SUMMARY

Social Mobility of rural communities through Community mobilization and Rights based approaches to Development has been a major concern of Sociology and all Sociologists dwell upon this subject. Unfortunately, those who work for Social Mobility through Community Mobilization and Rights based approaches to Development for the social inclusion of the poor and the marginalized follow different strategies and methodologies. Therefore, there is a need for assessing the veracity and usefulness of the methodologies and arrive at conclusions which will enable the stake-holders to maximize their efforts, become more effective in their empowerment process and thus beneficial to the communities. Hence there is a need for new paradigms of Social Mobility of the rural communities through community Mobilization for Social inclusion of the poor and the marginalized.

In the early Sociology the words 'evolution' and 'progress' were used to indicate dynamic aspect in the society. Later it was understood that these terms are not neutral and Sociologists wanted to replace the word with 'social change'. After the Second World War, concepts of 'development' and 'modernization' occupied a key position in the terminology of Sociology. 'Social transformation' is a broad term incorporating all the aspects of progress, evolution, development, revolution, modernization and change. The literal meaning of the term is 'changing form or appearance or character or alter out of recognition. There are different agents who bring Changes in the society viz. modernization, westernization, sanskritization, industrialization, urbanization, modern education, science and technology. Essentially social transformation aims at changing the existing value system which are exploitative in nature to the cherished value system promoted by the society for it harmonious living and ensuring that life continues in the society.
In Social Sciences, the word 'paradigm' is widely used. It denotes radical transformation of ideas. For the past two hundred years, active discussions are going on about the patterns of social, economic, political and cultural development and transformation. In this process there are shifts of ideas, replacement of one ideology by another and thus changes in the understanding and practice. This shift or change is understood as a paradigm. “Social mobility through Community Mobilisation and Rights Based Approaches” is another pattern or model for bringing changes in the outlook, attitudes and practices in development field. Understanding these paradigm shifts is necessary and important to understand the social transformation. The new Paradigms for Social Mobility must be measured by the range of choices and opportunities it provides to people. This has to consider the intangible magnitudes of the human and social existence, as well as the spiritual and cultural values. These are significant to understand why different societies respond differently to global challenges because social attitudes, beliefs and culture determine our responsiveness to change.

Stratification is an important concept in the study of Sociology. It is a system of ranking of social units, involving relations of superiority and inferiority. The relations between two units of ranks are governed by a set of norms. The important stratification dimensions are: Class, referring to the differentiation based on wealth viz economic stratification, power, referring to the differentiation of access to power in the society which include political, social and other types of power, status, referring to the distribution of prestige or social honor. Besides, there can be stratification based on caste, creed, race or ethnic system. Max Weber is the founding father of social stratification.

Social mobility has three dimensions: spatial, time and holistic. The spatial dimension refers to ensuring that actions have applicability to the rest of the world. The time dimension provides for a perspective of the continuity of events and
facts. The holistic dimension ensures that development is not fragmented, but analyzed from an integrated viewpoint. Growth is a means to achieve Social Mobility, as it provides more choices and opportunities for all. But, economic growth alone does not ensure development. Economic growth has to allow for the increase in health, welfare and security levels for all. Economists such as Amartya Sen, Paul Streeten, Mahbub ul Haq, and others believed that increased income should be regarded as a means to improve human welfare, not as an end in itself. To these economists, human welfare was the overall objective - the essence of development. The United Nations Development Programme reports, which have been published annually since 1990, present accounts of human development in both developing countries and industrialized countries. These accounts are based on an index with three central components:

(a) The average real income per capita
(b) The average life expectancy; and
(c) Adult literacy combined with real access to education at various levels.

Social Mobility should also provide security to satisfy the basic human needs of adequate food, clothing, basic education and primary health care for all. Sustainable development utilizes resources to satisfy present needs without compromising the satisfaction of the needs of future generations. Since the Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, the words "sustainable development" has been at the center of the environment and development debate. All issues such as Peace, Democracy, Human Rights, Equality, Efficient use of Energy Resources, Local Community Participation in decision making are interconnected and interdependent prerequisites for sustainable development.

The Declaration on the Right to Development made the right explicit, stating that the right to development is an inalienable right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy
economic, social, cultural and political development. In 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights affirmed the right to development by consensus. The norms and standards are those contained in the wealth of international treaties and declarations. The principles include the express linkage to rights, equality and equity, accountability, empowerment, participation, non-discrimination and attention to vulnerable groups.

