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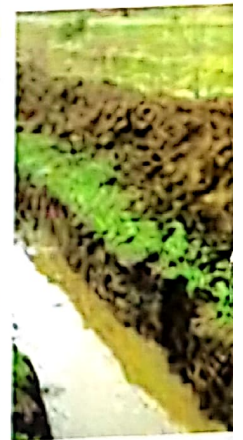
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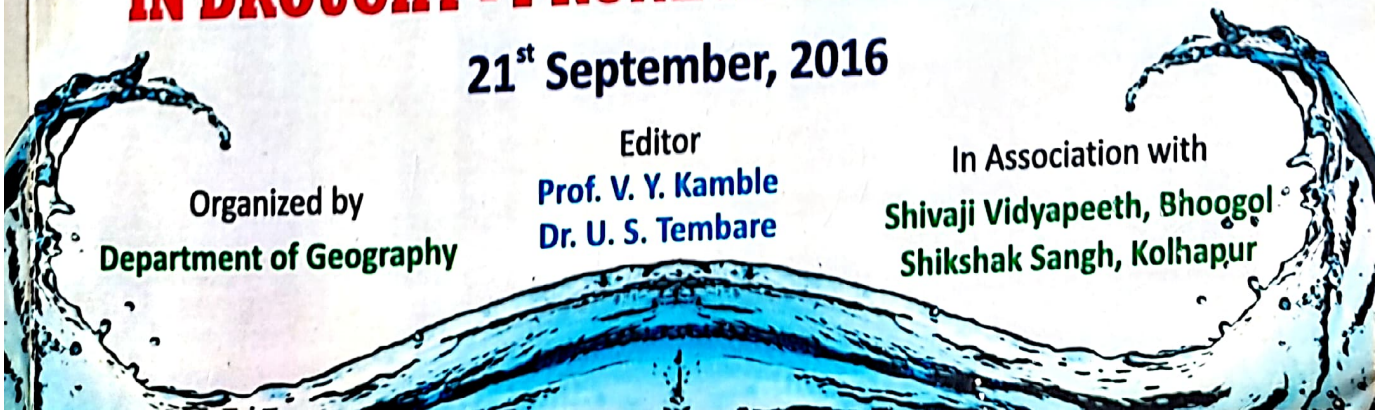
## "WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT IN DROUGHT - PRONE REGION IN INDIA"

21<sup>st</sup> September, 2016

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# HOUSING CONDITIONS AND MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR SUGARCANE-CUTTERS AT THE PLACE OF DESTINATION (KOLHAPUR): A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

DR. SAMBHAJI D. SHINDE\*

MS. S. S. KALE\*\*

\* Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

\*\* Research Student, Dept. of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

## INTRODUCTION

Each and every person needs medical facilities in various ways. As we work harder and for longer periods, this need has become more intense. The sugarcane-cutters migrating from Beed district to Kolhapur district for around six months of a year. So it is necessary to study what kind of medical facilities they are getting and what kind of food they containing at destination.

At the place of destination sugar factory provides some medical facilities for sugarcane-cutters but they don't get authentic medical facilities. A person wanders in the settlements like hawkers once in one or two weeks, providing medicines for cold fever etc. this is a very vulnerable and inauthentic medical facility these sugarcane-cutters get. But as compared to the total population these facilities are not satisfactory. So sugarcane-cutters are using some government medical facilities, private clinics or not going to any dispensary at destination.

## STUDY AREA:

The field work is carried out in the command areas of Chhatrapati Rajaram Co-op. Sugar Factory Ltd., Kasaba Bawada, Kolhapur (C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur), is selected as sample factory for the research work. Beed is one of the droughts prone and backward districts of Maharashtra and located far away from Kolhapur and has sent large number of people as seasonal migrants. Location of the study area is shown in the following figure 1.

