Chapter Seven

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The tribal areas of India are mostly Scheduled and remote as a result very little is known about their socio-economic conditions and problems. A number of attempts have been made at National and State level to estimate levels of living and inequalities in general, but very few detailed and comprehensive studies have so far been conducted on the economic development of tribal and rural areas through non-government organisations, both at national and state level respectively. In south region of Gujarat there are six districts with very high tribal population. They are Narmada, Bharuch, Surat, Navsari, Dang and Valsad.

Valod taluka is located in Surat district of Gujarat state. The taluka has 40 villages and 75% of the total population are tribals belonging to different tribes such as; Chaudharies, Gamits, Dhodias, Halpatis, Kokanies, Nayakas and Kotvalias. Most of them are landless labourers and some of them are small and marginal farmers. The average monsoon rainfall of the area are 200 cm.
The present study has been taken up in order to achieve the following objectives:

1. To develop the pattern of organisational set up and to examine the effectiveness and involvement of non-governmental organisation in the development process of tribal and rural areas;

2. To study the levels of living household income, expenditure and assets on the different size of landholding groups of rural and non-beneficiary population;

3. To examine the interrelationship between household income, expenditure and asset;

4. To estimate the extent of inequalities among the beneficiaries of the NGO and non-beneficiaries with respect to household income, expenditure and assets in the different size of holding groups.

5. To suggest suitable organisational modifications and changes in the line of action and sphere of operational activities of the non-governmental organisations in the light of findings of the study.

The Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti (VPSS) a non-governmental organisation is working since last four decades in the tribal and rural areas of Valod and Vyara talukas of Surat district of Gujarat. The NGO has a long history of working in this area for tribal development. It shows how
Gandhian workers dedicated almost five decades trying to develop the area through various economic development programmes. It has certainly made an impact on the development of Valod and Vyara taluka of Surat District.

The required primary data have been collected from 200 sample households. 100 sample households are the beneficiary of NGO (VPSS). They are selected out of total 193 beneficiary of the NGO during the financial year 1995-96, which is 51.81 per cent of the total beneficiaries. The other 100 sample households are the non-beneficiary. They are selected in equal number from the same village of the beneficiary. The names of the villages are Ambia, Buhari, Degama, Mangaliya and Valod. The other criteria in the randomly selected 200 sample households taken into consider is the landholdings of the sample household. The landownership is divided in three different categories (i) landless (no land) category; (ii) marginal farmer’s category (0.1 to 2.5 acres of land); (iii) small farmer’s category (2.51 to 12 acres of land). Out of randomly selected 200 sample households 180 (90%) households fall in the category of landless labourers, 12 (6%) households fall in the category of marginal farmers where as 48 (4%) household fall in the category of small farmers. The primary data collected with the help of pretested scheduled from the sample households have been
tabulated and analysed with appropriate statistical tools and techniques to achieve the objectives of the present study.

The different socio-economic indicators which have a direct bearing on the levels of living of the tribal people have been empirically analysed in order to find out variations in the pattern income, expenditure and asset distribution of the sample households. Where as Gini-coefficient and Lorenz curve measures of inequality have been applied in order to estimate the magnitude of inequalities in the distribution of household income, expenditure and asset.

7.2 LEVELS OF LIVING

7.2.1 Distribution Pattern of Household Income

(A) INCOME FROM AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Income from agriculture sector covers farm income, income from farm labour and income from livestock. The total income from the agriculture sector for the beneficiary is Rs.2097.72 where as the total income Rs.2089.75 from the agricultural sector for the non-beneficiaries. So the difference is not so much (Rs.7.97). It can be concluded that VPSS working in the tribal area of Valod taluka has at least helped the beneficiary to
maintain their income from the agriculture sector at par and even more than the non-beneficiary household.

With the help of chi-square test similar conclusion can be reached. Since the calculated value of $X^2$ is 0.05828 and critical value at 0.5 level is 5.99 and at 0.01 level is 9.21. There is no significant relation between the attributes. It implies that the NGO membership is not influencing the income generated from the agriculture sector.

