38	101	5	90	27	-
<u>Sangli :</u>							
SV	27	5	14	-	29	26	9
SR	41	3	-	-	26	3	1
SK	38	4	16	-	27	16	-
SM	20	21	13	-	18	16	-
S - Total :	126	33	43	-	100	61	10
Grand Total :	342	71	144	5	190	88	10

Note : Description of code number; 1, 2, 3, 4..... above.

- 1) No employment at original places or under employment.
- 2) Low wage rates at original places.
- 3) To reduce the indebtedness.
- 4) Domestic disputes and quarrels.
- 5) To earn more income, even when sufficient land holding is available.
- 6) To improve the economic conditions.
- 7) Any other causes.

The place of destination is nothing more significant to satisfy the causes. However, the harvesting and transport workers are seasonally migrating only because of the reason that, at the beginning of the factory season the workers have no sufficient work in the agricultural sector at their original places, only harvesting of drought crops is left behind, which can be managed by the other family members. The under employed persons in the farm sector migrate towards sugar factories for gainful employment.

Table 6.7 indicate the fact that 81.24 per cent of sample workers had migrated towards the sugar factory area because of no employment opportunities at original ^{places.} / While 45.13 per cent of workers had reported the cause of their migration as 'to earn more income'. Only five workers of Kolhapur district (as their destination) reported one of their cause of migration as domestic disputes or quarrels. Nine workers of Vasantdada Sugar Factory (Sangli) reported 'other causes' of migration. Further table No.6.7 reveals the fact that, the workers had migrated not because of only one cause but because of various reasons.

6.9 PATTERN-OF-LAND-HOLDING :

Table No. 6.8 illustrates the fact that 94.57 per cent of land owned by the migrant workers at their original place was arid and only 5.40 per cent of land was seasonally irrigated during the reporting year i.e. 1990-91. This situation is sufficient to illustrate the fact that almost all workers belonging to the drought area.

TABLE No. 6.8
PATTERN OF LAND HOLDING BY WORKERS AT
ORIGINAL PLACES (AREA IN ACRES)

	Total Holding	Arid area	Irrigated area	Crops grown
<u>Kolhapur :</u>				
KD	247 (4.98)	244 (4.88)	3 (0.06)	Jowar (R), Bajara, Mutki, Sunflower, Tomato, Kulith.
KP	344.5 (6.89)	330.5 (6.61)	14 (0.28)	Jowar (H), Bajara, Kulith, Mutki, Jowar (R)
KW	187.5 (3.74)	185.5 (3.71)	2 (0.04)	Jowar (H), Bajara, Gram, Kulith, Wheat.
KR	225.5 (4.51)	210.5 (4.21)	15 (0.3)	Jowar, Bajara, Tur, Kulith, Wheat.
KG	74 (1.64)	74 (1.64)	- -	Jowar, Gram, Bajara, Kulith
Total :	1078.5 (4.40)	1044.5 (4.26)	34 (0.13)	
<u>Sangli :</u>				
SV	283 (5.66)	275 (5.5)	8 (0.16)	Gram, Ambadi, Jowar (R), Tur, Bajara, Tomato.
SR	425.5 (8.51)	370 (7.4)	55.5 (1.11)	Jowar, Bajara, Wheat, Gram, Matki, Kulith.
SK	235.5 (4.71)	220 (4.4)	15.5 (0.31)	Jowar (H) & (R), Ground- ut, Sunflower, Gram, Tur.
SM	105 (4.06)	103 (3.96)	2 (0.07)	Gram, Tur, Bajara, Mutki, Kulith, Mung, Jowar, Groundnut, Oilseeds.
Taotal :	1049 (5.96)	968 (5.5)	81 (0.46)	
Grand Total :	2127.5 (5.05)	2012 (4.77)	115 (0.27)	

Note : The data in parenthesis indicate average land holding.