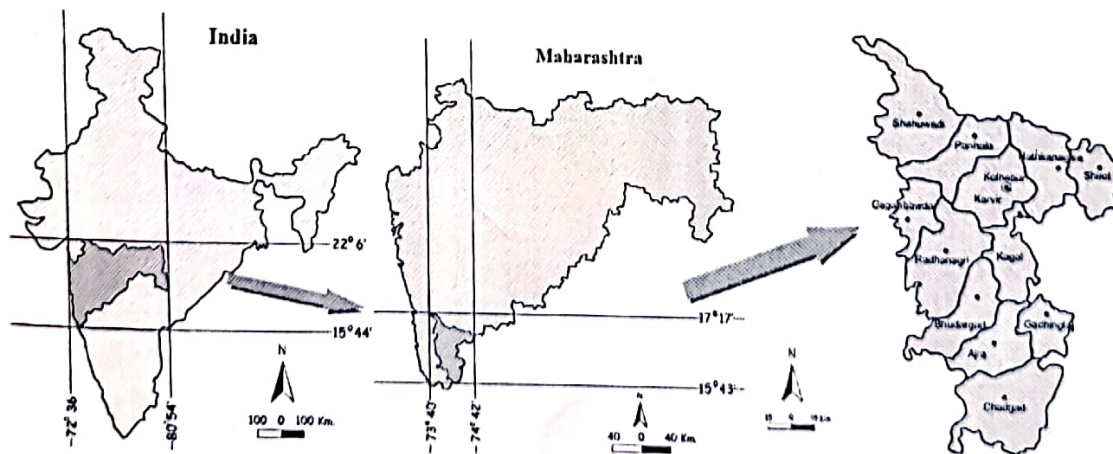


Fig. 1

## OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the present paper are as under:

1. To highlight the problems and prospects of sugarcane cutters.
2. To measure the difference in medical facilities, housing conditions and amenities available at the place of destination and the place of origin.

**DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY:**

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. In order to achieve objectives of the study, the necessary primary data is obtained from the seasonal migrant sugarcane cutters working in C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kasaba Bawada of Kolhapur district. The required secondary data is gathered from the published Annual Reports of respective sugar factories and Agriculture Reports.

An interview schedule has been mainly used for collecting information from sugarcane-cutters huts. Health Centers in the catchment area of sugar factory is studied. Keeping in mind the seasonal nature of sugar industry and less availability of secondary data about migration in governmental offices, for this particular study, out of non-probability sampling method, 10% random sampling technique is used for selection of migrant sugarcane cutters of Beed district

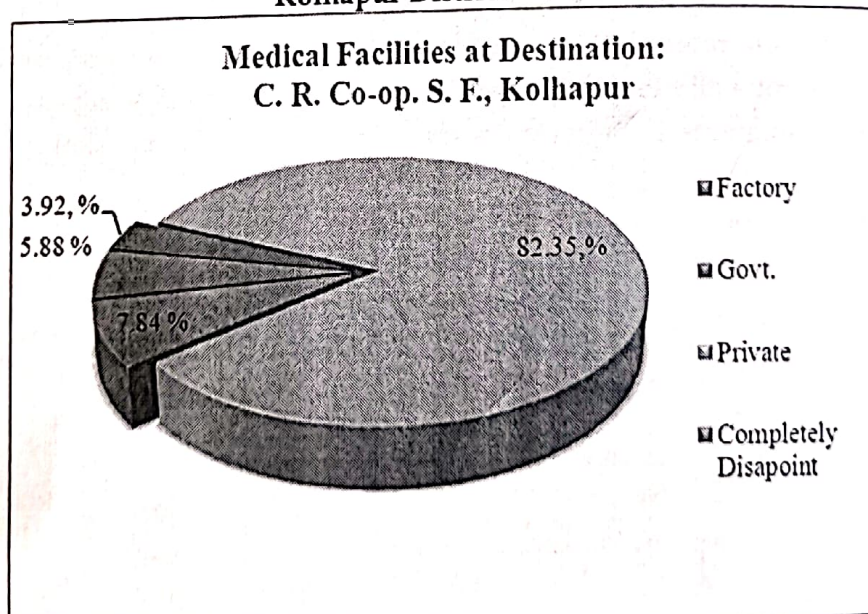
**Medical Facilities Available at C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur**  
Table 1

