The development of a country depends on the development of its work-force, because without the productive efforts of human beings material resources will remain untapped and unused. As Yoder states the "development, allocation, utilisation and conservation of human resources through their employment is a continuous and inevitable process". Unlike other material resources of labour needs an entirely different orientation and approach. For the proper utilisation of this resource there are various human factors which need closer attention.

The performance of a worker depends upon his physical and mental capabilities which in turn depend on various factors like working and living conditions, education, health, housing, hygiene and sanitation. In view of the several peculiarities of Indian labour such as illiteracy, ignorance, conservatism, heterogeneous composition, migration nature, low levels of living etc., the importance of these welfare activities hardly need any emphasis.
The study of socio-economic conditions in the medium and small scale industries like the limestone mines at Dhone, has evoked, the living and working conditions of the workers are in a very pathetic and the management only concentrates on productivity and profitability totally ignoring the welfare of the workers. A study of this nature will certainly enlighten some of the day-to-day problems with regard to the adequacy of welfare amenities and economic benefits provided and bring to light certain conclusions which may help the management in the redressal of workers' grievances.

Secondly, the problems of rural labour, who form the largest single majority in medium and small industry, are different from those of the workers from urban industrial centres. The problems of rural labour are broadly social and economic. The social aspect has its origin in the low status the rural labour enjoys in urban setting and the economic aspect, in the endurance of the rural workers in putting up with the low level of living. The last but not the least factor is their vulnerability to unscrupulous leadership.

The aim of the thesis is to present a first hand knowledge about the socio-economic condition of the workers and assess the welfare amenities provided for in the mines.
The plan of study is presented in five chapters. The outline of each chapter is given in a nutshell as mentioned below.

The First Chapter deals with the introduction, importance of mining industry, genesis of the study, statement of the problem, review of literature, objectives, scope and methodology of the study.

Second Chapter covers with profile of the Dhone taluk and sampled workers.

Third Chapter deals with the socio-economic conditions of workers, such as wage structure, income and expenditure, savings and indebtedness, health, housing and sanitation.

Forth Chapter devoted to working conditions and welfare amenities available to workers vis-a-vis labour legislations.

The last and final chapter embodies the conclusions and recommendations.
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