CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 INTRODUCTION:

*Tradition bound,*
*Racially primitive,*
*Instinctively cooperative and indigenous,*
*Bold, believable and enchanting by nature,*
*Averse to economic hunger,*
*Linked to forests and the eco-system and*
*Sons and daughters of the soil.*
*Tribals, they are. Aborigines.*

They are unique for their simplicity, honesty, single mindedness, culture of intimacy, family attachment and affinity to nature. They are unique in the diversity of their physique, attire, dialects, customs, traditions, songs and dances. But the common factor is 'Intimacy', the pivot around which their culture has flourished.

There are more than 200 million tribal people in the world constituting around 4 per cent of the global population. In India, the concentration of the tribals is the largest in the world. According to the census of 1991, the Scheduled Tribe population of the country was 6.77 crores forming about 8 per cent of the Indian population, otherwise two tribes men for every twenty-five Indians. Tribals inhabit a significant part of the backward areas of the country. The tribal areas comprise of about 15 per cent of the total geographical areas of the country.
distributed in all states and Union Territories of India except Punjab, Haryana, Pondicherry and Delhi. The central and the North-Eastern India are predominantly tribal.

Tribals co-exist with forest, where nature abounds in wanton profusion. Their economy is largely self-sufficient, unstructured and non-specialized. In economic parameters, poverty and indigence are abundant in tribal areas. They number among the poorest of the poor. Their wants are culturally established. The natural isolation has kept them separated from the mainstream. The tribals themselves have all through the history of development remained as an unconcerned partner. The choice of the road which any tribal society will take is hardly ever left to the tribesmen themselves but is imposed on them by external circumstances outside their own control.

Two things are of greatest importance to tribals, i.e., land and forest. The tribal people are either hunters or forest food

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2 Elwin, Verrier, "A new deal for Tribal India", Government of India, New Delhi, 1963. P. 1
gatherers, settled or hill cultivators, shepherds or craftsmen. The tribal villages are very small in size, even as small as four to five hamlets in some cases. Their nexus with forest is inextricable as the dwelling area is mostly covered by forests and mountains. The tribal-forest relationship is often compared to the relationship of the fetus and the mother. They cultivate the lands by means of traditional methods and get very low returns, as a result, live in a bare subsistence economy. But there is something inherent in the tribal philosophy which has kept these people contented with the fulfillment of their necessities.

The foothold of sustenance of tribals has shaken with the programmes of conservation and preservation of forests and sordid exploitation of the green coverage for industrial, mining and commercial purposes. Besides, the iniquitous racket of intruding traders-cum-moneylenders have dilapidated their economic standard by lending at exorbitant interest for non-agricultural and agricultural purposes and grabbing their agricultural and minor forest produce at a very low price. These have resulted in heavy migrations, value adulterations, increased bonded labour and subversive activities.
At the threshold of the new era various strategies have been taken up by the central as well as the State Governments for the integration and development of tribals. Various programmes have been implemented keeping in view the protective and developmental aspects of tribals. The protective aspect has aimed at the preservation of their unique cultural traits, their rights on land and forests and safeguarding against the inhuman exploitation. The developmental aspect has enfolded various welfare measures for the physical, mental and environmental enrichment and ultimately to accelerate the development of tribal economy.

The stimuli for growth has to come from the core of heart of the people. Then only a new urge for better living, strong desire for improvement of material condition and constructive outlook towards future can be generated. Since, Indian democratic planning aimed at ‘initiating a social process through which the masses of people become increasingly motivated to strive for improving their lot as individuals and, at the same time, for improving society by cooperative endeavour’, multi-pronged approaches have been taken to economically develop

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the cooperative tribals through formal and structural cooperation.

1.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Tribals are socially peripheral groups living in various stages of economic indigence. The economy of the tribes living in rural or rural-cum-forest areas has been increasingly in the nets of exploitation of money lenders, forest contractors, small traders, and liquor vendors. They lack in communication facilities, productivity, and knowledge about their product-market, education and awareness about the special facility packages. Most of them are below the poverty line. Their lands are dry and there are no irrigation facilities. They do not utilize chemical fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides etc. in their lands. A few of them have splendid terraces but most of them have decreasing land holdings and methods of primitive cultivation in the quality losing soil resulting in low agricultural yields and ultimately, inadequacy in the means of sustenance. The natural topography and the cultural steadfastness have considerable impact on their economic propriety. The entry of

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exploiters and other harmful elements have given way to massive unscrupulous trading taking the opportunity of their faith and ignorance, leading to regressive tribal economy.