**Percentage of Medical Facilities Available at  
C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur**

Sr. No.	C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kop.	Percentage
1	Factory medical facility	5.88
2	Government medical facility	3.92
3	Private medical facility	82.35
4	Completely Disappointed with medical facilities	7.84

Source: Field Survey 2013-14

Kolhapur District 2013-14



**Fig. 2**

Medical facilities available at the destination, C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur are elucidated in the above table and chart. At destination these migrants are taking medical facilities at private clinics, govt. hospitals and factory is also providing medicines to these sugarcane-cutters but in a very limited and inauthentic manner. Sugarcane-cutters are not satisfactory with the medical facilities provided by the factory. Out of total population migrated at C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur only 5.88 per cent people are contented with

medications provided by factory. 3.92 per cent people take medicines from nearby govt. hospitals. At line bazaar and Dasara Chouk there are govt. hospital i.e. Seva Hospital, C.P.R. (Chh. Pramilaraje Rughalaya) respectively. First is Two km away and second is five km away from their destination. At destination there are some private clinics also. Most of the sugarcane-cutters prefer to go to private clinics instead of govt. hospitals. Because they don't have sufficient time to give attention to their health. The private clinic which is the nearest to their housing is of Dr. Dipti D. Wadkar. At some distance there are two more private clinics i.e. 82.35 per cent take benefit of private clinics. 7.84 per cent sugarcane-cutters are entirely dissatisfied with medical facilities they obtain. Most of them prefer to bear their frequent health problems instead of seeking medication.

**MEDICAL FACILITIES AT ORIGIN**

Sugar cane cutters are the sugarcane-cutters migrated from Beed district to Kolhapur district. So in some cases comparative study has been done. Means as discussed above the medicinal facilities they are getting at the place of destination, as well as, it is also studied that what kind of medical facilities they are getting at their origin place. Following charts and tables will explain availability of medical facilities at their source.

Medical Facilities at Origin of migrants of C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur

**Table 2**  
Health Centers at Origin for Sugarcane-cutters of C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur

Sr. No.	Medical Facilities	Percentage
1	Primary Health Sub centre of Government	11.76
2	Private Primary Health Sub centre	37.25
3	Government Primary Health Centre	3.92
4	Private Primary Health Centre	5.88
5	Government Special Health Care Centre	0.00
6	Private Special Health Care Centre	0.00
7	Other facilities	0.00

