Chapter IV

Demographic profile of the Seasonal Migrant Workers

In this chapter, an attempt is made to study about the social background of the seasonal migrant workers in the selected sugar factories of the Kolhapur as a research area. Table 1 shows types of seasonal migrant workers as respondents of the present study.

Table 4.1

Types of migrant workers

Types of workers	Total No.	%
Sugar cane Cutters	90	64.28
Bullock carter families	50	35.72
Total	140	100

It has been observed that out of 140 respondents, 90 (64.28%) were sugarcane cutters. (Table 4.1) Besides, 50(35.72%) were bullock carters in the selected sugar factories in the research area of the Kolhapur district. They were engaged through contractors and mukadams.[1] Table 4.2 shows the respondents by types of respondents as well as sampled seasonal migrant workers in the surveyed sugar factories.

Table 4. 2

Respondents in selected sugar factories

Factory	Sugarcane cutters	Bullock carters	Total
Panchganga	32 (35.55)	18 (36)	50 35.72)
Kumbhi-Kasari(kk)	27 (30)	13 (26)	40 (28.58)
Datt-Shirol	20 (22.23)	10 (20)	30 (21.42)
Doulat	11 (12.22)	9 (18)	20 14.28)
Total	90 (100)	50 (100)	140 (100)

(Figures in brackets show percentages to total)

It was observed from table that 50 (35.72%) out of 140 total respondents were selected from Panchganga sugar factory, while 40 (28.58) and 30(21.42) were from Kumbhi-Kasari (KK) and data sugar factory .Besides, 20(14.28) were selected from

Doulat sugar factory. However, the proportion of seasonal migrant workers-respondents was higher in Panchganga sugar factory than other remaining sugar factories. It is mainly due to the higher daily crushing capacity and labour utilization of the factories.

Sivayya's study[2] also pointed out that a considerable number of selected workers were seasonal migrant workers in the larger units or sugar mills and a small number in the lower crushing capacity of the sugar mills. Besides, the reason for the high rate of seasonal migrant workers in the selected sugar factories those local workers were not sufficient for working in crushing season of the factories.

So far as sugar cane cutter migrant workers are concerned, out of 90 sugar cane cutter migrant respondents, 32 (35.55%) were engaged in Panchganga sugar factory, while 27(30%) and 20 (22.23%) were engaged in areas of the Kumbhi-Kasari and Datta sugar factories respectively . Besides, 11 (12.22 %) were engaged in Doulat sugar factory.

In regard to bullock carter migrant families, out of 50 sampled bullock carter migrant workers,18 (36%) bullockcar workers were engaged in Panchganga sugar factory Besides, 13 (26%) .10 (20%), were engaged in Kumbhi-Kasari, Datta sugar factories respectively. 9(18%) bullock carters were engaged in Doulat sugar factory. It was observed that the proportion of seasonal migrant workers was relatively higher in Panchganga, kumbhi Kasari and Datta sugar factories. It is mainly due to the lack of adequate local labour supply in these sugar factories.

Districts of Origin:

Table 4.3 is showing respondents by their districts of origin in the selected sugar factories in the Kolhapur district.

It has been observed that 50 (35.72%) out of 140 respondents migrated from Hatgaon, khandhar talukas of Nanded district. They were engaged in Panchganga sugar factory. Besides, 50 (35.72%) workers were migrated from drought prone of Kej, Patoda, Majalgaon, Gevarai talukas of Beed district. However, they were engaged in Kumbhi-Kasari and Datta sugar factories.

Similaraly,20(14.28%) seasonal migrant respondents were migrated from rural areas of Sangola, Malshiras talukas of Solapur district and they were engaged in Kumbhi Kasari sugar factory.Lastely, 20(14.28%) respondents were migrated from

rural areas of Bhoom,Paranda talukas of Osmanabad district and they were engaged in Doulat sugar factory.

Table 4.3

Respondents by their districts of origin

Districts	Total
Nanded	50 (35.72)
Solapur	20 (14.28)
Beed	50 (35.72)
Osmanabad	20 (14.28)
Total	140

(Figures in brackets indicates percentages to total)

It is significant to note that migrant workers from long distance areas probably were on account of job opportunities in sugar factories. S.N.Agarwal [3] states that it is a process of turn resulting from the operation of the push factors in the rural areas. The work of these seasonal migrant laborers' may be agricultural ,industrial or some kind of unskilled casual labour, they migrate from one taluka to another taluka or from one district to another district and even from one state to another state for seasonal work in sugar factories.[4] However, these workers migrate from long distance places because sugar factories provide employment during the period when they have no adequate work in their native places or villages after harvesting their field crops.[5]

Religion:

The data regarding the religious background of the seasonal migrant respondents are useful because they provide a key to the understanding of their way of life, their value, systems and their social being.[6] Table 4.4 presents the distribution of respondents by religion.

Table 4.4

Respondents by religion

Religion	Total No.	%
Hindus	71	50.71
Buddhist	50	35.72
Christan	19	13.57
Total	140	100.00

It has been observed from table 4.4 that 71 (50.71%) respondents out of total of 140 belonged to Hindus, 50 (35.72%) and 19 (13.57%) respondents were belonged to Buddhist and Christan communities respectively.