On an average, a worker hold 5 acres of land area. However, majority of workers did not hold any size of land or own only a small size of land area. The bullock cart workers had owned medium (4-8 hectares) or big (more than 8 hectares) size of land area. Generally, bullock cart workers were well to do farmers but their farming was lacking behind only because of drought conditions at their original places. Their agriculture flourish provided they get good rate of rainfall. The carter workers can borrow a pair of bullocks for the factory season, provided their mukadamas or contractors give adequate finance and help to attain a tyre cart from sugar factory. The popularity of tyre carts is growing, only because of its carrying capacity of load of sugar-cane is more than the general bullock carts.

The major crops grown by the workers at their original places were cereals, (like Jowar, Bajara) Pulses, (like Gram, Tur), oilseeds (like groundnut, kulthi, Karadi) etc. Normally, workers had practiced subsistence agriculture at their original places.

6.10 MOTIVATION :

Migration is primarily an economic phenomenon. Todaro model postulates that migration proceeds in response to urban-rural differences in actual earnings. The expected gains are measured by the difference in local incomes between rural and urban (also rural and rural) and the probability of a new migrant obtaining an urban job (or rural remunerative job).

TABLE -No. 6.9
WHO MOTIVATED TO MIGRATE

Area	Rela- tives	Friends	Neigh- bours	Mukadamas and Contractors	Self-moti- vated
<u>Kolhapur</u>					
KD	-	3	2	39	6
KP	-	1	-	49	-
KW	5	-	7	23	15
KR	-	1	-	49	-
KG	-	5	20	15	5
Total :	5	10	29	175	26
<u>Sangli</u>					
SV	-	-	2	26	22
SR	-	-	-	48	2
SK	2	3	1	39	5
SM	-	4	4	12	6
Total :	2	7	7	125	35
Grand Total :	7	17	36	300	61

House accommodation at the original places of workers was either simple or medium. Only one respondent had reported a good quality housing unit at his original place. About 30 workers have no house accommodation at original places. (See Table No. 6.10).

Motivation factor is significantly responsible for migration of workers. In India labour immobility is in fact a problem, because of labourers attachment to their villages, relatives, friends and parents. However, now-a-days the rate of mobility is increasing. The rate of rural-urban mobility is higher. Mobility between rural to rural is increasing because of the spread of sugar factories in Western Maharashtra.

Mukadamas and the labour brokers were the main motivators of worker's migration towards sugar factories. Self-initiation in migration was due to the demonstration effect. The motivation due to relatives, friends and neighbourers was also the result of demonstration effect. The sugar factories through mukadamas and contractors helped the workers to migrate towards their operational users.

6.11 ACCOMMODATION :

The position of house accommodation has been analysed with reference to housing pattern at original places and accommodation facilities at destination.

a) At original places :

The quality of accomodation has been divided into three categories, simple, medium and good. The qualities of housing has been categorised on the basis of the situation prevailing at the worker's original places and not on the basis of housing in other villages or urban area or housing at destination etc.

TABLE No. 6.10

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION AT ORIGINAL PLACES

Area	Simple	Medium	Good condi- tion	No accommo- dation
<u>Kolhapur</u>				
KD	35	1	1	13
KP	48	-	-	2
KW	40	9	-	1
KR	48	-	-	2
KG	34	11	-	-
Total :	205	21	1	18
<u>Sagli</u>				
SV	47	-	-	3
SR	46	2	-	2
SK	46	-	-	4
SM	21	2	-	3
Taotal :	160	4	-	12
Grand Total :	365	25	1	30

b) At the destination :

The yearly exodus of the workers from their original places takes place around the end of October or beginning of the November. The bullock cart workers have to leave early before the harvesting worker's exodus. The H.C. workers generally have been brought up by