Source: Field Survey 2013-14

Kolhapur District 2013-14

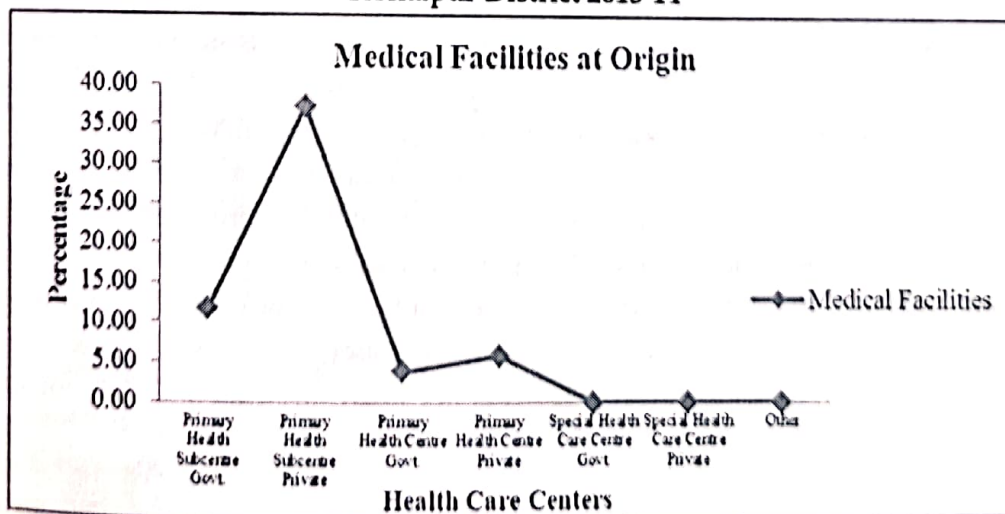


Fig. 3

In the above chart and table accessible medical facilities for sugarcane-cutters of C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur, at their source place is given. In the above Figure initial four criteria show positive results. Last three special health care medical facilities are completely unavailable at the origin place. Maximum health care facilities are available at private primary health care sub centre which counts 37.25 per cent. It means maximum people go to private clinics. 11.76 per cent sugarcane-cutters use primary health sub center of government. 3.92 per cent people go to primary health centers of government. 5.88 per cent choose private primary health care centre.

#### HOUSING CONDITION AND ASSETS

Housing means anything that covers, protects, or supports another thing. The whole condition of housing of sugarcane-cutters both at the place of origin and destination is given here. In which, Kutcha house, Semi-pukka house and Pukka house or RCC criteria had been used. Their standard of living is reflected in housing criteria. Condition of housing, amenities they are getting in their huts and other assets such as equipment they are using for entertainment purpose is also considered here. At the place of origin in Beed district these sugarcane-cutters have good housing condition, amenities and assets as compared to their condition at the place of destination, where they are having very low standard of living. Maximum sugarcane-cutters are living in huts/*Zopadi* without electricity and lacking in so many other basic things. Therefore, it is important to know what their actual condition is and what will be the suggestions for that issue.

#### Housing Condition at the place of destination

Lots of people from Marathwada region especially from Beed district get attracted towards the western Maharashtra in search of work. Sugar factories of Kolhapur district in western Maharashtra are the earning place for these sugarcane-cutters. These sugar factories of Kolhapur District offer employment opportunities to these people. The nature of this employment is cutting sugarcanes from the agricultural fields, fill it in the bullock carts, tractors or trucks and taking it to the factory. That is why these sugarcane-cutters are recognized as sugarcane-cutters.

The sugarcane-cutters migrate towards the Kolhapur districts and live at this place from November to April or May. It means that period of their migration is of five to six months of a year. And it reflects that half of their life they are spending at the place of destination and remaining half at the place of origin. It creates lots of problems and issues regarding their standard of living, health, education and so on.

Housing is one of the important criteria essential to come into light. At the place of destination these sugarcane-cutters are living in Kutcha house called *zopadi* (huts) in Marathi language. These huts are made of Bamboo and grass, which is provided to them by the particular factory. 100 per cent people are living in huts. So, housing condition is very poor at destination. Although they get place and maximum material for the construction of huts from particular factory, the total equipments given by the factory are only for huts and is not sufficient. Factory only makes area available for the sugarcane-cutters for six months per year.

➤ **Amenities**

If we consider for amenities like light water, bathroom, toilet etc. their condition is very poor. These all are the health related elements.

It is conventionally believed that health promoting factors such as housing condition, availability of clean drinking water, sanitation facility, light etc. could contribute to health of people. Sometimes such conditions are more important than even actual health services. (K. C. Ramotra, 2008 p, 328)

➤ **Condition of Bathrooms**

Here bathrooms means three sided wall of grass and bamboos placed in front of their huts with one flat stone placed inside to sit and takes bath. This poor condition of bathroom is not safe for them in any way. 100 per cent sugarcane-cutters are not getting good bathroom facilities. These bathrooms are not comfortable and safe especially for female. The factory should provide them good and safe bathrooms.

➤ **Toilets**

All sugarcane-cutters including male, female and children are not provided any toilet provided by factory at destination. These people do sanitary activity in the open land, which is very serious thing to take into consideration. Sugarcane-cutters are not willing to live in this situation. But earning money is a crucial issue for them. That is why they are facing this kind of situation. But there is a need of at least common toilets to them which should be fulfilled by respective factories.

➤ **Electricity Supply**

Except the huts of *Mukadam* (contractors), *toli* leader; all sugarcane sugarcane-cutters live in dark. It means that electricity in the form of a bulb is available in the houses of contractors only. Remaining sugarcane-cutters do not have electricity supply in their huts.

