MAJOR FINDING
AND
CONCLUSION
CHAPTER V

MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The present study attempts to assess the results of the Micro Level Planning in a set of 3 experimental villages in comparison with a set of 3 controlled group villages from 1985 to 1988 and evolve an improved micro-model. The developments that had taken place in all aspects of the village life in the recorded period have been analysed and explained. The following aspects namely primary education, secondary and higher education, literacy in the age group of 15-35, agricultural development, economic improvement of the landless agricultural labourers, rural employment, housing for the weaker sections, health and sanitation, implementation of welfare programmes, transport and communication, institution building and leadership are summerised here.

PRIMARY EDUCATION:

At the end of the study period in 1988, mainly because of the efforts of the village planning committees, teachers of the village schools, parents and the Gandhigram Rural Institute 80.06 per cent of the school age children have been enrolled in the schools of the villages of the experi-
mental group. This is in contrast to the villages of the controlled group. The difference between the two sets of the villages has been significant. The village planning committees, the Gandhigram Rural Institute and teachers of the concerned schools have taken keen interest and initiative in improving the standard of education in the schools of the villages of the experimental group, whereas in the case of the controlled group villages, no such joint initiative has been taken. In improving the physical condition of the schools, two villages of the experimental group and one village of the controlled group have taken initiative in this respect and have come out with positive results.

HIGHER EDUCATION:

In 1988, among those who had passed +2, examination 32.30 percent of them had gone for higher studies. In the case of the villages in the controlled group, only 13.51 percent of them had gone for higher studies.

LITERACY IN THE AGE GROUP OF 15–35:

In 1988, among those who were in the above said age group, 59.05 percent were literates in the villages of the
experimental group. Though the villages of the experimental group were better than the villages of the controlled group in this respect, the achievement has not been very appreciable.

5.4 AGRICULTURE:

17.06 per cent of the farmers of the villages of the Experimental group have started adopting improved methods of cultivation at the end of the study period. In the case of the villages of the controlled group, only 5.06 per cent of the farmers have been noticed adopting improved method of cultivation. Almost all the villages, except the Experimental group village Anumantharayankottai, the irrigation tanks were not desilted and properly maintained. In 1988, among the farm families, 24.71 per cent of them received assistance from the Government and the voluntary agencies. In the case of the villages of the Controlled group, only 9.55 per cent of the farmers had received assistance from the Government.

ASSISTANCE UNDER IRDP:

In 1988, among the families of the landless agricultural labourers of the villages of the experimental group, 9.62
per cent of them got loans through IDRP. In the villages of the Controlled group, 8.48 per cent had received loans. The difference between the two groups in this respect is not very high.

**EMPLOYMENT GENERATION:**

In generating employment opportunities, the villages of the Experimental group were much better than the villages of the Controlled group. 64.62 per cent of the landless agricultural labourers were having full employment in 1988. In the villages of the Controlled group, 51.79 per cent of them had reasonably full employment.

**Housing for Scheduled Castes:**

In Anumantharayankottai, the Experimental Group Village 80 per cent of the Harijan families were benefitted by the Government scheme for construction of houses. In Palakanuthu, the Controlled group village, 44.44 per cent of the families were benefitted. In Puliyarajakapatti, 20 per cent of the Harijan families were benefitted. One of the Christian Voluntary Organisations helped the Harijan families of Palakanuthu.
Health and Sanitation:

Very few houses had individual latrines in the study villages. Only 20.60 per cent of the houses had bathrooms and proper drainages in the villages of the Experimental group. 19.83 per cent of houses had bathrooms and drainages in the villages of the Controlled group. 38.69 per cent of the eligible couples had adopted family planning in the villages of the Experimental group while 36.51 per cent of the eligible couples had adopted family planning in the villages of the Controlled group, and as such, there has not been appreciable difference between the two sets of villages over a period.

Social Welfare Programmes:

Four of the following welfare programmes were implemented in the villages of the Experimental group in 1988.

1. Providing noon meal to the pre-school age children through government centres or by the centres run by Gandhigram Rural Institute.

2. Providing training in crafts to rural youths.

3. Implementation of awareness building programmes.
4. Organising cultural programmes.

Such programmes, by contrast were not made available in the Controlled group of villages.

Transport and Communication:

Only one experimental group village and one Controlled group village had all the facilities and connected with transport and communication system in 1985. All study villages were connected with two bus routes in 1988.

Institutions:

At least not less than four of the following institutions and organisations were functioning in the villages of the Experimental group in 1988.

- Schools
- Cooperatives
- Village Planning Committee or Panchayat
- Women's club or Youth club
- Cultural and Religious Organisation.

As compared to this, there were only three or less than three organisations in the villages of the Controlled group.
**People's Participation:**

The level of participation of the leaders and people in the villages of the Experimental group in Planning and Implementing development programmes was much higher than that of the leaders and people of the villages of the Controlled group. The leaders and the Gandhigram Rural Institute were the motivating forces for eliciting people's participation in development activities.

**Impact of Leadership:**

92.52 per cent of the respondents in the villages of the Experimental group accepted the leadership of their villages in 1988. Among the respondents of those villages, 93.45 per cent of them have stated that the leadership has successfully implemented the development programmes. 83.17 per cent of them said that the leadership had succeeded in eliciting people's participation in planning and implementing development programmes where as in the case of the villages of the controlled group, the leadership had not made an impact on the village communities.

