The present study on "Standard of Living of the People in Rural Areas in District Jind" as a part of State (Haryana) has been undertaken with a view to find out the Standard of Living and Socio-economic condition of the people of this district. Rural Development has received and shall continue to receive priority attention in our country. India is a country of villages and their socio-economic transformation shall always serve as an index of development of the country. The sooner our villages develop, more impressive shall be our achievements on the National Level. Indian economy may rightly be called a rural economy.

The enquiry into the standard of living of the people in rural areas is of great significance in our country as the number of such people is large and their problems are complex. The rural people have formed an important part of the community, having a distinctive character and individuality of their own. The amelioration of the conditions of such people constitutes a crucial part of our strategy for economic development in general and agricultural development in particular. The size of the problem of the people in rural areas as pointed out with the independence of India, varies from region to region depending on such factors as pressure of population, availability of land
for cultivation, difference in the extent of irrigation, double cropping, fertility of land, cropping patterns and opportunity available for seasonal migration and for employment outside agriculture. The need of comprehensive enquiry into the standard of living of the people in rural areas and in a particular area which is educationally and industrially backward has been, therefore, of very great importance. The present work is the result of a study of standard of living of the people in rural areas in district Jind (Haryana) undertaken by the researcher as a teacher fellow, financed by the University Grants Commission under the Faculty Improvement Programme.

The stratified random sample of five hundred households consisting of respondents belonging to different professions (cultivator - small, medium and big, agricultural labour, rural artisan and household industry, shopkeeping, services and others) and categories (General, backward and scheduled caste) was taken and the respondents were interviewed with the help of self-administered questionnaires for the completion of present research project. A sample of at least two villages was taken from each Development Block. To ensure consistency of the data collected, the survey work was conducted uninterruptedly during May, 1986 to May, 1987. Every possible attempt was made to collect factually correct information from the respondents. The subjective information provided by the respondents was cross examined with the
help of in-built cross check mechanism used in frame-work of the questionnaire.

The 'thesis' has been divided into seven chapters dealing with the different aspects of 'Standard of Living' in area under study. Chapter-I discusses in brief the objectives, scope, methodology, relationship among standard of living, and limitations of the study. A profile of District Jind and sample villages has been placed under Chapter-2. Composition and characteristics of the rural sample households have been covered under chapter-3. Chapter-4 of this study deals with economic condition as income, savings and indebtedness of the households have been covered in it. Chapter-5 has been devoted to the living conditions and analysis of Standard of Living. Consumption pattern, housing Conditions and analysis of the Standard of living are discussed in this chapter. Chapter-6 discusses briefly the Five Year Plans, other rural programmes and their impact. Findings, conclusions and suggestions to improve the standard of living of the people in this area and other areas in general are comprised in Chapter-7. At the end appendices and bibliography used for the study are given.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, M.V. UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK (HARYANA).

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