India has undertaken a vow to establish an egalitarian democratic society with the allround development of all of its citizens - urban and rural. Hence, the social legislations, economic planning and developmental administration are geared to achieve those major objectives in India. The creation of a new social order which was envisaged in the Preamble and the Directive Principles of State Policy in the constitution of India is a continuing and unending process, in which the citizens, the elected officials and the government officers have to play a meaningful cooperative role. The essential objective of administration is to motivate the people for a social movement and make them recognise their capacity to deal with the single specified field of development. In order to bring rural development with the involvement of the governmental machinery, the Community Development Programme was launched by the Government of India on an All-India basis since 1952 and blocks were being created from time to time.

The village political elites are closer to the rural people, they perceive rural problems from a short distance, realise the problems, create and articulate the demands of the rural people and hence become the catalysts of rural change and development. This new pattern of leadership is emerging in rural India since the inception of Community Development Programme and Panchayati Raj which have led to
decentralisation of governmental authority and delegation of substantive power to statutory local bodies. The elite group and individuals occupying strategic positions of power especially in elective officers are looked upon by the common village people as a link between them and the urban world of administration and consequently these rural elites come to have somewhat specialised roles in village affairs.

The assumptions of developmental administration are that people will participate and cooperate. If citizen participation is aimed at influencing the government and evoking governmental response, then such participation particularly in the context of rural development, has to go beyond periodic participation in the electoral process. It would involve more regular participation in a variety of ways and at various levels. It would require continuous contacts and communications with governmental agencies for solving individual and community problems.

Thus the present study tries to explore the nature and extent of the involvement of administration and to study the level and intensity of rural people's participation directly or indirectly through the Panchayati Raj system in making the plans, formulating the policies, implementing the programmes and evaluating of all these.
For a systematic study, the present dissertation has been divided into seven main chapters with a brief concluding chapter at the end.

Chapter I gives an introduction of the subject matter which sets forth the problem, the conceptual framework of block administration and citizen participation, review of literature, scope and objective of study, hypothesis, methods of study and data analysis.

Chapter II, entitled "Block Level Administration in India" makes a study of the Community Development in India and block level organisation in historical and analytical perspective. In this chapter an attempt has been made to high-light the issues and problems concerning personnel, finance, planning and programme in block level administration.

Chapter III is devoted to make an analytical study of block administration in Orissa, as an attempt has been made to make an indepth study of Athgarh Block which comes under the jurisdiction of Orissa State. In the first part of this chapter, the geography, demography, economy and politico-administrative history of Orissa are discussed and the Second Part of the Chapter is devoted to the study of block administration in Orissa and the various rural development programmes which are implemented through the blocks.
As the study is a field study and Athgarh block has been taken as the field to be studied Chapter IV is written with a view to give a demographic picture of Athgarh as well as the personnel, programme and finance as involved in Athgarh block administration. As the block is composed of 19 Gram Panchayats, it is not possible to study all the Gram Panchayats within short time. So five Gram Panchayats were selected as sample Gram Panchayats to be studied. In this chapter an attempt is made to give the socio-economic setting of these Gram Panchayats.

Chapter V entitled as "Community Participation in Athgarh Block" is purely an empirical study based on data collected from 100 sample citizen respondents excluding the governmental officials and elected Panchayat leaders. The study is made of people's participation in the level of awareness and involvement in policy-making, policy implementation and in enjoying benefits of the policies and programme.

In block administration, bureaucracy, elected representatives and citizens play vital and cooperative roles. The relationship between them is important for the efficacy of administration and success of the programme. This problem is studied in Chapter VI entitled as "Bureaucracy Elected Representatives and Citizens - A Study of their relationship in Athgarh Block Administration".
Chapter VII is made to make an assessment of community participation and block level administration in Athgarh. Evaluation is not only a vital feedback channel for the efficacy of administration but also an important form of public participation.

Concluding observations of the study are made in Chapter VIII under the title "Findings and Conclusion". In this brief chapter, the validity of hypothesis are stated, observations are put forth and relevant suggestions for better administrative work and community participation are made.

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