



SUGAR FACTORIES AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT

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Abstract- The present paper mainly based on the primary data and secondary data collected from sugar factories and VSI. Solapur district is situated in drought prone area of Maharashtra but in solapur district highest sugar factories are run successful. These factories play a major role in socio also economic development.

Keywords - Sugar Factories, Social Transformation.

Introduction- In this article, an attempt was made to analyze the Social Transformation of the population of Solapur district, mainly based on basic data. Measuring the Transformation at the village by considering socio economic indices. It is inferred that mostly the villages which are located near the complex are highly benefited. The Social Transformation depends on one's level of income. Sugar factories in Solapur district play a vital role in the social transformation.

Study area- Solapur District is located in the north-western of the state of Maharashtra. The Solapur region is bounded by 17°10'N to 18°32'N latitude and from 74°10'E to 76°15'E longitude. Climatically, Solapur district is located in the rain shadow region of South Maharashtra. The rain is mainly caused by the southwest monsoon, and the average annual precipitation is 545.4 mm. The Bhima River runs through the middle part of the area. The dry tropical climate, availability of water and highly fertilized black cotton soils are the reasons for growing crops in the Solapur region.

Research objectives- To evaluate the impact of sugar mills on the Social Transformation of the local population and to study the temporal and spatial changes in the study area.

Methodology- Primary data collected from field work and secondary data collected from sugar factories and VSI pune. The study considers the social and economic conditions before the establishment of sugar mills and the current social and economic conditions of the area. In this, education, improved standard of living of workers etc. are considered.

Result and discussion- Process of rural transformation and change is very noticeable in western Maharashtra and more so in Solapur district where the co-operative sugar factories have indeed become the 'Growth Centers' for rural development and change.

1) Social Security (provident fund)- Employee Provident Fund is a very important tool of retirement planning. Pension plans are serve as a means of financial stability and security after retirement. All the sugar factories in the district have provided these facilities to their permanent workers.

2) Housing- Generally, the factories provide accommodation to the needy permanent workers. Many workers are residents of the villages near the factory so most of the workers do not stay at the factory site. From those who are accommodated in the factory staff quarters, the factory charges nominal rent. The quarters are built with all facilities like toilet, electricity, etc.

3) Education- As we know most of the sugar factories are in agricultural area where most of the people are illiterate. Education helps understanding of globalization, with the proper education facilities people came to know of new technology, changes in society and they can work better and in systematic way.

sugar factories like Vitthal sugar Gursale, sankar sugar sadashivnagar, Pandurang sugar Shripur have started school near the factory site with the help of sugar commission for the children's of sugar-cane cutter labours. In the year 2010-11, 2608 children get benefits of it.

4) Sugar Schools (Sakhar Shalas)- Sakhar Shalas are schools in the settlements of sugar cane cutters, which intend to provide primary education to children of sugarcane labourers. In Sakhar Shalas the classes are held between the migration period, which is around six months. All the sugar factories in the district have established the Sakhar Shalas for children of their workers. These children are provided educational opportunities, cultural events, free uniforms and educational trips and nutrition's diets.

5) Night School- Night School is a place where children of young people can taking education at night and at the day time may be they are earning money to fulfill the need of the family and their own too. It is a kind of earn and learn scheme of which Sugar Factories can implement successively in the district.

6) Felicitation of Meritorious Students- The students who embark their names in Merit list of H.S.C. and S.S.C. exams belongs to Agricultural family. The factories used to give inspiration to the meritorious students by felicitating them. The sugar Factories like Shri Sankar co-operative sugar factory Sadashivnagar, Pandurang cooperative sugar factories Shreepur, Vittal cooperative sugar factory Gursale, Shree Sant Damaji Sahkari Sugar Factory Mangalwedha, Bhima Sahkari Sugar Factory Takali Sikandar, Vittal Sahkari Sakhar Karkhana Pimpalner organizes the function at factory site.

7) Medical Facilities- The factories supplies, medical facilities to the labourers, workers and officers. All the sugar factories have established a health centers on factory site.

The Sugar Factories organizes medical camps of various diseases like the eye, teeth, skin, child health, cancer etc. In these camps expert doctors in the respective fields are called and the treatment is given free of charges to the patients.

8) Medical Officer- All the Sugar Factory is having a Medical Officer where employee can check their health regular. An employee can also take aid of medical officer in the seasonal illness. The charge of the medical treatment can be directly cutting through the payment of the employees. Not only employees can take the benefits of it but his family can also take advantage of it.

