

PREFACE

The study of the problems of economic growth and direction of social change has been a rapidly developing branch of several academic disciplines, particularly after the Second World War. Sociologists, economists, historians, psychologists, political scientists, anthropologists and demographers find the problems of economic growth and social change to be of importance to their respective disciplines. For this reason the study of the problems of economic growth and social change has been a multidisciplinary and an interdisciplinary subject. In this context, the influence of non-economic factors on economic development assumes a special significance, particularly in developing and underdeveloped countries of the post-war world. In addition to this, the process and character of industrialization has also brought in its wake a number of problems that concerns social scientists.

In all the multiplicity of studies conducted on the subject, the central question was: "Are the structural and cultural characteristics of economically developing and underdeveloped countries becoming similar to the structural and cultural characteristics of the advanced industrial countries? If so, can the homogenizing trend be attributed to the industrialization process?" These assumptions have received several contradictory answers.

In fact, the multiplicity of studies conducted on the subject suffer from a variety of drawbacks both at the theoretical as well as empirical levels. At the theoretical level, they are either unidimensional or they present too broad a picture of the reality which do not go beyond a superficial understanding of the problem. At the empirical level, they do not take into account the existence of regional and sectoral variations. These previous studies are also beset with the difficulty of methodological issues, i.e. one finds a tendency in these writings to find a fit of closeness of one theoretical model with all the cases under investigation. Moreover, it is being increasingly realised that the society which is changing at such a swift pace that the answers of one generation are questionable relevance to the next.

One of the primary objectives of the present study entitled "Industrialization and Social Structure: A Case Study of Hatia, Ranchi" is to gather various writings on issues and problems which expose the gaps in our present knowledge; another is to make apparent differences in perspective, levels of analyses, variables, samples, and so forth, of previous sociological studies. Secondly, an attempt has been made in this study to view the phenomenon of industrialization and social structure from multi-dimensional theoretical stands.

The study contains six chapters and a conclusion. The first two chapters have been devoted to the theoretical and methodological aspects of the earlier sociological works and are based on critical evaluations of the existing literature related to our problem of study. The remaining four chapters are product of the analysis of empirical data collected from primary and secondary sources at the district, village and industry levels.

The first chapter is introductory in nature and provides theoretical perspective, methodological framework and hypothetical postulates of the previous sociological works. It deals with some basic issues concerning industrialization and social structure. An attempt has been made in this chapter to show the limitations of the 'convergence' model on Industrialization and Social Structure made at the Chicago Conference in 1958. Next, an attempt has also been made to overview an application of 'convergence' model in Indian empirical studies, which are next subjected to critical assessment with the help of findings of other empirical studies conducted on the subject representing almost similar period of Indian Industrialization.

The second chapter has been devoted to the review of existing empirical literature that go contrary to the 'convergence' model in Indian context. Consequently an

attempt has also been directed to develop a critical assessment of the above mentioned empirical studies both at theoretical and methodological levels.

The third chapter is on the emergence of the Hatia Industrial Complex. It describes the nature of land ownership and village economy prior to the emergence of Hatia industrial centre in the tribal dominated underdeveloped areas of Ranchi district. It also shows the changes brought about by the growth of the urban-industrial complex in and around Hatia in Ranchi district.

The last three chapters focus on socio-economic and demographic profiles of all categories of workers - executives, supervisors and workers of unionized cadre - engaged in modern heavy industry located at Hatia. The study also highlights workers' employment career, organizational experiences, occupational aspirations, job satisfaction and trade union involvement in case of workers belonging to unionized cadre on the basis of empirical data collected through interview schedule and intensive discussion with workers of all categories. In other words, entire analysis of the last three chapters is based on the data collected from primary sources.

The concluding part of the thesis apart from correlating the theoretical exposition with the empirical facts, tends to provide a holistic picture, covering all

levels of industrial workers and the emerging model of social structure in the tribal dominated developing areas of Hatia. More importantly, its main emphasis is on revealing the problems and prospects of application of 'convergence' model on the basis of empirical facts of a huge modern industrial complex. However, in view of the risk involved in such type of attempt, how useful this work would be in theory building has to be evaluated by others. Our only submission is that we have tried to provide a holistic view of the attitude and behaviour of all categories of workers and the recent emerging social structure exclusively from the view point of Sociology.

It is my privilege to express a few words of gratitude to all those who have helped in completing the present piece of research work. I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to my supervisor Prof. K.L. Sharma, for stimulating ideas on the subject and for guiding me at successive stages of work by giving valuable suggestions. I also wish to acknowledge my gratitude to Prof. Yogendra Singh, the Chairperson of the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, for providing necessary research facilities.

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