

**SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONDITION OF WORKERS IN
GANDEVI SUGAR INDUSTRY
– WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CUTTING AND
LOADING LABOUR**

ZARANA K. DESAI
Zkdesai19@gmail.com

Research Scholar, Economics department, V.N.S.G.University, Surat.

DR. GAURANG RAMI
grami@rediffmail.com

Professor, Economics department, V.N.S.G.University, Surat.

ABSTRACT : *In India, Sugar is one of the biggest agro based industry. And it occupies a very important position in Indian economy. Sugar industry is a labour intensive industry and it provides direct or indirect employment to a large number of people at every stage of production from sowing of sugarcane to its crushing in the sugar factory. The present study is planned to look in to the socio – economic condition of the workers, working in Gandevi sugar industry. There are many workers , which are depending on the work at sugar industry. Many of the sugar industries are producing sugar only for 6 – 8 month in a year, so the workers will be unemployed for a minimum for 4 – 6 month in a year. As such, there is lack of work and job security for these workers. The objective of this study focuses socio – economic condition of workers in Gandevi sugar industry. These workers faced the different challenges such as Air pollution, Noise pollution, exploitation from their employees, Gender inequality, wage, discrimination etc... Hence, their study aims to look the problems of these workers of the Gandevi sugar industry*

Keywords: *Exploitation, Wage, Discrimination.*

INTRODUCTION

India is the largest sugar consumer and second largest producers of sugar in the world according to the USDA foreign agricultural services. Indian sugar industry has total turnover of Rs. 500 billion per annum and contributes almost Rs. 22.5 billion to central and state exchequer of tax, cess and excises duty every year according to the source of ministry of food and government of India. Sugar industry is regarded second after the textile industry in India as per the agro-processing industry. The industry currently has 453 operating sugar mills in different parts of the country. Indian sugar industry has always been a focal point for socio-economic development in the rural areas. Today nearly 50 million sugarcane farmers and a large number of agricultural labourers are involved in sugarcane cultivation and ancillary activities contributing to 7.5 % of the rural population. Sugar industry is a seasonal character. The duration of the crushing season is varied from 150 to 180 days.

FIVE YEAR PLAN AND SUGAR INDUSTRY

The sugar industry was granted protection till 1950. Since independence there has been an overall increasing trend in sugar production in India. Production of sugar has increased by leaps and bounds in the period. To meet the increasing sugar requirement during different plan periods targets of sugar production were fixed as depicted in table 1.

Table -1 Progress Sugar Industry of During Five Year Plans

Plan	Production Target (lack tonnes)	Actual Production (lacktonnes)	No. of Sugar Mills
First Plan (191-56) last year	18	19.34	138

**JOURNAL OF INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH IN
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Second Plan (1956-61) last year	25	30.29	175
Third Plan (1961-66) last year	35	35.32	200
Fourth Plan (1969-74) last year	47	39.50	229
Fourth Plan (1969-74) last year	54	58.42	298
Sixth Plan (1980-85) last year	76	61.78	356
Seventh Plan (1980-85) last year	102	109.90	414
Eight Plan (1992-97) last year	143	-	412
Ninth Plan (1997-2002) last year	148	185	434
Tenth Plan (2003-04) last year	-	170	461

Source : Yojana Nov. 2011, ISMA Report 2010 and Internet.

Table 2 Growth of sugar industry

Year	No of sugar factories	Area hectares) (in	Sugarcane Production (in tonnes)	Sugar production (in lack tones)	Yield (tone per hectare)
2006-07	504	5151	355520	28367	69.0
2007-08	516	5055	348188	26357	68.9
2008-09	489	4415	285029	14539	64.6
2009-10	490	4175	292302	18912	70.0
2010-11	527	4886	342382	24394	70.1
2011-12	529	5038	361037	26343	71.7
2012-13	526	4998	341198	25141	68.3
2013-14	513	4993	352141	24360	70.5
2014-15	538	5144	359330	28313	69.9

Source: cooperative sugar, December 2015, vol47, p.42

Table 3 Socio-Economical Condition of labour in Gandevi sugar

Sr. No.	Variables	Reported answers
1	Religion	Hindu(99.4%), Christian(0.6%)
2	Cast	S.T.(100%)
3	Marital Status	Married (93.5%), Unmarried (3.5%), Widow (2.9%)
4	Family type	Joint (60.6%), Nuclear (19.4%)
5	Education level	Illiterate (25.9%), Upto primary (71.2%), Upto secondary (2.9%)
6	Type of migration	Seasonal (82.4%), Permanent (17.6%)
7	Expenditure	Food (47.38%), Social function (18.58%)

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kharche.R.M.(1987) “The Co-operative Sugar Factories in Maharashtra” in this study the author makes an attempt to examine the licensing policy of sugar industry of the government of india. He has discussed the aspects of development of sugar industry and its importance in ryal development and area development by co-operative sugar factories. Finally he has analysed the causes of sickness of sugar factories and has made some recommendations to over come the problems of sickness.

