



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF LABOURERS OF SUGAR CANE WORKS

By Dr. T. Gopal, Academic Consultant, Dept. of Economics, S.K. University, Ananthapuramu  
Prof. G. Venkata Naidu, Head & BOS, Dept. of Economics, S.K. University, Ananthapuramu

## Abstract

The Socio-economic status of the workers of Sugar Cane units has been analyzed. It is understood that maximum number of workers belong to weaker section, and the majority of them are illiterate. The maximum number of workers does not have sanitation facilities in their houses. It is also noted that the wages paid to them are comparatively low and their total expenditure is more than their earnings. In order to make good the deficit, majority of the workers borrow money from others.

An organization is a human grouping in which work is done for the accomplishment of some specific goals, or missions. The resources of men, money, materials and machinery are collected, coordinated and utilized through people. It is through the combined efforts of people that material and monetary resources are effectively utilized for the attainment of common objectives. Therefore, people are the most significant resource of any organization. The principal component of an organization is its 'human resources' or 'people at work'.

Human resources have been defined as from the national point of view, the knowledge skills, creative abilities, talents and aptitudes obtained in the population; whereas from the viewpoint of the individual enterprise, they represent the total of the inherent abilities, acquired knowledge and skills as exemplified in the talents and aptitudes of its employees.

Pune District is famous for its Sugar Cane Industries.

Sugar Cane industry plays a vital role in the promotion and the development of economy of Pune District. The large numbers of Sugar Cane units in India, in general and in Pune District in particular, are unorganized units and hence the Sugar Cane units are mainly employing unskilled or semi-skilled workers who are mother educationally qualified not technically experienced. Pune District provides employment opportunity to the Sugar Cane workers throughout the year, the economic status of the people engaged in Sugar Cane activities is to encouraging due to the

reason that workers are cheaply available and therefore paid comparatively little wages. In this situation, there need to analyse the socio-economic conditions of the workers of Sugar Cane units was felt.

## Objectives

The present research attempts to analyse the socio-economic conditions of the workers of Sugar Cane units in Pune District and to offer suitable suggestions for improving the social status of the workers of Sugar Cane units in Pune District.

There are a number of similar studies in the field of socio economic background of workers of various industries. But, so far, no attempt has been made to study the socio economic conditions of Sugar Cane industry which covers all kinds of labourers.

## Methodology

The present study was based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected from workers of different Sugar Cane units in Pune District by using the interview schedule method. The secondary data were obtained from the offices of various agencies such as Inspector of Factories, Municipalities and Central Excise Department, Labour Commission Office and also from various Government Reports connected with Sugar Cane units.

## Hypotheses

The study population consists of 676 Sugar Cane units available in the Pune District. Stratified Random Sampling technique was adopted based on the average number of workers working in each unit. Thus the sample consist of 200 male labourers and 300 female labourers working in the registered Sugar Cane units in Pune District. Samples were selected by sing Random Number Table. The primary data collected and used in the research report covers a period of one year i.e., (2014-2015).

## Gender Wise Classification of the Employees

1. Though the wages paid in the Sugar Cane units re comparatively less, women are highly attracted because of greater safety and bonus.
2. Thus, out of 500 total respondents 200 (40.00%) are male and 300 (60.00%) are female.
3. In India, there are hundreds of social groups available, but all these groups can broadly be classified into four major categories namely. Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Backward Community and Other communities.
4. It could be seen from table 3, that 30.00% of the total respondents (150 respondents) belong to backward community, 19% of the respondents (95 respondents) belong to most

backward community, 33.40% of the respondents (167 respondents) belong to schedule caste, 5% of the respondents (26 respondents) belong to forward community and the rest 12% of the respondents (62 respondents) belong to other community.

5. The educational level of the Sugar Cane employees is poor. The majority of them are illiterates. They form 53% of the total respondents. About 25% of the respondents have completed secondary education have completed secondary education. The percentage of employees who have completed primary education is about 16%.

Only 6.60% of the total respondents have finished up to higher secondary education.

It is evident from Table-3 that 196 (39.20%) respondents earn a monthly income between Rs. 1501 and Rs. 2000, 127 (25.40%) respondents earn income between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 1500 per month, 96 (19.20%) respondents earn between Rs. 2001 and Rs. 2500 per month, and 57 (11.40%) respondents earn a monthly income between Rs. 2501 and Rs. 3000 and the rest 24 (4.80%) respondents earn income below Rs. 1000 per month.

### **Total Monthly Income of the Employees' Family**

Since the total monthly income of the respondents' family is one of the important factors in analyzing the socio-economic condition, data were collected.

The total monthly income of 296 (59.20%) respondents is less than Rs. 2500 and the total monthly income of the rest 204 (40.80%) respondents' ranges between Rs. 2501 and Rs. 4000.

### **The Average Expenditure of the Family Per Month**

Workers spend their monthly earnings for different purposes. In the socio-economic analysis, the average monthly expenditure of the respondents is one among the important factors. Table presents the average expenditure of the respondents' family per month.

It is clear from Table-4 that the monthly average expenditure of 226 (45.20%) respondents is between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 2000, the monthly average expenditure of 194 (38.80%) respondents is between Rs 2001 and Rs. 3000, the average monthly expenditure of 54 (7.21%) respondents is less than Rs. 1000, the average monthly expenditure of 28 (5.60%) of the respondents is between Rs. 3001 and Rs. 4000 and the average monthly expenditure of 24 (3.2%) respondents is between Rs. 4001 and Rs. 5000 per month to look after their family.