9) Library- Some sugar factories in the district opens libraries at factory sites. In these libraries books related to sugarcane, magazines, journals (Sugar News, Journals of Co-operative Sugar) and annual reports of Vasantdada Sugar Institute Manjari (Bk) Pune available.

10) Community marriages- The rural people being more orthodox and conservative spend lavishly on marriage functions others ceremonies. The sugar factories in the district organize community marriages and also encourage inter-cast marriages. Lokmangal Sahkari Sugar Factory Bibi Darphal, Makai Sahkari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Bhidarwadi, Chantrabhaga Sahkari Sakhar Karkhana Bhalawani, Vittal Sahkari Sakhar Karhana Pimpalner, Shree Sant Damaji Sahkari Sugar Factory Mangalwedha, Vittal cooperative sugar factory Gursale,

Pandurang cooperative sugar factories Shreepur, Sahakar M. Shankarrao Mohite Patil co-operative Sugar factory, Akulj these sugar factories organize Community marriages.

11) Financial Assistance- Financial assistance in way of discounted loan or financial assistance for purchasing new machinery, seeds, digging a well is provided by the co-operative sugar factories to the nearby farmers. All sugar factories, we came to cooperative credit societies to provide financial assistance by way of loan to purchase new machinery, seeds, agri-equipments and also to develop the agriculture land to the farmers and also to the member of the Co-operative Sugar Factories.

12) Electricity Facilities / Co-generation- Some sugar factories in the district like The Saswad Mali Sugar Factory Ltd. Malinagar, Pandurang cooperative sugar factories Shreepur, Sahakar M. Shankarrao Mohite Patil co-operative Sugar factory Akulj, Vittal cooperative sugar factory Gursale, Bhima Sahkari Sugar Factory Takali Sikandar, Adinath cooperative sugar Factory, Shelgaon Balawani have co-generation plants for electricity, from the year 2003/04 onward. Present Co-Generation electricity, is supplied to the MSEB. Income from the cogeneration is Rs. 1.50 to 2.00 Crores per season per factory approximately.

13) Cattle Camp- Some sugar factories in the district have started the camp for the cattle's belonging to drought stricken area of the factories. Out of social responsibility the factories have started cattle camp on 2003 and 2013 to save live stock. It was run for more than 10 months and almost more than 200000 cattle's were kept in the camp.

14) Accident Insurance for factory members- Personal accident insurance is one of the popular classes of accident insurance and as a supplement to life insurance; it provides an ideal protection against death or disability. Due to the rapid industrialisation, and more use of complex machinery, industrial accidents are more frequent. Individuals are granted this cover under an individual personal accident insurance policy.

15) Labour Welfare Programme- Sugar factories send the workers for training and seminars. The facilities of indoor and outdoor games have been provided by the some Sugar Factories in the district. These activities include volleyball, carom, chess, table tennis, cricket etc. The factories canteens in the district run on private basis. Library facility with book of well known writers is available for the workers and families residing at the factory site.

16) Training schemes for employees- Employees of the Sugar Factories in Solapur district get properly trained before appointing them on any particular work in their selected area. So that they can get the proper skills and knowledge of their particular area and employees are able to handle the work independently and successfully.

17) Computer Training to employees- Computer training is an important factor in 21st century workplaces. Basic computer training provides a foundation on which employees can build new skills on the job. In the 21 century, everything is computerized. Hence some factories have arranged computer training to the officers and other workers.

18) Helping hand to heirs of martyr- Out of social accountability, the sugar factories in the district used to help to the heir of the martyr, who dies on the border of the nation. The help is in the form of money. This help is not only given to factory members but given to them also, who are not member.

19) Group Marriage Activity

Some Sugar Factories is having its own marriage hall which is equipped with all the facilities. It can help to the people at all section to take the benefit of it. Generally poor may manage their marriage in the program of group marriage conducted by the Sugar Factories.

20) Response to emergencies

Natural calamities are not in the hand of anybody so if we having strong system to reduce the intensity of it or fight with it, loss also reduced at big extent. On all such occasions the leaders and shareholders have contributed generously.

21) Environment Related Activities

Sugar Factories is creating awareness in the mind of people by having active participation in the environment related activities. Some of them are, 1) It had planted trees in the factory site. 2) It is creating awareness in the minds of rural and urban people. 3) It is telling importance of the water.

22) The beautification of factory site

Tree plantation is a national work and the sugar factories have taken lead to plant maximum trees on site. Sugar factories in the district have planted near about 1 lack trees on the factory sites. From last decade in Solapur district nearly 70000 trees have been planted on factory site not only to control pollution but also to give shadow of love to members.

