CHAPTER - IX

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapters, it is attempted to examine the socio-economic status of women in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, in which demographic status studied in terms of population growth, distribution, density and sex ratio; social status in terms of literacy and educational attainment, economic status in terms of work participation rate and their occupational structure; comprehensive study of the status of women with men, decadal socio-economic status of women and caste-wise socio-economic status of women and their overall socio-economic status. Various statistical techniques have been used and computed the various socio-economic indices into composite index and also used the factor analysis method of multivariate analysis for more realistic results. However, this final chapter summarizes the major findings of the entire study and accordingly some viable recommendations are also given, which can be helpful to improve the overall socio-economic status of women in the study area.

9.2 GENERAL FINDINGS

1. Ahmednagar district is situated partly in the upper Godavari basin and partly in the Bhima basin occupying a somewhat central position in the Maharashtra state. The district has an immense variety in case of relief, which includes hills, plateaux and plains of basin. The north-western region of the district is adjacent to the Western Ghats. It includes the area of the Akole tahsil and some part of the Sangamner tahsil. The district lies in drought-prone zone. The district as a whole is an elevated tableland of the Deccan which has a general slope from west to east.
2. The study of the physiographic profile of the district shows wide variation in the relief features, drainage patterns, geology, climate, soil, land holding

and general land use patterns and all these aspects also reflect very sharp regional disparities in overall socio-economic development of the study area.

3. The drainage of Ahmadnagar district belongs to two major river basins, the Godavari in the north and the Bhima basin in the south. Apart from these major rivers, a number of sub-tributaries have drained the district. Rivers like Adula, Mahalungi, Pravara, Mula, Dhora to the north while Kukadi, Ghod, Sina to the south are important one. The soils of study region can broadly classified into three groups such as, black or kali, red or tambat and barad or gray including pandhari or white. The fertile soils are thus, mainly observed in the belts along the rivers in the northern part of the tahsil whereas the southern tahsil are dominated with courser material and low fertility status.
4. The climate of the district is generally hot and dry, especially hot in summer. The district mostly lies in the rain shadow to the east of the Sahyadris. The north western part of the district is exceptionally humid as it is located in the Western Ghats. The distribution of rainfall is very uneven in the study region. The average annual rainfall in the district is 578.8 mm. The western part of Akole tahsil gets good rainfall, further it is gradually decreases towards the east, but from the line roughly north-south in the central parts of the district the rainfall again gradually increases towards the eastern part of the district.
5. The pattern of rainy days roughly follows the pattern of annual rainfall, suggesting that occurrence of more rain is mainly because of the correspondingly large number of rainy days. It is identified that number of rainy days varies between 28 and 43 in the tahsils of high rainfall zone (600 mm and above) whereas the number of rainy days varies between 25 and 36 in the tahsils of low rainfall zone (below 500 mm).
6. Temperature is one of the most important elements of climate, which effects on other elements like as rainfall, humidity, clouds and wind speed etc. The average annual temperature of the study area is 24.9°C. The average annual

temperature varies from 19.5°C in the month of December to 30.5°C in the month of May in the year 2011. There is gradual increase in average temperature from December to May while declining trend in average temperature from May to December, except the month of October. As the typical feature of semi-arid climate, dryness prevails throughout the year except the south-west monsoon. The air is generally dry during the months from February to May and particularly in the noontime average relative humidity is around 20 per cent. During the south-west monsoon period it is between 60 to 80 per cent and afterwards decreases rapidly in the post monsoon season.

