Chapter-3

Area of Study
AREA OF STUDY

3.1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION, LOCATION AREA, POPULATION ETC.


The Jammu and Kashmir lies in the extreme north of India and is bounded on the north by china and in the west by Tibet and on south by Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and on the west by Pakistan. The official language is Urdu.

The Jammu and Kashmir which had earlier been under Hindu rulers and Muslims Sultans become part of Mughal Empire under Akbar. After period of Afghan rule from 1756 it was annexed to the Sikh Kingdom of Punjab in 1819. In 1846 Ranjit Singh made over the territory of Jammu to Maharaj Gulab Singh. After the decisive battle of Sarhroon in 1846 Kashmir also was made over to Maharaja Gulam Singh under the treaty of Amritsar. British supremacy was recognized until the Indian Independence act 1947. When all the states decided on accession to India or Pakistan, Kashmir asked for standstill agreements with both. In the mean
time the estate became the subject of an armed attack from Pakistan and Maharaja accepted to India on 26th October 1947. By signing the instruments of accession India approached to the U.N. on January 1949. Another round of war between the two countries in 1956 was followed by Tashkent declaration in January 1966 following the Liberation movement in former eastern wing of Pakistan. Pakistan attacked India in 1971 December. It was followed by Shimla Agreement in July 1972. A new line of control delineated between two countries in Jammu and Kashmir. The maharaja’s son Kiran Singh took over as regent in 1950 and on the ending of hereditary rule (17 October, 1952) was sworn in as Sadar-I-Riyasat. On his father’s death (26th April, 1961) Yuvraj Karam Singh was recognized as maharaja by Indian government. He decided however not to use the title.

The area of Jammu and Kashmir is 222,236 Sq.Km. The total population is 7,718,700 and literacy rate is 26.17%. The religious population of the state is likely Hindu - 1,930,448, Muslims - 3,843,451, Christians - 8,481, sikhs - 1,33,675 and Buddhist - 89906 Lakhs. This Scheduled Castes are 9% of the total population. Agriculture is the main stay of state economy as about 80% of the population depends upon it. Tourism, travel service sectors are also equally important in the state. Services of the state is also an important area of employment.

There are three Universities in the state namely University (68)
of Jammu (Jammu), University of Kashmir (Srinagar) and Share-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture and Technology.

THE SCHEDULED CASTES IN THE STATE:

As the Scheduled Castes constitute 8% of the State population, the state constitution has provided 8% reservation to the Scheduled Castes in Government Services.

The Scheduled Caste in Jammu and Kashmir have the primary occupation of agriculture and they have landholdings largely. The bulk of the schedule castes have occupied the positions in the Government Services and private sectors. The political participation of the schedule in various political parties at state and local level is also increasing day by day. There are seven reserve seats for elected MLA of schedule castes in State Legislative Assembly out of 87.

The present study has been carried on in Jammu Division. Therefore a few facts about this region are narrated here.

THE JAMMU DIVISION:

Jammu Division of the Jammu and Kashmir State has six districts divided into fifty seven community development blocks having hundred and eighty nine panchayats spread over on the three thousand five hundred and seventy seven villages. Jammu division comprises of thirty two towns. The rural population (1981 Census) is 22.96 lakhs. The scheduled castes populations of the division is
4.35 lakhs and scheduled tribe and others are 3.81 and 14.66 lakhs respectively. The total number of rural families are 5.01 lakhs and the number of families identifies below the poverty line are 3.12 lakh. In Jammu division the study has been undertaken in district Doda. Thus a brief narration of the district is presented.

THE DISTRICT:

District Doda came into existence in 1948 and is located at a distance of 171 Km from Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu & Kashmir and 222 Km from Srinagar, the summer capital of the State. The district is located between 32°52' to 34°12' north latitude and 71°1' to 76°47' east longitude. The altitude varies from 3000 ft. to 15000 ft. above sea level. The district is bounded in north east by Kargil district and in the West by the district of Udhampur and Anantnag respectively. In the south and south east by Katha district and Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh respectively. Doda is the third largest district of the state after Leh and Kargil. The district comprised of 855 villages constituting seven tehsils namely Banihal, Ramban, Doda, Thatri, Bhaderwah, Kishtwar and Bhallesa. Kishtwar is largest tehsil of the district with an area of 1644 sq.kms. The district has fourteen community development blocks namely Warwan, Marwah, Kishtwar, Inderwal, Padder, Thatri, Bhallesa, Bhaderwah, Doda, Bagwah, Assar, Ramban, Ukral(Ramsoo) and Banihal. Urban areas constituted of six notified area committees as Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Doda, Batote, Ramban and Banihal.
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The population of the district (as per 1981 census) is 4.25 lakhs. The population is mostly rural as 4 lakh people live in the villages and only 25000 in the six notified areas. Thus 94% and 6% of the population resides in rural and urban areas respectively.

