Chapter-6

Summary and Findings/Conclusion
6.1 SUMMARY AND FINDINGS/CONCLUSION

6.1.1. STATEMENT/CONTEXT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study has focussed upon the following questions:

1. Who are the beneficiaries of the recent rural development programmes among the scheduled castes?

2. How scheduled castes are making use of the benefits of the recent rural development programmes, i.e. what is the process from its information to the final materialization of the benefit?

3. Whether there are any voluntary efforts by scheduled castes themselves to mediate the process of getting the benefit?

4. What are the social consequences, if any, of the recent rural development programmes on the scheduled caste beneficiaries, the voluntary organization and the scheduled castes at large?

The first question had referred to the socio-economic background of the scheduled caste beneficiaries in the area of the study. The socio-economic background has been observed in terms of castes, education, age, landholding, occupation and family size.

The second question has taken into account the process of getting the benefit. This has been understood through the process of taking the benefits by the scheduled caste beneficiaries from getting information to finally materializing the benefit.
The third question has been understood here in terms of existence and involvement of the voluntary efforts of the scheduled castes, that has been observed in terms of the existing voluntary organization of scheduled castes and its members role in the process of completing the benefit, or cycle of the taking benefit.

The fourth question has been taken to refer to the social consequences of the rural development programmes. These have been upon the scheduled caste beneficiaries, voluntary organization itself and its members and the scheduled castes at large in local context.

6.1.2: AREA OF STUDY

These questions have been studied in a larger size block in district of Jammu and Kashmir, namely kishtwar block in district Doda. The selection has been made purposely. Doda is the third largest district of the state after Leh and Kargil. The district comprised of fourteen community blocks and 600 plus villages.

Kishtwar is the largest tehsil and second largest block in the district. There are fifteen village panchayats in kishtwar block. The study has been carried out in two panchayat areas namely, Matta and pochhal. Matta panchayat is comprised of three villages and pochhal panchayat is comprised of two villages. The population of Matta panchayat in 3642 and of pochhal panchayat is 4796. The total number of families in both panchayat areas are 520 and 725
respectively. The total number of the scheduled caste families are 185 and 93 (survey report of block office). Both the panchayats are in urban proximity of the block/tehsil head quarters kishtwar which is a town.

To look at the social structural variables which operate in the process the above two panchayats in the block have been selected for intensive study. They provide a comparative frame work in the sense that one panchayat consists of scheduled castes as the largest group (35% approx.) and the other has smaller (13% approx.) proportion of scheduled castes.

6.1.3: RESPONDENTS-UNIVERSE/SAMPLE.

The study has been carried out in a block. Thus block becomes the universe of study. The two village panchayats were selected for intensive study as indicated above one in which larger proportion of scheduled castes and another in which smaller proportion is found. Thus the two village panchayats benefits and the beneficiaries in these two village panchayats constitute the focussed universe of the present study. On the bases of explorations by interviewing strategically located persons, voluntary organization members, officials and official records it was noted that there are 150 beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries (those who applied but could not get) of the recent rural development programmes. Integrated Rural Development programme, Rural Sanitation, Indira Awas Yojna, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna and Million wells were found to be operating as the programmes
of recent rural development in two village panchayats. Thus 150 respondents, beneficiary and non-beneficiary, constitute the universe of study in terms of number of respondents of the 150 respondents 97 are the beneficiaries (who got the benefit) and 57 non-beneficiaries (who applied but could not get) the benefit. Of the 97 beneficiaries 43 belong to the scheduled castes. Thus all the 43 beneficiaries of the recent rural development programmes namely IRDP, R.S., I.A.Y., JRY and MWS constitute the total number of respondents. The process of getting a benefit involves the beneficiary, the officials of various offices like development block, the bank etc., the voluntary organization members and the village where they are located. Thus five sets of the respondents have been taken up in the present study. All the 43 scheduled caste beneficiaries of recent rural development programmes,

2. Officials of various offices involved.

3. Members of voluntary organization of scheduled castes.

4. Strategically located persons in the village social structure, and

5. Non-beneficiaries in the two villages. Some of the members of the voluntary organisations and strategically located persons also overlap. The first category of respondents has been the crucial set of respondents in the present work. Respondents of other four sets have been taken up illustratively in the study to understand their role in the process. A smaller (10) number
n or non-beneficiaries has been taken up illustratively for a comparative understanding of the success in getting a benefit and looking at some stage in the steps taken for materializing their benefit.