7. The size of landholding or its ownership is a very important variable to assess the economic status of a family. In most agro based economics, the landless and nearly landless population from the core of the rural poverty. Landholding size is possibly the more useful factor to act as a discriminator of rural household's economic status than any other socio-economic indication. As per the Agricultural Census of India, the highest percentage of holdings or number of cultivators is found in Ahmadnagar District (6.98 per cent), while lowest in Gadchiroli district (0.98 per cent) in 2010-11. It is found that, marginal and small size of holding, these two categories together constitute about 81.62 per cent landholders possessing 51.64 per cent land in the district, whereas 4.0 per cent landholders constituted medium (4.0-9.99 hectare) and large (10.0 and above) size of landholding. They are holding 19.32 per cent of land that means merely 4.0 per cent of the landholders holding one fifth of landholdings. It is identified that, the lowest average landholding is found in Rahuri (1.11 hectare) tahsil, which is mostly irrigated and sugar cane growing area of the district. Whereas the highest average land holding is observed in Jamkhed tahsil with (1.61 hectares) per cultivating household, which is one of the drought prone tahsils in the study area
8. Land use is the surface utilization of all developed and vacant lands on a specific point at a given time and space. The socio-economic changes that

have profound influence on land use pattern. It is an ideal index for looking at the economic progress of area. The land use patterns in the district show that it occupies 1667788 hectares of geographical area, which is about 5.42 per cent of the total geographical area of the state during the 2011-12. The area under forests accounts 7.89 per cent of the geographical area which is very much less than that of the state's average (16.96 per cent). The land unavailable for cultivation comprises 10.10 per cent area against the state average of 10.34 per cent, while the other uncultivated land excluding fallow occupies 2.03 per cent area against the state average (7.84 per cent). The fallow land occupies 11.88 per cent against the state average of 8.27 per cent. The net sown area covers 68.11 per cent of the geographical area which is higher than the state average (56.59 per cent) during the 2011-12. Hence, It is one of the most important resources for human being therefore it is necessary to put land for right use according to its capability and type.

9. Present analysis reveals very uneven distribution and density of population in the entire district, which is depends upon varied socio-economic factors. Very high population distribution was found in Nagar tahsil (15.06 per cent), whereas low population distribution was found in Jamkhed tahsil (3.49 per cent) in 2011. There was also observed a wide disparity in between male and female population distribution. The highest male and female population was noticed in Nagar tahsil i.e. 15.12 per cent, 14.99 per cent respectively, whereas their lowest population was noticed in Jamkhed tahsil i.e. 3.52 per cent, 3.45 per cent respectively. In migration is one of the major factors of concentration of population in industrialized and urbanized tahsils in the study area.
10. Abnormally high density of population has recorded for Shrirampur tahsil which is 446 persons per sq. km. This is because of the agricultural development, concentration of industries and expansion of transportation and communication facilities in this tashil. It is clear from the study that there is found close relationship in between relief feature, climate, rainfall, soil, availability of water, transportation network, economic activities and

distribution of population. Hilly, plateau, drought pone areas and economically backward tahsils like Akole, Parner, Karjat, Jamkhed, and Pathardi shows densities much lower than the district average. The impact of accessibility and transportation is also reflected, the high population density was found along the river side and along the road side. The highest concentration of population was found in central part of the district, high and moderate in the northern part and relatively low was found in southern part of district.

11. In the study area, decadal average population growth rate was found 19.80 per cent during 1991-2001, which was decreased by 7.36 per cent and it was found 12.44 per cent during the decade of 2001-2011. Except Shevgaon, Pathardi, Karjat, Jamkhed tahsil, entire district experiences decrease in total population growth rate during the last two decades. It is because of progress in industrialization, urbanization and accordingly development of infrastructural facilities like education, health, transportation, communication and also peoples are adopting the small family norms leads to low fertility rate.
12. Present analysis reveals the very serious problem of rapidly decreasing trend of sex ratio in general as well as in the age of 0-6 years. It is very interesting to know that increasing trend of overall sex ratio at state and national level whereas it remains declined in the study region during the last decade. The overall sex ratio of Ahmdanagar district was declined from 953 in 1991 to 944 in 2001 and further it has come down to 939 in 2011.
13. Declining child sex ratio is very serious concern not only in India and Maharashtra but also in the entire district. There has been found continuous decrease in the child sex ratio (0-6 age) from national to district level also from 1991 to 2011. In the study area everywhere sex ratio was found below 900, which is result of some unusual circumstances, in which sex selective abortions is the major one in the district.
14. The highest negative change in general sex ratio was found in Parner (-62) tahsil, whereas high negative change (between -45 to -30) found in Jamkhed