As per census of 1981 the sex ratio (the number of females per thousand male) works out at 904 which is higher than state average of 892. There is a sizable chunk of scheduled castes' population in the district. Number of people belonging Scheduled Castes is 37,173 or 9% against the 8% in the state and 18% in Jammu region.

18.50% of the population has enumerated as literate. This is much less than 26.67% of the state. This ratio is higher (28.55%) for the males and lower (7.34%) for females. Similarly, it is higher (55.08%) for urban areas and lower (15.20%) in rural areas.

OTHER FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT

Doda has scanty rain fall and has been declared drought prone area. The number of operational house-holdings as per (agriculture census of 1985-86) is 82921 covering an area of 84438 hectares. Main crop in the district are maize and rice during kharif and wheat and barley in the rabi season. Like other areas of the state Doda district is also been covered under the rural electrification programme. 572 villages have been electrified and 305 hamlets have been electrified.
by the ending 1991-92.

There are three degree colleges, one each at Dhaderwah, Doda, and Kishtwar, besides there are 1280 primary schools, 210 middle and 112 high and higher secondary institutes during the ending 1992 and total enrollment was 109099 during year under reference. (Economic Survey of District 1994-95).

Medicare is provided by a district hospital, three sub districts hospitals and other medicare institutes. The district is most disadvantageously placed so far as the drinking water facilities is concerned. In district Doda the second largest block is selected for the study, but earlier it was known as the largest block. Being the largest it was initially selected for study.

KISHTWAR:

Kishtwar is the largest tehsil with a block head quarter in district Doda as well as in Jammu and Kashmir state and is located 60 Km from district head quarter and 233 Km from winter capital and 285 Km from summer capital. The total area of the tehsil is 40,610 acres. The irrigated land of Kishtwar is 7660 acres and unirrigated land constitutes 391139 acres and cultivated and un-cultivated land comprised of 44789 and 361303 acres (Revenue record of the Tehsil Office, Kishtwar)

The population of Kishtwar is 201415 out of which Hindu population is 66,260. Muslims is 90,708, Sikhs is 223, Buddhist
Scheduled castes 10696, Gurjar and Bakerwals 21064 and other 23452. (Survey Record of Tehsil Office in Kishtwar). Tehsil Kishtwar comprises of five blocks namely Kishtwar, Padder, Indorwal, Marwah and Warwan and 156 villages. The primary occupation of the people in Kishtwar tehsil is agriculture. The tehsil is over all covered by hills. The main occupation in urban area of the tehsil is government services and business. Scheduled castes include only two sub castes in Kishtwar i.e. Megh and Barwella. The traditional occupation of all the scheduled castes in Kishtwar has been agriculture. No caste based difference in occupation is observable in the Kishtwar. The purity and pollution syndrome is also not observable. No family in Kishtwar among the scheduled castes is landless. A large number of scheduled caste people have joined government services due to the provisions of reservation policy of government, services has become the main source of the people now. As such no Jajmani system observed in Kishtwar. Ten intercaste marriages have been reported so far in Kishtwar between the higher caste and scheduled caste. (Interview based)

Scheduled Caste people have established the local youth organizations which fight for the betterment of the Scheduled castes and getting constitutional rights for their people. The background and other aspects of the Scheduled Caste Youth Organisation Kishtwar are narrated later on in his office. Presently Kishtwar tehsil is gripped under militancy since 8-9 years which has resulted
Into great loss in socio-political aspects of the people and a quite distance has been observed between the two religions.