The voluntary organization members 4, strategically located persons (4) have been also selected from these two village panchayat areas. The respondents, other than the beneficiaries have been determined looking at the feasibility and explorations of the process of getting the benefits on the part of beneficiaries. Only the strategically important officials of the development block, the bank and tehsil level screening committee have been selected as respondents.

5.1.4: PERSPECTIVES/APPROACHES OF THE STUDY.

The programmes are received by beneficiaries who are placed in a rural social structure. How the process of taking the benefit involves other units of this social structure is conceived structural functional perspective. How this process and steps followed there in are connected to the units of social structure, has been studied.

Beneficiaries in two rural social structures have been selected for intensive study, one marked by large proportion of scheduled castes and the other having smaller segment proportionately. The comparison of the beneficiaries of the two social structures involves a comparative perspective. The villages are situated in the same area having all other social and economic characteristics in
common making the two units comparable with one crucial difference of proportion of scheduled castes. Differential responses of using recent rural development programmes is likely to be observed in relation to this existing difference.

6.1.5. CONCEPTS/TERMS:

Following Concepts and terms have been used in the study and these are operationally defined in the manner these are used.

6.1.5.1 SOCIAL NETWORK:

J.A. Barnes (1954:43) defined network as, "Each persons, as it were, in touch with a number of people, some of whom are directly in touch with each other and some of whom are not. I find it convenient to talk of a social field of this kind as a network". Elizabeth Bott (1957:16-17) has further added to the dimensions of the concept. "A network is a social configuration in which some but not all the components are external units which do not all the components are external units which do not make up a large whole and are not surrounded by a common boundary".

Social Network in this study has been understood to involve all the persons of official agencies, voluntary agencies and others who are involved in the cycle of rural development processes, their relationships with the beneficiaries in the process of getting the benefits. These linkages are included in the network which
are formed around the beneficiaries.

6.1.5.2 SOCIAL CHANGE

T.B. Bottomore (1975:237) defined Social Change "as a change in social structure (including here changes in the size of a society) or in particular social institution or in the relationships between institutions."

Social change in the present study involves any change which have takes place in the social organization i.e. like separation of family from larger to smaller, change in occupation, political consciousness, political unity, political participation, socio- psychic support and education etc. after getting the benefit of recent rural development programmes.

6.1.5.3. RURAL DEVELOPMENT/RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME :

Development, by definition, is the act or process of developing or growth evolution, within the framework of available resources. Its primary aim in India is the removal of poverty and all the socio-economic evils which are interlinked with it. The rural development is therefore, a conscious effort at raising the standard of living of the people living in villages in India.

Any programme implemented to fulfill the above aims is known as Rural Development Programmes. Recent rural development programmes here involve the programmes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Indira Awas Yojna, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

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Training of Rural Youths for Self Employment, Million Wells Scheme, Rural Sanitation etc which are known to the people in the area of study.

6.1.5.4. **BENEFICIARY** :

Beneficiary have means a person from a village, who has received the money/benefits under any rural development programme of the state by completing the required for formalities.

6.1.5.5. **VOLONTARIISM** :

Voluntarism means the phenomenon of voluntary action through voluntary organization.

Voluntary actions are those which are performed or done of one's own free will, impulse or choice, not constrained, promoted or suggested by another (others). Thus voluntary organizations means organizations created by free will, impulsive or choice, not constrained, promoted or suggested by another (other).

Voluntarism, in the present study is used to convey the organised voluntary efforts on the part of the scheduled caste themselves in facilitating the process of making use of the benefits of the rural development programmes initiated by the state. Whether such voluntary organizations are formally registered body or not.

6.1.6: **METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION**

At the first stage identification of the beneficiaries was
largely done by interviewing strategically located persons, officials concerned, member of statutory committee, members of voluntary organization and the records available from the offices of the block, bank, and progress reports of the development programmes of the state at district level (i.e. economic survey of district 1995-96).

At the first stage data have been collected through case studies based on observations and interviews of the beneficiaries of the recent rural development programmes, officials, members of the voluntary organization of the scheduled castes and non-beneficiaries. However data collected from officials, members of voluntary organizations, non-beneficiaries largely remain limited up to few case studies. All the 43 beneficiaries were systematically interviewed on select aspects in the second phase.

In this manner the present study is thus based upon interviews, observations, consultation of official records and case studies.