Caste Composition:

In caste composition, an attempt is made to find out answers of the following two questions

1) Who are the seasonal migrant workers?
2) What is socially and economically status of seasonal migrant workers in the society?

Table 4.5 gives the distribution by their castes.

Table 4.5

Respondents by their castes

Caste	Total	%
Maratha	34	24.28
Mahar	50	35.71
Chambhar	16	11.43
Mang	19	13.58
Koli	21	15.00
Total	**140**	**100.00**

It has been observed from table 4.5 that out of 140 respondents, 50 (35.71%) migrant workers were belonged to Mahar &Nav Boudha castes. The next highest number of migrant workers 34 (24.28%) were from Maratha caste. Besides, 21(15%) migrant workers were belonged to Koli caste, followed by 19(13.58%) Mang Caste, 16(11.43%) Chambhar caste.

However, it was observed that lower castes workers had almost migrated in larger number in comparison with higher castes workers in surveyed sugar factories. It might be due to the fact many of the higher castes migrant workers owned land, cattle and proprieties in their native places which need constant looking after, while in the majority of socially, educationally lower caste groups owned no property and hence were less hesitant to go to longer distant places .Another factor restraining the

movement of the higher caste people was that they did not like to live in strange places along with the untouchables.[7]

It has been observed that most of the sampled seasonal migrant families and workers were from backward caste groups, craftsman, village artisans as well as barabalutedars.It should be noted here that the propensity to migrate is more among backward caste groups due to the poverty and absence of productive assets. (C.N.Vakil, M.B.Desai)[8]

Age Composition:

Age is an important biological characteristic of human population. The respondents were belonged to different age groups. Table 4.6 gives age composition of the respondents.

Table 4.6

Respondents by age composition

Age groups	Total	%
15-18	25	17.85
19-25	33	23.58
26-40	53	37.85
41-60	29	20.72
Total	**140**	**100.00**

It has been observed from table 4.6 that as many as 53 (37.85%) of the total of 140 respondents were in the age group of 26-40 years. 33(23.58%) respondents were in the age group of 19-25 years. Besides, 29 (20.72%) respondents were in the age group of 41-60 years and the remaining 25(17.85%) respondents were in the age group of 15-18 years.

The age composition of the seasonal migrant workers suggests that 18to 40 years age groups were the main contributors of labour in the sugar factories.(P.A.Pathare, N.P.Dhongade, T.K.Achraya,)[9]

It was also observed from sampled migrant workers that contractors and mukadams were generally employed younger migrant workers in the premises of the sugar factories for contract basis jobs in the sugar factories.

Marital Status:

Marriage is an important institution of human society. Data regarding current marital status was collected from the sampled migrant workers. An analysis of these data has been presented in table 4.7.

Table 4.7

Respondents by Marital status

Marital status	Total	%
Married	102	72.86
Unmarried	23	16.43
Widowed	9	6.43
Divorced	6	4.28
Total	140	100.00

It has been observed from this table that as large as 102 (72.86%) of the total respondents were married and 23(16.43%) were unmarried respondents.Besides,9(6.43%) and 6(4.28) respondents were widowed and divorced respectively. It was generally found that married respondents were prone to migrate as they had to carry the burden of the responsibilities of the families.

Literacy:

Education is regarded as an important asset for an individual as it provide the key to the understanding of the society and equip the individual to assert his rights and claim due share from others. Education can assist the development of critical consciousness, and expose individuals to different values and norms. It is necessary to know literacy status of seasonal migrant workers in sugar factories. According to the UNESCO, a person is literate who can understand both how to read and write a short simple statement on his or her everyday life.[10]. Data pertaining to literacy and education collected in respect of respondents are presented in table 4.8

Table 4.8

Respondents by literacy status

literacy status	Total
Literate	50 (35.72)
illiterate	90 (64.28%)
Total	140 (100.00)

Figures in brackets are percentages to respective figures of total.

It has been observed that as large as 90(64.28%) of the total sampled migrant workers were illiterate and only 50(35.72%) were literate respondents. However, it was found that the sampled migrant workers in selected sugar factories were mostly illiterates. it is evident from this data that the illiterate migrant workers were enforced to migrate from their native places to sugar factories for seasonal type of work, because they had no prospects of gainful employment in the drought prone areas in Marathwada and other parts of the western Maharashtra.

Table 4.9 gives the distribution of respondents by educational status.

Table 4.9

Respondents by educational status

Educational status	**Total**	**%**
Below primary school	30	60
Primary school	11	42
Middle school	9	18
Total	**50**	**100**

It has been observed that out of 50 literate respondents, 30(60%) had educated below primary school level, while 11(42%) and 9(18%0 had studied up to primary and middle school level respectely.Generally, the seasonal migrant workers were either illiterate or inadequately educated. However, it was found that almost all literate sampled migrant workers had not completed their further education; they left school due to various causes like bad financial conditions, help in agricultural and home work, frequently seasonal migration in each year. Besides, some of them were not interested in continuing further education due to the causes of failure in same educational standard.[11]

A poor condition prevents them from giving a better education to their children. Apart from poverty the low educational status of parents is reflected in the lower educational levels of their children. It has been observed that no schooling facilities are made available to the children of these seasonal migrant workers by the sugar factories. However, the educational status of migrant workers is found not satisfactory.

