CHAPTER I

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Development is a structural change in the production resources such as land, labour, capital and enterprises, leading to increase in national income in general and per capita income in particular. This change ultimately results into substantial improvement in overall standard of living of the masses. The concept of rural development logically implies the change in the areas of agriculture, agro-based activities and rural industries. As the human resource labour is abundantly available in rural areas, the change in social sector such as health, education has its great relevance in the process of rural development. Thus, rural development implies economic as well as social change and active participation of the masses becomes the great change agent of the both these processes. Here, we are remind of Todarian concept of development which emphasises three core values of development i.e. life sustenance, self-esteem and freedom from servitude.

By and large, the scenario of India's rural development, during forty years of independent presents substantial and sustainable economic growth. However, the social development process in India has been lagging behind the economic process. The gains of economic development, were not equally and equitably been distributed among the rural masses (small farmers, agricultural labour, rural artisans and landless labourers etc.).

As a result, severity of the problems of rural poverty, unemployment and inequality remain the same in spite of substantial economic development.
The present strategy of rural development in India has multi-dimensional approach of different sectoral agencies private, public, co-operative, non-Govt. agencies (NGOs) or voluntary agencies. As policy implications it is expected that all these multi-agencies of rural development must involve the participation of masses to bring out both economic and social aspect of rural development. Prof. Lakadawala is right when he says "Small should become the major producer of our country."

The role of Voluntary Organisations in rural development particularly in pre-independence and even in planning period has created its own image in the strategy of rural development. Here, we must mention the Gandhian experiment of voluntary action of rural development. There were some other experiments like Shriniketan, Maratandum, Gurgaon, Baroda, Etawah and Nilokheri etc. The voluntary sector of rural development has the basic characteristics such as autonomy, flexibility, democracy, committed ideas and mass participation etc. However, the role of Voluntary Organisations in rural development was not duly considered and recognised by planners and policy makers and even researchers till the publication of the Seventh Five Year Plan of the Govt. of India. It is the first authentic document which recognises the role of voluntary Organisations in rural development.

1.2 THE PRESENT RESEARCH WORK : OBJECTIVES

The present research work is an attempt to study the role of voluntary organisations in rural development of Maharashtra with particular reference to the organisation, functioning administration and financing etc. More particularly the economic and social contribution in rural development in three
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The specific objectives of present research work are as follows.

1. To study the rationale of voluntarism in rural development.

2. To study organization, administration, management and functioning of voluntary agencies at macro-level in Maharashtra and their involvement in various activities of rural development.

3. To evaluate the impact created by the selected voluntary organisations in rural development area.

4. To identify the constraints in the way of activities undertaken by the voluntary organisations in rural development.

5. To analyse the basic characteristics of voluntary organisations such as voluntarism, autonomy, flexibility, mass participation and democratic pattern, and distributive justice etc.

6. To suggest some policy implications for improving the work efficiency and organisational efficacy of voluntary organisations.

1.3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In order to study the rationale of voluntary organisations a brief review of literature is undertaken by the researcher. Moreover, the primary data was collected from the sources such as directories of voluntary organisations (see Appendix 1). Mixed structured mailed questionnaire method was followed to collect information regarding organisational administrations,
functioning of 272 voluntary organisations in Maharashtra. In order to study the impact and evaluation of the functioning of voluntary organisations, we have purposely selected three contiguous districts of Satara, Sangli, and Solapur in Western Maharashtra. This purposive selection was made because the researcher knows the geographical area of these three districts. From various sources (Appendix - 1), the researcher could prepare the first list of 272 voluntary organisations in Maharashtra. The researcher sent the mailed questionnaire to all these 272 organisations in 30 districts of Maharashtra. The district-wise figures are shown in the Table No. 1.1.

### TABLE NO 1.1
Statement showing the total numbers of Voluntary Organisations and those who have given responses to our mailed questionnaire in Maharashtra.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>No of VGs. to which the questionnaire were sent</th>
<th>No of VOs which have given responses</th>
<th>Percents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Nagar</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>29.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Akola</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Amarawati</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Aurangabad</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>11.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Beed</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Bandara</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Bombay</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Buldhana</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Chandrapur</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Dhule</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>45.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr. No.</td>
<td>Districts</td>
<td>No of VOs. to which the questionnaire were sent</td>
<td>No of VOs which have given responses</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Gadchiroli</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Jalna</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>33.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Jalgaon</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Kolhapur</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Latur</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>14.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Nagpur</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Nanded</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>57.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Nasik</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Osmanabad</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>16.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Parbhani</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Raigad</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Ratnagiri</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>33.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Sangli</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>83.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Satara</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>54.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Sindhudurg</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>14.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Soralpur</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Thane</td>
<td>22 -L</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>45.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Wardha</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>18.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Yawatmal</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 272 90 33.08

After sending two subsequent reminders we could get the information of 90 (Ninety) voluntary organisations. (list enclosed in Appendix III) for study purpose. The response rate is 33 percent. It is to noted that the agencies such as Rotary
Club, Lions Clubs, Youth Clubs, and Mahila Mandals from urban areas have been omitted from our study. Moreover agencies such as co-operatives, trade unions, charitable trusts, agencies sponsored by industrial houses, welfare organisations like remand home, orphanages, Vridhashram, Institute for handicapped children, traditional educational institutes such as colleges and schools, political parties and their groups, action groups, academic institutions such as school of social work, research institutes, religious organisations etc. were not considered in our definition of voluntary organisation in rural areas.

