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AGE GROUP AND GENDER OF MIGRANT SUGARCANE CUTTERS: A CASE STUDY OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT



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ABSTRACT

Women play a significant and crucial role in Agricultural development. The nature of women's involvement in agriculture is changing vary greatly from region to region, caste to caste and by economical and social status. The women from landholder families contribute on their own farms, but the women from the landless family, mostly the lower cast (SC, ST), used to work on daily wages on others farms. The sugarcane cutting work is major work for this landless worker. Maharashtra state has been known for its first rating status in sugarcane production, so more labour is required for sugar cane cutting. "Thousands of laborers leave their home every year between Diwali and the Monsoon to work as sugarcane cutter for sugar factories. Most of them belong to Dalit, Banjara and Pardhi communities. These cane cutter women have great contribution in this field but their contribution, hard work and problems are unnoticed by the Government, Society, labor Associations and also by the women's Association.

KEYWORDS: age group, gender, migrant Sugarcane cutter.

INTRODUCTION:

Age composition is one of the most basic characteristics of a population. To a certain extent, the age of a person decides, what he needs does and thinks. Age composition influences many important aspects of community life, such as social attitudes, economic activities, mobility of people and political set up. Age composition is an important consideration in planning the educational, military and welfare programme of a region.

The socio-economic background of in-migrants is similar across states: they come from the most marginalized and impoverished sections of society – SC, ST and OBC. The dominant age profile of migrant labour is between 20 and 60 years of age, but older and younger people also accompany, and contribute to, family labour. 85percent in-migrate with their families. Significantly, migration is nearly equal among boys and girls up to the age of 10, but as age increases more girls migrate than boys (Desai, 2005).

Sidhu A.S. (1984) study in four districts of Punjab found that bulk of migrants belonged to the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and a small percentage from Nepal, who were migrated due to poverty, unemployment, and low wages. These migrants were in the age group of below forty, low castes, barely educated, indebted and from large families. According to them, majority of locals believe that influx of migrants has created bad economic and working conditions, depression in wages and employment opportunities.

Madhukar Pai, (1997) by analysing conditions a group of migrants in Vellore district of Tarnil Nadu examined the role played by migrants in transmission of Malaria. The study raised some of the social and ethical issues in the health care of migrants and highlighted the need to consider migrants as vulnerable, high-risk

people with unique need of health care. The study deals with the social and human problems connected with migration.

Age composition is also influenced by age specific mortality rate. In economically developed region, mortality is low for younger as well as older age groups. This results in high and continuously increasing proportion of people in higher age group. On the other hand, in economically backward region, mortality is generally declining. This results in higher proportion of people in younger groups.

STUDY AREA:-

The district of Solapur is located between 17° 10' North and 18° 32' North latitudes and 74° 42' East and 76° 15' East longitudes. The East-West Length of the district is about 200 km. and North-South width is about 150 km. The total Geographical area of the Solapur district is about 14878 sq. km. and population of 43, 15,527 according to 2011 census.

AGE GROUP AND GENDER

The details on this aspect are presented in table 1.1. Majority of the cane cutters are 20-60 years of age. The percentage of cane cutters below 20 years of age is 6.70 percent in total group that is very negligible and age of 20 to 60 it, 91.79 percent that is considerable. In factories cane cutters age group of above 60 years was found in low 1.5percentage it is found to be declining. The cane cutters are classified based on sex that high percentage of female workers in Malshiras tahsil of 7.91 percent and in of 6.79 percent of male cane cutters.