(-35) and Pathardi (-31) tahsil during 1991 to 2011. It has also found that except the Nagar, Shrirampur, Rahata and Kopargaon remaining all tahsils show declining in general sex ratio and more serious thing is that none of the tahsils shows positive change or increase in child sex ratio sex ratio from 1991 to 2011. Very high and negative changes in child sex ratio noticed in Ahmadnagar district (-100 girls missing) as compared to national (-31 missing girl) and state (-63 missing girl) average from 1991-2011. Child sex ratio declining is two times greater as compared to the nation and four times greater as compared to the state, leads to adverse child sex ratio in the study region. The highest negative change in child sex ratio was found in Rahuri tahsil (-131), while lowest negative change was found in Kopargaon tahsil (-58).

15. Declining child sex ratio is very serious concern in all the tahsils of study region. None of the tahsils indicated with very high, high or even moderate child sex ratio. Child sex ratio was continuously declining from 1991 to 2011. Although, sex selective abortion is a common practice in all the tahsils in the study region also it is increased very rapidly in 2001-2011 as compare to 1991-2001.
16. The difference between the male and female population, grows remarkably rapid and wide and this gap is never made up in the middle or old age. The sex composition of study region shows fewer females per thousand males. High female mortality at childhood, lower level status of women in society, sex selective migration, extent of urbanization, availability of medical facilities, sex selective abortions and infanticide etc, are some of the major causes of declining sex ratio of Ahmadnagar district.
17. The trend of overall literacy rate has increased in India, Maharashtra as well as in Ahmadnagar district with overall development in various socio-economic fields, since 1991. Thus, the literacy rate shows an increasing trend of overall as well as male-female literacy rate from 1991 to 2011, due to the rapid growth of literacy rate in all over the country. Generally it is observed that overall as well as male-female literacy rate of the district is

comparatively lower than that of the state average, whereas it is always higher than the national average throughout the study period.

18. It is found that though the male literacy rate is comparatively higher than that of the female literacy rate, yet the percentage increase in the growth of literacy rate has been always higher among the females than among the males from national to district level during 1991-2011.
19. The gap in general literacy rate is reduced by increasing literacy rate of 18.59 per cent at district level, 18.04 per cent at state level and 21.83 per cent at national level during the last two decades. The gap between male-female literacy rates is reduced from 29.91 per cent in 1991 to 16.72 per cent during 2011 in the study area. It is also noticed that gap between male and female literacy rate is reduced from 24.24 per cent in 1991 to 14.34 per cent in 2011 at state level and further gap is reduced from 24.84 per cent in 1991 to 16.68 per cent in 2011 at national level. In the study area, it reveals that gap in between male and female literacy rate is remained higher than the state as well as national average from 1991 to 2011. Although, the notable point is that the continuous decrease in the gap in between male and female literacy from national to district level in 2011 over the 1991.
20. It is significant to note that literacy transition in the study region is fast approaching towards the advanced stage. Overall and male-female disparity in literacy rate was decreased in the last two decades with increasing the literacy rate in general and gender-wise particular. The total literacy rate was increased from 59.32 per cent to 77.91 per cent during 1991 to 2011. Male-female literacy was also increased from 73.93 per cent and 44.02 per cent in 1991 to 86.07 per cent and 69.35 per cent in 2011.
21. The gender-wise disparity in literacy rate has also been narrowing from 0.32 in 1991 to 0.15 in 2011, which indicates that especially female literacy rate, has been growing by much faster rate than that of the males. As a result of which, the disparity between male and female literacy rate has been significantly narrowed down during the 2011 over the 1991. But, there still exists significant inequalities in literacy rates in general and gender-

wise particular. In other words females are far lagging behind males in literacy in all the tahsils of the study area.

