

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

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In this study the impact of an industry on its neighbourhood has been studied sociologically. The field study is limited to the smallest possible unit namely. Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited, Erode, located at the Cauvery river belt in Tamilnadu.

The sample for the present study was drawn from (i) the workers employed in SPB and ii) the villagers coming within a radius of 5 Kilometers around the SPB.

253 SPB workers and 272 neighbouring villagers consists of the sampling frame for the study. In the sample of industrial workers there is a predominance of males, who are married, educated upto high school/college level, Hindu and living in nuclear families.

The people who have come to the industrial area from their native places and have been living here for more than three decades have been treated as migrants on the basis of this definition, most of the SPB workers were (59.3) migrants. They have migrated mainly from (44.6) outside the district where the industry was located. Majority of the colony residents in the sample were migrants. Those workers living in SPB colony (39.52) are having better housing facilities than those who are living in rented (28.46) and own houses (32.02). The quarters provided by the factory

is of uniform type, the houses in the colony are pucca concrete buildings with individual water taps, bathrooms, and latrines. Each house is having three or four rooms and well electrified and having open space around the house with adequate privacy and garden.

The housing conditions of those living in their own houses, and rented houses have improved as a result of their steady income from factory employment, there is a definite trend to have more rooms in the houses of industrial workers. But among the non-colony residents, the privacy garden, and open space are not much improved.

Household material possession increased among industrial workers. Within the industrial workers, those residing at colony possess more household and personal articles than the workers living in their own houses and rented houses. Purchasing household materials similar to that of their neighbouring houses, even at the cost of indebtedness is a common phenomenon among the colony residents. Migrants possess more household and personal articles than non-migrants. But in the case of two wheelers the non-migrants have an edge over migrants, possession a two wheeler is considered as status symbol among the villagers.

Economic position of the workers also improved after their SPB job. Most of the workers have the habit of savings; among them saving through chit fund is the main source of saving. After joining in the paper mill Agricultural land holding of the SPB workers increased. Of the total samples 12.85 per cent of the workers purchased land after they joined in the SPB. There is also an increase in the possession of houses among the workers. 12.26 per cent of the workers purchased or constructed own houses after their entry into the industrial occupation, as it is 11.86 per cent of the workers purchased house plots and not yet constructed the houses after they joined SPB.

Majority of the factory workers (71 per cent) are found to be living in nuclear families and only small (29 per cent) proportion of workers are living in joint families. The ideal Indian traditional family was joint family. The existence of more nuclear families than the joint families in the sample indicates the transformation from joint family to nuclear family. However, the sentiment behind the jointness is still existing among the nuclear family respondents. The possession of common property, sending money regularly to their parents and siblings

and frequent visits to parents home for the observance of important festivals and ceremonies, and these are prevalent among the nuclear families. Age of the workers and education has had some influence over their family type.

Marriage among the relatives and close relatives is still practicing by the industrial workers marriage pattern was preferential one that is they married either their mothers brother's daughter/fathers sister's daughters/sister's daughter. Preferential marriages were more prevalent among illiterates, old aged, and original inhabitants of this region.

Age at marriage of the workers found higher. In some cases, marriages, take place even at lower age. An earlier age at marriage has been found (16-18) more among the old aged, scheduled castes, uneducated, non-migrants and respondents from joint families. It is quite interesting to state here that ordinarily a SPB worker in the village setting gains more dowry than others because he ensures of a steady income with promotion and even cheap and best housing facilities in the colony. To enhance one's social status and standard of living, greater number of working class men claim more dowry. Ordinarily an SPB worker gets 20 to 50 sovereign of gold and a two wheeler during his marriage in the form of dowry.

The preference for giving science (52.57) education and technical education (30.83) to their children are more. However, this is more among younger aged, Brahmins/Non-Brahmins, educated and urban and colony residents. The preference for professional jobs (55.73) White collar jobs (21.74) and industrial jobs to their childrens has been noticed. However, this is more predominant among the younger; educated, migrants, Brahmins/Non-Brahmins, and colony residents.

