CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS

1. With reference to beedi workers, the following conclusions are arrived at:

(i) Keeping the factor of family background as "cause", it was related to the factors such as political participation, political knowledge and political awareness.

   It is observed that the different factors in the family background are responsible for the development of the political participation and knowledge of the beedi workers. But it is also found that these factors do not seem to be significantly responsible to create political awareness.

   Since a beedi worker is interested in a political system in the context of his occupational point of view, obviously he has a very little interest in the political system. Therefore, he is more concerned with the different beneficial aspects in his occupation than the different developments in a political system. In fact, whatever contact they have with any political process they establish through trade unions.

(ii) Taking social development factor as the 'cause' and relating it with political participation, political knowledge and political awareness, it is inferred that social factors seem to be promoting political participation, political knowledge and political awareness. It is observed
that because of their political knowledge or their political participation, the beedi workers seem to have become aware of different social values.

It is found that the workers have a good deal of awareness of social and political values. Their values regarding their political system seem to be outcome of their knowledge and participation of political system.

(iii) Keeping the factor economic awareness as the ‘cause’ it was related to political participation, political knowledge and political awareness.

It is observed that the economic awareness of the beedi workers has emerged as the most important factor responsible for development of their political participation, political knowledge and political awareness. Mainly because, it is their economic awareness which activates them in the political process. It may be borne in mind that the trade unions play important role in creating economic awareness among the beedi workers.

Added to their unions social and political leaders and different mass media too became responsible in making them economically more aware. Once the economic awareness is developed among the beedi workers, it leads to the development of their political awareness.

(iv) Keeping mass media as a ‘cause’, it was related to political participation, political knowledge and political awareness.
It is observed that the mass media develop their political knowledge and make them considerably politically aware. But there mass media do not seem to prompt them for the political participation more than their media.

It is through the mass media that the social and political leaders are introduced to the beedi workers.

(v) Keeping the professional awareness as a 'cause' it was related to political participation, political knowledge and political awareness.

It is known that professional awareness is responsible to increase the political participation, political knowledge and political awareness of the beedi workers. Information regarding different problems related to the occupation of the beedi workers became responsible to create their political participation, political awareness and the professional awareness later becomes responsible to create economic and political awareness.

While solving different problems in their professions beedi workers establish contacts with trade unions and later participate in the political process through them.

2. **With reference to beedi union leaders, the following conclusions are arrived at:**

i) Considering 'Experience' as cause it was related to political awareness, general political participation, trade union participation and developmental factors.
It is inferred that experience does not seem to have influenced political awareness, general political participation and developmental factors at all. Experience, however, seems to have influenced the political participation materialized through trade unions.

ii) Keeping knowledgeability as cause it was related to political awareness, general political participation, trade union participation and developmental factors.

It is observed that knowledgeability does not seem to have influenced political awareness and developmental factors. It seems, however, to have influenced both general participation and trade union participation. Knowledgeability seem to have influenced general political participation more than trade union participation.

iii) Since experience and knowledgeability do not seem to have influenced political awareness individually, it was seen whether experience and knowledgeability taken together could influence the same.

Experience and knowledgeability, combined, were taken as cause and related to political awareness, general political participation, trade union participation and developmental factors.

It is observed that experience and knowledgeability taken together do not seem to influence the political awareness. They however, seem to have influenced both the categories of political participation. The experience and knowledgeability taken together seem to have influenced general political participation. The factors taken together, however, seem
to have influenced the developmental issues almost negligibly.

iv) Experience and knowledgeability taken together, did not seem to have influenced political awareness. Therefore, political awareness the later was included in the group comprising experience, knowledgeability and political awareness. It is realized that in this group the political awareness can't be the effect in fact it turned to be the cause. Therefore, political awareness was included in the combined group of experience and knowledgeability.

The combined group of experience, knowledgeability and political awareness taken as 'cause' was related to general political participation and trade union participation.

It is known that experience, knowledgeability and political awareness taken together seem to have influenced general and trade union participations. But the combined influence was more on the general political participation than on trade union participation.

In short, experience and knowledgeability either independently or combined do not seem to influence political awareness. It is, however, assumed that the union leaders, thanks mainly to their own group, have acquired political awareness.

'Experience' seems to have influenced general political participation and trade union participation. Besides experience, knowledgeability and political awareness taken together seem to have greatly influenced general political participation. But their influence on the trade union participation does not seem to be as much as the
influence of general political participation. Therefore, conclusion may be 
drawn that the participation of the union leaders in political parties is 
more. Thanks to their contacts with different political parties. But 
their trade union participation was found marginal, there the trade union 
leaders seem to have secondary interest in trade unions. It is also 
noticed that there were not full time leaders.

Actually trade unions have realized the different problems faced 
by beedi workers. But the trade unions do not seem to have 
succeeded in solving the problems squarely.

The leaders also have knowledge of this developmental problems 
of the beedi workers. Here again they have not solved the problems. 
If the trade union had full time leaders, they would have paid more 
attention to the problems of the beedi workers.