22. The general and gender-wise disparity in literacy mainly observed in socio-economically less developed, drought-prone and tribal tahsils like Karjat, Jamkhed, Shrigonda, Parner, Nevasa, Shevgaon, Pathardi and Akole. It is further found that the overall and male-female literacy rates are comparatively higher in the urbanized tahsils than the un-urbanized tahsils and also literacy rate is higher in northern part than that of the southern part of the district.

23. Present study shows that women are much lagging behind than men in case of educational attainment. It is observed that spatial inequality in education of male and female at all levels of attainment, due to rigid topography with low accessibility and availability of educational facilities in the tahsils of western and southern part than the tahsils of central and eastern part of the study area. The proportion of female education in primary, middle primary and secondary level was 18.40 per cent, 22.90 per cent, 28.20 per cent respectively, which is higher than the male educational attainment of 16.80 per cent, 18.80 per cent, 24.80 per cent respectively. The proportion of female education in higher secondary, graduation, post-graduation and other technical education level was 15.80 per cent, 6.80 per cent, 4.50 per cent, 3.40 per cent respectively, which is much lower than the male educational attainment of concerned levels of 17.10 per cent, 12.30 per cent, 5.80 per cent, 4.30 per cent respectively. That means female educational attainment in higher education is much lagging behind than the male educational attainment in the study area.

24. The trend of overall work participation rate was increased not only in the study area, but also in the state of Maharashtra and India since 1991, due to the increase in work force participation from national, state and district level also. The increasing trend of male work participation rate has observed from national to district level in 2011 over 1991. Whereas increasing trend of female work participation has also observed during

2001, but their decreasing trend has observed during 2011 at state and national level also.

25. The gap in general work participation rate has grown up by 3.38 per cent at district level, 5.93 per cent at state level, due to increasing the male work participation rate much more than the female work participation rate. Whereas it has narrowed down by 1.08 per cent at national level during the last two decades. In the study area, it was found that gap between male and female work participation rate was remained lower than the state as well as national average from 1991 to 2011.

26. The overall work participation rate of the study region was comparatively higher than that of the state and the national average throughout the study period. Male work participation rate was lower than the state and national average in 1991, while it was higher than national average and lower than the state average in 2001 and 2011. On the other hand female work participation rate in the study area was always higher than the state and the national average throughout the study period. It is also noticed that the highest female dependency was observed at national level followed at state level, whereas lowest female dependency was observed at district level during the study period.

27. The study area has witnessed with slightly increasing trend of both male and female work participation rates. There has been found considerable spatial variation in total and male-female work participation rates in the study area during 1991-2011. The average work participation rate was increased from 46.77 per cent in 1991 to 49.40 per cent in 2011, whereas male and female work participation rate was also increased from 51.29 per cent and 41.96 per cent in 1991 to 55.65 per cent and 42.74 per cent in 2011, which clearly show that in the study area, the average male work participation rate was considerably higher than the female work participation rate during the study period. In other words, females are much lagging behind as compared to males with respect to work participation rate in all the tahsils.