Among the six study villages, only in two villages (one from the experimental group and another from the controlled
group), the leadership has been helping to settle disputes between individuals and groups.

Limitations of the Existing Model:

Though the villages of the experimental group have recorded better performance during the period of this study than the villages of the controlled group, they had not achieved expected level of progress. The problem of rural unemployment and insanitary living conditions have not been solved. There was no larger people's organisation above to guide and monitor the functioning of the village planning committees in the villages of the experimental group. Only the chairmen and secretaries of the village planning committees were playing the major role in implementing the development programmes of the villages of the experimental group. There were no executive committees to implement different kinds of development programmes. The villages of the experimental group were very much depending upon the Gandhigram Rural Institute. Many talented individuals in different fields would have been provided with opportunities to serve the villages, if more such committees were constituted. There was no structured arrangement to settle the disputes within the village itself taking things in the spirit of
being in one family. People divide among themselves when they go to police stations and court of law during disputes between individuals and groups in a village.

The Improved Model:

The three year experiment in the selected experimental villages between 1985 and 1988 have brought about developmental changes mainly attributable to the Village Planning Committees. But it is to be noted that an external force like the Extension Department of Gandhigram Rural Institute was all along the motivating force giving advice. This cannot be continued on a long term basis. Also extension by itself is motivation with development for self sustaining growth. As such, the village Planning Committee should work through internal planning and implementation mechanism when once the external support is withdrawn. With this in view smaller and specific task oriented committees are suggested in the revised model.

The improved model consists of a Gram Sabha (village Assembly) and a few committees for implementing development Programmes along with the planning committee which exists in the present model in the villages of the experimental group.
for an all round development of the village. In the new model, there will be a village court which consists of a few elders who are unanimously selected by the Gramsabha to settle disputes between individuals and groups. However, serious criminal cases will not be tried by this village court. Essentially, this will be a conciliatory or compromising body and will function within the broad guidelines given by the Gramsabha.

The Women's Club and the Youth Club will be there as independent associations. But they will help the committees in implementing the target group oriented development programmes. Along with involving in their own personality development and village development programmes, members of the Youth Club will act as peace brigades to avoid clashes between individuals and groups and take up watch and ward duties in the village as and when necessary. Women's Club will be helpful to implement the programmes connected with women and child development.

Office-bearers of the Gramshaba, Women's Club and Youth Club and members of the different committees are to be selected on the basis of a common criteria. They must be known for their integrity and character. Special criteria are also given to become members of different committees.
The Gram Sabha will collect and maintain a common fund. Each committee will get small amounts for its functioning. Along with Government funds, at times, the Gram Shaba may raise funds to implement important development programmes. The Gram Shaba and sub committees should submit the audited statement of accounts in the annual meeting of the Gram Sabha for its approval.

The improved micro-model is mainly suggested to overcome the limitations of the present model in the villages of the experimental group. The Gram Sabha is free to increase or reduce the number of committees. The size of the committee may also be decided by the Gram Sabha. As far as possible, the members and the office-bearers of the committees and other organisations have to be selected by consensus. Only during unavoidable circumstances the method of secret voting has to be resorted. The improved model may be further tested, verified and modified in such a way to strengthen the democratic planning process at the grass roots.

Areas for further Research:

At present, there seems to be a crisis leadership
at almost all levels. Unless proper leadership is created at the grassroots, the success of decentralised local self-government and village level planning would become a myth. The present study provides scope for further research in the existing leadership patterns at the grassroots and finding out the need to shape it in order to shoulder the responsibilities in a democratic, decentralised socio political set-up.

There is a need to study the present administrative set-up at the village level to implement development programmes. Even now, the villagers feel that it is very difficult to get the cooperation of the village, block and district level development officials and departments to get things done. If it is necessary, the present set-up for administering development programmes in the villages has to be re-arranged to suit the needs of the democratic and decentralised planning process.

A study on the perception of the rural people about development may help to educate and guide them towards the right direction to achieve the goal of all round development of the village. Generally, to many, development means economic development. The other aspects of development are
also to be taken into consideration.

A study on the linkages between the administration and the people on rural problems may be helpful to identify the gaps in understanding the problems on either side and lead to an effective planning and implementation of development programmes at the grassroots. The problems which are important to the target-oriented development officials may not necessarily be the felt needs of the villagers. The perception of villagers may also be wrong in some respects in giving importance or priorities to certain problems. Hence, the above said study may be a useful one in many respects.

There can be a study on the methodology of 'participatory Rural Appraisal' (PRA) for studying the rural problems and its place in village level planning. Creating an atmosphere for the people to state their problems and solutions by themselves is the aim of the PRA Methodology. This may help to strengthen the democratic planning process at the village level.

A study may be conducted to evaluate the present system of planning at the block and district levels and evolve improved planning models. At present, the block development officers and the project officers of the District Rural
Development Agencies (DRDA) are mainly depending upon their assistants, not upon the public representatives in identifying and implementing development programmes. Hence, the above said study may unearth the limitations of the present system and help to evolve a better and meaningful one.