Table No.1.1
Age Group and Gender of Sugarcane cutter

| Sr. No | Taluka | Sex | Below 20 years | 20-60 Years | Above 60 Years | Total | Percent |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| 1 | Mohol | Male | 35 | 300 | 15 | 350 | 5.15 |
| | | Female | 12 | 225 | 13 | 250 | 3.68 |
| 2 | Madha | Male | 37 | 408 | 14 | 459 | 6.75 |
| | | Female | 19 | 322 | 0 | 341 | 5.01 |
| 3 | Karmala | Male | 23 | 329 | 5 | 357 | 5.25 |
| | | Female | 10 | 229 | 4 | 243 | 3.57 |
| 4 | Malshiras | Male | 45 | 487 | 6 | 538 | 7.91 |
| | | Female | 25 | 437 | 0 | 462 | 6.79 |
| 5 | Pandharpur | Male | 42 | 398 | 4 | 444 | 6.53 |
| | | Female | 20 | 333 | 3 | 356 | 5.24 |
| 6 | Sangola | Male | 5 | 120 | 2 | 127 | 1.87 |
| | | Female | 13 | 69 | 1 | 73 | 1.07 |
| 7 | Mangalwedha | Male | 31 | 431 | 7 | 469 | 6.90 |
| | | Female | 16 | 312 | 3 | 331 | 4.87 |
| 8 | South Solapur | Male | 5 | 124 | 3 | 130 | 1.91 |
| | | Female | 2 | 68 | 1 | 70 | 1.03 |
| 9 | North Solapur | Male | 34 | 434 | 8 | 476 | 7.00 |
| | | Female | 18 | 302 | 1 | 324 | 4.76 |
| 10 | Akkolkot | Male | 15 | 200 | 5 | 220 | 3.24 |
| | | Female | 12 | 167 | 1 | 180 | 2.65 |
| 11 | Barshi | Male | 34 | 295 | 4 | 333 | 4.90 |
| | | Female | 13 | 252 | 2 | 267 | 3.93 |
| Total Male | | | 306 | 3526 | 71 | 3903 | |
| Total Female | | | 150 | 2716 | 31 | 2897 | |

(Sources: Compiled by researcher,)

Figure No.1.1 A. shows that, Male sugarcane cutters below 20 years in study region. It is distribution in three age group above 38, 16 to 37 and below 15. Above 38 age group indicate Malshiras (45) and Pandharpur (42) is high cane cutters since, high irrigation and soil structure support by sugarcane. Between 16 to 37 age group indicate medium cane cutters indicate in Karmala (23), Barshi (34), Madha (37), Mohol (35), North Solapur (34) and Mangelwedha (31) tahsils as a, these district place provides more job opportunity and transport network like roadways, railways network is more developed. Below 15 indicate low cane cutters members in South Solapur (5), Akkalkot (15) and Sangola (5) tahsils because these tahsils specify drought prone area, Sangola tahsil is also a low rainfall tahsil and in this tahsil 370 mm rainfall is recorded.

Figure No.1.1 B. shows that, Male sugarcane cutters below 20 to 60 years in study region. It is distribution in three group above 330, 200 to 329 below 200. Malshiras (487), Madha (408), Pandharpur (398), Mangelwedha (431) and North Solapur (434) tahsils indicate high cane cutter in between 20 to 60 age group it is working people, since There are good land, soil fertility, well irrigation, growth of farming product, cotton and sugarcane factories, mill projects, and MIDC. Barshi (295), Karmala (329), and Mohol (300) tahsils indicate medium cane cutters 201 to 329 in this group.