28. The proportion of female workers has higher than the proportion of male workers, especially in agricultural sector and vice-versa in non-agricultural sector. The high proportion of females in this sector indicates that less development of non-agricultural activities and also lack of required literacy, training and skill among females for getting employment in other services.
29. Female employment generation and diversification is necessary from agriculture to non-agricultural sector in the drought-prone tahsils like Karjat, Jamkhed, Shrigonda, Pathardi, Nevasa, Shevgaon and Parner etc. for enhancing their work participation and reducing the gender-wise disparity in the concerned tahsils. It was also found the wide disparity in work participation rate in general and gender-wise and also male-female sector-wise, which shows lower level socio-economic status of women in the society.
30. Maharashtra is one of the highly urbanized and industrialized and relatively prosperous states in India. Though, socio-economic status of women in Maharashtra is much higher as compared to many northern Hindi speaking states while lower status as compared to southern and non-Hindi states, also their status is low as compared to men's status. In the spatial view higher level of socio-economic status of women and men has been consistently restricted to mostly urbanized and industrialized districts like Mumbai, Mumbai Suburb, Thane, Pune, Nagpur, and Nashik, while remained lower in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of the state.
31. Tahsil level study clearly indicates that, socio-economic status of women was lower in all the tahsils of the study region compared to the status of men, but there is narrowing gap and disparity within and between women and men's development from 1991 to 2011. Women's status increases with the augmentation of men's status, that means both women and men's socio-economic status rises hand in hand.
32. In 1991, it is found that, only Nagar tahsil falls in the category of very high level status of women, whereas Nagar, Shrirampur, Kopargaon, Rahuri and Sangamner tahsils falls in the category of very high level status of men.

Hence, it is clear that, there is tahsil-wise wide disparity and inequality in socio-economic status of women as compared to men. It is found that tahsils like Jamkhed, Shevgaon, Nevasa, Karjat and Parner in Ahmadnagar district recorded very low level status and Nagar having the highest level status of women in 1991.

33. In 2001, Nagar and Shrirampur tahsil identified with very high and high level status of women and very high status of men, while in 2011 remains maintained the status of women and men. It is because of high literacy rate, high work participation, high proportion of urban population and most of the workers engaged in non-agricultural activities. However, drought-prone tahsils like Shrigonda, Pathardi, Akole, Karjat, Nevasa, Shevgaon and Parner denotes very low and low level status of women in 2001 and 2011, while only Shevgaon tahsil fall in very low level of women status in 2011. During 2001, tahsils like Rahuri, Kopargaon, Sangamner, Rahata and Jamkhed fall in medium level status of women and men and also maintained the place of development in 2011. There is a north-south divide observed in terms of status of women and men, especially, northern agriculturally sound, mostly urbanized, industrialized, irrigated tahsils show moderate to high status of women and moderate to very high status of men, whereas less urbanized, agriculturally less developed, drought-prone eastern, western and southern tahsil denotes very low to low level status with respect to women and men.

34. It is concluded, that the socio-economic status of women in the study region improved in 2011 over 1991, but the remaining lagging much behind as compared to the men. The districts in the state of Maharashtra viz. Nandurbar, Dhule, Jalgaon, Buldhana, Jalna, Bid, Osmanabad, Latur, Parabhani, Nanded, Hingoli, Wasim, Yavatmal, Bhandara, Gadchiroli, Ahmadnagar, Satara, Sangli, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg and tahsils like Akole, Parner, Shrigonda, Karjat, Nevasa, Shevgaon, Pathardi in the Ahmadnagar district lagging much behind in terms of women status as compared to men. Though the status of women in comparison to men has

been improving at faster rate and coming closer to that of men but in general women still lagging behind both at district and tahsil levels in the state.

35. Foregoing analysis revealed that Nagar tahsil was consistently identified with highest level position of women during 1991 and 2011, whereas Jamkhed and Shevgaon tahsil was left behind and identified with lowest level position of women in 1991 and 2011 respectively.

36. The entire district is experienced by positive changes and progress regarding women's status. There is found much of the increase in the values of composite index of women's status in between 1991 to 2011. Nagar tahsil consistently exists with very high level status of women whereas Shevgaon remained with the low level status of women during the last two decade. Nagar and Shrirampur tahsils maintained their place of status and ranking also, both tahsils indicates improvement in composite index value, regarding women's status during 1991 to 2011. It is observed that Rahata tahsil is jumped from moderate level status to very high level status category. Tahsil like Kopargaon, Rahuri and Sangamner are consistently maintained their higher level status during the study period.