(B) INCOME FROM NON-AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The main sources for the income from non-agriculture sector are income from service, income from business, income from NGO project, income from wage labour. Monthly income from the non-agriculture sector of the beneficiary is Rs.3232.09 and for the non-beneficiary it is Rs.2605.59. The beneficiary are earning Rs.626.50 more income in comparison to the non-beneficiary households. It should be noted here that Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti has helped the poor tribal people of the area to earn more every month from their economic and income generating projects. It is indeed valuable contribution of the NGO as far as economic development is concerned. According the chi-square test the $X^2$ value at 0.5 level is 4.57258 and at 0.90 level the critical value is 4.60. Here the chi-square value is less
than the critical value it means the membership of the NGO is influencing
the income originated from the non-agriculture sector. This is because of the
NGO income generating programmes.

(C) TOTAL INCOME

The total income comprises the income from agriculture sector as well
as income from non-agriculture sector. The total monthly income of
beneficiary is Rs.5329.81 where as for the non-beneficiary it is Rs.4695.34.
It means the beneficiary is earning Rs.634.47 more than the non-beneficiary
sample households. This is because of the Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti. It
is an unique contribution made by the NGO in the economic development
process of the tribal and rural area of Valod and Vyara talukas in Surat
district. The NGO has helped the beneficiary to earn more. It is indeed
considerable help to the local people specially 90% of landless labourers.
Taking $X^2$ test into consideration $X^2$ value is 3.68524 where as the critical
value at 0.05 level is 5.991 and at 0.01 level is 4.605. The $X^2$ value is less
than the critical value meaning $X^2$ is not significant. It implies that
membership of the Ngo is not influencing the total income generated from
both agriculture and non-agriculture sector. It should be noted here the $X^2$
test result is slightly different than the average result.
7.2.2 Distribution Pattern of Household Expenditure

The pattern of household consumption expenditure consists of both on food and non-food items among the beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households.

(A) CONSUMER EXPENDITURE ON FOOD ITEMS

The consumer expenditure on food items of the sample households covers their expenses on cereals, pulses, vegetables, milk and its products, oil, sugar and jaggary, non-vegetarian food items, expenditure on fresh fruits, dry fruits, and other food items. When we take all the landholding groups of beneficiary of NGO together the total expenditure on food items is Rs.3607.62 per month. The total expenditure on food items of non-beneficiary of all the landholding groups together is Rs.2965.80 per month. Here beneficiary of NGO spends Rs.45 more than non-beneficiary on food items. It is because the purchasing power of beneficiary is greater than the non-beneficiary sample households. Since they earn more they have increase their capacity of spending more on food items.

Taking $X^2$ value into consideration the chi-square value is 5.58 an the critical value at 0.01 level is 4.605. Here $X^2$ value is more than critical value.
meaning $X^2$ is significant. It implies that membership of Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti is influencing the food expenditure. The beneficiary of the NGO spends more money on food items. They spend more because they earn more also they are influenced by the NGO about balance diet. They are educated by the NGO field workers and functionaries to take care of food in order to keep healthy and happy.

(B) CONSUMER EXPENDITURE ON NON-FOOD ITEMS

As minimum food requirements is essential for the survival of the individual, a certain amount of non-food items is also equally important for the well-being and welfare of the person. In this study due consideration is given to the expenditure on non-food items. They are: clothes and footwear, health and education, fuel and light, religious activities and other expenditure on non-food items.