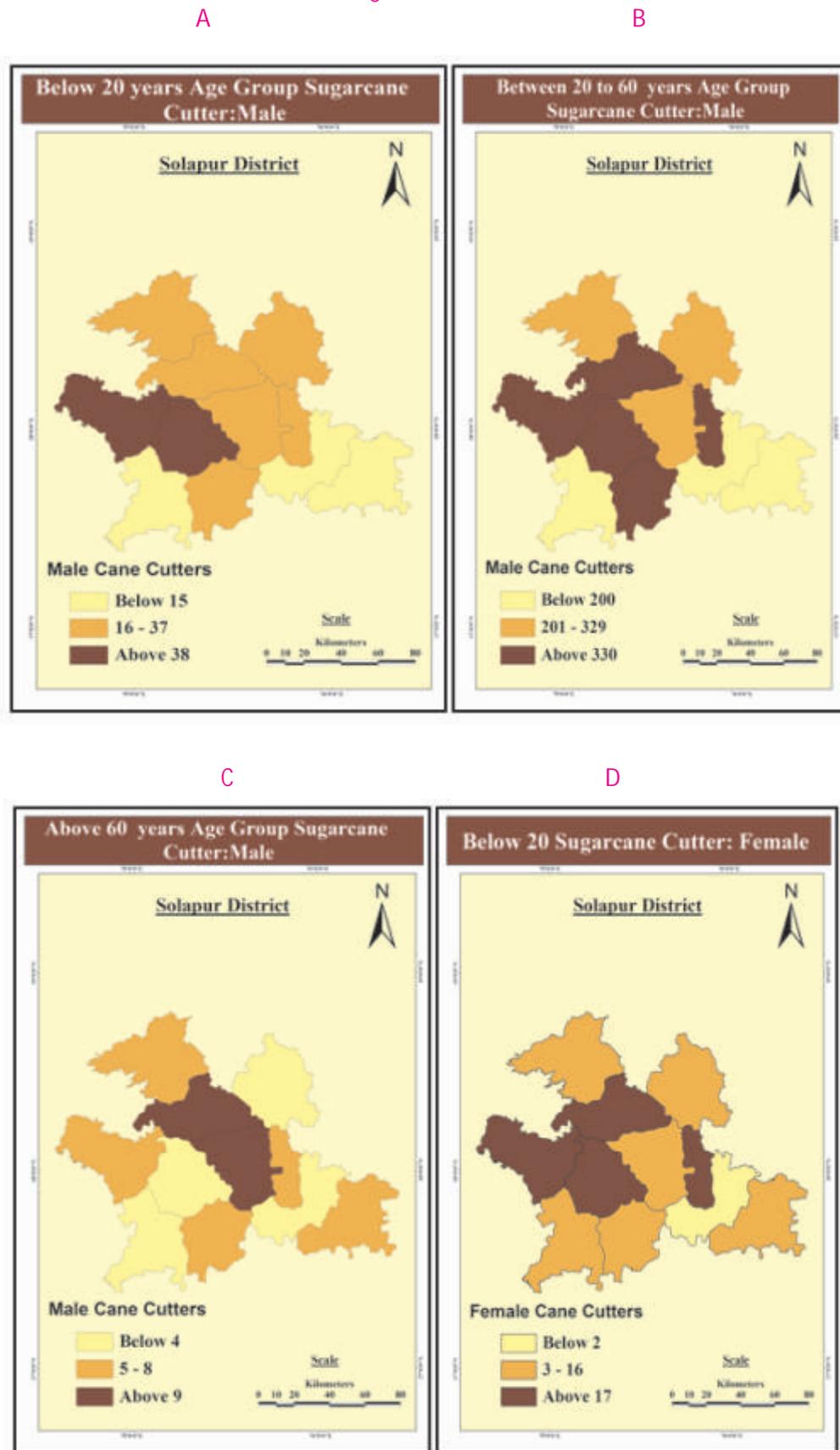
Figure No.1.1 C. shows that, Male sugarcane cutters above 60 years in study region. It is distribution in three group above 9, 5 to 8 below 4. Madha (15) and Mohol (14) tahsils indicate high cane cutters. Karmala (5), Malshiras (6), North Solapur (8), Mangelwedha (7) and Akkalkot (5) tahsils indicate medium cane cutters found. Barshi (4), South Solapur (1), Sangola (2) and Pandharpur (4) tahsils found low cane cutters in study region.