The children of migrant workers spend six months in the premises of sugar factory and the rest in the village. There are only 30 schools in the state of Maharashtra state for seasonal migrant workers children around the state's 198 sugar factories. So generation after generation they live below poverty line, and struggling

hard to earn their bread. The majorities of seasonal migrant workers are illiterate and belong to the poorest sections of the society.

Land Holding Status:

Agriculture is an occupation in rural areas, where main source of living of rural population is agriculture. Therefore, the ownership of land is very important in villages to determine the economic status of a person or family.[12] Table 4.10 gives the distribution of respondents by land holding status.

Table 4.10

Respondents by land holding status

Ownership of land	Respondents	%
Landholder	50	35.72
Landless	90	64.28
Total	140	100.00

It was observed from table 4.10 that as much as 90 (64.28%) of the total were landless migrant workers and only 50 (35.72%) were land holders .Therefore, it should be noted that almost all backward castes migrant workers were found to be land less laborers, they were dependent on agricultural activities as the main source of their income and employment.

Size of holding:

The size of land holding is an important factor in steeping up agricultural production. The uneconomic size of holding is a serious problem faced by the cultivators all over India and finds its expression in the increasing pressure of population on agricultural land and its division into smaller plots. This adversely affects the agricultural industry which is unable to meet the growing demand for increased production.

Table 4.11 shows distribution of respondents by size of land holding.

Table 4.11

Respondents by size of land holding (in acre)

Size of land	**Total**	**%**
1-2	26	52
3-4	14	28
5-6	10	20
Total	**50**	**100**

It was observed from table 4.11 that out of 50 land holding migrant respondents, 26(52%0 had owned land between 1 and 2 acres, 14(28%) had 3 to 4 acres of land holding and 10(20%) respondents had 5to6 acres of land holding. However, it may be noted that the incidence of seasonal migration among small scale peasants particularly those owing between 1 to 4 acres is relatively higher in sugar factories. The propensity to migrate is more among the marginal farmers and landless laborers' majority of the migrant workers households belonging to Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes do not own any land and among those who own some land the size of holding is very small.

Occupations of Migrant workers:

Table 4.12 shows the occupational pattern of respondents at native places.

Table 4.12

Respondents by occupations at native places

Occupation	Total No.	%
Agricultural labour	62	44.29
Farmers	50	35.72
Others	28	19.99
Total	140	100.00

It is clear from this table that 62(44.29%) of the total sampled migrant workers reported as agricultural labour as main occupation in their native places. Besides, 50(35.72%) of the respondents reported farmers as main occupation .28(19.99%) reported other occupations like collecting fuel wood, grass selling, fishing, building and construction, wood work, masonry leather work etc.

However, it is significant to note that most of the migrant workers are agricultural and landless labourers, who exclusively engage themselves in non-agricultural pursuits such as building houses, digging of wells, construction of roads and other public works in rural areas.Some of them are share croppers or sub-tenants of the land. It should be noted that village artisans and landless laborers, marginal farmers seek work as full time ordinary laborers in the forms for any work. In the absence of sufficient demand for such labour, they secure only part-time or causal employment and forced into employment or unemployment for the rest of the year.

Consequently, they migrate from their native places to sugar factories for seasonal jobs of the crushing season.

Working experience:

We shall now try to find out length of services of contract basis migrant workers in selected sugar factories in the research area of the study. While discussing working experiences of the migrant workers, an attempt is made to find out answers of the following questions.

1) How many years since have you been working as contract basis workers?
2) Are their names registered on muster roll?
3) Do they get the benefits of long services of contract basis jobs in sugar factories?

Table 4.13 gives the distribution of respondents by their working experiences in the selected sugar factories.

Table 4.13

Respondents by their working experiences (Years)

Experience of work	Total No.	%
1-5	19	13.58
6-10	71	50.72
11-15	37	26.42
Never	13	9.28
Total	140	100.00

It was observed from table1.13 that out of 140 respondents .71(50.72%) had 6 to 10 years of working experience in sugar factories. 37(26.42%) had reported between 11 to 15 years experience of work and 19(13.58%) respondents had a length of service between 1 and 5 years.13(9.28%) respondents had never working experience. It was found from this study that about 75% of the total respondents had been working from six to fifteen years as contract basis workers in the selected sugar factories. However, they were neither on muster roll of sugar factories nor labour welfare facilities were provided them by the sugar factories as per provisions of the various labour laws.

Workers attitudes of Changing sugar factories:

We shall now try to know attitudes of seasonal migrant workers in respect of changing sugar factories. For data collection, sampled seasonal migrant workers were asked the following questions such as

1) Do you change sugar factories?
2) If yes, why do you change sugar mills?
3) What are the causes of changing sugar factories?