### Amount Spent on Various Items of Expenditure:

1. It is deduced from Table-5 that 265 (53%) respondents spend Rs. 1001 to Rs. 2000, 190 (38%) respondents spend less than Rs. 1000 and the rest 45 (9%) of the respondents spend Rs. 2001 to Rs. 3000 per month on food.
2. It is evidence from Table-5 that 263 (52.60%) respondents live in their own houses, 28 (25.60%) respondents spend below Rs. 500 on rent, 60 (12.00%) respondents spend Rs. 501 to Rs. 1000 for renting a house, and the remaining 49 (9.80%) respondents spend between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 1500 per month on rent.
3. It could be seen from Table-5 that 209 (41.80%) respondents spend Rs. 201 to Rs. 400, 160 (32.00%) respondents spend between Rs. 401 and Rs. 600, and the rest 131 (26.20%) respondents spend below Rs. 200 per month for their medical treatment.
4. It is inferred from Table-5 that 434 (86.80%) respondents spend below Rs. 500, 44 (8.80%) respondents spend between Rs. 501 and Rs. 1000 and the rest 22 (4.40%) respondents spend between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 1500 per month for educating their children.

### Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between expenditure and income. Chi-square analysis can be used to test for the statistical significance of differences observed between two equivalent sets of categories, which result from field surveys or experiments. The numbers that appear in the categories are actual counts of the number of responses received. They are not percentages. Since the Chi-Square value of significance is found at 0.000, the alternate hypothesis is accepted. There is a significant relationship between experience and income of the respondents.

Hypothesis 2: There is a significant relationship between gender and wages. Since the Chi-Square value of significance is found at 0.000, the alternate hypothesis is accepted. There is a significant relationship between gender and wages of the respondents.

Hypothesis 3: Wage income forms a major share in the annual income of the household. Since the Chi-Square value of significance is found at 0.043, the alternate hypothesis is accepted. Wage forms a major share in the annual income of the sample respondents.

## Conclusion

The socio-economic status of the workers of Sugar Cane units has been analyzed. It is understood that maximum number of workers belong to weaker section, and the majority of them are illiterate. The maximum number of workers does not have sanitation facilities in their houses. It is also noted that the wages paid to them are comparatively low and their total expenditure is more than their earnings. IN order to make good the deficit, majority of the workers borrow money from others.

With regard to savings of the workers out of 500 respondents selected for their study 165 (33%) have saved less than Rs. 500 per month for their future. These factors reveal that the socio-economic conditions of the workers of Sugar Cane are not encouraging and favourable. Every organization must evaluate the prevailing human resources thoroughly, especially the matters pertaining to employees' welfare like working condition and their socio-economic status.

## References

1. The World Book Encyclopaedia F Volume 7 Workbook – Childcraft International Inc pp. 130.
2. Abstract of industries as on March 2005: Office of the Deputy Chief Controller of Audit, Department of Pune District.

**Table-1 Gender Wise Classification of the Employee**

S.No.	Gender of the Respondents	No.of respondents	Percentage
1	Male	200	40.00
2	Female	300	60.00
	Total	500	100.00

**Table-2 Social Group of the Employee**

S.No.	Social group of the employees	No.of respondents	Percentage
1	Forward community	26	05.20
2	Backward community	150	30.00
3	Most backward community	95	19.00
4	Scheduled Caste	167	33.40
5	Other community	62	12.40
	Total	500	100.00

6	Illiterate	264	52.80
7	Primary education	79	15.80
8	Secondary education	124	24.80
9	Higher secondary education	33	06.60
	Total	500	100.00

Table-3

S.No.	Monthly Income (Rs)	No.of respondents	Percentage
1	Below Rs. 1000	24	04.80
2	Income between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 1500	127	25.40
3	Income between Rs. 1501 and Rs. 2000	196	39.20
4	Income between Rs. 2001 and Rs. 2500	96	19.20
5	Income between Rs. 2501 and Rs. 3000	57	11.40
	Total	500	100.00
6	Income below Rs. 2500	296	59.20
7	Income between Rs. 2501 and Rs. 4000	204	40.80
	Total	500	100.00

Table-4 The Average Expenditure of the Family Per month

S.No.	Average Expenditure	No.of respondents	Percentage
1	Amount less than Rs. 1000	36	07.20
2	Income between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 2000	226	45.20
3	Income between Rs. 2001 and Rs. 3000	194	38.80
4	Income between Rs. 3001 and Rs. 4000	28	05.60
5	Income between Rs. 4001 and Rs. 5000	16	03.20
	Total	500	100.00

**Table-5 Amount spent on food per month**

S.No.		No.of respondents	Percentage
1	Less than Rs. 1000	190	38.00
2	Income between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 2000	265	53.00
3	Income between Rs. 2001 and Rs. 3000	45	09.00
	Total	500	100.00
4	Own house	263	52.60
5	Less than Rs. 500	128	25.60
6	Between 501 and Rs. 1000	60	12.00
7	Between 1001 and Rs. 1500	49	09.80
	Total	500	100.00
8	Less than Rs. 200	131	26.20
9	Amount between Rs. 201 and Rs. 400	209	41.80
10	Amount between Rs. 401 and Rs. 600	160	32.00
	Total	500	100.00
11	Less than Rs. 500	434	86.80
12	Between Rs. 501 and Rs. 1000	44	08.80
13	Between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 1500	22	04.40
	Total	500	100.00

**Table-6 Chi-square test for Experience and Income per month of the respondents**

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2 sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	156.840	20	.000
Likelihood Ratio	142.613	20	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	31.168	1	.000
No.of Valid Cases	749		

a. 6 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.42

**Table-7 Chi-square test for Sex and Wages per month of the respondents**

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2 sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	23.519	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	28.976	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	13.215	1	.000
No.of Valid Cases	749		

**Table-8 Chi-square test**

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2 sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	21.530	12	.043
Likelihood Ratio	23.711	12	.022
Linear-by-Linear Association	106	1	.745
No.of Valid Cases	749		