The total expenditure of all the land holding groups on non-food items of beneficiary is Rs.1611.59 per month and Rs.1528.26 for the non-beneficiary sample households. Here again the beneficiaries of the NGO are spending Rs. 83.33 more than the non-beneficiary on non-food items. It is because of their increased purchasing power and influence of the N.G.O.
Here again it should be noticed that the beneficiary sample household spends 31.62, 18.31, 11.08, 11.46 and 27.52 percentage on clothes and footwear, health and education, fuel and light, religious activities and other activities respectively. Where as the non-beneficiary group is spending 20.17, 16.46, 9.06, 11.81 and 42.50 percentage respectively on clothes and footwear, health and education, fuel and light, religious activities and other activities. From both the figures it is seen that beneficiary group is spending more on clothes and footwear, health and education and fuel and light than non-beneficiary sample households. It is due to the positive influence of Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti. Where as non-beneficiary group spends more on religious activities and other activities than beneficiary sample households. It points the fact that in tribal area many superstitious and traditional belief system prevails. Tribal specially uneducated tribals contact witchcraft or local Bhuva, Bhagat for the sickness or any household problems. They spend much of their income on such religious activities. It is remarkable to note that non-beneficiary spent more money on such activities where as the beneficiary spent more on health and education. Here the influence of local NGO is seen very clearly. One of the major activities of VPSS is to create awareness among local tribal people through health and other programmes. Since the beneficiary are closely associated with NGO
they are very much influenced by the NGO. This is one of the unique and important contribution of NGO in the tribal and rural area of Valod taluka, Surat district.

According to $\chi^2$ test it is seen that:

1. As far as consumer expenditure is concerned, to $\chi^2$ value is 7.48 and critical value at 0.050 level is 5.991. Here $\chi^2$ value is more than critical value. Chi-square is significant. It implies that the membership of NGO is influencing the consumer expenditure. Beneficiary of NGO spend more money on consumer expenditure in relation to the non-beneficiary sample households.

2. Expenditure as far as on health and education is concerned to $\chi^2$ value is 18.53 and critical value at 0.050 level is 5.991. Here chi-square value is greater than critical value – meaning to $\chi^2$ is significant. Membership of Ngo is influencing the expenditure made on health and education. Beneficiary especially landless and marginal landholding group spends more money on health and education. It is direct positive influence and achievement of the NGO.

3. In the case of other expenditure to $\chi^2$ value is 1.83 and critical value at 0.050 level is 5.99. Here the to $\chi^2$ value is less than critical value so to $\chi^2$ is not significant. It implies that membership of NGO is not influencing the other expenditure. There is no significant difference between beneficiary of NGO and non-beneficiary as far as expenditure on other item is concerned.
As far as total expenditure on both food and non-food items are concerned the chi-square value is 4.65 (DF=2) and critical value at 0.01 level is 4.605. Here chi-square value is slightly greater than critical value. So chi-square is significant. It implies that there is significant difference between beneficiary of NGO and non-beneficiary sample households as far as total expenditure is concerned. Membership is influencing the total expenditure. It is also because as seen earlier NGO has helped the beneficiary to increase their income; thereby to increase their purchasing power or capacity to pay. That has resulted into their more spending in relation to non-beneficiary sample households.

7.2.3 Distribution Pattern of Household Assets

This section deals with the distribution pattern of household assets of the beneficiary of NGO and non-beneficiary sample households. Household assets includes livestock assets, agriculture implement assets, building assets, land and other article assets.

(A) DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF LIVESTOCK

In the tribal areas agriculture and allied activities are important activities along with farming. The development of animal husbandry assumes an added importance. Milk co-operatives associated with SUMUL dairy of Surat played important role in the growth and development of
livestock. Due to favourable climate conditions and network of dairy buffaloes and cows are main milch animals in the district. However in livestock asset cows, bullocks, buffaloes, calf and other animals are included.

The total value of livestock for the beneficiary is Rs.33468.66 and for the non-beneficiary it is 31579.40. Here the beneficiary of the NGO has Rs.1889.29 more value in livestock than the non-beneficiary. It is because of the livestock project run by the NGO. Besides that the Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti is encouraging their beneficiary of different project to go for either cow or buffaloes to increase their monthly income. It is important to note here is that the District Rural development Agency (DRDA) working in this area encourage people below poverty line to buy buffaloes and cows. Recently they are giving two buffaloes to each family. Since the beneficiary of the NGO are more awakened people they get the maximum benefit of such government programmes.

