CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Government of India have formulated many programmes for Rural Development after independence particularly from 1947. The mass poverty in rural areas is the unique characteristic feature of Indian economy. Since seventy percent of the ninety crores of the present population, live in rural areas. Government of India have introduced number of rural development schemes which can help these rural people in improving standard of living. The programmes launched by the Government of India are as follows:

Among these, Community Development Programme, Integrated Tribal Development Programme and Integrated Rural Development Programme are so designed that it would improve the standard of living of the rural mass especially scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST) at maximum extent level.

During the first Five Year Plan, the CDP has been introduced to bring about desired socio-economic revolution in the rural society. But it did not generate the expected results due to lack of coordination among different experts involved in designing different development activities and the insufficient motivation on the part of administrative authorities. The IADP, HADP, TADP and HYVP are introduced during the second and third Five Year Plans, so as to bring about self-sufficiency in the food production and development of specific area. These programmes did not also improve the living conditions of these rural poor and could not bring landless labourers and small farmers out of their precarious conditions. In view of this, the Government of India introduced some corrective measures in the form of formulating specific programmes for eradication of poverty during Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plans. They are DPAP, DDP, CADP, MNP and target groups programme like SFDA and MFDA etc.

These anti-poverty programmes are expected to improve the living conditions of these people but it did not come
true. Rather, these programmes led to uneven distribution of benefits. Further, it can be said that the benefits percolated from these schemes did not reach to the needy poor. This fact is realised by the planners, and they introduced IRDP, RLEGP, IAY and JRY in the year 1980, 1983, 1986 and 1989 respectively. The IRDP is formulated in such a way that it would help eradicating rural poverty. It seeks to increase income, improve the quality of the life of the rural population and promote self reliant development.

Under IRDP, development unit i.e. a family, whose annual income is Rs. 3500/- fixed during Sixth Five Year Plan. This limit is changed to annual income of Rs. 6400/- during seventh Five Year Plan. However, the programme gives the preference to those families whose annual income is less than Rs. 4800/-. 

Eventhough the above different programmes are designed by the central Government, the State Governments are entrusted to improve these programmes under earmarked direction of the Central Government. The Government of Maharashtra also implemented these schemes and programmes under its jurisdiction through District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). The directors of DRDA at district level are responsible for implementing these schemes and programmes in their respective districts. The director of DRDA of Dhule district also shoulders the responsibility of implementing
these programmes as efficiently as he can in his district. The existence of higher proportion of tribal population in Dhule district is really an unique feature. The programmes accordingly interested to bring these tribal population and scheduled caste population along with other category community above poverty line.

1.1 Objectives and Scope of the Study:

As far as various studies on rural development undertaken by different experts are concerned, they rightly pointed their views regarding impact of this programme. The most of the experts and researchers opine that this IRDP did not help much to uplift the rural mass in general and SC/ST in particular above poverty line. In view of this negative impact of this programme across the country, this study undertakes the task of testing this impact of this programme in Shirpur taluka of Dhule district of Maharashtra.

Therefore, the present study mainly aimed at finding out the impact of the IRDP on the beneficiaries of SC and ST population of Shirpur taluka of Dhule district. The specific objectives of the study are as under:

1) The first objective of this study is to go through aims and objectives of IRDP and its functioning i.e. organisational structure and working pattern.

2) The study also seeks to analyze in detailed the allocation
of expenditure on SC/ST beneficiaries under the different schemes of IRDP implemented in Shirpur taluka.

3) The main theme of this study is to find out the impact of the IRDP on SC / ST in the form of generation of income, employment and poverty in Shirpur taluka.

4) The study also examines the methodology adopted in the selection of beneficiaries by the authorities and bring out lacuna involved in it.

1.2 Methodology:

The study is based on secondary data and primary data collected through a limited field survey. The secondary data is collected from the secondary sources, mainly from District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) official unpublished record, Reserve Bank of India Bulletins, State Bank of India Monthly Review, Yojana, Economic and Political Weekly, Southern Economist, Indian Journal of Agricultural Research, Kurukshetra, Gramodyog, Facts for You, Gram Vikas Patrika, Government of India Census Reports, Five Year Plans etc. The data collected from the sources like official record of Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat is analysed for the purpose at hand.