6.1.7: METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS

The facts collected through observations and interviews were systematically, descriptively and qualitatively narrated to prepare the case studies of the beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, strategically located member of the voluntary organizations and the officials. Thus qualitative analysis was gone in preparation of the narration of the facts and the process.
On select aspects of the beneficiaries the facts have been quantitatively analyzed in terms of numbers and proportions and presented in the tables. However no statistical tests have applied as the data is small (43) for such purposes. For abstraction of descriptive data and facts, concepts and terms are necessary for academic discourse, and interpretation of the following concepts and terms appear to be suited to have a meaningful academic discourse and interpretation.

6.2 FINDINGS\CONCLUSION

In the present study initially four major questions were proposed to be studied.

(I) Who are the beneficiaries of the recent rural development programmes among the scheduled castes? (II) How scheduled castes are making use of the benefits of the recent rural development programmes i.e. What is the process from its information to the final materialization of the benefit? (III) Whether there are any voluntary efforts by scheduled castes themselves to mediate the process of getting the benefit? and (IV) What are the social consequences, if any, of the recent rural development programmes on the scheduled caste beneficiaries, the voluntary organization members, and the scheduled castes at large?

On the basis of the facts collected through interviews and observations about 43 scheduled castes beneficiaries of the
recent rural development programmes. 4 strategically located scheduled caste members of their voluntary organizations. 4 officials involve and 10 non-beneficiaries (those who applied but could not get) in two village panchayats in Kishtwar block we may enlist the findings as follows.

6.2.1: CONTEXTUAL FINDINGS

1. In the area of two village panchayats in all 150 persons scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes applied for taking the benefit of recent rural development programmes during the year 1995-96, of the 150 applicants 93 (i.e. 62%) could finally get and 57 (i.e. 38%) could not finally get the benefit of any of the recent rural development programmes.

2. Cast Wise distribution has indicated that of the 150 respondents initially got involved in the process of getting the benefit, just a little less than half i.e. 73 (49%) belong to the scheduled castes and a little more than half i.e. 77 (51%) belong to the other castes (non-scheduled castes). There are 278 house holds of the scheduled castes in the two village panchayats, of these 73 applied. That means (26%) proportion has become aware of the recent rural development programmes and tried to make of the use of the benefits. Of the 73 scheduled caste respondents who have involved in the process, 49 could finally get the benefits that is to say about 59% of the scheduled caste applicants have succeeded in getting the benefit of recent rural development programmes and about 40
This shows that the success rate of getting the benefits of recent rural development programmes among the every willing scheduled caste persons is about 59% or 3 out of 5. As a whole thus (59%) have been benefitted by the recent rural development programmes.

3. Programme wise distribution has indicated that there are 43 beneficiaries and out of these 18 are of IAY i.e. maximum beneficiaries are of the Indira Awas Yojna in two village panchayats. Integrated rural development programme is the least (6 out of 43) benefiting programme for the scheduled castes. Jawahar Rozgar Yojna and Million well scheme stands almost in the same proportion 9 (out of 43) and rural sanitation programme has been used by 10 out of 43.

Thus of the four rural development programmes, Indira Awas Yojna has benefited the scheduled castes most.

4. Of the 150 respondents in two village panchayats, in panchayat 'A' there are 58 respondents and in panchayat 'B' there are 37 respondents. Of the 58 respondents 20 were scheduled castes in panchayat 'A' and in panchayat 'B' of 37 respondents 17 are scheduled castes. This indicates that the proportion of scheduled castes applicants for recent rural development programmes are only slightly different (42% and 46%).

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5(i). Programme wise beneficiaries of the IRDP are 6 in village panchayat 'A' and non in the other panchayat. Thus the response to the same programme IRDP is different in the two panchayats.

5(ii). All the 10 beneficiaries of rural sanitation programme are in panchayat B and non in panchayat 'A'.

Thus the programme is differentially distributed in two panchayats.

5(iii). Of the 24 beneficiaries of Indira Awas Yojna 12 have succeeded in getting the benefits in panchayat 'A' and of the 14 beneficiaries 6 have succeeded in Panchayat 'B'. Thus the scheduled castes of panchayat 'A' have got double the benefits of IAY than panchayat 'B'.

5(iv). In JRY and MWS 8 (out of 15) benefits have gone to the scheduled castes of panchayat 'A' and 01 (out of 04) have gone to the scheduled castes of panchayat 'B'. Thus numerically in panchayat 'A' benefit reached are more than in panchayat 'B'.