In order to uplift the tribal people economically intense emphasis is being laid by the Governments, Union and State. All these programmes which help in minimizing the incidence of exploitation such as those in the fields of marketing, credit, supply of consumer goods and even informal rationing ensuring commodities at reasonable prices, should have the highest priority. Owing to their long neglect and isolation they have fallen behind in the march of progress.

On of the important steps taken by the Government of India in 1971 was to launch six tribal development projects in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to propel the pace of economic development of tribal people. Subsequently, for economic upliftment of tribal people, emphasis was also laid down to improve the structure of cooperatives in Fifth Five-Year Plan. Accordingly, a Committee was formed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture in December,

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1971 under the Chairmanship of K. S. Bawa, Joint Secretary in the Department of Cooperation, Government of India. The Committee recommended for organization of integrated credit-cum-marketing societies termed as Large-sized Agricultural Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS) at the primary level to provide production and consumption credit, to undertake marketing of agricultural and minor forest produce, supply agricultural inputs and distribution of consumer goods and to ensure better services to the tribal people. As per the recommendation of the Committee, LAMPS were organized to influence the tribal economy. 223 LAMPS made a beginning in Orissa as per the initiative of the Government.

Even though there has been some selective evaluative studies on the performance of LAMPS and for their revitalization, in-depth micro studies are however lacking significantly. Therefore, the present study is undertaken with a view to assess the performance of LAMPS at the grassroot level. The chosen area was KALAHANDI, the widely talked about area for poverty, starvation and under-development and often designated as ETHIOPIA OF INDIA.
Through this study the researcher has attempted to examine the working of LAMPS in the tribal dominated blocks of Kalahandi and to assess the range of benefits conferred on the distressed tribal folk.

From humanistic angle, the researcher has attempted with diligence to make the study in an empirical manner and delve to come out with feasible suggestions to make the LAMPS viable, productive, effective and catalysts to squeeze the dichotomy of "poverty midst plenty". It is expected that the findings of the study will be of immense use to planners, policy makers, administrators and Government to revamp LAMPS and transform a forlorn hope to a progressive panoply.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The study is primarily intended to make an intensive enquiry into the performance of all the 6 LAMPS working in the tribal sub-plan area of Lanjigarh and Thuamul-Rampur blocks of Kalahandi district of Orissa. More specifically, the study has been undertaken with the following broad objectives:

1. To analyzes the socio-economic traits of tribals and to manifest the approaches of tribal development.
2. To evaluate critically the working of LAMPS to assess their effective operation to strengthen the tribal economy.

3. To find out the extent to which they have been able to attain the purpose of providing a package of services at a single contact point to the tribals.

4. To identify the major factors of efficiencies and deficiencies of tribal cooperatives.

5. To explore feasible measures to revivify the LAMPS in the best interest of tribals.

1.4 HYPOTHESES:

In accordance with, the objectives of the study, the following hypotheses have been formulated to test their validity.

1. The LAMPS have successfully played their role in channelising timely credit support to the tribals.

2. The LAMPS have worked as an effective and useful agent in helping the tribals in marketing their surplus agricultural produce and minor forest produce.

3. The LAMPS have played a significant role in making available the essential commodities to the tribals of the area.

4. The LAMPS have been able to attain the purpose of providing the services package at a single contact point to the tribals.

5. The LAMPS have been able to bring a perceptible lot of tribals under cooperative fold.
6. The LAMPS have been successful in saving the tribals from exploitation and in bringing about a developing tribal economy.

1.5 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY:

1.5.1 Formulation of the Study:

The study is an ex-post facto research project where the researcher has culled a descriptive approach to measure the state of affairs of LAMPS to assess their significance in developing the tribal economy. For an in-depth analysis a micro study has been planned by choosing the area Kalahandi, the epitome of rural poverty in India. Accordingly the objectives and hypotheses were formulated and the researcher ventured to make fact-finding enquiries and surveys to discover the causes and suggest measures, understanding the operating variables were beyond control. In the light of the objectives and testing the hypotheses the methods of collecting data, period of study and tools of analysis were established precisely.

