



A study of relationship between some selected independent characteristic of the sugarcane harvesting labourers and their status of socio-biography

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ABSTRACT

Sugarcane harvesting is a heavily labour-intensive operation and thousands of labourers use to come from drought prone areas to work as sugarcane harvesting labourers for the requirements of their livelihood. In all 210 sugarcane harvesting labourers were randomly selected for the present investigation. The study concluded that the relationship between some selected independent and dependent variables showed that the variables like age, education, caste, marital status, family size, family type, land holding and occupation had statistically non-significant relationship with socio-biography. The variables viz., experience, income and nature of migration showed significant relationship with socio-biography. The respondents sugarcane harvesting labourers were consuming Bajra/Jowar *Bhakari* with curry of cereals/pulses, edible oils every day and weekly meat/egg/ vegetables as energy source since they have to perform the heavy and untired work. More than half (69.04 per cent) of respondents were using more than two pairs of cotton cloths, incase of Terrelina majority i.e. 71.90 per cent of the respondent were using one pair. About 37.14 per cent of the sugarcane harvesting labourers were using hand pumps as their source of drinking water. All the sugarcane harvesting labourers were using as there shelter bamboo hut covered with sugarcane trash the during harvesting period at factory residence. Majority of respondents (93.33 per cent) brushed their tooth every morning followed by more than half i.e. 53.33 per cent of the respondents were washing their clothes regularly. During harvesting work at factory site, the respondents sugarcane harvesting labourers were not much worried about their health and cleanliness so they many times faced their health problem.

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INTRODUCTION

India is the world's largest sugar producer and Maharashtra is the country's largest sugar producing state contributing over one-third of the country's output through its 174 co-operatives and one private sugar factory. Sugarcane farming was introduced in Western Maharashtra by the pioneers of the Co-operative movement during 1950s. Sugarcane is the most important cash crop in the state of Maharashtra. Sugar industry plays a pivotal role in the social change of the rural people. On the other hand, sugarcane harvesting is a heavily labour-intensive operation and thousands of labourers use to come from drought prone areas to work as sugarcane harvesting labourers for the requirements of their livelihood. When all options for livelihood cease, there is no alternative with them unless they migrate to other areas for their livelihood survival. Generally the duration of sugarcane-

crushing season is from November to April/ May every year. During this approximately six month period, people from Central. Maharashtra and Marathwada region, migrate to the sugarcane belt. A large majority of labourers migrate from Beed, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Nashik, Jalna, Parbhani, Aurangabad and Latur districts in search of more employment days through sugarcane harvesting work. The sugarcane harvesting labourers in factory area face the problems of accommodation. It is also necessary to undertake analysis of migration, effects of migration, socio-economic situations at their native places and the factory areas. So, even the area under sugarcane crop is stable, there is continuous increase in the yield of sugarcane per unit area. Hence, there is no alternative to demand of sugarcane harvesting labourer. It is therefore necessary to study the socio-biographical characteristics of sugarcane

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