

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Since the First Five Year Plan, the emphasis has been laid on the economic development of rural areas. The State in India announced its intention to pursue an active policy for the development of agriculture and ultimately for the development of rural areas. One viewpoint has been that the development of agro-based industries in these areas would accelerate their development. In Maharashtra the development of sugar industry in the rural areas, especially in the cooperative sector, was given importance. Now-a-days a cooperative sugar factory is being considered as the centre of rural economic development. So far no attempt has been made to assess the role of a sugar factory in the economic change in the rural areas, in Maharashtra State.

This study was undertaken in order to find out the impact of a sugar factory on the rural economy. The work on this research project was started in March 1974. In the process of completion of this work, many individuals and institutions have helped me directly and indirectly. I owe a debt to them.

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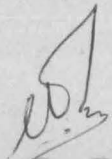


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