**BLOCK KISHTWAR**

It was established in 1956. It has the office of an agency of rural development. There are fifteen panchayats and 164 villages in Kishtwar block. The total population of the block is 47085. The total number of families are 7379. The total numbers of Scheduled families are 1088 (Block Official Survey). Out of the fifteen panchayats two panchayats namely Matta and Pochhal have been selected as the area of study.

Matta and Pochhal panchayats are both in urban promiscuity. Matta Panchayat is comprised of three revenue villages - Hiral, Matta and Lachkhave. Pochhal Panchayat is constituted of two villages namely Lach Dyaram and Lachkhave. The total population of the Matta is 3642 and Pochhal panchayats is 4796. The total number of families in both panchayats ranges from 521-725 and the number of the scheduled castes families ranges about 165-193 in both the Panchayat areas. (Village level workers report)

**3.2 THE PROCESS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN THE AREA OF STUDY**

Like rest of the country, poverty alleviation and wage employment programmes have been vigorously implemented in the state of Jammu and Kashmir with special thrust on rural development.
Panchayat is reckoned as the basic unit for implementation of rural development programmes. There are one hundred and nineteen community blocks in the state.

The state of the Jammu and Kashmir has the unique distinctions of being the first state in the country to evolve the system of decentralized planning even during the President's rule in the state. The district development board under the chairmanship of the district development commissioner have remained active. In place of the elected representatives, nominated non-official advisory group have been formed to advice district development board. During 1994-95, the Governor along with the Chief Secretary and Commissioner/Secretaries of important sectors conducted the meetings of all the fourteen districts of the state. During their visits apart from reviewing the progress of scheme; many projects were visited which resulted in the interaction with the people.

At divisional level also non-official advisory groups have been constituted with the divisional commissioner to associate themselves with developmental programmes and to identify concerns requiring of the state. The following programmes have been implemented by the state during the recent years at state level.

(b) I.A.Y. (c) Million Well Scheme (d) Social Forestry (e) Employment Assurance Scheme (f) Rural Sanitation

Jammu division of the Jammu and Kashmir has six districts divided into fifty seven community development blocks, having six hundred and eighty nine panchayats spread over three thousand five hundreds and seventy seven villages, the total number of towns are thirty two and the rural population (1981) census is 22.96 lakh, out of which 4.35 are scheduled castes, 3.81 lakhs scheduled tribes and 14.80 are others. The total number of rural families identified below the poverty line are 3.12 lakh.

The community development and national extension service now called as rural development came into existence in early 1953 after the introduction of community development and national extension services scheme and worked for rural reconstruction by introducing and implementing various Programmes of agriculture animal husbandry social education health and family welfare.

3.3. OFFICIAL HIERARCHY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

There is hierarchy of officials at various level in the rural development department in Jammu and Kashmir State.

At Divisional Level the director of Rural Development being the head of the department is overall incharge of the programmes executed by rural development department and have the overall
administrative control.

At District Level the assistant commissioner is having the administrative control over the block development officers and monitor the rural development programmes like JR, IRDP, EAS, CD and panchayat, applied nutrition programme, besides the works entrusted by the other sister organization particularly school buildings, health cub centers and T and V buildings of association of agriculture department etc. The district panchayat official look after the working of panchayats. he is vested with the powers of assistance collector 1st class and estate officer. After the expiry of the terms of panchayat in the state since 1984. This institution has ceased the function and the district panchayat officer has been entrusted the job of monitoring the social forestry programme of JRY and rural sanitation.

The Project Officer DRDA is the incharge for the implementation of IRDP, DWACRA, in rural areas and allied activities at the district level. The DRDA is an autonomous body registered under societies act. The district development commissioner is the chairman of the agency. The programme is implemented through the block development officers the block level, who is also answerable to DRDA in respect of IRDP and allied programmes.

To ensure the quality control over the works programme there is a full-fledged rural engineering wing who is supported by 3-4 assistant engineers at the sub-divisional level to exercise
technical supervision of work, preparation of estimates, recording of progress and maintenance of record of works executed by the block agency.

At the Block Level, the block development officer is the incharge of implementation of centrally sponsored scheme of poverty alleviation and other state level schemes and is assisted by a team of functionaries viz., one inspector panchayat, three junior engineers and 10-15 village level workers with supporting staff.