Thus it may be concluded that there is differential response to different programmes in the two village panchayats.

6.2.2. : SOCIO ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

1. There are two castes among the scheduled castes in kishwar block. of the 43 beneficiaries 36 belong to Megh caste
and 7 to Barwalla caste. Thus the majority of the benefit have
gone to Megh caste in two village panchayats. This caste enjoys
higher status and observed as better off than the other scheduled
castes in the area.

This indicates that benefits of the recent rural development
programmes have been used more by the scheduled castes which
is better off and enjoys better status among the scheduled castes.

2. The largest number (16 out of 43) of the beneficiaries
belong to youngest age group (i.e 25-35). Adding 26-45 group more
than two third (31) of the beneficiaries are limited upto 45 years.

This indicates that larger proportion of the benefits of
the recent rural development programmes have been used by younger
people.

3. Majority (23 out of 43) benefit of recent rural development
programmes have gone in favour of 5th-10th category of education.
Meaning thereby little education appears to be more functional for
making use of benefits of the recent rural development programmes.

4. Largest number (i.e 39.53 %) beneficiaries have the
landholding upto 10 kanals and they are not landless. A little less
number (i.e. 37.20 %) have the land holding upto 11-20 Kanals.
These two categories make for almost 80 % of the beneficiaries.

This indicates that largely the benefits have gone to
small land owners among the scheduled castes.

5. Beneficiaries having agriculture as their occupation have made more of the benefits of the recent rural development programmes meaning there by more benefits of the recent rural development programmes have gone to small agriculturists.

6. 55.81 % beneficiaries have come from the families in which there are 4 to 5 family members. Thus we find that majority of the beneficiaries belong to smaller families.

6.2.3. BACKGROUND AND RECENT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES:

The socio-economic background have got some bearings on the attainment of benefits of beneficiaries of various rural development programmes. The findings of this relation are as follows:

1. In majority beneficiaries of Megh caste have made use of programmes most except JRY and M.W.S. Thus the better off caste has used more benefits and more programmes.

2. Age in relation to the programme does not appears to have any significant relationship.

3. Land holders of smallest land size have got the benefits of IRDP and IAY. The small land size appears to be functional for getting the benefits of R.s and JRY and MWS programme. Thus the smallest land size is related 10 IRDP and IAY and small is
small land owners among the scheduled castes.

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to the block office a report of land property etc. has to be taken from patwari (village level revenue official). Getting this report from official is essential. In case of Indira Awas Yojna it has to be recommended by the scheduled caste member of tehsil level statutory committee formed for the execution of this programme at tehsil level.

6. In the block development office the application is admitted through village level worker.

7. The block development office (clerk) lists the applications and put up before the block development officer and he forwards these to the tehsil level committee.

8. In case of Indira Awas Yojna applications are presented before a screening committee. The sub divisional magistrate of the tehsil presides over the meeting.

9. The tehsil level committee in which there are two scheduled castes members, finally marks (approves) the cases of the applicants and then refer back to the block development office.

10. Block development officer then send these approved applications to the project officer, DRDA who finally sanctions the cases and send sanctioned cases back to the block development officer.

11. In case of Indira Awas Yojna the payment is made by block development officer to the applicant beneficiary.
12. The payment is made by the BDO in three installments, thereby the beneficiary has to contact block development officials three times for payment.

13. In case of IRDP the application of the beneficiary is sponsored from block development office to the district authority, the project officer DRDA (in this case). Thus the process takes a different route in IRDP.

14. The project officer finally marks the sponsored cases and forwards to the nearby allocated branch of the bank for financing the cases of loan.

15. Then the bank office decides the sanction of the loan.

16. The beneficiary has to come to the bank to look after the sanction of loan and for its confirmation.

17. Beneficiary has to present no dues clearance certificate from the other banks of the jurisdiction to the concerned bank office.

18. Before getting the draft of the loan beneficiary has to wait for the release of subsidy from district authorities.

19. The DRDA office releases the subsidy and sends letter to the bank manager.

20. The subsidy is received by the beneficiary through the bank from where he has taken the loan. The bank officials survey
the units of the beneficiary which he has to install.

21. The bank officials also collect the list of good items issued by the general trader from the beneficiary and issue draft in favour of the trader (in case of retail shops).

22. In case of other units like the dairy, there is further a committee which includes, bank manager, project officer DRDA, veterinary doctor, and BDO, who finally disburses the loan in the form of cash or animal (cows).

