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CHAPTER V FINDINGS **AND SUGGESTIONS 5.1 INTRODUCTION:** The major objective of the present study was to know the reasons of seasonal migration of sugarcane cutters to Chh. Shahu Co.op. Sugar Factory, Kagal from Kolhapur district and to find out their nature of jobs during off season, literacy and educational attainment, and to measure the levels of their development due to seasonal migration. Seasonal migration has an influence on the lives of sugarcane cutters both favorably and unfavorably. Because of the care element, they choose to relocate seasonally with their children.

As a result, the dropout rate from elementary to postgraduate and other professional schools is growing significantly Sugarcane cutters find themselves in a financial bind, seeking varying sums of money that range from modest to substantial. Their economic dependence on cultural events like festivals and family weddings makes borrowing inevitable, as these occasions hold deep significance in their interconnected world of culture and community. Unfortunately, certain destitute sugarcane cutters face barriers when approaching conventional financial institutions like banks or patsansthas, leading them to opt for high-interest alternatives.

The consequence of resorting to such institutions is a lingering debt that casts a long shadow over their financial well-being. Adding to this financial intricacy, some cutters receive upfront payments from contractors or mukadams, plunging them into a protracted cycle of indebtedness. This cyclical pattern of borrowing and repaying keeps them entangled in financial strain for extended periods.

The intertwining of economic struggles with cultural practices and societal ties complicates the plight of sugarcane cutters, painting a picture of financial challenges that transcend the mere act of harvesting sugarcane. The demand for seasonal migrants

has risen due to increased seasonal migration from underdeveloped regions like the Beed district, but this phenomenon comes with certain adverse effects. Upon returning to their native homes, many sugarcane cutters face health challenges, allocating a portion of their earnings towards medical treatments. The migration-induced relocation has led to a significant increase in dropout rates among children.

Consequently, this study is focused on exploring livelihood strategies as a means to address the issues related to seasonal migration and to contribute to poverty alleviation. The main reason for sugarcane cutters' seasonal movement is economic. The current research confirms that seasonal migrants relocate in quest of better economic prospects. As a result, this migration is a financial phenomenon. Another factor for this seasonal movement is an unfavorable financial condition. Sugarcane cutters migrate from the Beed (economically backward area) district as a result of push factors such as unpredictable precipitation, a lack of irrigation facilities, low productivity, the highest loans from contractors or banks, unemployment, low earnings and low levels of expenditure, economic hardship, and the resulting backwardness. However, where they migrate is equally significant.

Sugarcane cutters go to Kolhapur and allied districts of western Maharashtra to make money because of pull factors such as industrialization, seasonal possibilities for employment, other economic prospects, conveniences, and amenities. Kolhapur district has a nice and favorable physical environment, which has contributed to the district's profitable sugarcane harvesting. Sugar plants with a lot of money provide jobs for 5 to 6 months. Every year, these sugar plants especially Chh. Shahu Co.op. Sugar Factory, Kagal, in Kolhapur district attract sugarcane cutters from Marathwada, particularly from Beed district.

It shows that the Kolhapur have been providing great earning opportunities for these sugarcane cutters, allowing them to sustain themselves throughout the year. Although this is a favorable depiction, numerous negative consequences such as health difficulties, educational gaps, and illiteracy have emerged, all of which have directly affected their standard of living. The present study has especially been focused on educational problems and prospectus. Sugarcane cutters migrate with their children.

The children who have migrated with their parents help in the field work and the issue of child labour, educational dropout, illiteracy and the question of their overall development comes into existence. Cutting sugarcanes in the fields for whole day in the insensitive rays of sun is really very harsh to accomplish, so the age of educational enrichment of children transforms into physical stress and mental disturbance and many other problems. After studying the literacy levels, levels of educational attainment,

male-female disparity in literacy, role of sugar schools, views of sugarcane cutters about sugar schools, barriers in uninterrupted education and educational facilities at their place of origin in Beed district it is concluded that most of the sugarcane cutters are uneducated. They don't even realize the importance of education. Parents' illiteracy ignores the future of their children.

And children cannot attract towards the benefits of educational amelioration. Illiterate sugarcane cutters don't wish to send their children to attain Sugar School and Children also follow in their parents' footsteps. Lack of higher education is also one of the major reasons behind their poverty and that is why sugarcane cutters are doing the same work from many years and remained uneducated. When it comes to the well-being of sugarcane cutters, maintaining a nutritious diet at optimal intervals is a challenging task.

