

AN ANALYSIS OF REPORTED CASH RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CULTIVATORS IN 'KHANDALI' VILLAGE

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THE estimation of income and expenditure on the basis of the reported data is one of the basic problems encountered in the studies of family budgets, farm business enquiries etc. Quite frequently the reported expenditure of the families interviewed exceeds their reported income leaving a negative balance in the budget. One is confronted with this question of negative balance in the budgetary data more or less for all groups of families such as cultivators, agricultural labourers, traders, industrial workers, government employees, etc. Before using such reported figures of income and expenditure it is always important to look for possible explanations of such negative gap and to examine the extent of overstatement on the expenditure side and/or the extent of underreporting of income.

In this paper, the reported figures of farm income and farm expenditure for a group of cultivators from Khandali, a village in Sholapur District, have been analysed on the presumption that cash receipts and cash expenditure of cultivators should more or less balance each other. The data relate to the year 1950-51, and 564 families in this village were visited every fourth week during the period June 1950 to May 1951. Different families were surveyed in different weeks during the month. No particular procedure was adopted regarding allotment of families during the four weeks in a month. The collected information for all families was, however, more or less equally spread over all the 52 weeks during the year. Information was collected regarding (i) income from different sources, (ii) the expenditure on household items and on farm, (iii) production, sale, purchases, receipts and disposals in kind, (iv) the details of employment in respect of each member of the family of age six and above, and the details of work done by others for the family. The reference period for the employment data and for the household expenditure on food items was one week while for other items it was four weeks. In addition, general schedules were filled in at the beginning and the end of the enquiry where information about the family size, indebtedness, ownership of land, etc. was noted. Separate schedules were filled in at the end of the enquiry for collection of data relating to farm business activity, animal husbandry, wells, etc.

In Khandali, sugarcane is the main cash crop and most of the area is under canal irrigation. Practically whole of the sugarcane is consumed for manufacturing gur which is sent to Akhij for marketing. Among 564 families — the total number of families in the village at the beginning of the