23. In case of the rural sanitation programme the village level worker is the direct link between the block office and beneficiary.

24. In case of JRY and MWS programme the block development officer, village level worker, Junior engineer are the important links in the process of implementation.

At these stages steps the rural illiterate poor scheduled caste beneficiaries find it difficult to cope with all the officials and to complete all the formalities. It is here that the members of the voluntary organization of the scheduled castes come to play an important role of mediation and accelerating the process.

6.2.5. : VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION/EFFORTS OF SCHEDULED CASTES

There is a voluntary organization of scheduled castes in kishthwar. The name of the voluntary organization is scheduled
caste youth welfare association. It is was established in 1981. The
detail of which is already given in chapter III.

On the basis of observations, interviews it has been
found that voluntary organization has played a significant role in
materializing the benefits of recent rural development programmes
for scheduled caste beneficiaries as well as scheduled castes at
large. There roles in the process of getting the benefits of recent
rural development programmes are identified here as follows. Voluntary
organisation helped the beneficiary in providing the information about
the programmes, writing and submission of the applications in block
office.

In addition, case studies have also suggest that kin,
caste members have helped in providing information, collecting the
forms and submission of applications of the applicants. Association
members have further help in getting (land property) revenue report
from patwari, Recommendation from scheduled caste member of statutory
tehsil level screening committee, release of payment from block development
officers office, sponsoring applications to the DRDA, final approval
of cases (IRDP) from district office and Bank office, releasing of
subsidy from DRDA, collection of good items list from trader, Implementation
of Jawahar Rozgar Yojna and Million wells scheme and rural sanitation
programme are the stages on which voluntary organisation members
have acted in the process.
Besides the involvement of voluntary organizations at various stages the association members got the developmental works sanctioned from the developmental authorities, and ensured contracts to the people of their own community and to the members of voluntary organization. They have influenced the authorities to give contracts to the scheduled caste persons only of the works in the scheduled castes majority villages.

6.2.6. : SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF RECENT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

The consequences have been studied for the beneficiaries, the members of voluntary organization and the scheduled castes at large. On the basis of the interviews of 43 scheduled caste respondents, case studies of beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, voluntary organization members and officials we find the following consequences. The consequences are illustratively (not statistically) presented as largely the descriptive case studies are analysed qualitatively.

1. In case of beneficiaries social consequences have been observed in the terms of following aspects: occupation, income, independence, quality of life, social security, psychic support, change from joint larger family to Nuclear small family, educational facility, getting more employment, raising of social status and harmonious relations within and outside the caste.

2. On voluntary organization social consequences have
been observed in terms of the following aspects: The voluntary organization members are financially supported by the beneficiaries, and getting well respect from them also, leadership qualities of members have increased, consciousness for unity within the castes has emerged and confidence has also increased among the voluntary organizations members.

3. Consequences on the scheduled castes have been observed in terms of unity within the caste, better human conditions, quality of life, psychic support of having the organization of their caste in addition.

Case studies have also suggested that the block office, the bank office, the project officers office, and their personnel are the important and direct links in the process. Their role remains crucial as the cases of the beneficiaries have to be finally approved and financed by these officials. Thus the bank as creditor and also the claim for subsidy after the credit given the bank is sanctioned by DRDA. The officials of these offices observed to share some portion of money. Instability of state decisions in transfer and posting the officials also appears to have directly affected the process of getting benefit. The lone money has been utilized for the establishment of the units only in few cases. Of the eighteen beneficiaries of IAY, thirteen are such which had no proper house worth the name but five beneficiaries had the house in joint family and they were not house less, they could make this benefit as it was available
and they had personal resources to complete the process of getting
this benefit.

6.3 BEARING ON AND EXAMINATION OF THE CONCEPTS AND
TERMS.

Several terms and theoretical concepts are used for abstraction
and summarization of the mass of empirical data in a research
based on empirical facts. These capsule words (concepts) are the
abstract forms of the empirical facts. In the present study social
network, and social change were proposed as key concepts for
abstraction and precisely presenting the empirical findings. The concepts
are now examined in the light of the findings arrived at as above.

6.3.1 : SOCIAL NETWORK

'Social network is as each person is as it were, in
touch with a number of people, some of whom are directly in
touch with each other and some of whom are not. J.A. Barnes
(1954:43) find it convenient to talk of a social field of this kind
as a Network'.

