PREFACE

India lives in villages. 'Please Plan' is the need of hour. The development of rural economy has been the main objective of the Five Year Plans which are changing the face of the nation with heroic efforts. The rural structure of India, due to a variety of reasons in the past was suffering from a number of diseases and the dawn of freedom brought the dire necessity that arose before the Sovereign Democratic Republic - that is to revitalise the rural sector. It is no denying the fact that steps were taken by the alien rulers in this country before the independence to strengthen the rural base, but it is essential to bear this fact in mind that the efforts made in this direction were one-sided and no proper planned approach was made to cure the maladies for ever. The country became free and with a number of problems started the battle of existence, the problem of rural upliftment was headed by a number of other problems but this among the other difficulties was considered to be the prima facie need of the hour to be dealt with on national scale. The Planning Commission chalked out comprehensive programmes and a number of committees on certain problems concerned with rural economy gave their suggestions and remedies to meet out the challenge of the age. Then came the Five Year Plans the product of free minds, and the novel idea of raising the
standard of living of the public. Till the advent of freedom, there was no certain plan which could touch every aspect of village life and hence the progress registered in various rural development plans in the past was one-sided and was having a number of hackneyed discrepancies. To raise the living standard of the rural masses was considered to be the main and the first and foremost objective of the Five Year Plan. This gave birth to the beautiful theme of Community Development Programme in the country which is said to be the programme by the people, programme of the people and the programme for the people.

Then came the historic day, October 2, 1952, the day being a birthday of the friend of villagers and father of nations. On this auspicious day, the plant of Community Development received its place in the country and our Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the programme at Alipore near Delhi. This gave birth to other 55 projects all over the country. And this started a human revolution, a battle for increasing standard of living and other avowed goals of economic development and rural emancipation of the existing village masses. Ten packed years rolled by and now the programme has registered the faith of the onlookers, even foreign visitors, that a peaceful and democratic programme based on constitutional lines is changing the life of India.
The study of Community Development Programme in India has become an important subject in all the literature corners of the world and so I was, well in touch with the programme right from its inception in Rehli Block, my place of residence. I feel great pleasure in submitting this dissertation on this subject.

This has been my chief objective to read all the literature available mostly on Community Development programme and to go through the journals and magazines concerned with this subject. I am very thankful to the village public and various other authorities for their kind cooperation in giving the data on questionnaire and giving me fullest possible help in this respect. Specially the District Statistical Officer has been kind enough to make me available the information I required now and then.

In quoting my deep debt of gratitude to our Head, Department of Economics, Shri Prof. J.N. Mishra, B.A. (Hons.), M.Sc. (Econ.) (London), I feel very glad to submit my sincere thanks for his very kindly approving the subject of my dissertation and guiding me on the subject at various stages of the work, without which the work could not have received the present shape. For his timely guidance and expert opinions, I take this opportunity to acknowledge my thankfulness to Shri M.K. Shete, under whose able supervision the work has been completed. I am very much thankful to him for rendering suitable suggestions and his keen
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I have great pleasure in submitting this dissertation for my M.A. (Examination) to the University.

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