

## Chapter VI

### Socioeconomic and demographic survey

#### 6.1 Social , Economic and Demographic characteristics of the people in the village

The composition of the population with reference to basic socio-economic and demographic indices is portrayed in Table nos. 6.1 to 6.7 (Source : Socio-economic and demographic survey of the village by the researcher). While doing the analysis of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population in the village, the researcher have focused on two aspects viz.

1) Classification of the population on the basis of potential educational groups. It was observed by the researcher while collecting the ethnographic data in the village that individuals belonging to the same age and sex range as described next tended to interact more frequently with each other. Thus, instead of following the general systems of classification used conventionally in population studies , the researcher preferred to draw on his own assumptions and procedures of classification. It would have proved more helpful to rely on the new scheme as it would be specific to the social patterns within the community under study. 2) Although, the researcher did not undertake a detailed analysis of this interesting pattern in the village , yet he identified certain characteristics of this phenomenon. These were (a) the process of growing up in a peer group exerted lots of influence on the choice of the partner in communication ; (b) the fact of growing up in a peer group stands true even for the women

who had migrated to the village due to marriage as the large group of married women in the age range of 21 to 35 years also got married off at a young age and started living with their own type around the same time; (c) the roles that were usually played by the individuals belonging to each age group involved routines like cattle grazing , milk delivery , fetching water from the well or the hand-pump , playing , going to the pre-school or school in the village as well as the one in the neighbouring village named Kalyan , washing utensils and clothes , grinding grains together (when usually the same mortar and grinder might be used by the families staying next to each other), going to the market in the neighbouring villages etc. These activities involved strong interpersonal communication. These three observations indicated the strong role played by the peer group of an individual in determining that person's communicative behaviour.

#### **6.2 Age composition :**

Age-wise too the village showed homogeneity with an overwhelming proportion of younger population in the middle group of 15 years to 35 years followed by the dependent population in the range between 1 day to 14 years. (32.47%) Remarkably there are very few adult individuals in the village that have crossed the limit of 65 years(4.06%). (Ref. Table No. 6.1). When this percentage was compared with that of Maharashtra and India, one could see that in Maharashtra, the population in the range of 0 to

14 years was 34.9%;and population in the range of 65 years and above was 3.8%

( Source: National Family Health Survey 1992 -93 -Maharashtra; by Population Research Centre, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, 1991). Percentage of population in the range of 0 to 14 years for India was 36.3%, and population in the range of 65 years and above was 3.8%. Thus, one could see that the percentage of these two age groups in the total population of the study village fell more or less within the range of the state and national values.

When one considered both the caste groups independently for age , remarkably the Ramoshi caste population showed a higher proportion of dependent population (exactly 50 %) in the range of 1 day to 14 years within its own population . On the other hand, the Maratha caste showed only 42 % proportion of dependent population , even though the contribution of Maratha caste to total dependent population was overwhelming i.e. 69.42% ( Ref. Table no. 6.1 on next page).

Table no. 6.1

Age and Caste wise distribution

Age group	Caste group			
	Maratha		Ramoshi	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Less than 12 months	03	01	02	03
1 to 8 years	15	11	03	09
9 to 14 years	19	14	03	05
15 to 21 years	15	06	07	05
above 21 years	63	53	17	17
Total	115	85	32	39

There was a slight inverse proportion of males and females in the village i.e. the total female population of the village was almost 16% less than the total male population. With respect to distribution of male and female population in different age groups it was noticeable that except the age group of 15 to 21 years there was not much difference in the proportion of males and females in other age groups. (Ref. Table -No. 6.1). Thus, the percentage of males in the total population of the village was 50.55%. Females were 49.45% of the total population of the village. This proportion of males and females was not much

different from that for Maharashtra and India (percentage of males was 51.71% and of females was 48.29% in Maharashtra; and percentage of males being 51.89% and of females 48.11% in India). Thus, there was a similarity in the sex-wise composition of the population between the village and the state of Maharashtra and India.