Taking chi-square value into consideration for the livestock assets the chi-square value is 0.04282 and the critical value at 0.050 level is 3.841. Here chi-share value is less than the critical value. So $X^2$ is not significant. It implies that the membership of NGO is not influencing the livestock assets.
It is contradicting to the above average result. Thus, as per the chi-square test it is to be recorded that there is no significant difference between members and non-members as far as livestock asset value is concerned. At the same time it is important to note here that NGO has helped their beneficiary considerably in the development of livestock asset.

(B) DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF AGRICULTURE IMPLEMENTS

The agriculture implements used by both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households (both human as well as bullock drawn implements) are of traditional type. Which are made locally or purchased from near by markets of Valod, Buhari and Bajipura. The total value of all the (human drawn, bullock drawn and sprayers and grafters are concerned) agriculture implements of beneficiary is Rs.4618.26 and for non-beneficiary it is 19332.68. Here the non-beneficiary is having Rs.14714.42 more value than the beneficiary. It is because the small farmer group is having an expensive oil engine machines along with sprayer and grafter. Whereas most of the beneficiaries are in extremely poor state.

As far as the value of agricultural implements of beneficiary and non-beneficiary is concerned the chi-square value is 0.20429 and the critical value at 0.050 land is 3.841. Here chi-square is not significant. It implies that
the membership of NGO has no significance over the assets value of agriculture implements is concerned. The membership does not influence.

(C) DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF BUILDINGS

The building values include both residential and other buildings. The total building assets value of all holding of beneficiary sample households is Rs.61191.45 where for the non-beneficiary the value is Rs.55682.41. Here the beneficiary of the NGO has Rs.5509.4 more building asset value than the non-beneficiary. It is possible because of the housing project carried out by NGO with the help of foreign funding agency.

Taking chi-square value into consideration, the chi-square value is 2.64224 and the critical value at 0.050 level is 5.991 and at 0.10 level it is 4.605. Here chi-square value at both the levels is less than the critical value meaning chi-square is not significant. I implies that membership of NGO does not influence the building assets of the sample households.

(D) DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF HOUSEHOLD DURABLES

The distribution pattern of household durables of beneficiary and non-beneficiary consists of furnishing articles, electrical appliances, utensils, beddings and other items. The total asset value of all holdings of beneficiary
together is Rs.11006.40 where as for the non-beneficiary it is Rs.8671.41. Thus the beneficiary of the NGO has Rs.2334.99 more asset value of household durables than the non-beneficiary. It implies the better and greater quality of life the beneficiaries enjoy in return to the non-beneficiary sample households. It is also an unique contribution mode by the Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti in raising the standard of living of the people in tribal areas. As far as chi-square value of beneficiary and non-beneficiary of the sample households in household durables is concerned the chi-square value is 45.911 and the critical value at 0.050 level is 5.991. Here the chi-square value is far greater than the critical value meaning the chi-square is significant. It implies that membership of non-governmental organisation has more household durable asset than the non-members. It is also possible because their very outlook towards life and day to day's living is influenced by the NGO. Since they earn more, they spend more money on household durables.

(E) DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF LAND

The tribal economy is agro-pastoral in nature. Land is the major productive asset in Valod taluka of Surat district. The land asset value for all the holdings together for the beneficiary is Rs.45,000 where as for the non-
beneficiary it is Rs. 30,350. It means that the beneficiary sample households has Rs. 14,650 more land asset value than the non-beneficiary sample households. It is also because of the intervention of the NGO activities and programmes.

(F) DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF ALL HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

The all household assets of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample household covers the asset value of livestock, agriculture implements, building, household durables and land. The total asset value of all household is Rs. 1,55,284.87 whereas for the non-beneficiary it is Rs. 1,45617.44. Here the beneficiary has Rs. 9,667.43 more asset value in relation to the non-beneficiary. It is the result of NGO contribution and the direct effect of NGO's effort to increase the levels of living of beneficiary. The beneficiary earns more income than non-beneficiary because of NGO's income generating programmes. That helps the beneficiary to purchase more assets and live more decent life than non-beneficiary.