Given their demanding and exhausting work schedule, finding the time for sufficient sleep and well-balanced meals seems like a miracle for these individuals. Prioritizing the intake of calorific and nourishing food early in the morning is crucial. While many sugarcane cutters have a tendency to rely on tea for a momentary energy boost, it inadvertently suppresses their appetite, leading to prolonged periods without proper nourishment. This unfortunate practice contributes to malnourishment among sugarcane cutters.

Therefore, opting for a wholesome breakfast over morning tea is a preferable choice, ensuring they kickstart their day with the essential nutrients needed to sustain their demanding work and maintain overall health. The diligent sugarcane cutters endure significant physical strain, leading many to seek relief through addictive habits. Among these coping mechanisms are tobacco use, smoking, and alcohol consumption, contributing to detrimental health effects. In the community of sugarcane cutters, diseases emerge from multiple sources, including the absence of clean drinking water, inadequate facilities for cooking and washing, and a lack of sanitary amenities coupled with poor hygiene practices.

These conditions expose them to bacterial infections, often unnoticed until symptoms manifest. As a result, the overall health of sugarcane cutters is compromised by both the physical toll of their demanding work and the environmental challenges they face. Common ailments such as fever, headache, cough, cold, and sunstroke are frequently observed among sugarcane cutters. Housing conditions is one of the important criteria need to focus on.

At the place of destination these sugarcane cutters are living in raw house called zopadi (huts) in their language. These huts are made of Bamboo and grass, which is provided

them by particular factory. All sugarcane cutters are living in the huts. So, housing condition is very poor at destination. Factory makes area available for the workers for six months per year / till the harvesting season. This is the thought-provoking and very dangerous scenario of housing conditions, available and very less amenities, assets etc. sugarcane cutters having at the place of origin and destination. It all indicates that their standard of living is very poor.

The awareness about health and cleanliness must be done with great practices. 5.2 FINDINGS: The main findings from this study are summarized in the following points: Educational Initiatives: Implement mobile schools or temporary educational centres near sugarcane cutting sites to ensure access to education for the children of migrating sugarcane cutters. Introduce flexible schooling schedules to accommodate the transient nature of their work, allowing children to continue their education without interruptions.

Skill Development Programs: Offer vocational training programs for adult sugarcane cutters to acquire additional skills during the off-season, enhancing their employability beyond sugarcane harvesting. Collaborate with local educational institutions and organizations to provide skill development workshops in Kolhapur, focusing on occupations beyond agriculture. Healthcare Services: Establish mobile health clinics or health awareness programs to address common health issues faced by sugarcane cutters, promoting preventive healthcare practices.

Ensure access to healthcare facilities in both Marathwada and Kolhapur to address the health concerns of migrating workers. Legal Support and Rights Awareness: Facilitate workshops to educate sugarcane cutters about their rights, ensuring they are aware of labour laws, fair wages, and other entitlements. Provide legal aid services to address any issues related to exploitation or unfair treatment, promoting a safe and just working environment.

Community Development Projects: Initiate community-driven projects to improve housing conditions at the destination, exploring options for more sustainable and comfortable living arrangements. Encourage the establishment of community centers to foster a sense of belonging and mutual support among migrating sugarcane cutters. Financial Literacy Programs: Conduct financial literacy programs to empower sugarcane cutters with knowledge about effective money management, savings, and investment opportunities.

Facilitate access to financial services such as banking and microfinance to promote financial inclusion and stability. Government Support and Policies: Advocate for policies that address the specific challenges faced by sugarcane cutters, including educational

and healthcare support, and fair labour practices. Collaborate with government agencies to ensure the implementation of existing policies and the development of new ones to uplift the socio-economic conditions of migrating workers.

Along with this finding, Migration options become more and more secure, and thus attractive. The people who have risked going to find out new employment opportunities they have maintained contacts with sugar factories or contractors. Non-farm work is often better paid, but conditions are poor. The work is hard, and is often taken up in the hot summer when agricultural labour market slacks. Also, because the nature of the work is often temporary, there is not the possibility to form longer-term links as with farmers. Working population within the age group of 15 to 59 is 78.69 per cent, at C. R. Co-op. S. F., Kolhapur.

It indicates the maximum seasonal migration is concentrated to a particular group of people. Most of the migration is among youngsters and adults because employment opportunity attracts them to western Maharashtra, especially, Kolhapur district. Sugarcane cutters migrate with their children. And it is observed that literacy levels are remarkably increased from 50.7 to 71.83 per cent in 2018-19. Only 23.94% of sugarcane cutters are uneducated. And the percentage of children under the age of six is 4.23. However, overall, enrolment and persistence in higher education continue to fall, similar to what conducted in 2013-14.