Table 4.14 shows distribution of respondents by changing sugar factories.

Table 4.14

Respondents by attitudes of changing sugar factories

Attitude	Total	%
Yes	50	35.72
No	90	64.28
Total	140	100.00

It was observed that out of 140 respondents, 90(64.28%) told that they had not changed sugar factories and 50(35.72%) had changed sugar factories. It is significant to note that about one third of the respondents of the total had been changing sugar factories.

So far as the causes of changing sugar factories are concerned, most of the seasonal migrant workers had reported various causes of changing sugar factories such as changing of contractors and mukadams, inaccurate payment of work, higher rate of commission, quarrel with contractors, and lack of welfare facilities in some sugar factories etc.

Causes of Seasonal Migration:

Freedom of movement in any part of the territory in any part of the territory of India and to pursue any avocation of one's choice is a fundamental right guaranteed by article 19 of the Indian constitution.

The conventional push and pull approach implicitly assumes that the push is always from the rural areas.[13] and the pull from the urban areas.[14]

Better employment opportunities and higher wages in economically developed regions attract labour, non-availability of employment opportunities and consequent hardship in the under developed regions act as push factors in the migration process. The economic necessity, inter-regional disparity in economic growth due to uneven development and disparity between different socio-economic classes has been identified by the national Commission on Rural labour as the most important reason for causing of migration. (Unorganized Labour Report, GOI, 2005).

Numerous cases of seasonal migration of workers have been pointed out by various studies Ashis bose, [15] pointed out that people migrate from rural to urban areas or industrial places, because of the increasing pressure of population on land and growing unemployment. In many developing countries particularly in Asia, low agricultural incomes, agricultural unemployment and underemployment, poverty are the major factors pushing migrants towards areas with greater job opportunities.[16] Furthermore, ILO (1976) Report of several countries in Asia, [17] pointed out that the increasing unemployment and the declining income of the rural poor. The pressure of population is one of the important causes of poverty and rural migration .But the pressure of population is certainly not the only cause of increasing unemployment and poverty of socially and economically weaker sections of the society in rural areas.

Oberai and Manmohan Singh [18] P.S.Majumdar and Illa Majumdar [19] ,B.Beenerjee [20] pointed out a number of other factors of migration, such as the presence of friends and relatives in urban or migrated areas who often provide initial help and financial security, low productivity in agriculture at native place, drought, social tension, social injustice, boycott. They have speculated that the social and economic injustices which the lower castes face in the rural areas act as an important push factor of migration.

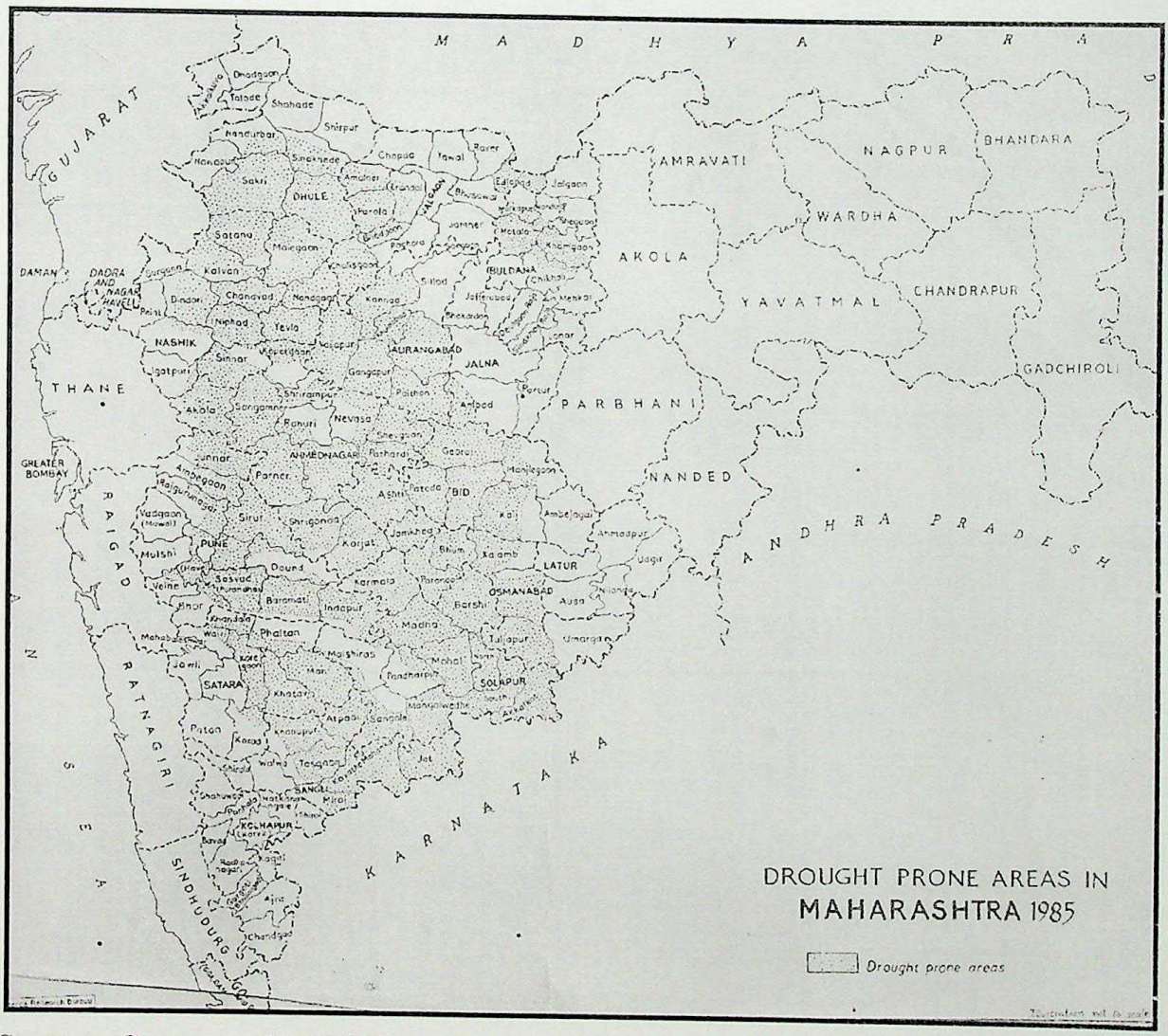
Maharashtra is a drought prone state. All most all the district in Pune, Aurangabad and Nasik divisions experience drought on a frequent basis. These

