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10.1 CONCLUSIONS

10.2 POLICY IMPLICATIONS
Though limited in scope, the present study of the role of voluntary organisations in rural development in Maharashtra may be first of its kind. It encompasses the whole Maharashtra in respect of the overall functioning of 90 voluntary organisations. This study is on the rational and philosophy of voluntarism, testing of characteristics of voluntarism in context of Todarian concept of rural development. The study of three voluntary organisations in three districts of Satara, Sangli and Solapur throws light on the regional impact of voluntary action with particular reference to people's participation, flexibility, autonomy, democratic pattern, freedom of action, dedicated and committed band of workers, ability to mobilise resources and their role in various activities. The further case study of 322 beneficiaries confirmed some of our findings regarding the role of voluntary organisations in rural development is a part of the multi-agency approach which has been duly envisaged in the strategy of seventh five year plan. This has helped us to draw the following conclusions and policy implications. We hope that these will encourage the researchers and policy makers to adopt suitable strategy to form a new path of voluntarism in rural development.

10.1 CONCLUSIONS

1. Many experiments of voluntary action before plan period in rural development which was introduced by nationalist, social reformers and government, their success and performance was short lived and inadequate in respective confined area only. Some experiments were person oriented, maharaja oriented, therefore, they did not have longer life. However, their efforts towards rural development to alleviate poverty and mass unemployment was appreciable.
ii. Similarly, many rural development programmes during the plan period had limited success based on total bureaucracy. They lacked participation of masses, flexibility, clean administration, adequate financial support and direct involvement of the last person of the society. Here, the voluntary action can come forward as a supplementary and complementary agency to the multi-agency approach to rural development. Hence, we come to conclusion that it is growing realisation that rural development cannot be activated successfully by the funds and government alone, so rural development through voluntary organisations has become a logical necessity and empirical fact.

iii. The autonomy, flexibility, democratic pattern, dedication and devotion, commitment to certain ideas etc., are the characteristics of voluntarism. Taking into account this view, we can conclude that this sector must be isolated and independent. However, in the changing situation isolation from government is difficult to survive. The government support through grant in aid has become essential source of their day to day life. Some may create the doubt that the government support to voluntary organisations will reduce their autonomy. But in reality question before us is that, if foreign funds and government support would be stopped, how they would survive. Hence, the government support is necessary. For this purpose, voluntary organisations should establish good rapport with the government.

iv. Though there is no authentic definition of voluntary action which is accepted by all, our review of this concept implies that any definition of voluntarism should fulfill the minimum criteria like certain ideology, legal entity,
autonomy, freedom of action, democratic pattern, flexibility, ability to mobilise resources, well organised accounting system and evaluation of programmes. Later these criteria become the characteristics of voluntarism.

v. Further, we have searched that there were four types of forces behind the establishment of voluntarism in rural development. They are (i) Noble souls like Mahatma Gandhi, Ravindranath Tagore, Baba Amte, Annasaheb Hajare, (ii) Dedicated and devoted groups of people (iii) Big industrial houses and (iv) Government sponsored autonomous bodies like CHPART, CSWE etc.

vi. The conceptual typology of voluntary organisations reflect that there was no similarity or uniformity among them. The philosophy, the coverage of activity, the nature of participation and their effects differ from agency to agency. Therefore, one particular type of voluntary organisation cannot suit all in their changing circumstances.

vii. Foreign funds as blood has been playing vital role in the survival of majority of big and small organisations in India. Foreign funds to Voluntary Organisations have becoming essential in the eradication of poverty, reducing inequality and improving productivity level of the assets in UDCs. However, the study reveals that, such funds have been diverted for some other political purposes, for individual selfish, motive for building up public opinion against the existing government policies etc. If the funds are strictly brought down, to those specified programmes and strictly used for carrying out those programmes only.
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We think that there should not be any objection to foreign funds received by the Voluntary Organisations.

viii Regarding the administration of Voluntary Organisations we conclude that (a) Employees were purely temporary (b) wages and salaries were at low level (c) Recruitment had no special criteria (d) salary fixation depends on not by demand and supply of labours but on attitudes of members of trustees. Educational qualification did not determine the salary but efficiency to some extent influenced in the determination of salary (f) No other benefits such as bonus, Provident Funds etc. (g) Absence of social security scheme.