Primary data is collected through a sample survey of beneficiaries for obtaining the requisite information for sample beneficiaries. For this, detailed questionnaire, as
given in Appendix I was designed and administered in the Shirpur Taluka by the researcher. The aspects included in the questionnaire were related with household information like selection of beneficiary, income, employment, loan, development schemes, assets etc. To supplement the findings of the field survey, a separate interview schedule was used to collect necessary information from officials involved in the implementation of IRDP. The information collected through this schedule related to the following aspects - identification of beneficiaries, staffs, funds, etc. The detailed discussions were held with different functionaries of the programme both at the headquarters and in the field. The total sample for this study comprise 500 beneficiaries drawn from total population of 5000 beneficiaries already availing benefit of IRDP in the Shirpur Taluka. Thus, 10 percent sample (500) is chosen by simple random sampling technique. Of this 500 sample, 150 beneficiaries are selected from SC category, 250 from ST category and 100 from other category by the same technique from different schemes like milch animal, goat rearing, bullock cart, minor irrigation, secondary sector and tertiary sector, which are being implemented in this taluka under IRDP. Thus, the sample position in nutshell at different levels is as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schemes</th>
<th>Total Beneficiaries</th>
<th>10 percent sample beneficiaries selected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milch Animal</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>1580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat Rearing</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullock Cart</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor irrigation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Sector</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary Sector</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sample of 48 villages are selected from 135 villages of Shirpur taluka by the same simple random sampling technique. These villages were chosen on the basis of maximum ST population, concentration of several schemes under IRDP and tribal area. These selected villages are: Rudavali, Amode, Sakawad, Balade, Shingave, Kharde, Kalamsare, Untawad, Boradi, Malkatar, Waghadi, Wadi, Vasardi, Kuve, Budakı, Umarda, Thalner, Bhorkhed, Asalı, Vathode, Savalde, Babhulde, Khambade, Tonde, Sangvi, Sule, Rohini, Bhoity, Khamkhede, Laukı, Dahıvad, Ambe, Arthe, Vikharan, Bhamte (old), Bharawade, Tekawade, Javakheda, Varul, Bhatane,
Holnanthe, Bhaver, Manjarod, Bhortek, Japore, Babhalaj, Hisale and Mahadev Dondwada. These sample villages are already shown in the map.

The simple statistical tools i.e. ratio, percentages are used in the present study. This study confined to the period of ten years i.e. from 1981-82 to 1989-90. However, the survey is conducted for the period of 5 years (1985-86 to 1989-90). For, the officials could provide the requisite data for this period only.

1.3 Chapter Scheme:

The study consists of seven chapters. First chapter covers introduction of the subject, its objectives and methodology used for the study.

The second chapter is devoted for discussing a brief outline of the Rural Development Programme introduced in the year 1951-52 in different parts of the country. This chapter is divided into two parts. The Community Development Programme (CDP) and Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) are discussed in section A and section B respectively. This chapter also gives a brief account of evaluation of the CDP and ITDP undertaken by different eminent authorities in the subject is given.

Third Chapter analyses the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in India covering its objectives,
strategy, administration and performance etc. The subschemes of IRDP i.e. (i) Training for Rural Youth and Self Employment (TRYSEM) and (ii) Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) are also discussed at the end of this Chapter.

Fourth Chapter gives an evaluation of IRDP in India. Inferences arrived at by number of studies carried out for evaluations of IRDP, by the Government agencies, academic institutions and individual scholars are discussed in this chapter.

Fifth chapter is dealt with the economic profile of Maharashtra, Dhule district and Shirpur taluka which provides details regarding the agricultural structure, occupational distribution and infrastructural facilities of respective areas.

Sixth chapter presents the impact of IRDP in terms of generation of employment, income and poverty on beneficiaries of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes.

The seventh chapter gives important findings of this study and discusses the conclusion arrived at on the basis of analysis of data collected from primary and secondary sources. Besides, this chapter also offers some important suggestions which can be helpful to the authorities for reducing drawbacks involved in scheme itself. The suggestion also helps to bring the sound functioning of the IRDP which, in turn, help the poor mass.