In one group called '*toli*' there are near about 15 to 20 families out of which one family is of the contractor or toil leader, and only his hut gets electricity supply. Form Beed district to Kolhapur district 75 *tolis* are migrated at C.R.Co.op. S.F., Kolhapur it shows that more than 85 per cent sugarcane-cutters are not able to get electricity supply.

Due to lack of electricity in the evening they use lamps of Kerosene. In the old days when people were not having electricity and all the facilities and amenities, they were using lamps in evening and doing their activities. But today the condition is different, whole cities and villages glitter with light. Migrated sugarcane-cutters live at destination place which is also a part of city or village but still they use lamps of Kerosene at night. There is not electricity supply. Sugarcane-cutters are living in the light of candles. It is affecting their lives adversely. Because of the insecurity from people as well as insects infections becomes more hazardous at the nights. It is the responsibility of the particular factory to provide them electricity.

➤ **Water Availability**

More than 90 per cent sugar cutters of C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur get water. It is positive factor that they can have water. In the survey it is observed that water is made available but it is not sufficient. The quality of water is also not good. They stand in queue for prolonged time and then get water. It takes so much of their time and these are the people who work hard whole day and don't have much time to spend in this activities. So time management factor become problematic for them.

The positive thing is that all sugarcane-cutters are getting water. But along with this positive thing so many problems are also raised like lack of sufficient drinking water and quality of water etc. Factory should be more serious for such things because lacks of good quality water causes various diseases. And many health problems might be arose.

➤ **Assets**

Here assets are considered as simple equipments of entertainment like Radio, T.V. etc. At the place of destination these sugarcane-cutters don't have T.V. but most of them have their own simple mobiles on which they listen to Radio.

Other means of their entertainments include playing cards (*Teen Patti*) and gossiping in groups in the evening. In today's advanced world where everything is easily accessible, these sugarcane-cutters are lagging behind. They are not having any other source of entertainment.

The way of entertainment is also not different. They are not having assets with them for entertainment purpose. Some sugarcane-cutters have their own mobiles on which they hear radio and news

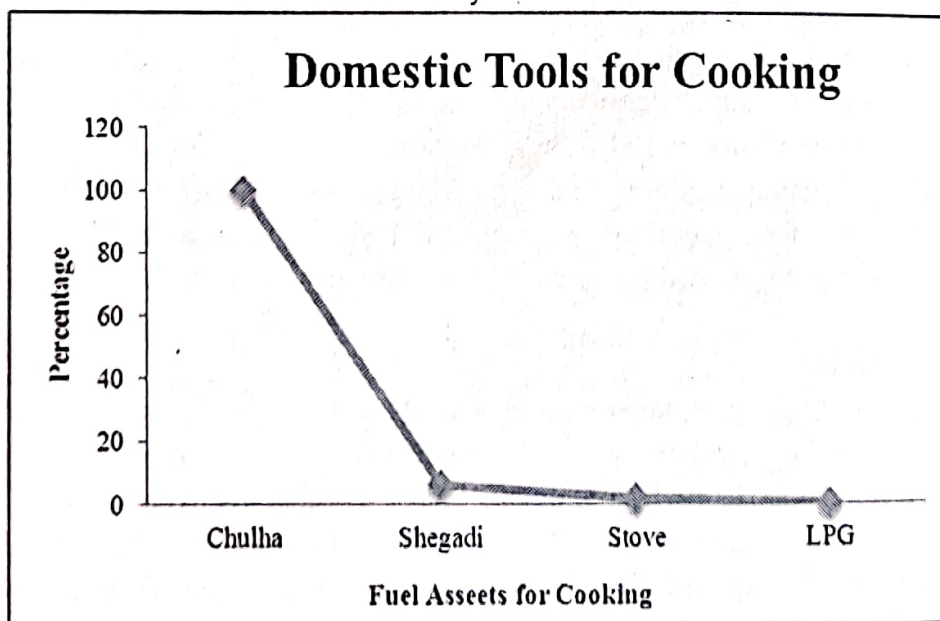
➤ **Fuel Assets for Cooking:**

At the place of destination C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur cooking is done by female sugarcane-cutters utmost on *Chulha*. All sugarcane-cutters are using *Chulla*, with grass and wood as fuel for cooking purpose. 5.88 per cent families are having *Shegadi*, 1.96 per cent houses have Stoves. LPG is not possible to make available at migrated destination place.

