PREFACE

The Indian economy is predominantly a rural economy in view of all the parameters like share of the agriculture in National Income, share of the rural population in the total population in the country and backward and forward linkage of industries to the agriculture. The villages, hence, are the focal point of economy development of the country, a fact realised much earlier but brought into practice much later by our planners. It is in this field that the rural electrification assumed the most important role in the rural development.

In fact, the country had no policy for rural electrification before independence. It was only through the planning strategy that was adopted in 1961, that the need for rural electrification was felt.
Keeping in view, that district level development in rural electrification is being emphasised we decided to study the impact of rural electrification on rural development. We deliberately selected Hamirpur district, which is economically, the most backward district of Bundelkhand Region in Uttar Pradesh. In this study one decade (1981 to 1990) development in rural electrification has been analysed of the district.

The thesis has been divided into seven chapters. The first is purely introductory and connected with the concept of rural development and rural electrification. The second chapter is devoted to rural electrification in India and U.P. The third chapter deals with economic profile of the area of study. The fourth chapter deals with rural electrification programme in the area of study and its comparative study vis-a-vis other districts of the region. The fifth chapter presents the role of rural electrification on farm productivity. The chapter six presents the role of rural electrification on rural industrialisation. In the last chapter, the study has been summerised and some important conclusions have been arrived at.
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[Signature]

(S.K. Agarwal)