ix. All economic and administrative powers were concentrated in the hands of Board of Trustees or Executive Committees.

x. The allurement of foreign assistance and great attraction of government support gave rise to the numerous voluntary organisations during plan period. Some were big fishes in ocean.

xi. Generally, donor countries were capitalist and advanced ones. They were providing assistance through the international agencies in terms of kind and cash. We conclude that, undue dependence on foreign funds was dangerous to voluntary organisations. Development Programmes were badly handicapped because there was uncertainty with regard to flow of such funds. Another danger was that funding bodies have their own requirements and try to impose their views on voluntary organisations. One must be aware of the dangers of limited "project" approach.
Voluntary Organisations are playing multi-dimensional role in rural development. Being Social Service institutions, Voluntary Organisations in Maharashtra have undertaken social infra-structure building activities like education, health, development of women, youths and children through the welfare and awakening activities. They were also engaged in creating economic infrastructure by rendering services to the agriculture, agro-based and rural industrial activities. Both, these socio-economic activities immensely made an impact on poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Voluntary organisations in Maharashtra were also playing role as a resource mobiliser in rural area. They can mobilise easily enough resources like man, money and material at local level as well as to some extent at international level also.

The study indicates that there were 82 percent of VOs, which were in need of mutual cooperation. There was need of co-ordination among themselves. This is necessary because the experience of one agency may be helpful to another. In Maharashtra, AFARM, NAVADA were doing something commendable in this direction for training facilities and recent information. They should be in touch with NIRD-Hyderabad and the Institutes of Rural Management.

The attitude of the Government towards Voluntary Sector is not hopeful to the healthy growth of this sector. Most of the Organisations were bitterly criticised on discriminating policy and non co-operation. If one expect better work from this sector, government department should be entrusted with the voluntary organisations to realise
optimum results from a given investment. Some state
governments are making use of the services of voluntary
Organisations to enrich their own programmes. The rapport
between both is bound to yield fruitful results. The study
further reveals that 96.46 % (an average) percent
household beneficiaries opined that Voluntary Organisations
were better than government's.

xvi. The study also concludes that most of hindrances were
created in the implementation by local leaders at grass-
root level. The village bullies, anti-social forces,
political parties also created the impediments in the way
of execution of programmes and projects.

xvii This voluntary sector also faced too many problems such as
lack of funds, lack of adequate government support, lack of
dedicated activists, apathetic bureaucratic attitude, lack
of co-operation from people, lack of training facilities
and proper motivation of programmes, lack of experts and
skilled persons, discriminating policy of PAD (M), ignorance
and superstition of people etc.

xviii. The micro study regarding three voluntary organisations
concludes that the socio-economic impact of these three
Voluntary Organisations have been deeply rooted in all
segments of the society of surrounding villages of their
operational area. The involvement of rural community in
almost all and more than one activity had brought them on
the path of sustainable self-reliant economic development.
Our conclusion from each agency is stated below.

xix. The four lift irrigation schemes, Balwadi project, and
cement Vastu Hirmit Sahakari Society favourably affected
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the life of people and area of Taradgaon and also its operational area. These programmes and projects have increased the standard of living of the people. It has given substantial support to the people of low income group. The analysis reveals that more than 50 percent benefits were received by marginal and small farmers. It has also paid sufficient attention towards development of weaker section, i.e. O.B.C. people.

YPS has created good reputation through the implementation of numerous programmes in Yerala valley. Its projects like FDP, Poultry, Diary, housing were produced desirable effects on income, employment and inequality also. Most of the (i.e. more than 95 percent) benefits were accrued by land less, marginal and small farmers who belong to low income group. Near about 92 percent beneficiaries were from this section. More over, YPS has brought Hindu, Muslim and other caste categories like O B C and S C class people under one umbrella. One most important thing was that this organisation has paid adequate attention towards the development of female beneficiaries who have been neglected everywhere. In addition, the involvement of 32 percent beneficiaries from O B C and S C Class evidently proved the efforts taken by YPS for upliftment of the downtrodden people. Thus YPS has been playing catalytic role in the around development of poor people of the Yerala Valley.