3. With reference to beedi factory owners, the following 
conclusions are arrived at:

The beedi factory owners attitude towards the beedi workers is 
reflected through the -

i) Atmosphere at the place of work

ii) Economic attitude

iii) Developmental attitude

iv) Political attitude

i) Atmosphere at the place of work: It is found that the beedi 
factory owners are not generally so much conscious about the place 
and work except that the health of workers is not adversely affected.
ii) **Economic Attitude**: It is noted that the beedi owners in general agree to have a raise in the beedi rolling. However, they seem to oppose the trade unions insisting on the triple raise of the beedi workers' earnings.

iii) **Developmental Attitude**: It is found that factory owners are in favour of starting developmental programmes for their workers on their own. However, they seem to be reluctant to follow government and trade union demands in those cases.

iv) **Political Attitude**: The opinion of beedi factory owners asserts that the leadership in trade union is more for the political benefit of the leaders than the development of the beedi workers.

The entire foregoing analysis is attempted with a view to verifying the hypothesis prepared earlier.

1. **The marginalised political group of the beedi workers does not seem to pose as a politically organised force.**

Even though there is political awareness found in beedi workers still its objectives are limited. The beedi workers have contact with political system through their trade union only. It has resulted in beedi workers trade union acting as pressure group.

Political participation, political knowledge and political awareness is found in beedi workers. However, beedi workers do not give that much importance to their occupation and naturally they do not have greater expectations from political establishments. Therefore, so far no big
political organization has been formed by beedi workers in Ahmednagar district. Consequently, the class of beedi workers is not looked upon as organised political power.

The attitude of beedi union leaders towards their organization is secondary one. And, therefore, inspite of having political knowledge and awareness the beedi workers class has not become a vital political power. It is also observed that the attitude of the beedi factory owners forwards trade unions and their leaders is not encouraging. The total result is that much important power from the political point of view.

2. The politically marginalised group of beedi workers successfully plays its role as a pressure group.

Beedi workers obtained political knowledge through their trade unions only. The beedi workers in Ahmednagar district put their problems through trade unions. Therefore, trade union has become an important agent of political socialization of beedi workers in Ahmednagar district. Trade unions have got approved many of their demands by having systematic pressure on the government. Beedi workers unions have been found to be a sort of link between political system and beedi workers. These unions havenot directly participated in elections at national and state level but they have maintained their status of mature pressure group.

In the present study, it has been noticed that the economic awareness has influenced the political participation of beedi workers to a great extent (see Appendix IV-Part (A), Table No.CR 36). Trade union
is proved to be an important factor in creating economic and political awareness among the beedi workers in Ahmednagar district.

It is through trade unions only that union leaders establish contact with political establishments. The leaders have got specific status in political establishments because of their organisational work.

The demands of beedi workers are of limited nature. They are not expecting much from the political establishments because this class of workers is politically marginalised. So this class of beedi workers is not a class that is being paid attention.

The demands of farmers or industrial workers are of wider nature and therefore the leaders in those fields have to take cognizance of the interest of farmers and the industrial workers. Naturally, the leadership in those area is full time leadership. Though beedi union leaders do not devote adequate time to the trade union activities, they could evoke more political, economical, social awareness among the beedi rollers through trade unions.

The owners of beedi factories accept the political knowledge among the beedi workers but the credit for this political awareness and attitude is not given to the trade union. The owners of beedi factories feel that the demands of beedi workers which have been approved so far are due to the efforts of beedi workers themselves but the trade unions and their leaders take credit for that.
3. **Means of mass media are the most decisive agent of political socialization.**

Along with trade unions media of communication and propaganda seem to play an important role in political socialization of beedi workers in Ahmednagar district. There is sufficient proof that mass media influenced political awareness and political knowledge. However, it must be borne in mind that this influence of mass media is not vital one. (See Appendix IV, Part (A) Table CR-46) The work of rolling beedis is done even outside the factories. Therefore, beedi workers get lot of information from mass media while doing their work. The percentage of literacy among beedi workers is almost negligible. This has resulted in having greater impact on them through radio, television, public speeches of union leaders etc. The political knowledge has been obtained through mass media. This has resulted in having in sort of political background for beedi workers. But due to the absence of full time leadership beedi workers have not been politically organised as much expected.

The mass media have also influenced leaders of trade unions. They have also obtained, like beedi workers, political knowledge through them. Sometimes these union leaders make use of mass media to enhance their influence e.g. writing in newspaper and expressing opinions through public meetings. But on the whole the attitude of union leaders towards beedi profession is of secondary importance. And therefore, instead of building union strongly leaders spend their energy in work of different political parties.
The owners of beedi factories are politically aware and the impact of mass media on them is also obvious, but the owners are little bit indifferent to workers and their leaders. It was therefore, observed that beedi workers do not get any sort of guidance from them.

4. **Professional awareness helps in process of political socialization.**

The information of various problems in beedi profession has created professional awareness among the beedi workers. The same professional awareness has resulted in causing on a large scale the economic and political awareness (See Appendix IV Part (A), Table CR-59). While solving the different problems in beedi profession the beedi workers are found to establish good relation with their trade unions. This has increased the political participation of beedi workers. The professional awareness has also been responsible for political socialization of beedi workers in Ahmednagar district.