There is also a change in the frequency of their temple visits. This can be positively correlated. The management constructed a temple, a mosque and two churches, one for catholics and the other for protestants. This has also helped in bringing about co-operation among people belonging to different religious. They have become more tolerance and involves themselves in the celebration of festivals and ceremonies of other religions.

There is a change in the leisure time activities of the workers. Previously going for Cinema was most popular one but after joined SPB, spending more time in reading and club-activities has increased.

Friendship circle of the workers before they joined in this mill was more personal and informal but after they joined this mill it has become more impersonal and formal one.

There are some interesting factors behind the trade unions of this SPB. Only less than half (47.43) of the SPB workers have joined in trade unions. Higher multiplicity of trade unions has been found in this mill, Dual membership among the workers in different unions which have different affiliations and ideologies is also observed among the industrial workers. Caste plays an important role in trade unions of SPB.

It is also empirically proved that the higher the length of service of workers higher the chances of health problems. Those workers employed prolong period in this factory suffered due to breathing trouble, cough, Asthma, fever, skin allergies, chest pain are some of the common health problems predominantly noticed among the workers.

Another interesting point here is that as a result of this mill, workers even at their younger age, got gray hair and bald head. This is due to their nature of work with chemicals. More migrants and old aged are facing the health problems than the others.

Occupational mobility is also observed by taking into the occupation structure of three generations starting from the occupational pattern of the respondents. Agriculture and caste based traditional occupations were the only main pattern found among the respondents grand fathers generation.

When studied the fathers occupational pattern, there is slight upward occupational mobility. However significant upward occupational mobility is found among the respondents. This is primarily due to their entry in SPB. This needs further research.

Like the occupational mobility there is also a steady increase of the educational status among those three generations. The crossing over of illiteracy barrier has been empirically calculated and the trend is as follows:

Compare to grandfathers, father's crossed the illiteracy barrier to the tune of 28.83 per cent. However, this improvement is significant when we study the respondents. 52.17 per cent of workers crossed their illiteracy barrier. When compare with their fathers. However this crossing over of illiteracy stops at the primary level. When compare to grand fathers trend, the increase of the primary education among fathers is only to the level of 18.8 per cent. However, this intergenerational educational mobility is significantly seen among the workers, when they are compared with their fathers. The improvement of educational mobility is seen in all levels of education and this mobility is more in the secondary level of education (26.37) Next to secondary education there is an improvement in the primary education (15.44) However the improvement in the

college education is found only to the level of 11.86 percent. This may be due to respondents early entry into employment with lower education. The impact of industry on its neighbouring villages studied on the basis of information collected from the heads of the households from the villagers. There are 272 villagers selected from 9 villages that comes within the radius of 5 kilometers around the SPB.

The villagers sample consists of more Hindus middle aged, non-brahmins and brahmins, illiterates and non-migrants.

In the villages around the SPB, a few families of SPB workers from far of places have come to live in rented houses. 33.82 per cent of the villagers are migrants So the once, well knit homogeneous villages are today exposed to the influence of people from various socio-linguistic regions. To some extent this situation is breaking up the exclusiveness of caste neighbourhoods. There are some signs of ascriptive status being replaced by achieving status. Scheduled castes consisting of large number of illiterates than other caste groups in the villages.

Majority of the villagers living in nuclear families. Nuclear families more prevalent among the educated villagers. The preferential marriage pattern one of the common marriage pattern among the villagers preferential marriage pattern is more prevalent among the old aged and non-brahmins, An ideal age at marriage for villagers is 25-27. None of the village sample respondents' age at marriage (less than 18 years) was lower. The earlier age at marriage has been found more among the old aged, scheduled castes, illiterates, and joint family respondents.