*The term dignity is defined as "the state of being worthy of honour or respect. All human beings possess intrinsic worthiness and deserve unconditional respect, regardless of age, sex, health status, social or ethnic origin, political ideas, religion, or criminal history. If violated, this can be considered discrimination. In other words, this respect is owed to every individual by the mere fact that he or she is a "member of the human family" (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, Preamble). This intrinsic worthiness is widely recognized by international law as the source of all human rights. In this respect, both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural rights (ICESCR) of 1966 affirm that human rights “derive from the inherent dignity of the human person”.*

Social Animation is the tool to bring about development and dignity of the person. It begins with awareness about oneself, one's roles and responsibilities to build a just and equitable society based on universally accepted values and enables people to collaborate and cooperate. The basic pillars of animation being awareness, community mobilisation and collective actions, it is the methodology to promote development and empowerment. It is a process that is initiated and sustained by the animator in a group who helps the poor to become aware of their situation, its roots causes, the forces interacting as well as their strengths and weakness. As all are entitled to a life of dignity and respect, and have the capacity to achieve fullness of life, the widening gap between the rich and the poor, the upper and the
lower, the powerful and powerless are to be contained. A social transformation is needed to uphold the rights and entitlements of the poor and the marginalized. Hence social animation is relevant and is the need of the time.

People's Organizations - more recently known as Community Based Organizations -- are the most powerful and viable media for social change. In this process, community mobilization to form networks and their interactions promote an inclusive approach to development. Govt. has recognized the importance of Community mobilization and thus began to foster communities in the form of Self Help Groups and Women's Associations. The Govt. adopted Convergent Community Action (CCA) as an updated strategy for social action to enhance the capacity of the family and community to meet the needs of particularly of children and women.

**Extent of Existing Studies on the Topic.**
There are studies on the role of NGOs in eradicating the inequalities of the society, problems of working women, people’s participation in the local self-government systems, women empowerment, social capital etc. To the best of my knowledge, there is no scientific research on Social Mobility and Rights based approaches to Development for Social inclusion of the poor and marginalized through Community Mobilization. Hence this scientific research will be a new attempt to understand the approaches for Social Mobility through Community Mobilization viz. creating awareness among people on various pertinent issues of the community, organizing them and empowering them to take up collective and liberative actions for their Social Mobility and Social inclusion.

**Scope of Research**
This proposed research could deepen the understanding on Social Mobility; Rights based approaches to Development, Empowerment of the poor, and the various
strategies for Community Mobilization, the various roles of stakeholders etc. There shall be greater clarity on various development issues and how each community is addressing these issues. The changes in the conditions of the people, their participation, interactions, contributions and involvement are the matter of study. The data and conclusions shall be useful for application and replication in other organizations and groups for their community. Thus, it is a research on how the poor who are victims become masters of their destiny, who are voiceless, become vociferous, who are isolated become united, who are powerless become powerful and who are ignorant become resourceful. This research also highlights who is the change agent-catalyst-and how a voluntary organization can guide the individuals to form into groups and foster interrelatedness for social Mobility ensuring Social inclusion.

**Research Objectives**

Based on the preliminary studies and reference with the poor and marginalized, the following objectives of the research have been identified.

- Understand the Concept of Social Mobility and Rights based approaches to Development in the context of Rural Sociology and community mobilization
- Analyze and interpretation of the existing process of Community Mobilization for Social Mobility in Rural Communities
- Identify the importance of Social Mobility and Rights based approaches to Development leading to social recognition/ re-enforcement of the self-dignity of the rural communities
- Identify the factors leading to Social Mobility leading to Social inclusion of the rural communities in the process of Community Mobilization.
- Identify the Constraints in the Process of Community Mobilization leading to Social Mobility and social inclusion of the deprived sections of the society.
• Identify the possible strategies to ensure social recognition/re-enforcement of the self-dignity of the deprived sections of the society through the Process of Community Mobilization in Self Help Groups.
• Seek the possibilities of replication and transfer of the learning to various Stakeholders and Interest Groups.

Significance and Relevance of Research on the Topic:
The scientific study on the strategies of Community mobilization and Rights based approaches to Development for Social Mobility of the rural communities will be of greater relevance. The learning from such a scientific study can give guidance to many stakeholders of Community Development, Programme Planners, implementers and many support organizations. From the experience of various stakeholders, scientific principles can be evolved for the effective Community mobilization for Social Mobility. This would help the policy makers, NGO functionaries and academics to have a better understanding of factors subscribing and hindering Social mobility. This will give ways and means to promote sustainable voluntary action. Finally this would leader to the uplift for the poor and the marginalized.