1.5.2 Data Source:

For the smooth sailing of the research operation the researcher obtained information through both primary and secondary data. The sources of secondary data were the
Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Orissa, Bhubaneswar; the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Kalahandi, Bhawanipatna; the Central Cooperative Bank, Kalahandi, Bhawanipatna; the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute, Bhubaneswar; NABARD and various books, journals, periodicals, theses and reports. The primary data are collected with the help of two separate schedules: one for the societies and the other for the tribal members. The former is intended to elicit data concerning the composition of membership, share capital, credit and non-credit operations, the financial position of all the 6 LAMPS operating in Kalahandi. The later schedule focused on the awareness of tribals on the role of LAMPS in their socio-economic sphere. Besides, an opinion survey was conducted amongst the Managing Directors of LAMPS and officials concerned directly or indirectly with LAMPS. Besides, informal discussions are made with the Presidents, Managing Directors, Accountants, Salesmen and Auditors of the LAMPS; officials of the District Central Cooperative Bank, State Cooperative Bank, Registrar of Cooperative Societies; Researchers of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes research and training institute,
Bhubaneswar; Faculty of Institute of Cooperative Management, Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad; Former and recent state Ministers of Cooperation, Senior Citizens of Kalahandi connected to royal era, previous and current district administrators, over and above a number of tribal men and women to visualize the perceptions about Kalahandi, Kalahandian tribal culture, tribal development and impact of LAMPS in tribal areas.

1.5.3 Time Span for the Study:

The study was conducted by taking into account a span of 12 years from 1985-86 to 1996-97. Barring the earliest phase of 10 years from the inception of LAMPS (1975-76) assuming a margin period for acceleration of an institution in an area of infrastructural constraints the above period was chosen. The latest data available was up to 1996-97 at the time of analysis.

1.5.4 Sampling Technique:

In order to verify the hypotheses and to substantiate the arguments relevant to the objective of the study random sampling technique was adopted to select the tribal respondents for the study. From the total of 6 LAMPS, LAMPS previously headquartered at Mahulpatna.
was left from the sample study as many villages including Mahulpatna got submerged for the construction of Indravati project and many of the members were displaced and rehabilitated elsewhere. From the other 5 LAMPS 200 tribal beneficiaries were selected, i.e., 40 from each LAMPS choosing randomly 20 from nearby LAMPS’ domicile and 20 from a distance of around 10 kilometres. For the purpose of their easy understanding to the questions, the questionnaire was prepared in Oriya, punched with typical tribal connotations. Besides, an opinion survey was conducted among 50 officials having direct or indirect operative relation to LAMPS.

1.5.5 Tools of Analysis:

The collected data are scrutinized and transcribed before arrangement in suitable tables, mostly two-way tables are prepared. Not only tables, but also maps, graph and diagrams like bar diagram, pie diagram etc. are used as tools for thematic presentation. The statistical tools like Arithmetic mean, Standard Deviation, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT), Correlation Analysis, Multiple Regression, Percentages have been used for the purpose of drawing meaningful
conclusions. The preparation of ANOVA, DMRT, Linear and Log-Linear Analysis, Correlation Matrix, Test of Significance (t and f), have been made through computer package. The researcher has taken optimum care at the time of collection, classification and tabulation of data through cross checking to ensure the accuracy of the data and reliability over the deductions.

1.6 REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Perceptions differ. Interpretations vary. Analysis be unlike, on the basis of factors like, time, individuality, etc. The concept of the present study is developed through the review of the following literature:

Mr. Russel, in his report of August, (1836)\textsuperscript{11}, was the first to introduce the subject of the Khonds and their peculiarities. Having learnt that the Khonds are excessively fond of salt, salt fish, brass utensils, scarlet woolen, red blankets and all but the coarsest kinds of cotton manufacture and that for the obtainment of these they depended solely on their low land neighbours, either in the way of rapine or exchange. He suggested very judiciously to revive the fairs and to establish marts where they

\textsuperscript{11} The Calcutta Review, Vol. V, Calcutta (1846), P. 53
would have opportunity of seeing articles from different parts of
world. He advocated for a platform where the coveted articles
are made available fairly within the reach.

STARTE Committee (1930)\textsuperscript{12} observed ‘whatever their
own desires may be, the march of civilization inevitably bring
the aboriginal tribes into contact with others. If they remain in
their present condition, they will more and more the prey of the
unscrupulous from among the more educated communities’. The
committee recommended for encouraging the depressed classes
to join the common village cooperative credit societies.