Desai.B.G.(1990) “ The Growth of Sugar Industry in Gujarat” He has described the history of sugar industry in Gujarat particularly the history of Bardoli, Madhi, Chalthan, Gandevi and Valsad sugar co-operatives. He has also discussed the production trend of sugarcane and sugar during the period of study.

Biradar.A.P.(1991) “ The Study Co-operatives Sugar Factories in Belgam District” The study examines the process of growth of co-operative sugar factories in the context of co-operative movement. The author discussed the structure and working of sugar co-operative during the period 1975 to 1985. The study also evaluated the cost of cane cultivation, net income of cane growers and the various problems confronting the sugar co-operative. The author concluded that the cultivators joined the sugar co-operative mainly for the agricultural and socio-economic benefits. The sugar co-operative in the region under study have educated and developed agricultural consciousness among the cultivators by introducing and integrating a modern farm technology.

Naik.A.R.(1992) “ Growth Pattern and Productivity of Sugar Industry” The study examines the production and utilization pattern of sugarcane, growth pattern and productivity of sugar industry. The author also discusses the total cropped area, sugarcane plantation, production of sugarcane and output sugar etc. in details.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study attempts to find out the socio-economic security status of unorganized seasonal migrant workers in Gandevi sugar factory in Navsari district of Gujarat state. The present study is based on primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected from the seasonal migrant workers. Data were collected through personal interviews based on a semi structural schedule. The secondary data were collected through various sources like journals, books, Reports of the governments and non government agencies. Websites were also used for data collection of the present study. Data were processed and tabulated according to the requirement of various aspects of the present study. An average method of statistical tool was used for tabulation and interpretation of data. However, all data so gathered were finally examined and used for writing the present report of the study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- The present research paper aims to fulfill the following objectives:
- To know the present position of unorganized seasonal migrant workers in the Gandevi sugar factory in the Navsari district.
- To know wages and working conditions of seasonal migrant workers in Gandevi sugar factory in Navsari district.

- To suggest measures to introduce welfare amenities and social security schemes for unorganized seasonal migrant workers in the sugar industry.
- To give suggestions for better lifestyle of labours.

SAMPLE SIZE

Gandevi sugar factory of Navsari district, South Gujarat is taken to study the descriptive behavior of different labours from different districts. Month-wise sugar production data from 2006-07 to 2015-16, each year has 8 months of season. The Primary data were obtained from the sugar fed journal related dissertation records which are maintained by sugar mills.

TOOLS FOR ANALYSIS

Chi-Square (X²) Test, Multivariate analysis are used in the present study.

FINDINGS

It is interesting to conclude that the seasonal migration of workers in the field of sugarcane in South Gujarat is a well established phenomenon for almost five to six decade and it is result of the capitalist development of agriculture. The analysis of socio-economic background has helped to understand the background situation of migrant labourers.

The housing condition of the workers is great concern. Nearly half of the migrant sugarcane cutting and transporting (bullock cart & oxen) labourers are illiterate. Among the literates primary school education is larger than the secondary and higher secondary school.

The land holding patterns indicated that about 50 per cent of migrant labourers have marginal level holding. A few middle and lower middle castes have high amount of landholding. This has facilitated to possess some means of production (bullock cart & oxen) which enhances their economic position.

The nature of work of migrant labourers at native place shows that majority of labourers work on their own farm. However, landless labourers and small landholders also work on others' farm as agricultural labourers. Mostly lower caste labourers work as casual labourers at native.

However, among indebted labourers most of them are away from formal credit system. They have taken loan from relatives and money lenders

Annual income of the migrant labourers at native shows association between caste and income. It is seen that the higher middle castes have more income than lower castes. Annual income of labourers at native place is not adequate. Most of the weaker section labourers' income is below poverty line.

The main reasons for migration given by migrant labourers are the non availability of livelihood source at native, non-economic expenditure, absence of irrigation and good earning at destination. Majority of lower caste labourers have no proper livelihood source at native is the dominant reason.

It can be concluded from the above analysis that, the labourers have come from various backgrounds at native. Most of the labourers socio-economic conditions are found poor, and most of them are from weaker sections of society.

The educational status of migrant labourers is found not satisfactory; most of the labourers are small marginal farmers. Some of them are land less labourers who work on others farm after crushing season is over. Most of the labourers migrate due to survival problem and some of them for them to improve economic and social status. 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.

The pattern of expenditure on consumption determines the economic status of the workers. Most of the seasonal migrant workers have to spend the entire income on bare necessities such as food, clothing.