37. It is also explicit that, Jamkhed tahsil was made fast progress as compared to the other tahsil and jumped into high level status category from low level status, while Shrigonda, Nevasa, Karjat, Pathardi, Parner and Akole tahsil entered into the moderate level status category, over the last 20 years. It is mainly because of improvement in female literacy rate and simultaneously increase the proportion of female workers in non-agricultural sector, but on the other side discrimination against women viz. declining sex ratio and child sex ratio are major obstructs in the progress of women's status. The child sex ratio of these tahsil significantly low as compared to the district average (895), which clearly shows since, the progress in literacy and work participation, their status is relatively low in drought affected and backward tahsil as compared to the irrigated and modernized tahsil.

38. The composite index value of socio-economic status of women among the different segment of the society shows that there is much progress in women's status but there is remains wide disparity in women's status within and between the different communities in 2011. It is further found that mostly those tahsil having higher level status of women belonging to non-SC/ST also having the higher level status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and vice-versa.
39. It is very significant to note that there is much enhancement in status of Schedule Castes women and disparity goes down and their statuses come closer to the women's in the privileged class, but contrary Scheduled Tribe women's status is far lagging behind relative to women's in any other sections of the society.
40. The findings of village level study show that the highest composite index value of overall socio-economic status of women was found in Nimbodi village (33.95) of Nagar tahsil, whereas their lowest socio-economic status was found in Thakarwadi village (15.70) of Akole tahsil in 2014-15. Nagar is one of the highly urbanized, industrialized and modernized in nature, on the other hand Akole tahsil is tribal one.
41. It is also revealed that tahsils in the district and also villages in the tahsil are marked with the wide disparity in socio-economic status of women. Some of the villages are observed with the remarkable socio-economic progress, whereas some of the villages are remained far lagging with respect to women's status. This village level study also shows that there are different factors, like geographical, demographic, socio-economic and political are affecting on the overall socio-economic development of the women in the study area. The findings of village level study also support the general perception about the levels of socio-economic status of women prevailed in the district.

9.3 FINDINGS OF CORRELATION ANALYSIS

42. There is a strong positive correlation in between general sex ratio and child sex ratio (0-6 age) (r = 0.694) and found correlation is significant at 5 % even at 1 % level of significance. Hence, it is universal and strongly proved that increase in the child sex ratio accordingly increase in the general sex ratio.

43. Similarly female literacy rate and percentage of female workers engaged in non-agriculture sector that indicates high positive correlation (r = 0.910). Another strong positive correlation which is found in between literacy of female and their urban proportion (r = 0.754). There is even higher positive correlation is found in between proportion of urban females and percentage of female workers engaged in non-agricultural sector (r = 0.897). All these correlations found with significant at 1% level. That means higher is the proportion of urban female, higher is the female literacy rate and correspondingly higher is the proportion of female workers in non-agricultural sector.

44. The literacy rate and total work participation rate indicate inverse relationship that increases in the female literacy, declines in overall female work participation rate of female (r = -0.878), which is also significant at 1 % level of significance. It is mainly because of mostly employment opportunities available in the agricultural sector rather than non-agricultural sector and also the literate females want to more prestigious job which is not generated by that proportion in non-agriculture sector, hence they have facing the problem of unemployment.

45. There is high negative correlation which exists in between total work participation of females to the proportion of female workers in non-agricultural sector (r = -0.922) and also high negative correlation with their urban proportion (r = -0.815). That means proportion of female workers is comparatively much higher in rural area than the urban areas.

46. There is also found significant negative correlation between status of women and their work participation rate (r = -0.845) to total females in the

study area. It is because of mostly female workers who are engaged in agricultural and allied activities. Therefore, it is inversely affecting on their socio-economic status.