According to the Committee on the Excluded and Partially
excluded areas (1947)\textsuperscript{13} on the potentialities of the tribes, “There
was hardly anybody who did not believe that the tribals are
capable of being brought to the level of the rest of the
population by means of education and contact... no doubt that
within a short time they can be brought up to a satisfactory level,
if development plans are vigorously perused”.

\textsuperscript{12} Report of the Committee appointed to enquire in the Educational, Economic and Social
Conditions of the depressed classes (untouchable) and of aboriginal tribes in the Bombay

\textsuperscript{13} Report of the Excluded and partially excluded areas sub-committee (A.V. Thakkar
Committee) August, 18, 1947 Bhanage, N.P. Tribal Commissions and Committees in India
According to the Commission on the backward classes (1955)\textsuperscript{14} "A variety of causes – social, environmental, economic and political have operated both openly and in a subtle form for centuries to create the present colossal problem of backwardness. Economic backwardness is the result and not the cause of many social evils of the present day. "As regards the measures of removal of backwardness the recommendation included the necessity of removing all types of exploitation from rural life and establish cooperatives on a planned basis – both functional and regional, manned by proper type of persons who would work devotedly for the betterment of rural people.

According to the Committee on Social Welfare Team on Plan Projects (1959)\textsuperscript{15}. Commercial exploitation of forests be entrusted to the forest labour cooperatives rather than to contractors and thereby, the resulting profits be utilized for tribal welfare.

Dr. Verrier Elwin Committee (1960)\textsuperscript{16} observed that of the many tribal problems, the greatest of all is poverty. The problem of indebtedness among the tribals is a major cause of their

\textsuperscript{15} Report of the committee on plan project, July, 1959, Government of India, New Delhi.
\textsuperscript{16} Report of the Committee on Special Multi-purpose Tribal Blocks (1960), Bhanage, N.P. ibid. PP. 80-100.
exploitation. The tribal borrowers are, therefore, born in debt, live in debt and pass away in debt'. The committee recommended to save the tribal people from poverty and fear and develop them along the lines of their genius.

The Dhebar Commission (1961)\textsuperscript{17} recommended that, "the Sale and Marketing of the produce and supply of tribal people's requirements at reasonable price should receive special attention through cooperatives".

The Working Group on Cooperatives for Backward Classes (1961)\textsuperscript{18} attributed the slow development of cooperative movement in tribal areas to structural weakness, operational defects, management problems, faulty procedures and adoption of business methods and practices not suitable to tribals. The group suggested to separate organizational set up for promotion of cooperative movement among tribals so as to provide such services as were rendered by private traders and further recommended the formation of an "Integrated Service Cooperative" at 'Haat' (Market) level.
The Report of the study team on Tribal Development Programmes headed by P. Shilu Ao (1969)\textsuperscript{19} stated that tribal development programme had made limited impact due to certain basic problems, one of them being the cooperatives having been started without adequate preparation and orientation of tribals to the new system.

The study team appointed by the Government of India (1971)\textsuperscript{20} to examine the cooperative structure in tribal development project areas under the chairmanship of K.S. Bawa recommended organizational Large Sized Agricultural Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS) in tribal areas to provide to the tribal members production as well as consumption credit, undertake marketing of agricultural and minor forest produce and distribute consumer goods as well as agricultural inputs so that the tribals could secure all facilities under one roof.

The study group on Relief of Indebtedness Land Alienation and Restoration in Tribal Development Areas (1973)\textsuperscript{21} under the Chairmanship of P.S. Appu recommended cooperativisation of tribal economy.

\textsuperscript{19} Report of the study team on tribal development programmes (P. Shilu AO Committee), 1969, Government of India, New Delhi.
\textsuperscript{20} Report of the study team on the working of cooperatives in tribal project areas (Chairmanship of K. S. Bawa), 1971, Government of India, New Delhi.
\textsuperscript{21} Report of the study group on Relief of Indebtedness Land Alienation and Restoration in Tribal Development Areas (Chairmanship of P. S. Appu) 1973, Government of India, New Delhi.
A study by Rao (1974)\textsuperscript{22} reveals that the socio-economic conditions of Girijans (another name used for tribals) in Andhra Pradesh had improved a lot due to various welfare measures implemented by the Girijan Cooperative Corporation, which is operating in 13 districts of the state through 290 domestic requisite depots for the benefit of tribals.