In our study social network has been observed of beneficiaries
in the process of getting the benefits. A number of relationships
like that of the officials, members of the voluntary organization,
relatives, kin, caste persons got involved with the beneficiary to
mobilize the benefit of recent rural development programmes. These
linkages which formed around the beneficiaries to cope up the various
formalities at different stages in the process are included in the social network. Thus the social network has been observed the crucial important factor for the beneficiaries in getting the benefits of the recent rural development programmes.

In the present case a beneficiary has direct links with the officials at Block office, Tehsil committee, bank office, D.R.D.A. and by involving number (s) of the voluntary organization of scheduled castes were mobilized to complete all the formalities for materializing the benefits. In case mobilization of these linkages was lacked at some stage, with some one of the persons in the chain of relationships the cycle of materializing the benefit of recent rural development programmes could not be achieved.

All these linkages have been observed as the persons are directly in touch with the beneficiary. Thus one part of J.A. Barnes' meaning that each person is in touch... with some persons directly' was found to be empirically confirmed. The later part "some of whom are not directly in touch" could not be found applicability in the present study of beneficiaries.

According to Elizabeth bott (1957: 16-17) A social network is a social configuration in which some but not all the components are external units which do not make up a large whole and are not surrounded by a common boundary... She assigns on network as a social configuration, external units, large whole, and not surrounded
by common boundary.

In the present study the network of a beneficiary is also found as a social configuration in which some linkage like officials, of block development office, bank office, D.R.D.A office form the external units and these linkages have made a large whole and they are not surrounded by a common boundary.

Bolt's meaning of social network as a social configuration in which some linkages are the external limits and these linkages have made a large whole and not surrounded by a common boundary is empirically confirmed in the present study.

6.3.2. : SOCIAL CHANGE

T.B. Bottomore (1975: 297) defined social change "as a change in the social structure (including here changes in the size of a society) or in particular social institutions or in the relationships between institutions".

In the present study we find that in case of beneficiaries after getting the benefits of recent rural development programmes, in a few cases change has been observed in terms of larger family to smaller (in case of Indira Awas Yojna) after getting the separate house. In few cases occupational change have also been observed for example (IRDP). This indicates occupational mobility among scheduled castes as a consequence of recent rural development programmes initiated by the state However this change is illustratively observed
Development of social organization like voluntary organization of scheduled castes have also emerged in the scene during this process and got further strengthened by participating in the process of development. This development of voluntary organization itself is an indication of change.

6.4 BEARINGS ON THE EARLIER STUDIES.

Relevance of the research is observed in terms of broadening the generalizations existed in the earlier studies or condemning the generalizations arrived in earlier studies on similar aspects.

O.M. Lynch (1968) has found that voluntary organizational efforts of scheduled castes themselves (Jatavas) have help in raising their social status and economic security.

In our study we also find that voluntary organization of scheduled castes have themselves negotiate the process of taking the benefit of the recent rural development programmes.

Sachchidananda (1974) has observed the role of state action in bringing the social change among the scheduled castes. In our study we find that beneficiaries after taking the benefits have experienced some change like increase in income, charges in occupation, social status, in dependence, family, educational facility, leadership qualities, consciousness for unity etc. In this way our
findings confirm the generalization that changes are coming as a consequence of state action.

S.S Thakkamatai (1983) has observed that the state action through rural development programmes like C.D.P and panchayati Raj has played a significant role in the bringing social change among the scheduled castes.

Our study has also indicated that recent rural development programmes have played a significant role in the bringing social change among the scheduled castes.

In the area of study most of the beneficiaries and new beneficiaries are experiencing some change.

J.K. Pundir (1991, 1997) has found that benefits of planned efforts are distributed among the better off families and not among the poorest among the poor with in the scheduled castes.

Our study has also indicated that majority of the benefits of recent rural development programmes have been used by the better off families of the better of moth caste which enjoys higher social status among the scheduled castes themselves.

D. Venkateswarlu and P. Venkataramna (1993:35) and R.s. Pandey (1991) have observed that planned development efforts have been successful in raising socio-economic status and social conditions of the scheduled castes.
Our study has also indicated that recent rural development programmes have been successful in raising the socio-economic status and better social conditions of the scheduled castes.

Thus it is concluded here that the findings of our study supported the finding of some of earlier studies. However, our study has been limited to a small area in a particular state (J & K) and to a small number of respondents. For wider generalization on the finding that state action has brought social change among the scheduled castes and role of their voluntarism is playing a positive role (functional) may require detailed and further deep sociological probe in further studies.