Hence, a scientific research will throw light upon the various processes this method has got and the necessary conditions for empowerment. Thus the Research topic is of greater significance and relevant.

Research Hypothesis
With the above objectives and significance of the study, I believe that poverty is human made and humans can unmake it. With this conviction, I have developed the following Hypothesis:

• Due to Social stratification, there are inequalities in the society resulting in the marginalization of poor and lower strata of the society.
Lack of organization and community mobilization leads to lack of social mobility and powerlessness of the poor and marginalized.

Due to lack of social Mobility, the rural poor are deprived of their human dignity and self-respect and this results in Social Stratification.

Community Mobilization is a useful tool for Social Mobility and Empowerment.

There is the need of catalysts and facilitators for Community Mobilization by way of organization and animation.

The best strategy for the Social inclusion of the poor and marginalized is to mobilize them for Social mobility through a process of social animation creating critical awareness in them and organizing them as small and viable groups in the pattern of Community Based Organizations.

The poor and marginalized have the potential energy and capacity to bring needed social transformation and create a better society based on justice and equity and in course of time can become catalysts and facilitators.

Rights based approaches to Development proactively contributes to Social Inclusion of the deprived sections of the Community and Society.

**Methodology of Research**

The time of study was the situations existing in 20 villages of Kalyanpur Block of Kanpur district before the interventions of Community Development Department of Mariampur Hospital society as a catalyst in 2006 and the present status in 2011. During this gap of 5 years what happened to the Dalit women in their journey towards empowerment and the strategies adopted will be the specific question to be studied. The place of study was the 20 villages of Kalyanpur Block in Kanpur district where the Dalit hamlets were focused for study. The population of the study was the women groups and women members of the CBOs in these 20 Dalit
Hamlets. We selected the study area of 20 villages of Kalyanpur Block due to the following reasons:

- Community health department of Mariampur Hospital is a very credible organization, which has been functioning in the area as a Catalyst and Facilitator from the very beginning of its existence. Social Animation for social transformation has been their focus and they followed the strategy of Rights based approaches to development though it was not conceptually very clear to them at that time.

- The Research Scholar was associated with this organization since 1994 and he knew the processes of community mobilization and the principles of social animation. He is also very familiar with the focus area, which could help to interact with the people of the focus area and collect the data more easily and reliably.

- All Voluntary Organizations do not follow these principles and methodologies. Hence there was the need to identify one Organization that is practicing these principles.

- There was the need to identify one area where the poor and marginalized had been so deprived and disheartened and therefore they got united together to stand up for their rights, fostered trust, cooperation, reciprocity, collaboration and thus brought social changes in the society.

- Also there was the need to identify an area where this process had been going on for some time. The awareness programmes started in 1992 and the community mobilization and group formation started in 1994 in the selected villages. Though new villages are under the processes of group formation, we have identified only 20 villages that have started these types of activities from the beginning.

- Community Health Department (CHD) of Mariampur Hospital got the financial support and guidance from Caritas India, New Delhi - a National Organization
with international connections. This National Organization is a pioneer in the processes of social animation and provides expert guidance in the steps in community mobilization and group formation. CHD of Mariampur hospital also got necessary supports for the capacity building programmes from various expert agencies.

- The proximity of the selected villages to Christ College and to the University better credibility and authenticity to the research studies.

**Methods used**

In order to conduct the research, the methods used were Case Study Method with the help of interviews, Questionnaires and Observation Method. Preparations and schedules were made accordingly.

**Research Design**

The plan of action for the strategy and structure of the design was of a sociological research project. Through this we intended to gain more knowledge of a specific problem or a specific aspect of the society. In order to achieve the specific objectives of the Research Programme, we used Exploratory and Descriptive Research Design. Exploratory research design aimed to get familiarity with the new phenomena or community, to get new insights in to the problem or formulate more precise research problem or hypothesis and to locate the possible variables. It also helped in clarification of concepts, in locating important variables, in establishing priorities for further research, in gathering information about practical possibilities for carrying out research in real life setting and in providing a census of problems regarded as urgent by people working in a given field of social relations. Descriptive research design was to provide description of an individual,
a community, a society, an event or any other unit under investigation. The description provided by it was aimed to involve minimum bias and maximum reliability.