As far as the value of total asset of beneficiary and non-beneficiary is concerned the chi-square value is 4.720 and the critical value at 0.100 level is 4.605. Here chi-square value is more than the critical value meaning chi-square is significant. It implies that members of non-governmental
organisation has more total assets than the non-members. NGO membership significantly and positively affects their total asset value. It helps the beneficiary tribals to live more comfortably than other non-beneficiary of the same village. The NGO has helped its beneficiary to raise their levels of living.

7.3 EXTENT OF INEQUALITIES AMONG THE BENEFICIARY AND NON-BENEFICIARY SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS

In the present study the extent of inequalities in the distribution of income, distribution of expenditure and distribution of household productive assets among the beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households has been analysed with the help of Lorenz curve and Gini-coefficient.

7.3.1 Magnitude of Inequality in the Distribution of Income

(A) DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY INCOME FROM AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The cumulated percentage of agriculture income and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary household when plotted on a graph paper gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from figure 6.1.
The Gini-coefficient of beneficiary is 0.893 whereas for the non-beneficiary it is 0.8972 which is slightly higher. It indicates that there is more inequality among the non-beneficiary compared to the beneficiary of the project. It also indicates that the very high degree of inequality is prevailing both among beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. However, the difference is only 0.0042 as far as the Gini-coefficient value of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary is concerned.

The shape of the Lorenz curve as well as the value of Gini-coefficient for the agriculture income distribution of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary indicate the extent of relative inequalities in agriculture income among them.

(B) DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY INCOME FROM NON-AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The cumulated percentage of income from the non-agriculture sector and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households when plotted on a graph paper give resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from figure 6.2.
The figures clearly indicates that the bottom 20 per cent of beneficiary is sharing about 8.12 per cent of total non-agriculture income where as the top 20 per cent is sharing 44.52 per cent of the income from non-agriculture sector. Where as the bottom 20 per cent of non-beneficiary is sharing 6.87 per cent of total income from the non-agriculture sector and to 20 per cent is sharing 40.93 per cent of the income from the non-agriculture sector. The Gini-coefficient value of beneficiary is 0.3441 where as the Gini-coefficient value of non-beneficiary is 0.3219. It indicates that there is more inequality among the beneficiary of the NGO than the non-beneficiary. The difference of Gini-coefficient value between beneficiary and non-beneficiary is 0.0191.

The shape of the Lorenz curve as well as the value of Gini-coefficient for the income from non-agriculture sector distribution of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households indicates relatively higher inequalities in the beneficiary group than non-beneficiary sample households.

(C) DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY TOTAL INCOME

The cumulated percentage of total income and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households when plotted on a graph paper
gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from figure 6.3.

The figure clearly indicates that bottom 20 per cent of beneficiary is sharing 8.35 per cent of total income where as top 20 per cent is sharing 44.58 per cent of total income, where as the bottom 20 per cent of non-beneficiary is sharing again 8.5 per cent of total income where as top 20 per cent is sharing 42.07 per cent of total monthly income.

The Gini-coefficient value of beneficiary is 0.3433 where as the Gini-coefficient value of non-beneficiary is 0.3134. It indicates that there is more inequality among the beneficiary of the NGO than the non-beneficiary. It creates challenge for the NGO to raise the income level of the beneficiary considerably to reduce prevailing inequality among the beneficiary. The difference of Gini-coefficient value between beneficiary and non-beneficiary is 0.0299. The shape of the Lorenz curve as well as the value of gini-coefficient for the total monthly income distribution of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households indicate relatively higher inequalities of total monthly income in the beneficiary group than the non-beneficiary sample households.
7.3.2 *Magnitude of Inequality of in the Distribution of Expenditure*

(A) DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY FOOD EXPENDITURE

The cumulated percentage of food expenditure and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary household when plotted on a graph paper gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from the figure 6.4. The figure clearly indicates that bottom 20 per cent of the beneficiary is sharing 9.55 per cent of total food expenditure, where the top 20 per cent is sharing 38.74 per cent of total food expenditure. Whereas the bottom 20 per cent of non-beneficiary is sharing 9.5 per cent of total food expenditure, where top 20 per cent is sharing 31.91 per cent of total food expenditure.