A study team on Marketing, Credit and Cooperation in tribal areas under the Chairmanship of P. R. Dubashi (1978)\textsuperscript{23} constituted with a view to study the operational deficiencies of tribal cooperatives, diagnosed that, the tribals are not adequately represented in the Board of Management of LAMPS and moreover there are duplication of institutions performing the same type of functions as LAMPS.

Another study of organization and development Adivasi Cooperative Societies in Maharashtra conducted by the State Tribal Research and Training Institute (1979)\textsuperscript{24} revealed that the members have now greater awareness of the potentialities of these societies to give them more benefits, but they are not quite sure of the efficiency of these organizations for sustained flow of

\textsuperscript{22} Rao, P. V. "Welfare of Girijans through cooperation in Andhra Pradesh Cooperative News Digest, Vol, XXV, No. 1, 1974.

\textsuperscript{23} Report of the study team on marketing, credit and cooperation in tribal areas (Chairmanship of P.R. Dubashi), 1978, Government of India, New Delhi.

\textsuperscript{24} A study of organization and development of Adivasi Cooperative Societies in Maharashtra, Tribal Research and Training Institute, Pune, 1979.
benefits. The traditional exploiters of tribals did not appear to have been effectively deterred by the activities of these societies and the tribals continue to depend on the traditional exploitative middleman.

The Reserve Bank of India in their findings after a study of 10 LAMPS in the State of Rajasthan (1979) revealed that the area of LAMPS was too large. They were weak in their functioning, manned by insufficient staff, the membership and turnover were low and lacked coordination with the District Central Cooperative Banks. For revitalization of these societies in order to make them purposeful the study pointed out many recommendations relating to their jurisdiction, membership pattern, conversion of existing PACS into LAMPS etc.

The consulting and Applied Research Division of the Administrative staff college of India, Hyderabad had conducted a study on minor forest produce in the context of tribal development programmes in the four states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa (1979) and stated that objectives of the grass-root level organizations should be: (a) prevention of exploitation, (b) remunerative price to tribals. The

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concept of LAMPS has not been properly translated into action. The institution should be organizationally geared to look after the needs of the tribals. There should be appropriate linkage between LAMPS and other secondary as well as apex bodies in the marketing and credit sectors. Mobile LAMPS could be helpful. Horizontal liaison machinery should be set up in the states comprised of the representatives of the Tribal Development Department, Forest Department, Cooperation Department, Finance Department, Agriculture Department, the apex cooperatives, LAMPS, State Cooperative Banks etc. for decision on collection, procurement, pricing, storage, processing, marketing, etc.

An evaluation study of 60 LAMPS was conducted by the Bihar State Planning Board (1980)\textsuperscript{27} through constitution of four teams, one each for administrative structure, credit, marketing and consumer goods. After critical review of the LAMPS in the state, the Planning Board made various suggestions for the development of above societies as ‘unified credit-cum-marketing centres’.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) attempted a performance review of 404 LAMPS in

\textsuperscript{27} An Evaluation Study of LAMPS, Bihar State Planning Board, 1980.
fourteen States in India (1981)\textsuperscript{28} which aimed at ascertaining whether they had shown better performance than their counterparts viz; the PACS in ameliorating the lot of tribals and weaker sections.

The CRAFICARD committee headed by B. Sivaraman (1981)\textsuperscript{29} viewed that the basic concept underlying LAMPS is sound management attuned to the problems of the clientele they have to serve. Further, they have opined that most of the LAMPS have not been able to make satisfactory progress for various reasons like: lack of aggressive investment lending, non-availability of trained and experienced personnel for manning executive positions, unhealthy competition from private traders and lack of infrastructural arrangements for storage and transportation.

The Report of the study team on Agricultural Credit Institutions in Orissa constituted by Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of M.V. Hate (1982)\textsuperscript{30} to assess the working of cooperative institutions Orissa observed that the branches of LAMPS are not rational in terms of size and area of operation.