As sugarcane-cutters migrate with their children the problem of children's educational gap is aroused. Factory runs Sugar Schools (Sakhar Shala) but these migrants don't send their children in the school instead they get their children to work in the field. That is why the problems like child labour, educational gap among children and the high percentage of illiteracy taken place.

Though sugarcane cutters are facing numerous difficulties there are some positive factors also which attract them towards Kolhapur district every year. Factory provides them an open space to construct huts for their seasonal accommodation, as well as a water tank, road light in their circumference area, free medical facilities (with very limited extent), sugar schools, tire bullock carts etc. The most essential thing that sugarcane cutters require is a balanced income, good health, and a great education. It is critical for people to gain information and skills that will aid in increasing individual and national production.

Education is a critical step towards enhancing the quality of life, safeguarding human rights, and fostering growth. The right to education is essential for human society's healthy growth. Every kid has the right to develop as an individual and contribute

meaningfully to the nation's growth. It is not just a right, but also a means to fulfil other rights. 5.3 SUGGESTIONS: Younger children help in making bundles of sugar cane tops, which is used as fodder. These fodder bundles are sold in the market and each bundle gets Rs.10. It is also a means of good income for parents.

These children provide extra hands to their parents. Their childhood gets lost under the burden of a heavy workload. To attract sugarcane cutters children in school there should be implementation of some extra efforts such as establishment of observation homes, free mid-day meals, uniforms and textbooks provision, residential camps, condensed courses for migrating children, bridge courses, remedial coaching, etc. by particular factory. But in that case sugarcane cutters children are always neglected. Separate budget provisions for implementation of these facilities should be reserved.

The issue is that though the responsibility of providing education is well recognized principally, but in practice the Government is a long way behind in achieving the goal of the right to education for children up to 14 years. Children's fundamental right to education is violated. An appropriate educational system, that can facilitate the growth of a child as a responsible and productive citizen, is lacking. Lack of education makes them handicapped in several senses and forces them to lead a life of penury.

The Focus of Sugar School should be on some factors like: Development of competencies of all students in subjects specified in the syllabus Using precise equipments Enhancing quality of education and team spirit Using remedial methods Teaching and learning becoming child-centered, and activity oriented Ensuring revision and support of mathematical concepts Making education enjoyable and interesting Enhancing children's natural power of observation and thinking Suggestions for a superior strategy Skill Development Programs: Implementing skill development initiatives can empower sugarcane cutters by providing them with additional occupational skills.

This not only enhances their employability but also opens up opportunities for diverse and sustainable occupations in the Kolhapur region. Accessible Education Facilities: Establishing easily accessible educational facilities for the children of sugarcane cutters can contribute significantly to breaking the cycle of limited education. Improved access to quality education can pave the way for better future prospects for the next generation.

Healthcare Support: Initiatives aimed at providing healthcare support, including regular health check-ups and access to medical facilities, can address the prevalent health challenges among sugarcane cutters. This contributes to an overall improvement in their

standard of living and productivity. Affordable Housing Solutions: Developing affordable and sustainable housing solutions for sugarcane cutters in the Kolhapur region can significantly enhance their living conditions.

This involves constructing better housing infrastructure that ensures safety, hygiene, and a sense of permanence. Community Engagement Programs: Implementing community engagement programs that foster a sense of belonging and integration among migrant sugarcane cutters can positively impact their social and mental well-being. Creating community spaces, cultural events, and support networks can mitigate the challenges of isolation and improve their overall quality of life. There is a need for inclusive policy as far as human rights and quality of life issues are concerned.

It is very important to supply the basic needs of the seasonal migrant workers, on priority. These must include: As education is the only hope for further generations of migrant workers, satisfactory arrangements for the education of the migrants' children must be made. In short, the RTE Act must be properly applied to the migrant workers' children, too. A head count of sugarcane cutters is a must to know the exact number of migrants.

It is important for framing a social policy as well as for actual provision of all the facilities needed to meet the migrants' basic human needs and for all other welfare measures that may be provided. Since the quality of life at destination deteriorates significantly than normal at source and their important human rights of migrants stands violated the inclusive policy incorporating the above recommendations and ensuring implementation of it is important for their dignified living.

The sugar factory should implement a range of welfare schemes to benefit sugarcane cutters of all age groups

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