### **6.3 Sex and Caste wise composition :**

Nevertheless, the slightly inverse proportion in sex ratio can be accounted by the tendency of the community to marry off girls in the age group 15 to 21 years. This is substantiated by the data in table nos. 6.2 and 6.3 on following pages. It shows a proportion of unmarried females which closely tallies with the dependent female population in Table No. 6.1.

Table 6.1

Age and Caste wise Married Persons

Age group	Caste group			
	Maratha		Ramoshi	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Less than 12 months	00	00	00	00
1 to 8 years	00	00	00	00
9 to 14 years	00	00	00	00
15 to 21 years	01	06	00	03
above 21 years	49	47	16	13
Total	50	53	16	16

The proportion of married individuals in both the groups in different age ranges showed remarkably a pattern similar to Maharashtra. The proportion of married individuals in the state was around 52.2 % while the percentage in the village was 50 %. Apparently, there were no married persons among both the caste groups in the village. As well as, the proportion of married persons in the age range of 15 to 21 years was less than 10% for both the caste groups (Ref. Table 6.3).

**Table 6.3**

**Marital Status wise Distribution**

Marital Status	Males	Females
Married	66	69
Unmarried	74	45
Divorced	0	0
Widow	7	9
Separated	0	1
Total	147	124

**6.A Educational composition :**

More than half of the total population of the village was illiterate. Females contributed highly to the number of illiterates. This observation went together with the proportion of illiterate males in total male population and comparative proportion of illiterate females in total female population. Thus, the village presented a poor educational picture when compared to Maharashtra and India. The estimation of percentage of literate males in the village was based on the assumption that generally, individuals with education up to third standard or above know basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills. Therefore, the

researcher treated individuals reported to be illiterate and those with education up to second standard as real cases of illiteracy. Thus, even if one would have added up the number of males and females with education up to second standard to the total literate population of the village, still the proportion of literate would not have exceeded the limit of 7% in case of males and 3% in case of females in addition to the actual number of literate males and females. If one views the picture of literacy in the village against this background, percent of literate males in the total male population was around 50 % ( compared to Maharashtra 's 76.6 % and India's 64.1 % ). Thus, there was very low spread of education among the males of the study village. Percentage of literate females was around 28 % of the total female population. Thus, compared to Maharashtra (52.3%) and India (39.3), the proportion of literate females in the village was very low. The total literate population in the village was around 35% which was very low compared to Maharashtra (64.9%) and India (52.2%). In both male and female population those in the group of primary education followed. Even though in both the groups the proportion was either of 1/4 of total group (in case of males) or less than 1/4 of total group still there was a large difference in the percentage per group. While a considerable number of males had taken up to middle school education the proportion of females having education of the same level was substantially low. (Ref. Table no. 6.4).



**Table 6.4****Sex wise distribution of Education**

Education	Males	Females
Illiterate	56	89
Up to 2nd std.	20	10
3rd to 5th std.	39	18
6th to 9th std.	30	7
10 th std. and above	2	0
Total	147	124

**6.5 Caste wise distribution of Education :**

When both the castes were compared for the proportion of different educational groups , the Ramoshis showed a very high proportion of illiterate individuals. However, both castes showed similarity in the trait that the number of illiterates was increased substantially by females. Both castes showed a different picture with respect to attainment of primary education. While among the Marathas almost 25 % population had taken up to primary education , the Ramoshis have only 14 % population having taken up to primary education. However, both castes show similar trend with respect to education of females. In both castes, the proportion

of females taking up to education at different levels was less than half of the males remaining at the same level. ( Ref. Table no.6.4 and 6.5).