The Gini-coefficient value for the beneficiary is 0.2826 where as from the non-beneficiary it is 0.3726. It indicates that as far as monthly food expenditure is concerned there is more inequality among the non-beneficiary that the beneficiary of the NGO. The difference of Gini-coefficient value between beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample household is 0.09. The Lorenz curve and Gini-coefficient value both indicate relatively higher inequality in the non-beneficiary group them the beneficiary group associated with NGO.
The cumulated percentage of consumer expenditure and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample household when plotted on a graph paper gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from the figure 6.5. The figure clearly indicates that bottom 20 per cent of the beneficiary is sharing 8.38 per cent of the total consumer expenditure where as top 20 per cent of population is sharing 38.12 per cent of total consumer expenditure.

Where as the bottom 20 per cent population of non-beneficiary is sharing 8.09 per cent of total consumer expenditure and top 20 per cent of population is sharing 36.34 per cent of the total consumer expenditure. The Gini-coefficient value of beneficiary is 0.2965 where as the Gini-coefficient value of non-beneficiary is 0.2491, which is less then the beneficiary. It indicates that as far as monthly consumer expenditure is concerned there is more inequality among the beneficiary than among non-beneficiary of the NGO. The difference of Gini-coefficient value between beneficiary and non-beneficiary is 0.0474.
The shape of the Lorenz curve as well as the value of Gini-coefficient for the monthly consumer expenditure distribution of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households indicates relatively higher inequality in the beneficiary group than the non-beneficiary household group.

(C) DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY HEALTH AND EDUCATION EXPENDITURE

The cumulated percentage of health and education expenditure and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary household when plotted on a graph paper gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from figure 6.6. The figure clearly indicates that the bottom 20 per cent population of beneficiary is sharing only 6.30 per cent of total expenditure on health and education. Where as the top 20 per cent of population is sharing 48.40 per cent of total expenditure on health and education. Where as the bottom 20 per cent population of non-beneficiary is sharing only 4.90 per cent of the total health and education expenditure and top 20 per cent of population is sharing 49.90 per cent on health and education expenditure.

The Gini-coefficient value of beneficiary is 0.3979 and the Gini-coefficient value of non-beneficiary is 0.4358. It indicates that as far as
monthly expenditure on health and education is concerned there is more inequality among the non-beneficiary than beneficiary group. It is because the awareness programmes on health and education conducted by the NGO in the region. The beneficiary group has understood the importance of spending more money on health and education. The difference of Gini-coefficient value between beneficiary and non-beneficiary is 0.0379.

The shape of the Lorenz curve as well as the value of Gini-coefficient for the monthly health and education expenditure distribution of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary household indicates relatively higher inequality in the non-beneficiary than beneficiary of the NGO.

(D) DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY OTHER EXPENDITURE

The cumulated percentage of other expenditure and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households when plotted on a graph paper gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from figure 6.7. The figure clearly indicates that bottom 20 per cent population of beneficiary is sharing 5.48 per cent of the other expenditure where as the top 20 per cent population of beneficiary is sharing 49.57 percentage of other expenditure. Where as the bottom 20 per cent of non-beneficiary population
is sharing 6.55 per cent of total other expenditure and top 20 per cent is sharing 44.10 per cent of total other expenditure.