vehicles. The sugar factory manages the transport facility. Mukadama is usually the leader of the workers. The actual time of departure is laid down by the factories well ahead. The mass transfer must be achieved in a very short space of time in order to prevent chaos during the journey and a delay in the start of the harvest. It is imperative that every one stuck to the tightly drawn up time-table. The personal problems of the workers were looked after by the Mukadamas and Contractors. The departure of the bullock carts (and bullocks in case of only hired carts from sugar factories) was also organised with great exactitude. Meanwhile everything which is required by the workers, was made ready for receiving the huge number of labour force. The site of settlement of camps have been usually communicated to each vehicle, evolved in carrying the workers. The bullock carts were normally settled at the factory sites or nearest to the factory site. The essential equipments of shelter and work equipments were being made available at the camps of H.C. workers. For example, a cutting knife, mats (plaited from leaves of the Khajuri Palm) few bamboo poles or wood poles with which a worker can shelter for his family. On an arrival of the migrants, they have been asked to vaccinate, but there was no response to this vaccination scheme, because of the traditionality of the workers. The workers had been provided the ration of grain for the first fifteen days (normally 30 to 50 Kg. per Koyata). After the arrangement of their settlement, they were sent straight off to the fields, where they will be cutting the cane for the coming period. The same shelter materials were being provided to the bullock cart workers. The bullock cart workers do not faced any problems of decamping, while the H.C.

workers have to shift their camps towards central place, where the work of cane harvesting is located as indicated by the field staff of the sugar factory. At the time of raining the shelter do not protect the workers, but raining is occasional, as the harvesting season comes in winter. The tent like erection made from mats with an opening at the front through which to chawl inside is too small to offer shelter to all the members of a worker's family. They, therefore, generally house themselves in front of it or around the tent. The bullock cart workers took the benefit of dispensary, water taps, light at the factory site, while H.C. workers normally who were coming away from sugar factory had faced the non-availability of these facilities. The H.C. workers, who have migrated with domestic animals, normally cows and calves take their live stock with them while they were at work in the fields, and they were brought back to the camps after the day's work. If the place of work is away from their camps the workers have been taken by vehicles at the work sites. No animals were taken with them in this condition. A person (either sex) had been kept at the camp to look the children and animals at a camp and to guard the whole camp. A compensation in case of burn of the shelter units, is not a binding on the sugar factory, however, on a humanitarian ground factory may subsidise certain amount to such workers. The possibility of burn is greater, because the shelters are being covered with dried leaves of sugarcane. The sheltering materials after a season were being recovered from the workers. Any loss of the material value was deducted from the total payment accumulated with the sugar factories.

Kisan Ahir Sugar Factory, Walwa (Dist.Sangli) has built the 500 dwelling units with all basic facilities at its site for harvesting and transport workers. All other basic requirements like light, water, education, health facilities are made available to the workers and their family members.

Thus, the workers at destination had faced a worst shelter accommodation. After a strenuous work of cane cutting, the workers feel tired, even they do not remember, when the sheep ruled over them. Besides they have to get up early in the morning for proceeding towards the sugarcane fields, because cane cutting in the early morning is more feasible to the workers.

6.12 THE WORKING DAY :

The cane cutters camp begins to stir between 4.00 to 5.00 a.m. Women prepare food early in morning. Most of the workers leave the camp without having eaten anything. They take the morning bath and a cup of tea and run away to the cane fields. The labourer's camps consist unvarying of a piece of waste land without any facilities. The cane fields lie some distance from the camps. There is a lack of water, light and other basic requirements at the camps. The women follow them little late after the preparation of food towards cane fields, where the male workers are harvesting the cane. The workers set off to the fields early in the morning. During the day the camp is practically deserted. Workers pause their harvesting after 12.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. The bullock cart workers begins to load their carts and move away towards the factory after 3.00 p.m.

The men workers cuts the cane through the stalk close to the ground with the long knife. The women worker stands immediately behind the men workers and strips the stalk of the leaves. A few female worker manage to sale the sugarcane leaves in the village market. The rate of 16 bundles of leaves was Rs. 10, ^{in 1990-91} each bundle contains 4-5 pieces of sugarcane leave stalks.

The H.C. workers have to wait for vehicle, and load the sugarcane. The vehicles are normally irregular, because of the waiting at crushing centre i.e. Gavan. Sometimes mukadamas have to run away towards sugar factory to arrange for vehicle. Many times HC workers have to load the vehicle during night time. The women immediately set to work preparing the evening meal.