In order to evaluate the impact of the rural development works of voluntary organisations in the operational area of three districts, a sample survey of 322 beneficiaries was undertaken with the help of structured schedules. The personal interview was conducted at the door steps of the beneficiaries in the villages of operational areas of these voluntary organisations under study. Our sample covers 10 percent of the total beneficiaries. In order to make the final list of the 322 beneficiaries the total number of beneficiaries 3220 in all the selected three agencies in thare districts was broadly classified according to their activities. Top priority was given to the beneficiaries in the activities such as agricultural agro-based, rural industries, development of women, youths and children and mass awakening.

1.3.1 Questionnaire

The method of mailed questionnaire was used to study the profile of voluntary organisations in Maharashtra. (See Appendix III). It covers the following aspects.
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1. Identification.
3. Objectives.
4. Social Activities such as charity, education, Training, Research, Workshop health and medical services etc.
5. Development activities such as agriculture, inputs, agro-based, rural industries and development of weaker section.
6. Administration and Management.
7. Economic position.
9. Peoples participation and
10. Opinion survey etc.

1.3.2 Schedules

The impact study of 322 beneficiaries was conducted with the help of schedules which include the following aspects.

1. Socio-economic status of the family.
2. Land Assets.
3. Cropping pattern.
4. Investment.
5. Land Development.
6. Irrigation.
7. Agro-based Activities.
8. Rural Industries.
9. Social Infra-structure, - (such as education, training, health etc.).
1.3.3 On The Spot Observation

It was thought necessary, to collect observational data regarding the various projects of voluntary organisations and the concerning beneficiaries. Therefore a few days were spent with the activists and leaders of agencies in each village Viz, Taradgaon (Satara District), Kamalapur (Sangli District) and Gaudgaon (Solapur District).

Our observation included many aspects such as socio-economic condition of villagers, the day-to-day working of voluntary organisations, the management and personnel system of organisations and their various projects and work-site.

Establishing rapport with the respondents was rather a difficult job, mainly because they were scattered over the surrounding villages. In order to overcome these difficulties a great deal of time was spent with activists and beneficiaries of concerning Voluntary Organisations to create confidence and pick-up their dialect. It was also necessary, some times, to take the help of local leaders, primary school teachers and students as well.

1.3.4 Reference Period

1. In order to study the profile of voluntary organisations in Maharashtra at macro level no specific period was mentioned.

2. In respect of study of beneficiaries of three selected Voluntary Organisations in three districts at micro level the period of five years i.e. from 1985 to 1990 was taken into consideration.
1.4 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This being a totally field work thesis both at macro level of Voluntary Organisations and micro level of beneficiaries the information collected by the researcher cannot be claimed as full and adequate. However, whatever the primary data collected is authentic and most reliable. While selecting the final sample of beneficiaries, according to their classification of activities much of overlapping was bound to be there. However, this has not affected our findings.

1.5 CHAPTER SCHEME OF THE REPORT

The entire study has been divided into the following ten chapters.

In addition to the first Introduction Chapter, the Second Chapter deals the concept of development in general and rural development in particular. This chapter covers some of the important facets of rural development, strategy of rural development and lastly the multi-agency approach of rural development.

The Third Chapter deals with the theoretical aspect of voluntary action. It covers the characteristics such as typology, forces of voluntary action, evolution of voluntarism in rural development, people's participation and finally the relation with foreign funding and the state.

The Fourth Chapter gives the broad outline and clear picture of voluntary organisations in Maharashtra. The multi-dimensional role in various activities was analytically interpreted. The
nature, working procedure, the personnel management, financial position, peoples participation and decision making aspects were analytically covered in this Chapter.

The Fifth Chapter describes various activities of LVC Taradgaon Trust of Satara district.

The Sixth Chapter is devoted to the second organisation viz. Yerela Project Society (YPS) of Kamalapur of Sangli district.

The Seventh Chapter deals with the third organisation viz. Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Gaudgaon (SSSPM). It throws light on many aspects and activities of SSSPM in the surrounding villages.

The Eight Chapter analyses socio-economic benefits of three voluntary organisations.

The Ninth Chapter deals with summary and the last (Tenth) Chapter deals with Conclusions and the Policy Implications of Voluntary Organisations.
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Reference Books for Research Methodology

1. Singh K.
   "Techniques and Methods of Social Survey, Research and

2. Bajpai S.R.
   "Methods of Social Survey and Research" Kitab Ghar, Kanpur,
   1984, P. 269.

3. Simon and Schuster
   1 to 135.