\textsuperscript{28} Performance review of LAMPS in India, NABARD, Bombay, 1981.
\textsuperscript{29} Report of the committee to Review Arrangements for Institution Credit for Agriculture and Rural Development (Chairmanship of B. Sivaraman) Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, 1981.
\textsuperscript{30} Report of the Study Team on Agricultural Credit Institutions in Orissa (Chairmanship of M.V. Hate), Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, 1982.
Moreover, for attaining viability, a LAMPS functioning with only one head office should have a minimum short-term loan business to be made viable. It should be preferable to have a tie-up arrangement between the LAMPS and RCMS as far as agricultural produce is concerned, instead of, introducing a third agency like TDCC in the business.

The VAMNICOM made a comprehensive study (1982)\textsuperscript{31} of one LAMP in each of five states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar and also recommended various suggestions on the basis of observations made during the course of the above study. In the same year, evaluation study of LAMPS in Tripura State was also undertaken by VAMNICOM in order to assess the organizational appropriateness, operational viability and managerial efficiency of LAMPS, so as to judge their progress and faults. It was emphasized that the organizations supposed to support LAMPS in their activities are themselves not sound enough financially, and functionally to protect and lead the LAMPS.

The cultural Research Institute, West Bengal, also conducted another sample evaluation survey of 10 LAMPS in the

\textsuperscript{1} An Evaluation Report of LAMPS, VAMNICOM, Pune, 1982.
state (1982)\textsuperscript{32} to examine the awareness of tribals about activities of LAMPS, managerial aspects of LAMPS, implementation of different sectoral schemes, etc. It has been suggested that the Board of Directors of LAMPS should be more active, loans should be given in kind and not in cash, loan facility for animal husbandry schemes should be given preference, operation area of LAMPS should be more manageable and there should be proper planning in collection of minor forest produce to create more employment opportunities for the tribals.

The evaluation study by the Economists Group commissioned by Government of Tamilnadu (1983)\textsuperscript{33} analyzed the importance of LAMPS with reference to coverage of tribal population, quality of services offered, administrative, financial and operational efficiency of the LAMPS in the state and the need of qualified personnel with adequate knowledge of tribal areas and tribal characters and dedication for social service to be put in charge of management of LAMPS.

In order to find out the credit gap of cooperative institutions in Eastern India a committee on Agricultural Productivity in Eastern India was constituted by RBI and

\textsuperscript{32} Evaluation Survey of LAMPS, Cultural Research Institute, West Bengal, 1982.
NABARD (1983)\textsuperscript{34} under the chairmanship of Dr. S.R. Sen. Sen pointed out that the number of LAMPS/Branches are not adequate to serve the tribals at the nearest point. The LAMPS should be reorganized with a smaller area of operation. Wherever necessary, steps should be taken to improve their credit and non-credit business and make them viable.

Pawar in his study (1984)\textsuperscript{35} dealt with the borrowing pattern of tribals from various sources together with utilization of loans, repayment of loans and impact of borrowings on farm income, expenditure, and savings etc. From this study it was concluded that the extent of availability of credit from institutional sources was relatively very low in case of tribal farmers. Looking to the deficit budgets of the tribal farm families, the author was of the opinion that suitable measures for supplying production and consumption credit in required quantum and on easy terms from the institutions like cooperative organizations be resorted in order to ameliorate economic conditions of the tribal farm families.

\textsuperscript{34} Report of the Committee on Agricultural Productivity in Eastern India (Chairmanship of Dr. S. R. Sen), Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, 1983.

A performance evaluation study conducted by the Government of Maharashtra in three adivasi cooperative societies in tribal sub-plan area (1985)\textsuperscript{36} made some useful observations, such as, "apart from general consideration, the other important aspect is that with too much top-imposition, the innate and spontaneous fountain heads of corporation are likely to go dry. In other words, assiduous cultivation of super imposed conventional cooperative structure on tribal communities sow within it, the seeds of destruction of the native cooperative quality. This is a situation which should be prevented.

Sisodia after conducting case study on tribal cooperatives in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh (1986)\textsuperscript{37} suggested that the working of LAMPS should be streamlined with more stress on credit planning, diversifying credit portfolio, supporting procurement of agricultural surplus and minor forest produce and providing the consumer merchandize so as to emerge as an alternative to the private money lender-cum-trader.

Mahalingam conducted an empirical study of the role of LAMPS in tribal development in Salem District of Tamilnadu.