**Data Collection, Analysis and Interpretation**

Using the above mentioned research methodologies and Research design data was collected from the study group. The main respondents were the members of the CBOs, women of the villages, selected men, elected members of the Panchayat Raj Institutions, School teachers and elders of the 20 villages. The selections were made based on the principles of sampling methods. 5-10% of the populations were selected as samples. The collection of the data was also done from secondary sources viz. the Gram Sabha list of residents, people below poverty line, people belonging to Dalit Communities, male-female ratio etc. The data was interpreted and the learning was consolidated to arrive at conclusions and the expected results. To summarize and tabulate the data, SPSS Computer package was used and the accuracy of the data was ensured. Tables were prepared accordingly. The data have been interpreted and the learning consolidated to arrive at conclusions and results to understand the effect and impact of the Rights based approaches for Development and the changes brought in the communities.

**The chapters of the Thesis**

The entire Thesis is divided in to three parts. Chapters one and two formed the part one, chapters three to eight formed part two and Research Findings, Conclusions, Bibliography and Appendices constituted part three.
Research Findings

1. There are poor and the marginalized people in the society living in abject poverty, deprivation and exploitation. The inequalities in the society are due to social stratification based on caste, class and creed.

2. The focus group consists predominantly of scheduled castes and backward castes. The quality of life of these poor people is very low and needed immediate attention.

3. The conditions existing in the community before the intervention of Community Health Department of Mariampur Hospital and the formation of the Groups have been very deplorable and needed strong interventions for a positive change.

4. Poverty is caused by:
   i. Lack of access to education
   ii. Lack of access to and control over public resources and institutions
   iii. Lack of access to control over community affairs
   iv. Lack of control over political processes and decision-making
   v. Lack of mobility and accessibility
   vi. Lack of freedom as human being with various capacities

5. There is the need of catalysts and facilitators for Community Mobilization by way of organization and animation.

6. The groups are capable of saving money, generate income, creditworthy to get loans, truthful to their partners, and they foster high level of trust, reciprocity, and honesty and collaborate with one another. Membership in the group has vastly helped the respondents to exercise control over the resources of the group.

7. Community Mobilization is a useful tool for Social Mobility and Empowerment by providing conducive atmosphere for access and control of resources. The level of people's participation increased considerably and qualitatively due to the community mobilization and formation of Groups. Community Mobilization
promotes Social mobility especially of the unorganized section of the rural communities. This restores the human dignity of the marginalized communities.

8. Community convergence has to take place for community mobilization, social mobility and social inclusion. When the poor and the marginalized are enabled to come together for a social purpose, this very process generated community Mobilisation to pool together and enhances the economic capital.

9. The rural poor are deprived of their human dignity and self-respect due to lack of social mobility. Social Mobility focuses on growth. It is the degree to which, in a given society, an individual's, families, or group's social status can change throughout the course of their life through a system of social hierarchy or stratification. Social mobility in Economic terms is a process whereby the real per capita income increases over a long period of time while simultaneously poverty is reduced and the inequality in society is generally diminished - or at least not increased. Social Mobility in Human development invests in human capabilities to empower individuals to take charge of their own destiny.

10. The best strategy for the Social inclusion of the poor and marginalized is to mobilize them for Social mobility through a process of social animation creating critical awareness in them and organizing them as small and viable groups in the pattern of Community Based Organizations.


12. Poor representation of the marginalized sections in the decision making processes, lack of understanding of the co-responsibility of the poor and the rich, human rights abuses, limitation to the vision, monitoring and evaluation, slow empowerment process for women, lack of integration of
life and activities, conflicting social situations, problems in participation, problems in social communication, non-utilization of social opportunities and social stratification based on caste, class and creed are some of the hindering factors of Community Mobilisation.

13. Voluntary and Formal Organizations try with various strategies to empower the poor and the marginalized. The Government adopted the strategy of Convergent Community Action as an approach to social change in which both the community and those responsible for the delivery of the services join hands to find solutions to local problems.

14. No amount of external effort can help solve the problems on a long-term basis and the only solution is to develop the strengths and the skills of the community itself along with activating the democratic systems.

15. Development in the purview of Empowerment is:

   i. A process of gaining control over the selves, ideology and the resources which determine power
   
   ii. A process, which changes the systematic forces, which marginalizes the disadvantaged sections in a given context
   
   iii. A process, which liberates persons from their oppressors and exploiters
   
   iv. A process, which begins in person's mind, with the glimmers of a new consciousness, which questions existing power, relations and roles
   
   v. A process where persons find a 'time and space' of their own
   
   vi. A process, which enables people to discover new possibilities, new options and a growing ability to make choices

16. The empowerment processes pass through various stages of rapport building, contact building, group formation, and group building, taking liberative actions, and linking with other CBOs. The process of Trust and confidence building has been the initial stage of empowerment processes.
17. The poor and marginalized have the potential energy and capacity to bring needed social transformation and create a better society based on justice and equity and in course of time can become catalysts and facilitators.