The housing facilities for contract basis seasonal workers were to be negligible by all the surveyed sugar factories. The workers have no convenient and protective shelters at their camps.

It has been observed from sample survey of the seasonal migrant workers that the surveyed sugar factories were found to be providing medical facilities for seasonal labours families in respect of mobile medical services to cover remote areas of the sugar factories.

SUGGESTIONS

1. It is necessary to form a board for sugarcane cutting and transporting seasonal workers in the sugar industry as per provisions of the social security Act 2008 in India.
2. The government of Gujarat should be implemented the suggestions of the Rupwate Committee, which suggested forming the Welfare Board of sugarcane harvest and transporting workers in sugar factories of Gujarat state.

3. The sugar factories should be implemented rules and regulations of the various labour Laws and provided the following facilities to contract based seasonal migrant workers.
 - a. Conveyance allowance from native places to sugar factories and return to native places.
 - b. Bonus should be given to workers.
 - c. Medical facilities should be extended to these workers.
 - d. Every sugar factory should provide gloves, woolen clothes, blankets to the workers.
 - e. Basic facilities should be provided for their staying place like electricity, drinking water, sanitation, seasonal schools for their children ration cards, ration shops etc.
 - f. Steps should be taken to improve the saving habits of contract based seasonal workers.
 - g. Schools should set up for the education of children of seasonal migrant workers in premises of sugar factories.
 - h. Insurance for bullock pair at least fifty thousand rupees for sugarcane transporting workers and insurance for two lakh rupees for seasonal cane harvesting workers though sugar factory and government.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In conducting the research work reported in this paper, I have received assistance, advice, encouragement and support from number of individuals. I would like to acknowledge here. I have great pleasure in taking this opportunity to express my gratitude and thank to my research guide Dr. Gaurang Rami.

REFERENCES

- 01 Bardhan (2001), Competitiveness of Indian Sugar, Western Economic Association International Conference, San Francisco, USA, July 4-8.
- 02 Bose.R.K.Sugar and Khandsare "Industry in Haryana a Study of Cost Structure and Profitability", PhD thesis K,U.K
- 03 Breman (1996) Footloose Labour: Working in India's Informal Economy.
- 04 Barik B.C. (1994) Rural Migrants in an Urban Setting: A Case Study
- 05 Brigham F. Biegene: Fundamentals of Financial Management, New York, The Dryden Press, 3rd Ed. 1999.
- 06 Directorate of Economics and Statistics [2006],, Karnataka at a Glance - 2004-05, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
- 07 G.A. Nikam, (1993) "Future of Sugar Co-operatives in India", Vol. 24 No.10 New Delhi.
- 08 Kohak and Narwadkar D.S.(1983)"Production Performance of Co-operative Sugar Units in Maharashtra", Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, XIV (3), pp.343.
- 09 Kharche.R.M: sugar co-operative in developing economy. Anant Desharathe Publication, Aurangabad January 1989
- 10 Lakshmi pathi Raju.M and Suryanarayana Raju (2010)"Performance of Sugar Industry in India," Southern Economist May 2010, pp. 49-54.
- 11 Mishra R.K.Problems of Working Capital, Mumbai Somaiya Publications Pvt. Ltd.
- 12 M.V Rama Prasad: Indian Sugar Industry an Erratic Trader on the World Market, Facts For you, Jan 2004, Vol 24, No.4, pp 22-27.
- 13 McConell, Michael, Dohlman, Erik and Haley, Stephen, (2010), "World Sugar Price Volatility Intensified by Market and Policy Factors", Amber Waves, The Economics of Food, Farming, Natural Resources, and Rural America, Economic Research Service, USDA, September 2010.
- 14 Navaneetha Kannan and Sakthivel Murugan (2010) "Sugar Industry in Global Perspective," Southern Economist May 2010, pp.35-36.
- 15 P.K. Ghosh and G.S. Gupta: Fundamentals of Management Accounting, National Publishing House, New Delhi.
- 16 Pandey, I.M. and Bhat.R. (1988), "Financial Ratio Patterns In Indian Manufacturing Companies; A Multivariate Analysis", Working pp.764. August, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.
- 17 Salve W.N. (1991) A Socio-economic Study of Seasonal Migrant in Co-operative Sugar Factories with special Reference to Kolhapur District
- 18 S.L.Jain: Indian Sugar Industry Challenges and Opportunity, Indian Sugar July 1997 Vol 47, No.4 pp 237-247.
- 19 Vijaykumar and A. Venkatachalam, "Working Capital and Profitability – An Empirical Analysis," The Management Accountant, October 1995 p. 748-750;
- 20 www.sugarindustry.com.
- 21 www.asi.org.au
- 22 <http://www.sugarinfo.co.uk/iso>
- 23 www.ikisan.com