Thus, in fact it is incorrect to speak of the work day, because the H.C. workers have regularly to get up at night to load the cane they have cut during the afternoon. It is a chore that takes about one-and-a-half hours; and on top of that is the long walk to and from the fields. The next morning of course, work begins again at the same early hour. The bullock cart workers load the cane on to their own carts or hired carts at the end of the day and park these near the fields till the time comes to leave for the factory. After reaching the factory, they have to wait for weigh-bridge and unloading the cane bundles. After that they reach their camps located at factory site. On the next morning, they leave their camps with bullock cart and reach the cane fields shown by slip boy to repeat the same business.

6.13 CLASSIFICATION OF FAMILY PROBLEMS :

Table 6.11 illustrates that 95.01 per cent of sample workers were facing the problem of indebtedness as their family problem. Similarly addicted to bad habits, handicapped, illness were some other problems faced by the workers.

The workers of Datta Sugar Factory (N = 16) and two workers of Panchaganga Sugar Factory reported that, they had no family problem so far. A few workers had reported more than one problems. The problem of indebtedness was either due to the drought or due to the extravagant expenses on socio-cultural activities like death, birth, marriage etc. As the facility to borrow from mukadamas is available, workers go on borrowing from them, ultimately they deeply drowned in debt. The mukadamas and contractors are much interested in drowning the workers into debt, because workers automatically have to migrate towards sugar factory area for gainful employment and repayment of loans borrowed from mukadamas or contractors. Simultaneously the mukadamas will assure and guess the total number of workers which will be migrating with them towards sugar factories. Moreover, mukadamas can commit and guarantee the supply of labour force to the sugar factories, on the basis of which they receive the advance payment from sugar factories.

Thus, the indebtedness of the workers is nourishing the mukadamas and contractors, ^{and} they are being feeded by the sugar factories, so their role from both sides is significant and essential.

TABLE No. 6.11
CLASSIFICATION OF FAMILY PROBLEMS
(Multiple Preference admitted)

Area	Indebt- endess	Adicted	Handica- pped	Illness	Nil
<u>Kolhapur</u>					
KD	33	1	1	-	16
KP	48	-	-	-	2
KW	50	2	-	-	-
KR	50	-	-	-	-
KG	45	-	-	-	-
Total :	226	3	1	-	18
<u>Sangli</u>					
SV	50	2	1	5	-
SR	50	3	2	2	-
SK	48	3	1	7	-
SM	26	-	-	-	-
Total :	174	8	4	14	-
Grand Total :	400 (95.01)	11 (2.61)	5 (1.18)	14 (3.32)	18 (4.27)

Note : The data in brackets are the percentages to total (N = 421).

6.14 INDEBTEDNESS :

Indebtedness can be sustained by a person who has potentiality to develop himself with an increase in the income level, the ultimate effect of which will be debt free. But if it continues, for a long time then it bring harm to the debtors. Mukadama was the main source of borrowing nearly 90 to 92 percent of borrowings were from him. No worker had borrowed the loan from institutional agencies. The bullock cart workers were directly benefitted by the advance payment from sugar factories, on which a nominal rate of interest was charged. The advance payments have been recovered from the wages of the workers derived during the season. Long-term loan have also been lent by the banking units to purchase bullocks and/or bullock carts provided sugar factory gaurantees the proposal.

Sugar factories directly advances the payment to bullock-cart workers as they are directly making an agreement with sugar factories, while other category workers are not in concern with sugar factories. So at this situation the workers get the advances from trusts, societies or any other agencies engaged in labour contracts. These agencies are again entitled to borrow an advance from sugar factories. In case of mukadamas and vehicle owners, the workers can get the advances from contractors and mukadamas and they again can take the advances from sugar factories. This type of modus operandi is practiced because of the changed industrial relation between the sugar industry and the farm sector workers. However, a few sugar factories are following the earlier method of making contract with the mukadamas and contractors wherein

a mukadama or contractor can borrow advance from the sugar factories on the agreement that, he will supply certain amount of labour force for harvesting and transporting the sugarcane to a sugar factory.