The villagers are giving more importance to technical and science education for their childrens. Nearly one fourth of the villagers don't have any aspirations regarding their childrens education. The importance of technical education found more among the Non-brahmins, educated and middle aged villes respondents. The villagers are giving more importance to industrial occupations. Majority of the villagers prefer to send their children for industrial occupations than white collar and professional occupations. The aspiration towards industrial occupations has been found higher among younger ones and scheduled castes.

As a result of SPB the land value and house rent in the neighbouring villages increased. The general dislike for agricultural wage earning has, it appears, created scarcity of farm labourers. This scarcity arises as a result of employment opportunities in the SPB, and this has resulted in demanding more wages for agriculture activities in the villages under study. Farm workers are now often drawn from villages outside the industrial area. Now-a-days these agricultural workers demand high wages for work. As a result of this paper mill and its effluent water the surrounding well water also polluted. In this connection factory management themselves provide good drinking water supply for those villages around this factory. The agrarian relations, after the mill started was strained one as perceived by the agriculturists. The agriculturists also experiencing the disappearance of the loyalty of agricultural labourers.

It is interesting to note here that as a result of this paper mill there is one sugar mill, a sister concern of this factory also started just 3 years back. There is an agreement between this paper mill and Ponnies sugars and chemicals a sister concern started recently with the help of paper mill. The water effluents discharged from paper mill previously deposited in the river Cauvery. But after this sugar mill the water effluents after the treatment take into the villages and supplied to the agricultural fields. Those

utilised this water for their irrigation purpose have
to grow sugarcane and supply the sugarcane to the sugar-
mill. Instead of this benefit the sugarmill supplying
the Baggas for paper mill. By using Baggas paper mill
will reducing the consumption of wood as raw material.
In this connection as a result of this paper mill water
effluents The neighbouring Agricultural fields got water
supply and the sugar mill also got sugarcane continuously
with considerable rate. Paper mill also benefitted by using
baggas as raw material instead of wood. Another indirect
effect was forest wealth protected by reducing felling of
trees. The neighbouring villagers benefitted by growing
sugarcane as one of the commercial crop. So the crop
pattern also changed as an indirect effect of this paper mill.

Those workers who owned land in this region using
their income for their agricultural activities and developed
themselves. These workers and the villagers previously
cultivated crops like vegetables, and maize. Now-a-days
cultivating commercial crops like sugarcane, and cotton.
The sugar factory encourages the agriculturists in that
region to make use of the polluted water discharged from
the paper mills, for cultivating sugar canes. The company
gives financial assistance for sugar cane cultivation. The
agriculturist are of the opinion that the productivity of

food crops is affected by the polluted water and hence they are forced to switch over sugar cane cultivation for which the polluted water is good. The agriculturists in this neighbouring region are adopting modern scientific methods. Most of the agriculturists are using modern tools and implements and applying pesticides for their crops, the usage of hybrid seeds and fertilizers are also found among agriculturists. Previously this region contributing more vegetable production to the urban market. But at present this contribution is less. Now-a-days more and more cultivable lands changing as house plots. It is interesting to note here that, In politics the local leaders have to depend upon the industrial work force for their success, the role of the industrial workers in the village panchayats also found to be greater. The income of the concerned villages, where the industry and the colony situated was increased through professional tax and house tax with the help of this additional income. These villages strengthened their infra structure facilities.

In the villages the status of an individual depends upon occupation, income, land property and then only caste for status determinant. Compare to grand fathers generation the proportion of fathers those engaged in agriculture declined from 56 per cent to 39 per cent. The caste

based traditional occupations declined from 31 per cent to 21 per cent. But an increase in industrial, services, and non-industrial occupations noticed. Compare to fathers generation in the respondents generation there is an increase of industrial and non-industrial occupation and decline of caste based traditional occupations. It is declined from 21 per cent in fathers generation and 7 per cent in the present generation. But in agriculture only 7 per cent decline observed. The logic behind this is the higher decline of agriculture occupation from grand fathers generation to fathers generation may be as a consequence of land acquisition by the SPB.