The Gini-coefficient value of beneficiary is 0.4252 and of non-beneficiary is 0.4164 which is lower than beneficiary group. It indicates that as far as monthly other expenditure is concerned that there is more inequality among the beneficiary compare to the non-beneficiary of the NGO. The difference of Gini-coefficient value between beneficiary and non-beneficiary is 0.0088.

The shape of the Lorenz curve as well as the value of Gini-coefficient for the monthly other expenditure distribution of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample household indicates relatively higher inequality in the beneficiary group than non-beneficiary household group.

(E) DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY TOTAL EXPENDITURE

The cumulated percentage of total expenditure and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample household when plotted on a graph paper gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from the figure 6.8. The figure clearly indicates that bottom 20 per cent of beneficiary population is sharing 9.27 per cent of total expenditure and top 20 per cent is
sharing 37.49 per cent of total expenditure. Also the bottom 20 per cent of non-beneficiary population is sharing 9.40 per cent of total expenditure and top 20 per cent is sharing 38.98 per cent of total expenditure.

The Gini-coefficient value of beneficiary is 0.2875 where as it is 0.2698 for the non-beneficiary. It indicates that as far as total expenditure is concern there is more inequality among the beneficiary than non-beneficiary. The difference is 0.0177.

The shape of the Lorenz curve and the Gini-coefficient value for the total expenditure distribution of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households indicate relatively higher inequality in the beneficiary group of NGO.

7.3.3 Magnitude of Inequality in the Distribution of Assets

(A) DISTRIBUTION OF LAND ASSET VALUE

The cumulated percentage of land asset value and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary household when plotted on a graph paper gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from the figure 6.9. The figure clearly indicates that 80 per cent of beneficiary has absolutely no land. Where as top 20 population is holding 100 per cent of
total land and 90 per cent of the non-beneficiary population has absolutely no land and top 10 per cent is having 100 per cent of land.

The Gini-coefficient value of Beneficiary is 0.8980 where as the Gini-coefficient value of non-beneficiary is 0.9. It indicates that as far as land value is concern there is alarming inequality among both beneficiary and non-beneficiary population, but there is more inequality among non-beneficiary in comparison with beneficiary. The difference of Gini-coefficient value among beneficiary and non-beneficiary is 0.002.

The shape of the Lorenz curve as well as the value of Gini-coefficient for the land value of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary household indicates higher level of inequality. The government as well as non-governmental organisations has major role to play through different land legislations and implementation programmes to reduce the alarming inequality in the distribution and value of land.

(B) DISTRIBUTION OF BUILDING VALUE

The cumulated percentage of building asset value and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households when plotted on a graph paper gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident.
from the figure 6.10. The figure clearly indicates that the bottom 20 per cent of beneficiary is sharing only 0.098 per cent of total building asset value and top 20 per cent of beneficiary is sharing 59.00 per cent of total building value. Where as the bottom 20 per cent of non-beneficiary population is sharing 7.90 per cent of total building value and top 20 per cent of non-beneficiary is sharing 49.52 per cent of the building value.

The Gini-coefficient value of beneficiary is 0.5675 where as it is 0.3984 for the non-beneficiary. It indicates that as far as building value is concern there is more inequality among the beneficiary than among the non-beneficiary. The difference of Gini-coefficient value between beneficiary and non-beneficiary is 0.1691.

The shape of the Lorenz curve as well as the value of Gini-coefficient for the building value of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample households indicates relatively higher inequality in the beneficiary of the NGO project than the non-beneficiary.

(C) DISTRIBUTION OF FURNISHING ARTICLES VALUES

The cumulated percentage of furnishing articles values and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample household when plotted on a
graph paper gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from the figure 6.11. The figure clearly indicates that the bottom 20 per cent of beneficiary is sharing only 4.62 per cent and furnishing articles asset value while as to 20 per cent of population is sharing 54.71 per cent of total furnishing article value. Where as the bottom 20 per cent of non-beneficiary population is sharing 2.60 per cent of furnishing articles asset value and top 20 per cent is sharing 65.48 per cent of the total value.