18. Rights based approaches to development has increased the participation of the members and proactively contributes to Social Inclusion of the deprived sections of the Community and Society.

Suggestions

1. The poor need an assurance of the socio-economic opportunities to tackle poverty; so that they could manage their lives, pursue social goals and fulfill the demands of human rights.

2. The new mantra for development and empowerment is the way of building community Mobilisation, based on the values of trust, honesty, reciprocity, mutual benefit, collaboration, norms and relationships. Only in this value-based community, the proper environment of development and empowerment are possible and humanity will reign supreme.

3. Additional strength of political processes is necessary which can accumulate and use vertical networks and linkages in the context of modern democracy to achieve the objectives of access to and control over resources, institutions, information and thus empowerment.

4. Community Mobilisation is the need of the hour for peace building and communal harmony.

5. People need patience and perseverance. Immediate and tangible results are not readily available or possible. Hence we need that understanding to make slow and steady progress in the processes of empowerment.

6. Someone has to facilitate to bring out their hidden potentialities and talents and make them effective agents of social change.
7. The government should take steps for imparting human rights knowledge to the society.
8. The active involvement of voluntary organization needed in the field of human rights as violations on human rights are increasing on day by day.
9. Human rights should be included in the school curriculum for overall development of the students which leads to progressive social change.
10. Advocacy efforts of the NGO on human rights education need to be widened.
11. Direct involvement of the affected communities is very essential for any development programme.

Conclusion

Building and accumulation of community Mobilisation is relatively a new model and is really a Paradigm Shift in the development strategies and approaches especially for the empowerment of the poor and the marginalized. Only very few Development Agencies and Organizations believed in the Conscientization and Social Animation Approach to development and took efforts to sensitize the community, mobilize them and organize them to make a power and pressure group. The power of the community Mobilisation hidden in the people's organizations and their associational strength has to be identified and released for mobilization of the people for their empowerment. This model is replicable and is possible everywhere in any field and is particularly relevant to the poor and the disadvantaged, as they have their number of people readily at hand as the most valuable and available resource.

Community Mobilisation is the need of the hour, for peace building and communal harmony. It is considered to be the backbone of the processes of social movements. It is not merely academic and intellectual theory. It is very much
practical and applicable in day-to-day life situations, irrespective of the space and time.

Empowerment begins in a small and step-by-step process. It is like a mustard seed or a sparkle of fire. At congenial and appropriate atmosphere it catches up and begins to grow. It will take its own time and process and thus is a slow process. People need patience and perseverance.

There is a strong criticism that in India, community Mobilisation is less relevant and useful process with regard to social transformation and upliftment of the poor. The critics suggest for a more aggressive and powerful strategy and advocate for political processes. In Indian context of multi-parties, many political affinities and alliances with known and unknown push and pulls, greatness of the diversities and contradictions, simple use of the concept of community Mobilisation brushes aside the real issues of power, control and structural contradictions. Therefore, additional strength of political processes is necessary which can accumulate and use vertical networks and linkages in the context of modern democracy to achieve the objectives of access to and control over resources, institutions, information and thus empowerment. All those who believe that the poor and the marginalized have the right to live a life of quality, dignity and equal opportunity firmly believe in the process of empowerment. This process is essentially within and not externally driven. Realization of one’s inner potentialities and actualization of the same brings in development.

In this process of empowerment and becoming a catalyst, each one has to decide for oneself and take steps of action-interventions. It is compared to a journey where each one has to find the pathway, and it is very difficult to pinpoint a single path as the best way because all the ways may be good and leading to the destination; at the same time some may be attractive, safe, shorter but misleading and disastrous. Hence there is the dilemma of choices and conscious decisions.
This is the age of rights. Human Rights have gained prominence to the extent that there is no Government and individual, who do not speak about human rights today. The perspective that human rights should be promoted not only in the legal aspect but also as a human value has been strengthening the world over. The dimensions of human rights movements have undergone change by the fast changes in the social, economic, cultural and political structures globally. Human rights education is one of the best ways of imparting human rights culture. The present study focused the action-oriented approach on Rights-based Approaches to Development. Here investigator tried to analyze the Community Mobilisation through Rights-Based Approaches in the 20 villages of Kalyanpur Block. From the study researcher found out the influence of Rights-Based Approaches for development action.