districts include 87 talukas, which were included in the state's drought prone areas. (See Map Nos. 4.2, 4.3).

Delayed monsoon and its uneven spread and distribution have seriously affected rainfall in the Western Maharashtra, Marathwada and Khandesh regions of the Maharashtra state. Marathwada region, from where the workers migrate, have an irrigation cover as low as 6 percent. On the whole, Maharashtra has a low irrigation cover of 15 percent, which is below the national average of 38 percent.

Map.4.2

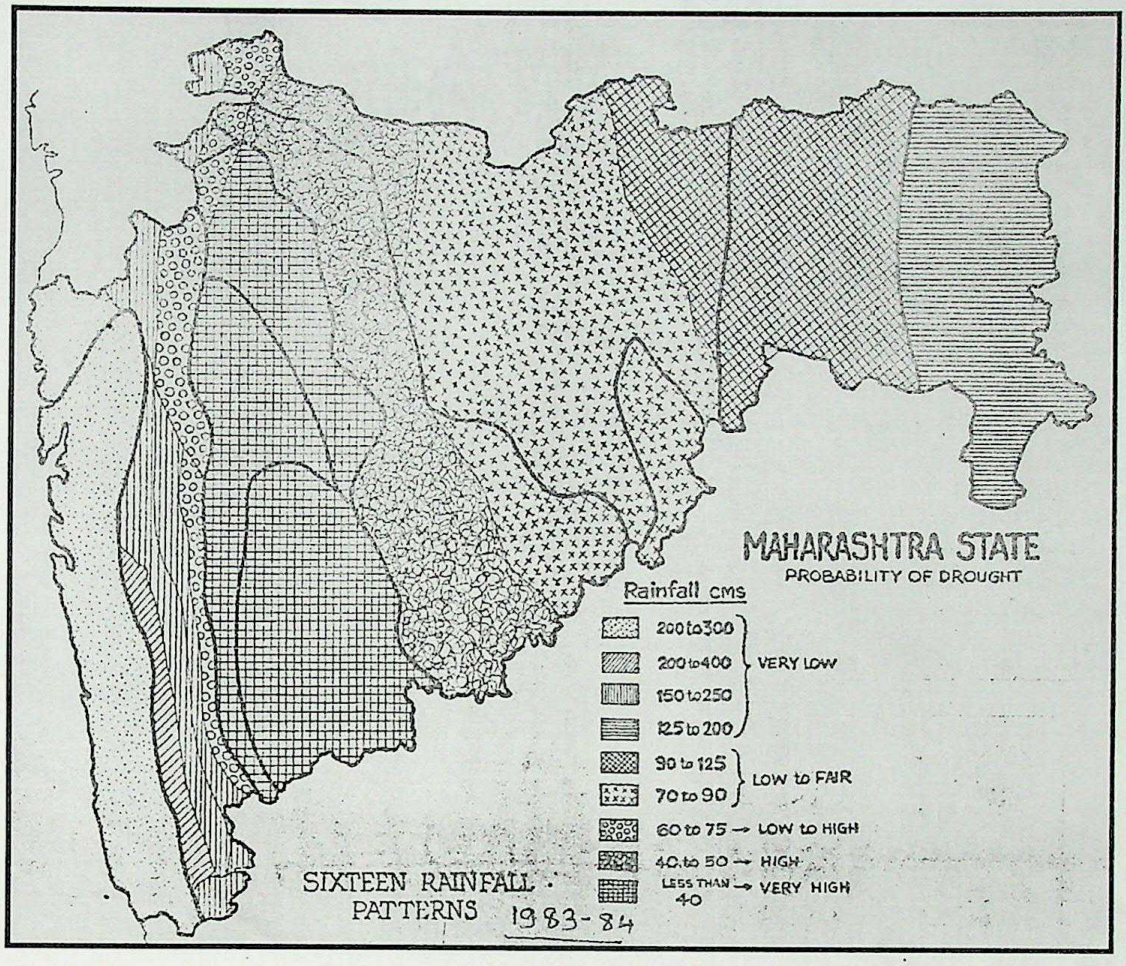
Drought Prone Areas in Maharashtra



Source: Commerce Vol.151December, 28, 1985

Map. 4. 3

Probability of Drought in Maharashtra State.



