

Chapter - 6

CONCLUSION

It is very clear from the analysis of real indicators of poverty in the context of social and economic conditions of the children of Nayagarh that they are quite typical of a deprived community, being stunted and wasted to some degree from early childhood. Most of the children work in fields or forests to collect Sal leaves. Poverty, here is the chief cause of child labour, which implies that children are working long hours for few pay, sacrificing their health, their education and their childhood. When a family is poor, every one has to work, every extra contribution helps. But the long term objective must be to eliminate child labour, much needs to be done for children who currently have to work - providing them with support through health services, feeding programmes or infant education schemes that they can fit in around their work. And children should be removed immediately from the most hazardous environments. Improving educational opportunities is one of the most important steps - to make schooling a real and practical alternative for today's working children. But in ultimate analysis, child labour will be eliminated only through alleviation of poverty - the real cause of child labour.

At the individual level, we are able to affirm that the excess infant female mortality exists in those two villages. There are more growth failuers of young girls than young boys in Maskabari but the reverse is the case for Gundarsahi. The average of members' anthropometric outcomes is below the 'normal' reference point of the national data and this increases the likelihood of hunger, illness and lower capacity for work. Possible reasons for this are : first, excepting five households all other households (i.e. 76 households of those two villages) are marginal and small farmers. So their average income and hence consumption level is very low. Second, a lower priority could be given to consumption than to sale of foods; sales of food is undertaken in order to purchase cheaper food or non - food items (e.g. medicines) or to invest in agricultural inputs. An accumulation of evidence indicates poor growth of young girl children relative to young boys. Our data regarding ill-health show that low anthropometric

outcomes occur more frequently among little girls. Furthermore, the severity of the risks of impairment of development, especially through stunting, was far greater among girls. The villagers use bullocks and buffaloes for cultivation and cows for milk. But now, due to less income, their nutritional pattern has hampered as more milk is sold.

From nutritional point of view the children of those two villages are also falling short of the ideal necessity. Out of 77 only 16 children are capable of obtaining the ideal calorie-intake. Maximum percentage of their calorie gain come from rice and rice products, which provide plenty of energy but little bit of protein. Poor nourishment reflects on morbidity and illness. However, inspite of low money income of their parents the children in those two villages are availing more or less calorie intake only because of natural blessings in the form of hills and forests.

So far as education is concerned the households in village Maskabari are one step forward in comparison to sanitation and nutrition. As there was a primary school upto class - III in village Maskabari, most of the old villagers were educated upto class - III. Today it provides education upto class VII. Besides, there is a High School at Sampada 1.5 kms away from the village and a college at Nuagaon 7 kms away from the village. So interested villagers can educate their children easily. Education facility in Gundarsahi is not sufficient for which most of the adult population of the village are illiterate. But illiterate parents are conscious about the education of their children. There is no school in the village Gundarsahi. The disance of primary school is 2 kms from the village. A non-government Upper Primary School is there at a distance of 3 kms from the village. But the location of High School and college is a curse to the villagers of Gundarsahi, which are located at the distance of 14 Kms. and 18 Kms. respectively from their village. So with such inhibiting circumstances it is very difficult for the households of the village to educate the children.

What is distinctive in the district Nayagarh is the influence of sex bias on the growth of impairment and mortality among children, and of gender roles in explaining the distribution of risks to health, productive and reproductive

activities. Some aspects of society and economy of Nayagarh have undergone powerful transformation over time as a consequence of population growth, agricultural intensification and occupational diversification. Women in those two villages of Nuagaon Block are seldom involved in cultivation but are charged with biological and household reproduction which includes preparation of food. With changing time, the people of those two villages are going to be equally equipped with the town civilization in connection to education and sanitation.

The discussions on the concept of poverty and the extent of poverty derived therefrom, as outlined in this dissertation, has shown that the varying definitions yield varying findings about who counts as poor and what features characterize the poor population. This has wide-ranging implications for the selection of target groups and measures for poverty reduction. Thus in each case the causes of poverty as well as measuring methods are to be considered in conjunction with their respective political implications for a consistent policy on poverty. The quantitative ascertainment assists in the assessment of the dimension of the problem of poverty and in the observation of developments; to what extent the problem of poverty has deepened or whether there has been an improvement to the situation. The qualitative definition of poverty, therefore, requires operational and unequivocal measurements of poverty, which must nevertheless, be constantly scrutinized and interpreted in the light of their evidential value. In no event should be measurements of poverty selected rather for pragmatic reasons be taken solely as a guide and basis for formulating and planning measures to combat poverty, since the causes and consequences of poverty can't be explained within this framework. There is otherwise a danger that the findings will be interpreted in a one-sided manner. If, for example, a low income is taken as an index for the measurement of poverty, measures to combat poverty must not necessarily be directed solely towards closing the gaps in income and provision. Thus in the interest of a consistent combating of poverty, the quantitative ascertainment of poverty must be supplemented with a qualitative analysis of the causes and consequences of poverty through more comprehensive studies of poverty, which if possible should incorporate the subjective perception and evaluation of situations of poverty by the affected population itself.

On the other hand, for the qualitative analysis of poverty it is much less a matter of descriptions and analysis of situations than ascertaining and analyzing processes and mechanisms, which cause and reproduce poverty. Which should ultimately provide the necessary basis for the planning and formulation of a consistent poverty-oriented policy. The concepts described here are not to be interpreted as alternatives, but reflect the trend away from an objective to a more subjective-oriented ascertainment and perception of poverty, and offer various starting points for the causal analysis. On the basis of the identification of exclusion mechanisms, on both the micro and macro levels, on various markets or in various sectors, such as education or health for example, various starting points can be established from which previously applied and promising strategic elements can be networked, so that more than just a gap in provision is closed. A consistent poverty-oriented policy must therefore be understood as a cross-sectional task in all relevant political areas, in order to achieve lasting effects in the reduction of poverty by eliminating exclusion mechanisms affecting the poor population.

On average, visible household thinness supported the villagers' projected image of there being a healthy diet, with children having specific health problems. This image of a benevolent but poor villagers is countered by the strongly cumulative evidence that mal-nourishment is felt most frequently and severely among the children. There are conflicting claims on food. Poverty alleviation remains at the heart of any policy to alleviate hunger in the village. Policy should address the questions of whether the village logic of distributions of risks to human growth and function requires to be challenged. The villagers are deprived not because of lack of natural blessings and material efforts but because of lack of material and non-material assets. That's why governmental assistance and special care for the villagers are vital to augment the health and nourishment standard of the children in those villages.