SSSPM implemented many programmes in and around Gaudgaon. More than 70 percent beneficiaries belong to low income group people accruing 80 percent benefits from various activities. It created may desirable effects on reducing
severity of poverty, unemployment and inequality through the distribution of benefits and employment opportunities created by SSSPM. Through these efforts SSSPM has been successful in creating an awareness and spirit and new attitude towards development. The changing attitude reflected in the involvement or participation of female beneficiaries. Nearly 40 percent of female beneficiaries were involved in development activities of SSSPM. On the other hand, 35 percent of OBC and SC class people are benefitted and involved in the developmental activities is defacto. Thus, SSSPM also has been playing pivotal role in the development of the poor, down trodden and destitute women in rural areas.

10.2 Policy Implications

Taking into account the analysis, interpretation and conclusions of this thesis, we would like to suggest some measures to improve the quality and efficiency of voluntary organisations. These are as stated below:

1. In order to bring about the administrative reforms and functional co-ordination amongst the various voluntary organisations, it is suggested that a federal body called National Council For Rural Voluntary Organisations be established. It should be constituted and democratically controlled by two-tier systems. Firstly, the District Council for Rural Voluntary Organisations and secondly State Council For Rural Voluntary Organisations.

The District Council consists of the representatives of voluntary organisations in that district.
The following guidelines should strictly be followed.

i. It must be autonomous body.

ii. No government officials on the national Council.

iii. The members of committee should not be related to the political party.

iv. The membership should be open to all and voluntarily.

v. The council should not impose pressure. There must be freedom and flexibility.

The National Council should undertake the following activities:

i. It should collect and provide all types of information regarding programmes of rural development.

ii. To strengthen the voluntary sector, it should channelise the financial assistance (From government and sources from abroad) to needy voluntary organisations.

iii. It should act as friend, guide, and philosopher to all voluntary organisations.

iv. It should work as a supplementary to the government machinery and help them in their rural development programmes.

v. It should function as platform for discussion of their problems and many concerning aspects such as modus operandi, decision making, executions, monitoring and evaluation etc.

vi. It should bridge the gap among the voluntary organisations, they should come together to exchange their experiences, establish mutual cooperation and enhance integration.
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vii It should be the suitable ground to those who are receiving money from government and abroad, they must be accountable to that money.

II. The code of conduct must be essential for the proper utilisation of funds and promotion of social interest.

III. All voluntary organisations should come together and to establish "Rural Camps", in which training facilities for activists should be made available.

IV. Knowing their limitations and inadequate resources with them, they should divert their attention to upliftment of woman, child, tribal and depressed communities. They should avail all the opportunities and utilise the government resources along with their various programmes.

V. Foreign Funds should be made available by joint efforts of government and national Council. The equal justice for disbursement of funds should be given to big and small voluntary organisations.

VI. Voluntary Organisations should keep their record up-to-date regarding office procedures, filing, audit report, minutes of meetings, projects they undertaken, problems faced by them and election held by them etc.

Now we have the sufficient ground to say that there can be a voluntary sector or voluntarism for attaining the objectives of rural development. This voluntarism has the important characteristics such as autonomy, flexibility, democratic pattern, commitment, etc. These characteristics may get the status of principles of voluntarism. Our
findings and observations may support this statement. Of course, our review of voluntary movement in Maharashtra during before and after independence raises one question in our mind—whether voluntarism in voluntary movement is withering?

The voluntary movement has had a strong foundation of Gandhian philosophy and enthusiasm of National Freedom Movement. The workers were devoted and unpaid activists and thus, the commitment, flexibility and autonomy, democratic pattern etc. were common rules of the workers. The voluntary experiments in pre-independence period were thus, full of service motive and missionary zeal.

Today, after independence though the need for voluntary sector has been recognised even by the govt. and their scope and activity has been enlarged to greater extent, the real spirit of voluntary movement is in doldrum. Money has taken place of man. Real democracy is replaced by paper democracy. Most of the Voluntary Organisations are hopelessly expecting government money without any accountability. The influence of foreign money is encroached upon the real motive of service.

The next question arises in our mind that when the voluntarism is withering away today what should be the remedy to inculcate the spirit of voluntarism in today’s voluntary movement. For this there should be rebirth of noble personality of Mahatma Gandhi.