Source: The Economic Times Survey, October 8, 1983

Many talukas in these regions have received scant rainfall. The districts which are entirely affected by poor rainfall are Sangli, Osmanabad, Solapur, Satatra, Ahmednagar and Pune. In terms of severity, Western Maharashtra has been the worst affected region except Kolhapur district. In Marathwada, Osmanabad and Beed districts are more seriously affected, whereas in Khandesh, Ahmednagar district is under the spell of drought. The districts and Talukas affected by drought are shown in table 4.15

Table 4.15:

Drought –affected Talukas in the state of Maharashtra (2003-04)

Sr.No.	District	No. of affected Talukas	Names of Talukas
1	Solapur	11	Barshi,Karmala,Madha,Malshiras,Mangalvedha, Mohol,Pandharpur,UttarSolapur,Sangola,Dakshin Solapur,Akkalot
2	Sangli	7	Jat,Kavatemahanal,Tasgaon,Miraj,Khanapur, Atpadi, Kadegaon.
3	Pune	5	Baramati,Daund,Indapur,Purandar,Shirur
4	Satara	5	Maan, Khatav, Khandala, Phalton, Koregaon.
5	Ahmednagar	14	Sangamner,Kopargaon,Shrirampur,Akola, Pathardi,Parner,Shrigonda,Ahmednagar, Rahata,Jamkhed,Shevgaon,Rahuri,Nevasa,Karjat
6	Nashik	6	Yevala,Sinner,Nandgaon,Chandvad,Devla, Malegaon
7	Beed	7	Parli,Kaij,Ashti,Patoda,Beed, Shirur,Wadvani
8	Osmanabad	8	Osmanabad,Tuljapur,Umarga,Lohara,Kalamb, Vashi, Bhum, Paranda.
9	Aurangabad	2	Vaijapur, Gangapur
10	Latur	4	Latur, Renapur, Ausa,Nilanga.
11	Jalna	2	Ambad,Ghansawangi

Government of Maharashtra (2004), Drought Relief and Mitigation in Maharashtra.

The poor performance of agriculture in these 11 districts in the last three years has caused terrible hardship to the people. It has caused agricultural employment to decline. It has increased the incidence of debt at the household level for both the purpose of production and consumption. They find it difficult to sustain their level of consumption and as a result, they have sought alternative employment through the employment Guarantee Scheme.

As mentioned above, the drought situation has seriously affected agriculture in these districts. In many districts, particularly, Solapur, Sangli, Pune and Ahemednagar, horticultural plantations, are very seriously affected by drought .Most of the plantations have completely dried-up, and many of them had to be uprooted. When the government of Maharashtra declared drought on October 15, 2003, the total number of villages which were considered drought –affected was 6,742.

There is an acute scarcity of fodder in drought –affected areas. The government set up a large number of cattle camps in many districts for providing fodder to cattle population.

Since, the impact of drought is mostly in rural areas, majority of the population living in these districts are affected by drought. Most of the people have moved to urban areas for temporary employment, and

There are sporadic cases of families migrating elsewhere in the state. (Government of Maharashtra 2004).

In present survey of the study, respondent workers were asked to mention reasons for seasonal migration from their native places to sugar factories. Table 4.16 depicts the distribution of respondents by causes of seasonal migration.

Table 4.16

Distribution of respondents by causes of seasonal migration

Causes	Total	%
Drought condition	51	36.42
No any work	18	12.86
Indebtedness	31	22.14
Inadequate work by Employment Guarantee Scheme	40	28.58
Total	140	100.00

It has been observed that out of total 140 respondents, 51(36.42%) respondents reported drought conditions at village as the main causes of seasonal migration.[21] 40((28.58%) gave inadequate work by employment guarantee scheme as the cause of seasonal migration.31 (22.14%) gave causes of migration as indebtedness.18 (12.86%) reported no any work in villages as causes of seasonal migration to sugar factories. However, some migrant workers pointed out various causes of seasonal migration such as pressure on land, no irrigated land, low income, low productivity, low rainfall, drought condition, these factors are responsible for mass poverty and seasonal migration.[22]

Most of the labourers migrate due to survival problem and some of them to improve economic and social status. Therefore, it may be noted that drought has been serious problem in rural areas. It causes widespread damage to standing crops, hence food

shortage also it causes heavy loss of livestock and other hardships. A large part of Maharashtra often suffers from drought conditions.[23]

Droughts occasionally occur in consequences of failure in the local rainfall.[24] Majority of lower caste labourers have no proper livelihood source at native place, this is the main reason of seasonal migration. Most of the labourers migrate due to survival problem and some of them to improve economic and social status.