At the Panchayat Level, the basic functionaries according to the state is village level worker (Gram Sevak) who was been entrusted with the implementations of various schemes of poverty alleviation. He is also functioning as officio secretary of panchayat. The agency of multipurpose workers have also been created at panchayat level who is assisting the village level workers in the process of implementations of various programmes particularly IRDP. He is engaged on contractual basis at a consolidated salary of Rs. 750/- monthly.

Following programmes of rural development have been implemented during recent years at divisional level.

Yojana (JRY) (g). Indira Awas Yojna (IAY) (h). Million Wells Scheme (M.W.S.) (i). Social Forestry (j). Employment Assurance Scheme (k). Rural Sanitation

At District level district rural development agency is the main agency which executes the programmes of rural development. The DRDA is further divided into three agencies.

(a). Project Officer drought prone area development which executes only DPAP of rural development at district level.

(b). Project Officer DRDA who executes INDP, TRYSEM, DWCRE at district level.

(c). Assistant Commissioner (ACD) who executes Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Indira Awas Yojna, Intensive JRY, Community and applied nutrition programme.

Following recent rural development programmes are in operations at the district level.


There is no independent agency of rural development
at tehsil level. Block Development officer is the incharge of the implementation and monitoring of centrally and state sponsored programmes of rural development. Only in case of Indira Awas Yojna. There is a tehsil level screening committee which forwards the applications of the beneficiaries to the district authorities. Before this the applications are Scrutinized at block development officers office.

In the process of the exploration it was found that in the area of the study a voluntary organizations of scheduled castes has emerged at the tehsil level which fightes for the betterment of their community members. Thus the voluntary organisations its backgrounds, its objectives structure and role is narrated here. The detailed role of the organisations in the process of getting the benefits of recent rural developments are narrated in 4.3B.

3.4 VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN KISHTWAR (J&K)

3.4.1 BACKGROUND :

The name of the voluntary organisation is Scheduled Castes Youth Welfare Association. It was established in June 1991 at tehsil level. Some college students of the Scheduled Castes had taken the initiative to organise their community members in Kishwar.

3.4.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES :

The voluntary organisations has the following aim and objectives.
1. Fight for the betterment of the socio-economic gain of scheduled castes people of kishtwar. 2. To ensure the proper implementation of the state policies and rural development programmes initiated by the state for scheduled caste people. 3. To enhance the education for scheduled caste people. 4. To see the proper distribution of scholarships to the scheduled castes students.

3.4.3 ORGANISATION AND ELECTION PROCESS:

The scheduled castes youth welfare association holds elections after every year. The organisation elects executive body of the President, Vice President, General Secretary, Secretary, Organiser, Publicity Secretary, and Cashier. Majority of the decisions for electing the executive body are made unanimously. Besides the executive body the organisations nominate two active members from every scheduled caste village. Then the written decision of election is circulated upto the various officials heads of the tehsil, district and the state. The structure of the organisation is as follows:

President, Vice President, Gen Secretary, Secretary Organiser, Publicity Secretary and Treasurer assisted by 22 active members from the all scheduled castes majority villages.

3.4.4 ROLE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION:

The scheduled castes voluntary organisation plays an significant role in raising the socio-economic standards of the scheduled caste people in kishtwar. The role of the organisation is depicted here
as follows:

The organisations has got prepared one thousand certificates of the of the scheduled castes students for scholarship in 1991-92 on the expenses of the organisation. The organisation made agitations against the trench company which has given the contract of Hydro-electric project at kishlwar. The organisation demanded the reservation quota in employment according to the provisions. They manifested their organised efforts in strikes and hunger strikes for fifteen days against the concerned authorities for implementation of reservation quota in the company. The organisation members convinced the authorities and got 8% quota in the company. The members of the organisations have been seen fighting for the implementation of rural development programme in the villages for their community people.

The members got the contracts of various developmental programmes which block officials implemented in the village panchayats. The members of the organisation do not allow the non-scheduled castes persons to get contracts of the rural development programmes which block officials operate in the scheduled castes majority villages. The members of the organisation keep strong pressure on the block officials at the local level. The organisations has extended its contact upto the DRDA at district level, and director rural development department at province level. The association organise the meetings weekly in every village to take note of the problems of their brethren in those villages.
What role voluntary organisations members intervene/play in the process of getting the benefits of the rural development programmes in two villages panchayats is narrated exhaustively in the chapter V.