In grand fathers generation no one engaged in industrial occupation but in father generation 8 per cent were engaged in industrial occupations. Among the present generation the proportion of industrial occupations has gone upto 29 per cent. The decline of agriculture and caste based occupations follows as. In grand fathers generation the proportion of agriculture occupation was 51 percent among fathers generation it was 39 per cent among present generation it is 32 per cent.

Out of 31 percent engaged in caste based traditional occupations in their grand fathers generation, it was came down as 21 per cent in fathers generation and 7 per cent in the present generation.

The educational mobility of grand fathers to fathers indicates that in grand fathers generation 87 per cent were illiterates, father generation 71 per cent illiterates. So only 16 per cent crossed the barrier of illiteracy in fathers generation. But among the present generation 14 per cent crossed the barrier of illiteracy. Still the illiterates are predominant in the villages (57 per cent). But the sons and daughters of the villagers are going to school. The growing awareness among the villagers regarding their children's education found greater.

The caste system is still a factor to be reckoned within the Indian society. The endogamous nature of caste and the avoidance of inter caste marriages still remain without any change. The caste restrictions regarding the occupations are undergoing changes.

Occupation and education have changed the status of the villagers and those working in SPB feel proud of their job. This is due to the social status they enjoy among villagers.

The role of caste in trade unions and the existence of caste solidarity among the industrial workers show the inability of the industrial set up in modifying the casteism in industry.

When a worker joins the SPB he loses his caste identity and work along with other workers. But on his return from factory to his village residence, caste feelings emerge. But in the SPB Colony the caste segregation is not observed much.

Migration helps the workers to lose their caste identity. In an industrial urban set up nobody cares who he is? and who is his father? But in the villages around SPB each worker is identified with his caste. Even though scheduled caste members got industrial job and earning equal to the income of other castes still the villagers identified them with their castes and occupation of their fathers. But it is interesting to note that a scheduled caste migrant is given a house on rent at a higher rate and his caste is not considered as a restrictive factor in the villages. The local Scheduled caste will not be allowed to stay among other castes, even though he is an industrial worker.

In the villages the traditional caste groups such as barbers, washermen, carpenters, sweepers etc. continue to render their services to the higher castes. But the old jajmani relations have to an end and payment is demanded immediately after service. In some villages the practicing of untouchability is still survive in some form or other.

Changed structure of economy has affected a great deal the traditional norms of caste and occupational pursuits. Due to industrialization the rate of occupational mobility has gone up considerably. But caste is still operating as a major status criterion in the villages studied. Yet the degree of agreement on the part of the members of the village community in assigning a caste group to a particular rank was not so high.

Industrialisation has largely broken the traditional association between caste and occupation. But the aspect of endogamy still remains in the industrializing tract. So endogamous character of caste is still intact. In the neighbouring villages of SPB the most important criterion on which status of an individual is reckoned with occupation. Income comes second, and land possession third. As a result of SPB, caste is pushed to the fourth position.

The benefits for scheduled castes as a result of SPB is very low. The residential segregation of scheduled castes is still prevalent even in some of the neighbouring villages only in SPB colony, irrespective of caste and other factors all are living in the same place.

The neighbouring villages of SPB are in transition from its traditional traits like illiteracy, child labour,

poverty, caste base occupations, and dependency of agrarian economy. These villages crossing the barriers of the above factors. However, the influence of the factor industrialisation is not uniform among all the caste groups in the neighbouring villages. The Scheduled castes is less affected by this trend. This may be due to lack of even the basic education. Requirements of minimum education is insisted even for the lower level works in the SPB. Scope for further research, is to study the relationship between caste, education, occupation and income.

Impact of industry vary from society to society since this processes normally happens to correspond with socio-cultural matrix of the particular society. It is not necessary, therefore that the same significant consequences of industrialization, experienced by one society should attend another industrializing society in the like manner. As it is socio-economic changes in the context of industrialization does not imply that there was no change at all prior to industrialization. But the process of industrialization one finds that is there is a consistent pattern of socio-economic change.