\textsuperscript{36} Evaluation Study of Adivasi Cooperative Society, Maharashtra, Pune, 1985.
\textsuperscript{37} Sisodia, R.S., Tribal Cooperatives in Jhabua District (Madhya Pradesh), 1986, N.C.U.I., New Delhi, Background paper, PP. 11-32.
In order to strengthen the LAMPS, the study has suggested the measures like development of viable marketing system, strengthening the managerial personnel, promotion of village and cottage industries, introduction of Cooperative Education and Training, improvement of transport facilities and organization of tribal development cooperative federation.

Khusro in his report (1989) observed that the LAMPS were organized for meeting the total credit requirements and services like supply of essential commodities, marketing of minor forest produce collected by tribals and giving technical guidance for the adoption of modern methods of cultivation etc. However, these objectives have not been properly served by these societies. Further, it was revealed that the LAMPS functioned more or less as credit societies and multi-purpose functions were almost absent.

Pawar and Patil (1990) while investigating the indebtedness of tribal farmers in Maharashtra revealed that about 72 per cent of the tribal farmers were indebted in the study region. Nearly 50 per cent of them borrowed from Adivasi

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Cooperative Societies. Most of them i.e. 60 per cent, borrowed for agricultural purpose.

The study made by Ravichandran (1990) with regard to the services rendered by LAMPS to the tribals in Sitheri Hills, Dharmapuri (Tamilnadu) revealed that 68 per cent of the borrower respondents utilized the credit for specified purposes for which it was sanctioned. More than 52 per cent of the respondents had purchased their consumer requirements only from LAMPS. It has suggested that efforts should be made to strengthen the LAMPS by strengthening the infrastructure facilities and providing cooperative education to their members to achieve the objectives set before it, more effectively.

Sankaran in the Committee Report on Organization of Cooperatives for Rural Poor (1991) found out that the LAMPS have not succeeded in bringing all tribals in its area of operation within its fold. Moreover the supportive organizations are not properly responsive to the needs of tribal cooperative functioning at grass root level.

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A study on the tribal cooperative system of North East India by Mahalingam (1992)\textsuperscript{43} has focussed on the functional efficiency of successful and unsuccessful tribal cooperatives (LAMPS) in the selected North Eastern states. The study observed that the system of functioning of the tribal cooperatives in providing integrated services to the tribals is not well organized. The study has suggested that policy decisions should be taken to strengthen the existing cooperative setup in tribal areas.

Dash in his study (1994)\textsuperscript{44} has found out that the LAMPS depend heavily on Government for meeting the requirements of their working capital and internal resource mobilization was discouraging. Loan advanced by the Societies has reduced heavily in the later part of the study period.

Another study was conducted by NABARD (1994)\textsuperscript{45} on the performance of 15 LAMPS spread over 4 states to review the functioning and performance of LAMPS. The study revealed that the LAMPS were not performing most of the functions they were required to perform.

\textsuperscript{43} Mahalingam, S.; Tribal Cooperative System – A Study of North-East India, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 1992, PP 172-175.


\textsuperscript{45} Annual Report of NABARDm 1993-94, PP 63-64.
Dubey in his study of the impact of LAMPS on the development of weaker sections in the district of Panchamahals (Gujarat) (1995) observed as follows: (a) The wider operational area of the societies can be better handled through branch expansion, (b) the LAMPS have not taken in a serious way economic activities benefiting rural artisans and landless labourers, (c) dues of LAMPS result due to diversification of the credit by the borrowers for other purposes than for the one borrowed, (d) most of the LAMPS are busy in dealing with controlled commodities rather than non-controlled commodities.

According to the study on working of LAMPS at Gunupur, Rayagada of Orissa by the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Research and Training Institute, Bhubaneswar (1996) the implications are as follows: (a) the financial position of the LAMP is not sound, (b) more of other caste members are benefited out of financial assistance than the Scheduled Tribe members, (c) proper care has not been taken for godown and storage place., (d) LAMP should take conscious efforts to procure all types of agricultural surpluses at a reasonable price in order to check exploitation, (e) prime aim of the LAMP should be

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46 Dubey, H.N., Study Impact of LAMPS on the Development of Weaker Sections in Panchamahals (Gujarat), Udaybhanu Institute of Cooperative Management, Gandhi Nagar, 1995, PP 82-85.

procurement of all types of forest produce, (f) LAMP personnel should have good acquaintance with the beneficiaries.