It was observed that 92 per cent of workers have been paid an advance by mukadamas and contractors. Table No. 6.12 illustrate the detail frequency measurement of the amountwise workers belonging to different factory units. The percentage of workers who have derived an advance of Rs. 1000 - 3000 was highest i.e. 32.39 per cent. While the lowest percentage of workers who have borrowed an advance of Rs. 10,000.00 and more was 15.16 per cent. Only 32 (7.60 per cent) workers had not taken the advances from contractors and mukadamas. About 92 per cent workers had been benefited by advances from mukadamas. Generally, the borrowers of small amount belongs to H.C. workers. While the borrowers of big amount belongs to bullock cart workers. An advance to bullock cart owners had been basically paid by sugar factories as they directly sign an agreement with sugar factories. Small amount of advances to cart workers were lent by mukadams and contractors.

The causal relation of borrowing an advances by the sample workers is explained as under :

<u>Area</u>	<u>Causes of advances borrowed by the sample workers</u>
<u>Kolhapur</u>	
KD	i) Household expenses ii) House construction iii) Repayment of old debts iv) Sickness v) Advance payment to hired labourers
KP	i) Household expenses ii) Marriage iii) Purchase of bullocks
KW	i) Household expenses ii) Purchase of milch animals
KR	i) Household expenses ii) Marriage iii) Digging of well
KG	i) Household expenses ii) Purchase of bullocks
<u>Sangli</u>	
SV	i) Household expenses ii) House construction ii) Purchase of bullocks iv) Repayment of old debts v) Sickness vi) Purchase of milch animals vii) Marriage
SR	i) Household expenses ii) Digging of well iii) To help friends iv) House construction v) Purchase of bullocks vi) Repayment of old debt vii) Marriage
SK	i) Household expenses ii) Repayment of old debts iii) Education purpose iv) Marriage v) Purchase of land vi) Motor pumps on wells
SM	i) Household expenses ii) Repayment of old debts

TABLE No. 6.12

FREQUENCY MEASUREMENT OF SAMPLES WHO HAVE TAKEN
ADVANCES FROM MUKADAMAS AND CONTRACTORS

Area	Total samples	Frequency	Frequency of advances taken by sample workers			
			1000-3000	4000-6000	7000-10000	More than 10000
<u>Kolhapur</u>						
KD	50	48 (96.0)	29 (60.41)	17 (35.41)	-	2 (4.16)
KP	50	46 (92.0)	4 (8.69)	7 (15.21)	23 (50.0)	12 (26.08)
KW	50	50 (100.00)	30 (60.0)	20 (40.0)	-	-
KR	50	27 (54.0)	-	1 (3.70)	11 (40.74)	15 (55.55)
KG	45	43 (95.95)	30 (69.76)	11 (25.58)	1 (2.32)	1 (2.32)
Total :	245	214 (87.34)	93 (43.45)	56 (26.16)	35 (16.35)	30 (14.01)
<u>Sangli</u>						
SV	50	50 (100.00)	2 (4.00)	16 (32.00)	23 (46.0)	9 (18.0)
SR	50	49 (98.0)	5 (10.20)	9 (18.36)	23 (46.93)	12 (24.48)
SK	50	50 (100.0)	6 (12.0)	2 (4.0)	27 (54.0)	5 (10.0)
SM	26	26 (100.0)	20 (76.92)	2 (7.69)	1 (3.84)	3 (11.53)
Total :	176	175 (99.43)	33 (18.85)	29 (16.57)	74 (42.28)	29 (16.57)
Grand Total :	421	389 (92.39)	126 (32.39)	85 (21.85)	109 (28.02)	59 (15.16)

Note : i) The data in brackets of Col. 3 is derived by
 $\text{Col. 3} \div 2 \times 100 = \text{percentage.}$

ii) The data in brackets of Col. 4 to 7 is derived by
 $\text{Col. 4 to 7} \div 3 \times 100 = \text{percentage.}$

Most of the workers had taken the help of an advance for the fulfilment of their basic needs, which was because of drought conditions. However, a few sample workers had invested their advances in bullocks, digging of wells, education, motor pump etc. All workers had tried to repay the old debt through a new advances either from mukadama or from sugar factories. One worker had derived an advance to lend the same (as an advance) to hired labourers employed in his bullock cart on daily wages.

