

CHAPTER 3

BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS

1. INTRODUCTION:

In the present study, family has been thought to be unit of the study and the Head of the family as the respondent. The present chapter deals with the bio-social background of the individual respondents in terms of age-group, marital status, caste-group and educational level. This is supplemented by the information on housing conditions and migration pattern.

2. AGE-COMPOSITION: Out of the total 615 selected respondents under the present study, 92 (14.95) were found to be in the age-group of 20 to 40 years, 197 (32.03) were found to be above 61 years, and the remaining majority of the respondents numbering 326 (53.01) were found to belong to the age-group of 41 to 60 years. Thus in general it can be concluded that the respondents under the present study were mature individuals.

3. MARITAL STATUS: Only two (0.32) respondents were found to be unmarried, 47 (7.64) others were widowers. All the remaining 566 (92.03) respondents were found to be married. As only the heads of the families were covered under the present study it was quite natural that majority of them were found to be married.

4. CASTE-COMPOSITION: The caste-composition of the respondents was analysed in terms of four caste-groups such as Higher, Intermediary, lower and scheduled castes/scheduled tribes. In the higher caste-group Brahmins were included. In the inter-mediary caste-group Marathas among other caste-groups were included. In the lower caste-group Dhanagars and some Balutadar caste-groups were included.

Surprisingly there was only one higher-caste respondent in the sample, whereas majority of the respondents 483 (78.53) were found to belong to the inter-mediary caste-group. Besides these, there were 74 (12.03) lower caste respondents and the remaining 57 (9.26) respondents were found to belong to the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes group. In other words most of the respondents were found to be either Marathas or Dhanagars.

5. EDUCATION: As noted in the earlier chapter on Methodology, all the respondents were grouped into three zones, i.e. plain, catchment and Konkan zone. Here the data are presented in terms of educational level of the respondents with reference to the three zones to which they belong.

TABLE 3.1

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS

	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Collegiate	Total
P	149 (55.18)	114 (42.22)	6 (2.22)	1 (0.37)	270
C	159 (54.63)	125 (42.95)	7 (12.40)	--	291
K	21 (38.88)	32 (59.25)	1 (1.85)	--	54
T	329 (53.49)	271 (44.06)	14 (2.27)	1 (0.16)	615
P = Plain, C = Catchment, K = Konkan, T = Total.					

The table clearly indicates that majority of the respondents were illiterate. For those who were educated there also most of them had education only upto primary level. Only a few respondents had acquired secondary education and the only exceptional case had reached upto college education. This picture speaks for itself and indicates that the people affected by the Koyana Dam were either totally illiterate or less educated.

Further, education appears to have been differentially distributed over three zones under the present study. Majority of the respondents from the Konkan Zone (59.25 percent) appear to have been educated upto the primary level; whereas majority of the respondents from catchment and plain zones (almost 55 percent each) appear to have been totally uneducated. The only respondent having completed college education was from the plain zone.

6. HOUSING CONDITIONS: The present section describes the position regarding housing conditions of the respondents before as well as after rehabilitation. This has been discussed in terms of the number of rooms and the type of construction, i.e. 'Kuccha' or 'Pucca'

The respondents were asked to state the number of rooms that they were occupying before rehabilitation and the number of rooms that they occupy at present. The details in this connection are presented in Table 3.2.

TABLE 3.2

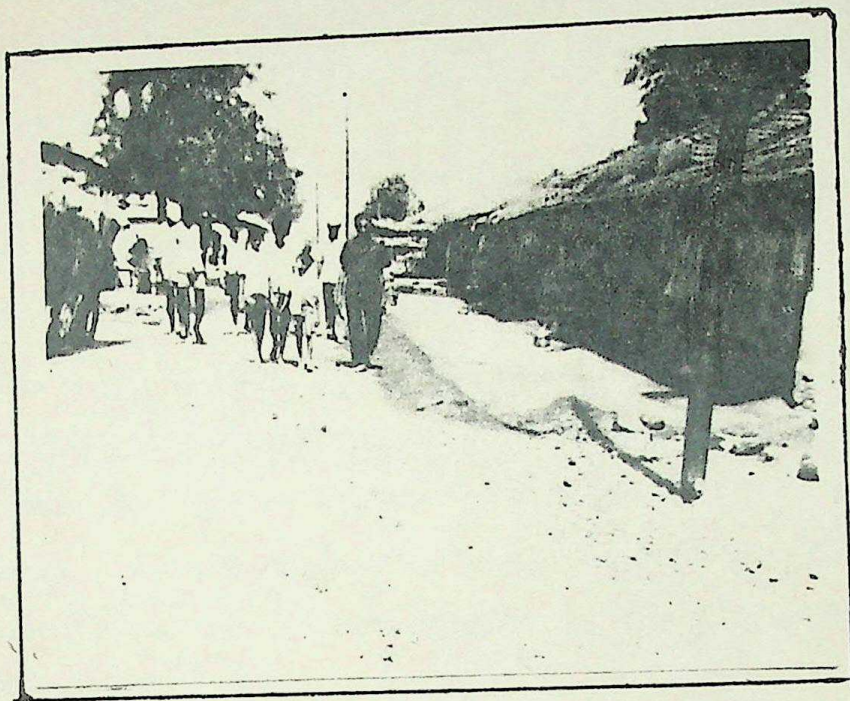
NUMBER OF ROOMS BEFORE AND AFTER REHABILITATION