**Table 6.5**

**Education and Caste wise Distribution**

Education	Caste			
	Maratha		Ramoshi	
	M	F	M	F
Illiterate	38	56	16	33
up to IInd std.	14	08	06	02
IIIrd - Vth std.	33	14	06	04
VIth-IX th std.	28	07	02	00
Xth and above	0	00	00	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>39</b>

**6.6 Occupational composition :**

For deciphering the occupational pattern the individuals in the age range of 1 day to 6 years were particularly excluded, because it was observed that these individuals were neither participating in any income generating activity nor they had taken up to education. Within the male population a little more than half were engaged primarily in agriculture, while others were engaged

in unskilled employment like wage labour in public works, or they had been engaged in semi - employment of wage labour in the urban area of Pune or they were engaged in cattle raising or education. On the other hand, less than half of female population was engaged in agriculture. Otherwise, females of the village were observed to be working regularly as agricultural wage labourers or in marketing of milk products and food to the continuous flow of tourist visitors at the Sinhagad fort. Very few females in the dependent age groups had taken to education. They too were reported to be engaged in household activities or other occupations common to adult females. (Ref. table No. 6.6 on next page).

**Table 6.6**

**O c c u p a t i o n   w i s e   d i s t r i b u t i o n**

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Occupation *	Males	Females
Agriculture and related occupations	68	44
Non-agricultural and traditional	0	32
Non-agricultural and non-traditional	0	0
Other	60	26
Total	128	102

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**\* Key to Table 6.6 :**

**1. Agricultural occupation :**

Agriculture on privately owned farmland

**2. Non-agricultural and Traditional :**

Sale of milk based products and food to tourists and wage labour related to agriculture ; household work

**3. Non-agricultural and non-traditional :**

Self-employment in business or employment in the industries especially coming up in the area

**4. other employment :**

Semi-skilled job in urban area; and sale of milk in semi-urbanized area.

### 6.7 Income wise composition :

While considering the income of the family, its income from sources other than agriculture were given importance. This was understandable when one considered that except four families others in the village produced from their lands below subsistence. Thus, usually no agricultural produces were sent by the villagers for sale in the market. Therefore, the incomes reported during the study were amounts actually available to the families in cash for spending. Among these only 3 families were in the highest income range and characteristically in two of these families one male person each was engaged in urban based employment while in the third family cattle raising was an important economic activity which brought it monetary income through sale of milk and milk products. Otherwise the largest proportion of families was in the income range of Rs.2001 to Rs. 3000. These families reportedly generated the income through either agricultural wage labour or cattle raising. (Ref. Table. NO. 6.7 ).

Table 6.7

I n c o m e       w i s e       d i s t r i b u t i o n

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Income ( Indian Rs.)	No.of families in the range
Nil	4
0-1000	0
1001 - 2000	6
2001 - 3000	15
3001 - 4000	8
4001 - 5000	4
5001 - 10000	12
10001 -20000	3
above 20000	0

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**Summary :**

1. Communication between members of the village was strongly influenced by one's peer group.
2. Peer groups in the village were formed on the basis of age, sex and commonness of domestic responsibilities.
3. Largest part of the population was in the socially **approved** reproductive age range. This implied that the village was exposed to the risk of high rate of population growth.
4. There was a high proportion of dependent, young population in the village. Families belonging to Ramoshi caste were contributing to this section of the population through a high rate of production as compared to the population of Maratha caste in the village. This was evident from the fact that majority of the population was in the age group of 15 to 35 years. However, the gross increase in the dependent population was due to the large proportion of Marathas in the population.
5. There was a slight inverse proportion of males to females in the population. This resulted due to the marriage of majority girls in the age group of 16 to 21 years outside the village. This process was complemented by the one related to the marriage of males from the village in an age range more than that of females.
6. The low spread of education in the village had restricted the scope of employment opportunities of the villagers.
7. There was an implicit discrimination against females with respect to availability of educational opportunities.
8. Employment opportunities were extremely limited for the

villagers. Majority section of the population was engaged in agriculture and related activities for earning livelihood.

9. All the families were living in utter economic poverty. This added to the slowing of socio - cultural progress of the village.