**Table 3**  
**Fuel Assets at Destination**

Fuel Assets	C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur
<i>Chulha</i>	100.00
<i>Shegadi</i>	5.88
Stove	1.96
LPG	0.00

Source: Field Survey 2013-14



**Fig. 4**



**Housing, Amenities and Assets at the place of Origin:**

There are different types of houses that we live in. It protects us from sun, rain, wind and enemies. Houses are mainly of three types 1. Pukka house and 2. Semi-pukka house 3. Kutch House. Pukka houses are strong and made of bricks, cement, iron rods and steel. Flats and bungalows are pukka houses. These kind of houses are also called permanent houses. Semi-pukka houses are the combination of Kutch and pukka style; Kutch houses are made up of wood, mud, dry leaves. A hut is a kutch house. Sugarcane-cutters live at the place of destination for five to six months. They live there not permanent so they build houses that are called huts or kutch houses.

Housing and assets at the place of origin and destination are discussed here. The sugarcane-cutters are seasonal migrants migrating for six months in search of employment, to earn money. They make their second life at the destination. Living in very critical conditions, their accommodation is one of it. Housing condition of these sugarcane-cutters at the origin and source is explained below.

The sugarcane-cutters living at C. R. Co. op. Sugar Factory, Kolhapur factory are although living in huts at destination but at the place of origin they are having their own permanent houses. Most of those sugarcane-cutters have good economic condition, but due to geographical condition of Beed district they migrate for five to six months to the destination and their standard of living comes down.

**Table 4**  
**Housing at the Place of Origin**

Sr. No.	Types of House	Percentage of Houses at Chh. Rajaram Co-op. Sugar Factory, Kolhapur
1	Kutch House	11.76
2	Semi-Pukka House	62.75
3	Pukka House	25.49

Source: Field Work 2013-14

The sugarcane-cutters living at C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur are having housing condition as per the above chart and table. It shows that maximum people are having semi-pacca houses at their origin which counts 62.75 per cent. 25.49 per cent people are having pacca house in the form of R.C.C. 11.76 per cent sugarcane-cutters have same housing condition at destination. It means they are living in huts at destination and origin too.

**Number of Rooms Available at the place of origin:**

**Table 5**  
**Kolhapur District**  
**Number of Rooms Available at Origin:**

Sr. No.	No. of rooms	Percentage of Rooms at Chh. Rajaram Co-op. Sugar Factory, Kolhapur
1	1 Room	50.98
2	2 Rooms	37.25
3	Above 3 Rooms	11.76

Source: Field Survey 2013-14

At C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur The above bar graph shows that, 50.98 per cent people are living in one room only at the source place. 37.25 per cent families have 2 rooms. 11.76 families are there having above 3 rooms. It gives an idea about their living standard at origin.