Recruitment system of contract Labour:

So far as recruitment system of labour in cane harvesting is concerned, an attempt was made to ask the following questions to seasonal migrant workers.

1) Who help you to migrate from native places to sugar factories?
2) What is the procedure of recruitment of contract labour?

Table 4.17

Respondents by helping persons for migration in sugar factories

Helping Persons	Total	%
Contractos/Mukadams	110	78.58
Relatives	11	7.85
Friends	19	13.57
Total	140	100.00

It has been found from table 4.17 that out of total of 140 respondents, 110 (78.58%) reported contractors and mukadams as helping persons for migration of workers, 19(13.57%) were migrated through friends, besides, 11(7.85%) respondents were migrated through relatives as source of migration.

Let us know the procedure of contract of labour. Before one month of commencement of crushing season in the sugar factory, sugar factory administer sends recruiting agents or contractors to adjoining districts in order to make agreements between workers and contractors. Sugar factory makes agreement with contractors or mukadams in written documents. Jugale's Study (2012),[25] pointed out No. of contracts signed as on 31st August,2010 in Kolhapur District in table 4.18

Table 4.18

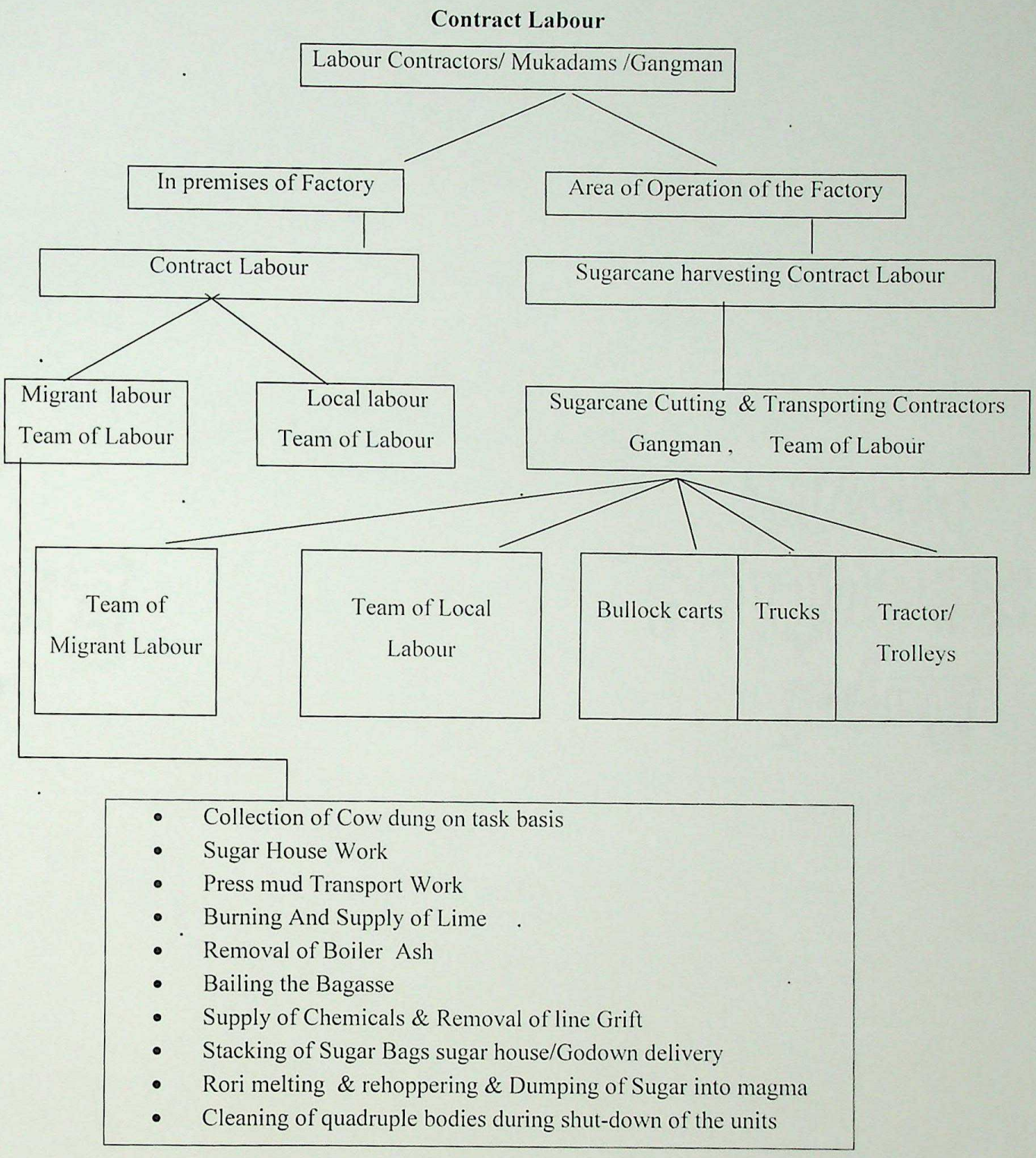
Contract labour in sugar factories of Kolhapur District (2010)*