47. There is insignificant correlation is observed in between women's status with child sex ratio of girls (age of 0-6). Therefore, hypothesis is statistically not proved that higher is the child sex ratio (age of 0-6), higher is the status of women in the society. But in reality, we realized that declining child sex ratio is obstructs for improving their status, hence there is need to improve female status by balancing the child sex ratio in future.
48. Another, hypothesis is justified that male-female literacy rate is highly contributed to the betterment of their status. There is found very strong and positive correlation in between female literacy rate (r = 0.817) and their socio-economic status. On the other hand, there is also found very strong and positive correlation in between male literacy rate (r = 0.817) with their socio-economic status and both are significant at 1 per cent level of significance. Therefore, it is true that higher the literacy rate and level of educational attainment of male-female, higher is their statuses.
49. There is also found low positive correlation between status of women with women workers engaged in non-agricultural sector, whereas very strong and positive correlation is found in between status of men and their proportion in non-agricultural sector (r = 0.965), which is also significant at 1 % level. Therefore, assumption is proved that higher the proportion of workers engaged in non-agricultural activities having higher is the socio-economic status of men and women, hence there is need to improve female work participation in non-agriculture sector in the study area.
50. The proportion of male and females residing in urban areas and improvement in their literacy rate are highly contributed for betterment of their status. There is found very strong and positive correlation in between socio-economic status of women to their urban proportion (r = 0.991), whereas very high and positive correlation in between socio-economic status of men to their urban proportion (r = 0.989) and both correlations are

found significant at 1% level. Hence, the hypothesis is strongly proved that higher is the proportion of urban population and exposure to modern facilities higher is the status of men and women. It is proved from the present analysis that, higher is the degree of urbanization, higher is the proportion of urban population, correspondingly higher is the literacy rate and work participation rate in non-agricultural sector of both the sexes and accordingly higher is their socio-economic status.

51. Further, hypothesis is statistically proved that the relationship in between non-SC/ST women's status and Scheduled Castes women's status was positive (r = 0.992) and significant at 1 per cent level. While relationship in between non-SC/ST women's status and Scheduled Tribe women's status was positive (r = 0.724) and also significant at 1 per cent level.

52. Present study proves the assumption that female status was high where male status was high. It is also statistically proved that coefficient of correlation between the men's and women's composite index is positive i.e. (r = 0.989) in 1991, (r = 0.992) in 2001 and (r = 0.996) in 2011 and all are found significant at 1 % during the study period. Hence, it clearly indicates that the tahsil having better off with respect to men's status, the women's status is also comparatively better off.

9.4 FINDINGS OF FACTOR ANALYSIS

53. The empirical results of factor analysis show that, first factor (D1) accounts 59.98 % variation, whereas second (D2) factor accounts 29.20 % variation. The Factor I and II together explain more than three fourth of total variance (89%). Though this analysis is carried out with limited number of variables but may be extended to greater number of variables. The first two principal components are sufficient to explain more than 89 per cent of the total variability in the original data set.

54. As far as factor first is concerned, there are 3 variables indicated with significantly higher positive loading. Positive factor loading indicates that with increase in the female urban proportion, there is much increase in the

female literacy rate, educational attainment and accordingly percentage of female workers in non-agricultural sector will be increased. On the other hand, female work participation rate indicates strong negative factor loading in case of first factor. That means increase in urbanization decrease in the total female work participation rate. This factor reflects growth of urbanisation and their influence on different socio-economic characteristics.

55. For the second factor, two variables show strong positive factor loading viz. sex ratio and child sex ratio, whereas remaining variables shows insignificant factor loading. Strong positive factor loading reveals the universal fact that there is increase in child sex ratio of girls, there is also increase in general or overall sex ratio of female.

56. The urbanised tahsils having high, positive score on factor 1, which indicates very high level status of women's development. In contrast, less urbanised as well as un-urbanised tahsils distinctly having high negative score on factor 1 and identified with worse socio-economic status of women.

57. It is proved from the present analysis that the overall socio-economic status of women in northern part of the district is relatively better than rest of the tahsils in the southern part of the district. It is also found that economically more developed tahsils reflects higher level status and occupy high rank, whereas economically most backward and drought affected tahsils reflects inferior level status of women and occupy much lower ranks.