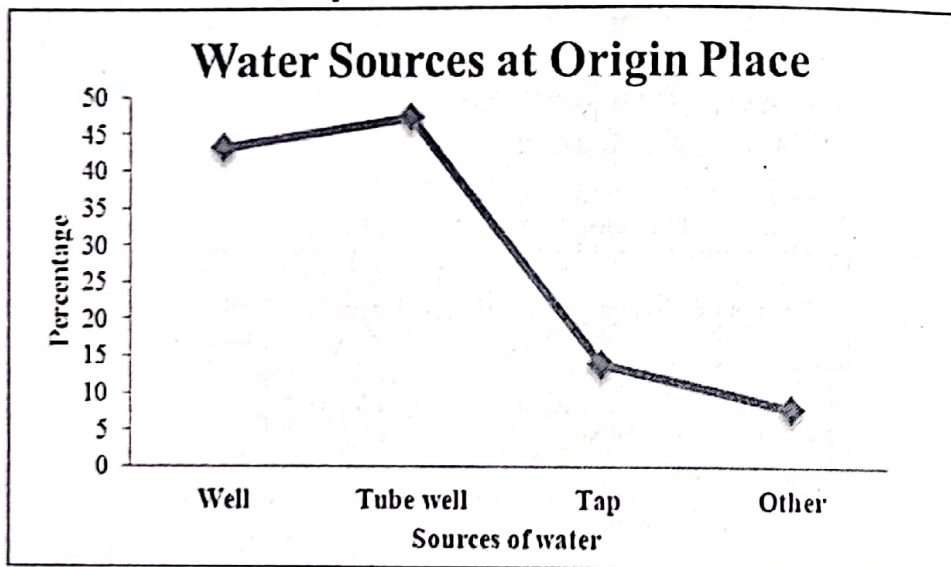
**Water Sources:**

Water Sources at C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur is given below.

**Table 6**  
**Water Sources Available at Origin**

Sr. No.	Water Sources	Percentage at Chh. Rajaram Co-op. Sugar Factory, Kolhapur
1	Well	43.14
2	Tube well	47.06
3	Tap	13.73
4	Other	7.84

Source: Field Survey 2013-14



**Fig. 5**

It shows that drinking water is very less at the place of origin. 43.13 per cent families are getting water from well. Water sources for sugarcane-cutters at their origin place are shown in the pie chart. It shows that water availability by well is 43.14 per cent, Tube well and Tap counts 47.06 and 13.73 per cent respectively. 7.84 per cent families are getting water by other sources. It shows disparity of water availability at origin.

**HOME ASSETS AT THE PLACE OF ORIGIN**

An asset means useful or valuable things of a person. Any item of economic value owned by an individual e.g. equipment or other property

After working so hard there is a need to take rest which makes us pleased to do subsequently work, for that purpose entertainment is very essential.

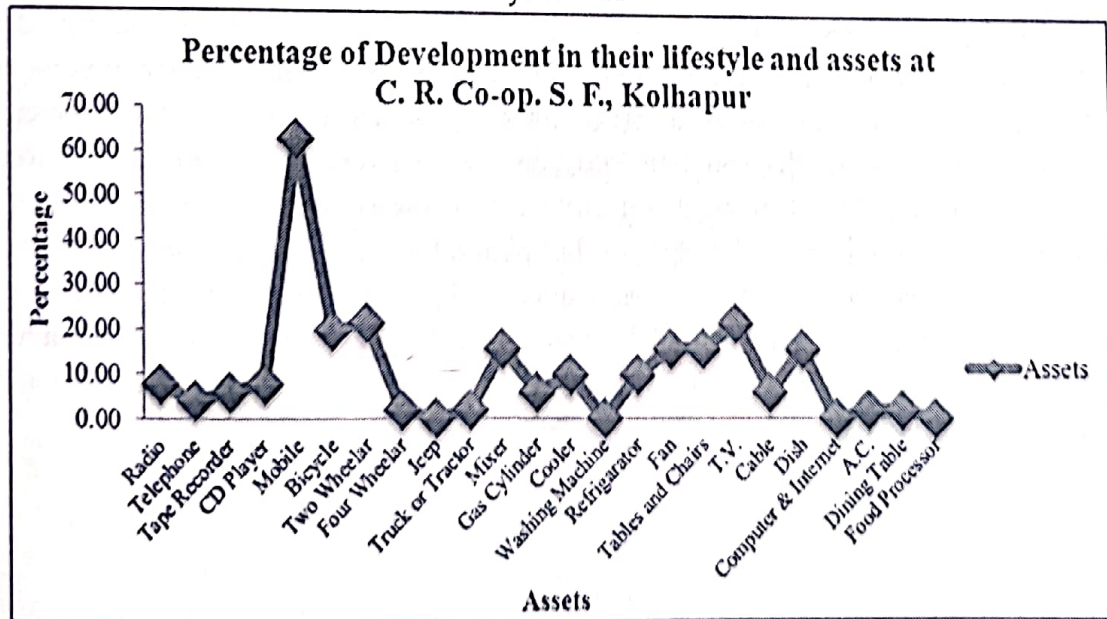
**C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur**

After studying condition of basic facilities like light, water, bathroom and toilet other important things for livelihood are discussed here. For the entertainment purpose some equipments play extremely vital role. The following table 6.43 shows the number of assets sugarcane-cutters having for entertainment purpose.