	Upto 2 Rooms		3 + Rooms		Total
	B	A	B	A	
P	76 (28.14)	123 (45.55)	194 (71.83)	147 (54.44)	270
C	110 (37.79)	133 (35.69)	181 (62.18)	158 (54.28)	291
K	20 (37.03)	21 (38.87)	34 (62.95)	33 (61.10)	54
T	206 (33.49)	277 (45.03)	409 (66.49)	338 (54.94)	615

P = Plain, C = Catchment, K = Konkan, T = Total.

The table clearly shows that the majority of the respondents were staying in three and more room houses before rehabilitation and they continue to stay even after rehabilitation. However, when the same thing is analysed in terms of the composition of the respondents, it shows that the relative number of respondents with two room houses has increased steadily, whereas it has decreased gradually in case of those who were living in three and more room houses after rehabilitation. This trend clearly shows that the respondents have not been able to build big sized houses with more spacious rooms after rehabilitation.

When the information was asked about the nature of housing, it was found that most of the respondents were living in huts with thatched or tiled roofs (586/615 i.e. 95.28). This type of housing clearly reflects the extremely miserable housing conditions under which the respondents were staying.



HOUSING LANE AT KHIRKHANDI-TAMBATI,
TAL. KHALAPUR.



HUTS AT LAMAZ-MOHOLL KHALASA,
TAL. PEN.

As noted by Karve and Nimbakar, "the Koyana rehabilitation authorities gave them to understand the fact that the people refused to plan their move and decide on a location for resettlement until the last minute, though they were served with the notice of the flooding well ahead of time. Many of them were not able to decide whether they wanted to move up the contour of the valley or leave the valley entirely. After the valley had begun to flood, the people began to leave in a hurry and go to the places of resettlement where nothing was ready for them. They had to build temporary shelters until they could build a house. Some continue to remain in these temporary sheds even to this date." 1

Thus as observed by Karve and Nimbakar, ' the houses were built of local materials and a depreciated value was paid to the owners. The compensation must have been low. It could not have been nearly sufficient to enable owners to build new houses similar to the ones they had in valley. Majority of the interviewees said that money paid by the government was not sufficient for construction of a house." 2

Thus the displaced families were made to shift in a hurry and they had to suffer a lot on this count. Apart from the rehabilitation, the Koyana region experienced a severe earthquake in 1967 which has also largely influenced the housing conditions of the respondents. After displacement, whatever the rehabilitated people had built in the Koyananagar region was all destroyed by the earthquake at one stroke and the people had to rebuilt their houses once

again to meet the earthquake threat which was dangerous by any standard.

7. MIGRATION: The present section deals with the migration pattern that has taken place amongst the displaced respondent families before as well as after rehabilitation.

The respondents were asked to state whether someone from their family has migrated to some other place on account of displacement at the time of rehabilitation. The details in this regard reveal that in case of 483 (78.53) respondents have told that their family members have migrated to other places during the rehabilitation process. Apart from this when the question was asked whether somebody from outside had come to their families after rehabilitation, it has happened only in 48 (7.80) families.

The question arises as to where these family members have migrated. The details in this regard are presented in Table 3.3.

TABLE 3.3
PLACE OF MIGRATION

	Bombay	Satara	Other	Not applicable	Total
P	25 (9.25)	9 (3.33)	21 (7.77)	215 (79.62)	270
C	43 (14.77)	1 (0.34)	11 (3.78)	236 (81.09)	291
K	13 (24.07)	-	9 (16.66)	32 (59.25)	54
T	81 (13.17)	10 (1.61)	41 (6.82)	483 (78.53)	615

P = Plain, C = Catchment, K = Konkan, T = Total.

The table indicates that during the process of rehabilitation, many people have migrated to Greater Bombay, which has been followed by other places and lastly Satara District. Thus it can be said that in nearly 22 percent of the families the process of migration has occurred while the rehabilitation took place. These family members have migrated to work as factory labourer, farm labourer, small farmer and other related activities.

8. PLACE OF SETTLEMENTS: The respondents were asked the question, whether they were staying at the places which were assigned to them by the Government. In this connection, majority of the respondents 475 (77.23) reported that they were not doing so. Only 140 (22.76) respondents told that they were staying at the places which were assigned by the Government to them.

Now as far as the respondents who were staying at the places other than the governments order, it was noted that they have done so on the advice of villagers, self decision or on the advice of relatives and other friends.

R E F E R E N C E S

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| 1. Karve Irawati and Nimbkar Jai. | : "A Survey of the People Displaced through the Koyana Dam." P.62. |
| 2. Ibid. | : P.58. |