6.15 HIRING RATES OF TYRE CARTS :

The percentage of bullock cart workers in total samples (N=421) is 57 per cent, which indicate that, sugar factories now-a-days are much interested in bullock carts because of rise in the fuel prices. Particularly in Sangli district most of the cane was being transported by carts (57.08 per cent) (See tablel No.6.13). A factory which has a cane availability within the radius of 10-15 km., it tried to took the help of bullock carts. The factories in Kolhapur district had used trucks and transports to carry on the load of sugarcane- as their operational area covers within the radius of 40 km. The Datta (Shirol) and Panchaganga factories have been registered under the Multi State Cooperative Act covering their operational area and members from Karnataka and Maharashtra States.

The tyre carts have been made available by the sugar factories. Even a factory can sell a tyre cart to the workers, provided, they repay the whole price of tyre cart. A factory may subsidise by giving some instalments in the repayment of cart price, but the workers were compelled to work for the same sugar factory till the repayment of all instalments were paid to a sugar factory.

TABLE No. 6.13
PERCENTAGE OF OBC AND HBC WORKERS
AND HBC HIRING RATES FOR 24 HOURS

Area	HBC hiring rates for 24 hours	% of HBC to total bullock carts	% of OBC to total bullock carts
<u>Kolhapur</u>			
KD	Rs. 10.00	0.41	-
KP	Rs. 10.00	6.66	13.33
KW	Rs. 10.00	0.83	-
KR	Rs. 10.00	3.33	16.66
KG	Rs. 10.00	0.83	0.83
K - Total :		12.08	30.41
<u>Sangli</u>			
SV	Rs. 10.00	2.08	16.25
SR	Rs. 10.00	0.83	18.25
SK	Rs. 7.00	0.41	17.91
SM	Rs. 10.00	-	0.83
S - Total :		3.33	53.75
Grand Total :		15.41	84.58

Note : HBC + OBC = 240 bullock carts (57.00%)
to total N = 421)

Normally the hiring rates of tyre carts for 24 hours were Rs. 10.00 during 1990-91 season, except Kisan Ahir Sugar Factory in Sangli district. The repairs of the hired carts have been made by the sugar factories, which caused a delay in repairs like, tube punctures, burst of tyres and other brokages etc. Kisan Ahir, as referred before is a well wisher of these workers. Workers have complained number of obstructions like, inconvenient roads, waiting for weighing and unloading, delay in repairs of carts, favouritism of slip boys to some cart owners, exploitation of mukadams, etc. The workers favoured to work at Kisan Ahir, because of its systematic day and night harvesting plan.

6.16 CONCLUSIONS :

It can be concluded from the above analysis that, the workers have been neglected in various respect although their role in factory season is much significant. Indeed, their socio-economic life is worst because of drought at original places and exploitation at destinations. However, the workers are feeling better at destination only because they are gaining comparatively more than their original places. They will earn good amount of income during the factory season, if some improvements have been introduced in the factory and farm managements.

The efforts of Kisan Ahir in respect of work, wages and other facilities to harvesting and transport workers is praise worthy. An effective planning had made both the factory and workers benefited with good sugar recovery. Kisan Ahir pays 1/4 of total extra earnings because of good recovery to the harvesting and transport workers. Thus, provided,

an effective planning is made, a factory and the workers can gain a lot. But in most of the factories managerial deficiencies is an obstruction.

The socio-economic life of the workers no doubt, is worst. A Marathi serial on Bombay T.V. programme viz. "Tanda Chalala" illustrates the real socio-economic patience and disturbances of seasonally migrating workers involved in sugar factories.