Roy in his study on the LAMPS of Mayurbhanj district of Orissa (1996)\(^4\) suggested the following strategies for overcoming the present bottlenecks (a) reformation of present lending policy, (b) emphasis on linking of credit with marketing operations (c) organizational restructuring (d) effective market integration (e) improvement of public distribution system, (f) strengthening of managerial personnel and (g) tribal leadership and decision making.

Recommendation relating to the theme 'Indian Cooperatives in a liberalized Environment' in 13th Indian Cooperative Congress (1997)\(^5\) on Tribal can operatives concluded. “In order to ensure equitable social justice and improve the economic condition of tribal and disadvantaged people added thrust should be given to the formation and development of tribal cooperatives”.


Mishra, CE, NCUI at National Consultation on cooperative policy design and Administration (1998)\textsuperscript{50} viewed "The basic elements of cooperative policy have to be based on the norms adopted by commercial ventures in terms of technology upgradation, promotion of professional management and trained work force, strengthening capital base; development of good infrastructural facilities including marketing network; development of good communication facilities etc. Maximum emphasis should be placed on adoption of cost effectiveness and management information system along with information technology".

Dubashi (2000)\textsuperscript{51} has reminded D.R. Gadgil's dream of 'Cooperative Common Wealth'. The cooperatives unfortunately prospered with state support but did not have the idealism to build up the cooperative common wealth. Now that the new policy implies withdrawal of state support, would the cooperatives, autonomous and self-reliant and linked and each other on the basis of mutuality strive to build up the structure of cooperative common wealth. Unless they do so the cooperative

\textsuperscript{51} Dubhashi, P.R, Cooperatives in the New Millennium, Cooperator's Bulletin, Vol. XXXXIII, No. 5-6, May-June, 2000, P. 11.
will find it very difficult to survive in the new era of competition and globalization.

1.7 LAY-OUT OF THE STUDY:

The study comprised broadly seven chapters. The first chapter is the introductory chapter attempting to expose the foundation of the study. The significance, objectives, hypotheses, research design and methodology, limitations, review of literature and layout were the aspects of this chapter. The chapter is not only the gateway to the present study but also a door to a reader who is inquisitive towards the exhilarating tribal mosaic.

The Chapter – II presents a synoptic view of tribes and tribal development in India. It covers in a nutshell, the varied groups of the aborigines, their economy, the history of the attempts for their development in the planning era in relation to Orissa and the role of LAMPS in developing tribal economy. The chapter has attempted to establish the subject of economic development of tribals through LAMPS.

The Chapter – III has concentrated on the growth and development of LAMPS at the National and State level and the
performance analysis of LAMPS. Their efficiency has been evaluated on the strength of secondary data.

The Chapter – IV is specifically designed to present the Kalahandi scenario. To quench the thirst of knowing about Kalahandi, the chapter has comprised the monumental history, district profile, poverty syndrome, the tribal domain specifying the thrilling practices of human sacrifice by khonds and their life pattern. The chapter has culminated in introducing the LAMPS of Kalahandi with their genesis.

The Chapter – V makes a critical appraisal of all the LAMPS in the tribal dominated blocks of Kalahandi, relating to growth, membership mix, share capital, credit and non-credit operations, over all performance of LAMPS and other internal dynamics, to throw light in the operation of this organization of hope, for economic development of tribals.

The Chapter – VI is based on the feedback from the tribal beneficiaries as well as perception of members and officials. Observation of the researcher about acceptance of an organization by tribals is presented through a SWOT of LAMPS.

The last chapter has comprised the summaries and conclusions and suggestions and scopes for future research. This
ultimately chapter has capsuled the toiling in this study in invigorating words with a sincere desire for the economic development of tribals without losing their cultural uniqueness.

1.8 Limitations of the Study:

i) As the sphere of study is limited to 6 LAMPS of Kalahandi, the finding and conclusions may not be generalized for the entire tribal area of the state or the country.

ii) The study is limited to the service package rendered by LAMPS alone for the tribal upliftment and the aspects of other developmental programmes have not been considered.

iii) The methodology adopted also stand in an experimental plan. The inherent merits and demerits of the tools itself stand as a limitation to the database.

iv) The data gathered from the tribals pertaining to their socio-economic life and role of LAMPS cannot be taken as free from individual bias, when practically some of the tribals fail to recall their age, number of children immediately.