Sr. No.	Name of the sugar factory	Contracts with			No. of workers associated with		Crushing Capacity
		Bullock carts	Tractors	Trucks/ Lorries	Tractors	Trucks/ lorries	
1.	Warna	200	343	27	5145	405	7500
2.	ShriDatta,Aasurle	397	180	75	2160	900	2500
3.	Bhogavati	200	250	70	3500	1400	4000
4.	Dudhganga	450	270	80	3280	1440	3500
5.	K.Kasari	260	167	74	2004	1036	3000
6.	A.N.Gadinglaj	500	175	50	2625	600	2000
7.	Chh.Rajaram	721	448	85	1896	1020	2200
8.	D.Y.Patil	0	146	178	1575	2340	2500
9.	Gaikwad Son.	10	22	187	220	1870	2500
10.	SharadNar.	600	164	61	1485	600	2500
11.	Hamidwada	720	185	320	2940	600	2500
12.	I.Gandhi.Tam	--	--	200	0	400	2500
13.	Punchganga	1110	234	73	4300	1200	5000
14.	Shri Datta.Shi	500	398	67	3980	670	7000
15.	Doulat.Hal.	70	45	23	900	460	3500
16.	Jawahar,Hup.	1008	79	405	6000	950	6500
17.	Ch.Shahu,Kag	563	181	34	2800	980	3500
18.	Ajara Shet.	20	141	74	2100	1480	2500
19.	Guru Datta.C.	625	227	10	5448	240	4200
20.	.Nalwade Sug.Co.	200	45	155	900	2790	2000
21.	Hemras Tech.Raggoli	---	200	50	4000	800	--
	Kolhapur Total	8150	3900	2298	57258	25481	-----

Source: 1. * **V.B.Jugale. Journal of Economic and social development, Vol.VIII, No.1, 2012**

2. **Sugar Diary, 2008, Kolhapur.**

Chart – 4.1: Contract labour System in the Sugar Industry in India



It was observed that on an average, each mukadam or contractor provide about 20 to 25 workers in each labour gang. (See chart 4.1)

According to Koppilar (2011), [26] Beed district remained the labour providing district for the sugar lobby in western Maharashtra .The economic migration cycle begins at the end of summer when the area's labour contractor –cum money lender comes calling with an 'uchchal', a unilaterally decided take away amount, that ranges between Rs.40, 000-80,000 per koyta' (literally a sickle, but meant in local parlance as a husband –wife team who will cut the cane and load it for factories).

Koppilar expressed the opnions of migrant workers in Beed district. Those who take the uchchal must pack up and leave immediately after Diwali that year; they spend the next sixth months in abysmal temporary conditions around sugar cane fields and factories, battle the winter chill often the open .and return home around Gudi padwa in March –April at the end of the sugarcane crushing season. Each contractor sends about 80-100 Koyta every year. Contractors get their commission both from the hired Koyta as well as the sugar factory/ farm they service. And, in classic exploitative economic model, a contractor is also the money lender to the villages that he hires from.

A majority of the Koytas are dalits and scheduled castes people. This is nothing but bonded labour; it's illegal and it's destroying the economic potential of Beed. The intermediaries often exploit their helplessness by giving certain advance payment and forced them into a kind of bondage.(Koppilar (2011).

Several strikes demanding better pay and working conditions have been squelched by the powerful sugar magnates. Conditions of work have not improved for decades.

Before a week of commencement of the crushing season, or after the Dasara festival, mukadams go to workers' native places, they can confirm the number of labourers required for teams as per agreement made before with Koytas, they can make agreement with workers and provide advances to workers. Every year after celebrating Dasara, groups of seasonal migrant workers leave their villages knowing that they may not find work. The migrant workers, with their cattle and meager belongings, are herded into trucks and taken from arid Marathwada region to the lush sugarcane belt.

However, workers can repay the contractors. This sum would naturally deduct from the earnings of contract basis seasonal workers at the end of crushing season. The sugar factory gives advances to mukadams and contractors, who are personally

responsible for its recovery; they take risk in respect of guarantee of labour refund advances made to labour.

Commission is the main source of their income (normally 10 to 15 percent of the earnings).The head gang man as known as mukadams.The gang man keeps records of the harvesters under his control. He is paid for his service a commission from the earnings of harvester workers

The mukadams or contractors also inform to seasonal migrant workers about fix date and day for coming to sugar factory. Accordingly, on the fixed day, migrant workers start on journey route from their villages as military camp. However, these mukadams and contractors hire the required number of workers and dispense them after end of crushing season. In this way, migrant workers are recruited on a contract basis seasonal work through contractors and mukadams.

From the sugar factory point of view, recruitment of labour under contract labour system is a cheap, reliable efficient and workable system for making use of temporary labour on a contract basis.

Although the contract labour system was abolished under second five year plan.[27] the Contract Labour Act 1970, the practice of employing contract labour prevails in varying degrees in almost all industries and services.[28] Migratory characteristics of contract labour is more prevalent in sugar industry. [29]

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