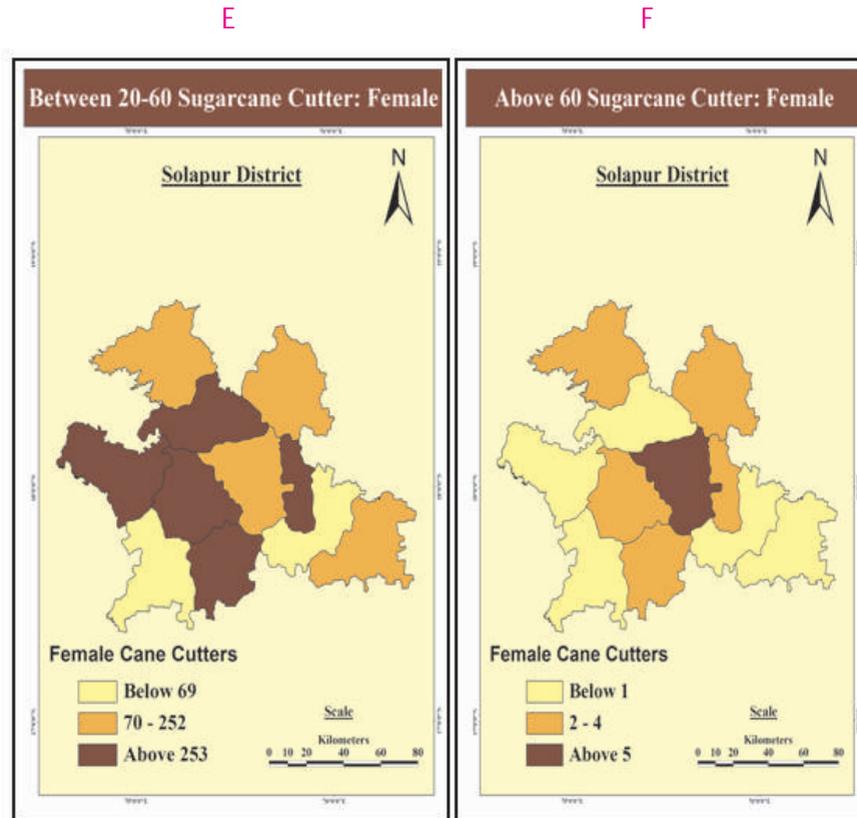
Figure No.1.1 D. shows that, Female sugarcane cutters below 20 years in study region. It is distribution in three group above 17, 4 to 16, below 3. Malshiras (25), Madha (19), Pandharpur (20) and North Solapur (18) tahsils indicate high above 17 cane cutters establish in study region. Karmala (10), Barshi (13), Mohol (12), and Akkalkot (12) tahsils in 4 to 16 indicate medium cane cutters in study region. Below 3 in this group indicate South Solapur (2) tahsil indicate low cane cutters in study region.

Figure No.1.1 E. shows that, Female sugarcane cutters between 20-60 years in study region. It is distribution in three group above 253, 70 to 252, below 69. In Malshiras (437), Madha (322), Pandharpur (333), Mangelwedha (312), North Solapur (302) tahsils indicate high number of female cane cutters in study region. Karmala (229), Barshi (252), Mohol (225), Akkalkot (167) tahsils found medium female cane cutters. Sangola (69) and South Solapur (68) tahsils found low female number of cane cutters in study region.

Figure No.1.1 F. shows that, Female sugarcane cutters above 60 years in study region. It is distribution in three group above 5, 2 to 4, below 1. In Mohol (13) observed only one tahsil above 5 female cane cutters in study region. Karmala (4), Barshi (2), South Solapur (3), Pandharpur (3), Mangelwedha (3) found medium female above 60 years old cane cutters in study region. In Malshiras (0), Madha (0), North Solapur (1), South Solapur (1) and Sangola (1) tahsils indicate low female cane cutters in study region.

Figure No.1.1





Migration of cane cutter in sugarcane harvesting activities is an economic decision. Cane cutters are forced into migration for an increase in production and higher family earnings.

CONCLUSION:-

Societal developments influence the social structures as well as the social environment in general, and especially the exchange of social support between family members, friends, and neighbors. Present world is strongly impacted by globalization, individualization, and rationalization. All the three are precursors of social isolation and loneliness. Globalization has led to a remarkable expansion of the social space in which people live thus weakening the personal network and social support. Due to individualization, the traditional, meaningful integration frameworks have dissolved and people are 239 less able to fall back on social bonds like family and neighborhood. Social culture is also transformed because of rationalization that leads to a planned life style in which efficiency rules.

In Solapur district as, expected, it is high for rural areas, when compared with urban areas of Solapur district. This is probably due to high birth rate in rural areas and the out migration of the rural population belonging to rural working population to urban area for better employment opportunities.

Age composition is also influenced by age specific mortality rate. In economically developed region, morality is low for younger as well as older age groups. This results in high and continuously increasing proportion of people in higher age group. On the other hand, in economically backward region, mortality is generally declining. This results in higher proportion of people in younger groups.

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