**Table 7**  
**Assets at Origin: Sugarcane-cutters of**  
**C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur**

Sr. No.	Assets	Percentage
1	Radio	7.84
2	Telephone	3.92
3	Tape Recorder	5.88
4	CD Player	7.84
5	Mobile	62.75
6	Bicycle	19.61
7	Two Wheelers	21.57
8	Four Wheelers	1.96
9	Jeep	0.00
10	Truck or Tractor	1.96
11	Mixer	15.69
12	Gas Cylinder	5.88
13	Cooler	9.80
14	Washing Machine	0.00
15	Refrigerator	9.80
16	Fan	15.69
17	Tables and Chairs	15.69
18	T.V.	21.57
19	Cable	5.88
20	Dish	15.69
21	Computer and Internet	0.00
22	A.C.	1.96
23	Dining Table	1.96
24	Food Processor	0.00

Source: Field Survey 2013-14



**Fig. 6**

At the place of origin, for entertainment purpose and rest in daily work the things placed in the above chart are necessary. As it shows that people from 62.75 per cent families have mobile. Radio, Telephone, tape recorder, C.D. player is available in less than 10 per cent families. Out of total 19.61 per cent families have their own bicycle. 21.57 per cent sugarcane-cutters have two-wheeler, and only 1.96 per cent sugarcane-cutters have four-wheeler. 1.96 per cent truck and tractors are present. In the in-house assets Mixer, Gas Cylinder, Cooler, Refrigerator, Fan, Tables and chairs, TV, cable TV and Dish TV, A.C., Dining table are considered which is 15.69 per cent, 5.88 per cent, 9.80 per cent, 9.80 per cent, 15.69 per cent, 15.69 per cent, 21.57 per cent, 5.88 per cent, 15.69 per cent, 1.96 per cent, 1.96 per cent respectively. Washing Machine, food processor and computer is not available at their houses at the place of origin.

This ratio clearly defines that these people don't give much importance to the entertainment and rest. The reason behind it is that they are unable to complete their very basic requirements so it is not possible for them to pay attention to have entertainment or rest factor.

#### 6.12 CONCLUSION:

This is the situation of housing, amenities and assets, medical facilities etc. sugarcane-cutters having at the place of origin and destination. It shows that there is a need to provide medical facilities, basic amenities otherwise their standard of living will decline day by day. The awareness about health and cleanliness must be done with great practices. Nearly half of the sugarcane-cutters are in below normal weight and underweight category, it shows their very poor standard of living. Their busy schedule due to very hard work keeps them away from awareness of nutritious food, clean drinking water and other health care practices. It is not manageable thing for sugarcane-cutters to have a quality food in ideal timings. With a exhausting, painstaking, hectic timetable of their work it is like a wonder for sugarcane-cutters to direct enough sleep and balanced meals.

In sugarcane-cutters diseases are found due to various reasons like lack of clean drinking water, cooking and washing and the lack of sanitary facilities, poor hygiene, etc. And they get infected by bacterial hence infection is not recognized till it becomes symptomatic. Fever, headache, cough or cold, sunstroke are very Common Health Problems or Diseases generally found in sugarcane-cutters. Housing is one of the important criteria essential to come into light. At the place of destination these sugarcane-cutters are living in Kutcha house called *zopadi* (huts) in their language. These huts are made of Bamboo and grass, which is provided them by particular factory. 100 per cent people are living in huts. So, housing condition is very poor at destination. Factory makes area available for the sugarcane-cutters for six months per year.

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