23) The safe of fruit-bearing trees to farmers

To improve the financial condition of the farmers, some sugar factories have started the scheme of providing the fruit - bearing trees to the farmers. In this programme sugar factories have obtained plants of Coconut, Lime, Orange, etc. and distributed them to the members.

24) Sugar distribution to members

All the sugar factories in the district distribute sugar to the members 5 to 10 kilograms per months on concessional rate.

25) Police Chowky

Sugar factories of Solapur district helping the government by building the police chowky, along with all the necessary need of the police like pure drinking water and help them in maintaining the peace in the society.

26) Fire Fighting Unit

According to the 'Factories Act' Fire fighting unit or First Aid is essential in the factory. Due to this, any factory may have probability of fire then they must have to make arrangement of fire fighting unit. The sugar factories in the district provide fire protection facilities not only to the factories but also to the surrounding villages in cheap rate.

27) Drinking Water / Sanitation / Latrines

According to the 'Factories Act' the factories have to provide the pure and cool water to the employees and it must be easily available when employees are in factory. Along with Sanitation the Latrine facilities also provide to the employees.

28) Bus-Stop

Sugar Factories in the district built up near about 37 bus stops near the villages of the factory site and it is easy to people while for wait.

29) Road Construction

For accelerating the transport of harvested cane to factories from the fields, the sugar co-operatives have built up approach road in its area of operation. Sugar factories have been constructing cross ways across the river and streams by using home pipe to reduce the distance between the factories and the area of harvesting. Sugar factories like Pandurang cooperative sugar factories Shreepur, Sahakar M. Shankarrao Mohite Patil co-operative Sugar factory Akluj, Vittal co-operative sugar factory Gursale, Shree Sant Damaji Sahkari Sugar Factory Mangalwedha, Loknete Baburao Patil Anagarkar sugar Anagar have built up some approach roads in the area of operation as below.

30) Diesel Pump

Sugar factories in the district have started its own diesel pump for supplying good quality diesel to its members for their vehicles like tractors and trucks. The some sugar factories in the district provided the diesel to the sugarcane transportation vehicles like truck, tractor. The payment of diesel recovers from the transportation payment of vehicle owners. The diesel pumps run on 24 hours. The peoples live near the sugar factories also take benefits of fuel.

31) Computerized Meteorological Unit

In collaboration with VSI, Pune the weather record machine has been installed in some factory sites. These Centers which will provide weather information to the members.

32) Shopping centre

The side business to the farmer is a real helping hand for his economical development hence, the few sugar factories have taken a view to establish co-operative poultry farm, Dairy, co-operative departmental stores and credit co-operative societies as independent co-operative institutions in our area of operation. The some sugar factories have decided to build shopping centre.

33) Entertainment

The sugar factories in the district organize the dance competition, fashion shows, yoga camps, pravachan to the peoples. This kind of entertaining activity is like fuel to get energy.

34) Function hall

In former days, the poor and middle class families used to perform marriage ceremonies of their children in front of their houses or they will find some open place near their houses to perform the ceremony. In such circumstances, the parents have to take loans to pay for high rents of the function halls. Few sugar factories in the district build function halls on the factory sites where the poor people could perform the marriages of their sons and daughters by paying on nominal rent.

35) Sports Activities

The sugar factories in the district provide scholarships and financial incentives to the sportsmen participating in state and national level competitions. Some factories have established gymkhanas at factory site. Sugar factories in the district give grants given to villages for the construction of Gymnasium and Sports Clubs. The Sugar factories encourage the rural youth for the sports and maintain the physical fitness.

36) Food Facilities

The total time required for transport and work in the shift is of about eleven to twelve hours. It is but natural that these workers need to be fed properly and sumptuously. This requires the establishment of the catering unit on the premises of the industrial unit. It is obligatory for industrial units having more than 400 employers to provide the canteen facility. Though it is optional for them, many sugar factories of the district provide the canteen facility on their premises for their workforce. It is a welfare facility to be provided to the workers.

Conclusion - Solapur is an important centre of sugarcane industry due to these irrigation facilities. Sugarcane crops have started sugar factories and brought economic prosperity to the region which suffered from regular cm sleight of famine. Ujani Dam has surely transformed the economy of the region by encouraging sugar factories.

Social Security, Housing, Education, Sugar Schools, Night School, Felicitation of Meritorious Students, Medical Facilities, Medical Officer, Library, Community marriages, Financial Assistance, Electricity Facilities, Cattle Camp, Accident Insurance for factory members, Labour Welfare Programme, Training schemes for employees, Computer Training to employees, Helping hand to heirs of martyr etc Sugar factories provide these facilities to the surrounding area and with help of these the surrounding area it drastically change.

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