Impact of Community Development Programme

on the Rural Economy of

NORTHERN MAHAKOSHAL (M. P.)

PREFACE

The present work is devoted to the measuring of impact of Community Development Programme, a widely discussed and criticised programme, aiming at the transformation of villages in India in a co-ordinated manner, on the rural economy of Northern Mahakoshal— a region of Madhya Pradesh. Hailing from a village of the region I have been quite familiar with the activities of community development programme which have been moulding the life of the people in the rural areas. There has always been a curiosity in my heart to study the impact of this programme on the villagers and on their various activities. I was in search of an opportunity to undertake the work of studying the community development programme and when I got the chance for my Ph.D., I readily took up the subject of community development programme which was to fulfil the desire I had cherished long. My experience as a field investigator in the villages during my M.A. final in Economics when I worked on the "Economic Condition of Agricultural Labour" for my dissertation, also prompted me to undertake this study which has a great bearing on the rural economy.
Looking at my keen interest in the subject, Prof. J.N. Mishra, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc., Economics (London), Head of the department of Economics, University of Saugar, very kindly gave his consent to guide me and approved my subject "Impact of Community Development Programme on the Rural Economy of Northern Mahakoshal, M.P." It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge whole-heartedly my grateful thanks to my guide under whose able and valuable guidance and kindly help I could be able to produce this work. He also gave me valuable suggestions and advice and opportunity of discussing with him various aspects of the problem in spite of his very busy engagements which gave me light to penetrate deep into the subject. As the work has been undertaken as a teacher candidate, it has not been possible for me to avail his close contacts for a longer period but even then he gave me ready response in replying my letters and spared time to meet me whenever I visited him and discussed the topic with sustained interest in my work. For this, I have nothing but praise and gratefulness for him.

I am also very much thankful to the University Grants Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, for providing me financial assistance for undertaking the field work of this study. I am also grateful to the Ministry of Community Development, Co-operation and Panchayat Raj, Government of India, for kindly providing me
all the materials and publications on Community Development. The Programme Evaluation Organisation, New Delhi, also deserves my thanks whose evaluation reports on community development, have served as guidelines to me while evolving the approach of survey and forming the questionnaire schedules. I am also thankful to the National Institute of Community Development, Hyderabad, for helping me in my work.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not admit my debt to the library of the University of Saugar, library T.R.S. College, Rewa, where most of the work has been completed, Shri R.M. Chaturvedi, Principal of T.R.S. College, Rewa during my stay there, who took unbounded interest in my work, Prof. S.P. Dubey, Head of the department of Economics, T.R.S. College, Rewa, who gave me valuable advice and inspiration to work,

Dr. S.S. Hasurkar, Principal, Government Sanskrit College, Raipur, for inspiring me to work from time to time,

Dr. R.N. Srivastava, Head of the department of Sociology, Ravishanker University Raipur, for his valuable suggestions at times and to the library, Government Sanskrit College Raipur, where the work took the final shape. My friends, too, deserve my thanks for their help in my work directly or indirectly.

I also take the opportunity of acknowledging my deep debt of gratitude I owe to the Extension
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Officers and Village Level Workers of the region who supplied me valuable information and Progress Assistants of Block Offices for providing me old records of block development activities and to many villagers who reposed a great deal of confidence in me and answered my questions with sincerity and patience.

I must admit that but for the persistent pressure put on me by my wife, there would perhaps have been a great delay in presenting this work.

G. C. Singhal.
"The Community Projects are the bright, vital and dynamic sparks all over India from which radiate rays of energy, enthusiasm and hope."

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.