58. In the study area, we found wide variations in the levels of socio-economic status of women and their development. Nagar tahsil was identified with very high level position of women. On the other hand, Karjat tahsil recorded with lowest level status, followed by Pathardi and Jamkhed tahsil recorded with very low or inferior level overall status of women. That means these 3 tahsils lagging much behind than the rest of the tahsils in the district. All these tahsils indicates slower rate of progress and lagging behind than others in terms of sex ratio, literacy rate, workers in non-agricultural sector and urban proportion with respect to women.

9.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To improve the sex ratio in general and in specific (0-6 years), it is necessary to promote a positive image of women and girl child in the society with the help of mass media and different social awareness programmes like 'Lek Vachava Abhiyan', todays 'Lek Vachava, Lek Shikva Abhiyan', 'Janani Suraksha Abhiyan' not only in study region but also at the state and the national level.
2. It is recommended that special incentives should be given to the couples having girl child in the form of appreciation, money, equal opportunities in jobs and promotion etc.
3. It is also suggested that Govt. should deposit valid considerable amount at the time of birth of girl child in their bank account which may useful at the time of higher education and their marriage.
4. There is considerable scope and need to improve the health status of women at village level in the study area. Therefore, it is needed to strengthen the health facilities like, primary health centers & sub-centres, maternal and child health care centres, mobile clinics, medical facilities, fulfillment of required staff along with quality of all these services.
5. Govt. and NGOs agencies should promote the health education programmes, it is also given to the girls by promoting different awareness progarammes at school and college level. Simultaneously, measures to improve the socio-economic condition must be undertaken.
6. It is observed that gender differences in literacy particularly marked especially in drought prone, tribal and backward tahsils like as, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Jamkhed, Karjat, Shrigonda, Nevasa, Parner, and Akola. Hence, it is suggested that Government should make special efforts for improving the educational facilities and improving the school enrolment level of girls in these tahsils.
7. Govt. should provide free education to both male and female up to 12^{th} standard.

8. Govt. and NGOs should conduct the awareness campaign in the villages for spreading the value of higher education in the society and also parents should be motivated to given equal treatment for male and female children in providing higher education.
9. Male work participation is considerably higher than females in all the tahsils of the study region. It is found that all the tahsils of district show higher female participation index (1.29) in agricultural sector whereas lower in non-agricultural sector (0.5). Therefore there is a need of the diversification of female employment is necessary from agriculture to non-agricultural sector in the drought-prone tahsils like Karjat, Jamkhed, Shrigonda, Pathardi, Nevasa, Shevgaon and Parner etc.
10. Govt. should generate and provide equal employment opportunities, loans and subsidies also given to women for development of their own business and for small scale industries along with provide them vocational training and skill development programmes. This may help to increase the capacity of women in gainful economic activities in the study area.
11. There are found tehsil-wise imbalances in the industrial and socio-economic development in the study area. Hence, it is suggested that Govt. should develop industries and infrastructural facilities in a balanced manner and greater attention should be paid to the development of drought affected tahsils which have so far remained backward.
12. There is also need of social awareness regarding women's economic contribution within and outside the households.
13. Though there are positive changes in socio-economic status of different segment of society and ultimately rise in their status, but remains Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are most disadvantaged socio-economically. Therefore, there is need to give special attention by government, towards women's position of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribes by improving their socio-economic condition and level

of living by giving them equal opportunities in education and employment so far Scheduled Tribes women's status come up to the level of women's status of Scheduled Castes and non-SC/ST class.

14. It is also revealed from the Factor Analysis that, Karjat tahsil recorded with lowest level status, followed by Pathardi and Jamkhed tahsil recorded with very low or inferior level overall status of women. Therefore, it is also recommended that the government planners and policy makers should focus their efforts particularly on the laggard and most backward tahsils, like Jamkhed, Pathardi and Karjat.