The Gini-coefficient value of beneficiary is 0.4713 and for the non-beneficiary it is 0.6002. It indicates that as far as furnishing articles value is concerned there is more inequality among non-beneficiary than beneficiary sample households. The Gini-coefficient difference is 0.01289 between beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample household population.

The shape of the Lorenz curve as well as the value of Gini-coefficient for the furnishing asset value of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample household indicate relatively higher inequality among non-beneficiary than beneficiary of the NGO.
The cumulated percentage of total asset value and population of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary household when plotted on a graph paper gives the resultant shape of the Lorenz curve which is evident from the figure 6.12. This figure clearly indicates that the bottom 20 per cent of beneficiary is sharing only 3.60 per cent of total asset value and top 20 per cent of beneficiary population is sharing 59.77 per cent of total asset value. Where as the bottom 20 per cent of non-beneficiary population is sharing only 5.23 per cent of total asset value and top 20 per cent of non-beneficiary is sharing 59.05 per cent of total asset value. The Gini-coefficient value of beneficiary is 0.5253 where as it is 0.5073 for the non-beneficiary group. It indicates that as far as the total asset value is concerned there is more inequality among the beneficiary than among the non-beneficiary sample household. The difference in Gini-coefficient is 0.018.

The shape of the Lorenz curve and the value of Gini-coefficient for the total asset value of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample household indicates relatively higher inequality among the beneficiary of NGO than non-beneficiary group.
7.4 OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti (VPSS), working since last 40 years for the economic development of tribal and rural areas of Surat district has done remarkable constructive work for the welfare of the local people. As seen in the previous chapters the VPSS – NGO has helped their beneficiaries to raise the levels of living by increasing their household income and assets. Because of that their purchasing power has increased and eventually it has resulted into the increase of the household expenditure. With the support of Government projects and programmes along with funding agencies the NGO could achieve a holistic development. The various awareness programmes conducted by VPSS has helped the village people to develop self-confidence and capabilities. The women beneficiary specially associated with the Khadi project of the VPSS has helped themselves in becoming financially independent. Thus women’s empowerment has become a reality.

During the course of present study it is established that the VPSS has a special role to play in the alleviation and eventual eradications of poverty and inequality by raising the levels of living in the rural and tribal areas. It is recognised that the VPSS had the capacity to focus programme on the interest of disadvantaged groups and a record of doing so effectively. They
had implemented many innovative programmes which were of direct relevance to the poor. VPSS is flexible in its operation, participatory in its character, quick in response, humane and compassionate in approach. Those features make it excellent partners in poverty alleviation programmes. Many villagers deeply appreciate the work of VPSS in the Valod and Vyara taluka of Surat District.

However the VPSS’s operations are limited in coverage and vulnerable to changes in leadership. The proven capacity of VPSS to be at the forefront of public debate on crucial development issues, their ability to act as catalytic agents for promoting development programmes as well as their active role in upholding the rights of disadvantaged groups and monitoring governmental actions, pointed to the crucial role it plays in the alleviation of poverty and inequality.

The work of VPSS has been very effective in the effort to promote equity in the development framework. VPSS is also active in promoting the protection of the environment and pushing for sustainable development. Among the challenges ahead, VPSS could continue its role as organisation of the forefront of the democratic process, as critical partners of the government, and as promoters of sustainable development.

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The role of VPSS is catalyst, initiator, pathfinder, provider of emergency relief. The success of VPSS is limited because it operates in a limited area and only the government had the resources for large-scale operations. Because of the crucial role that VPSS plays, efforts should be made to strengthen it and to address the issue of its sustainability.

Human development report 1991, published by UNDP mentioned that development cannot be measured only in terms of macro-economic indicators but also quality of life indicators such as life expectancy, years of schooling, and access to health services.

Over the years VPSS has developed to be characterised as independent organisation, based on Gandhian principles having deep involvement and sincere commitment for serving the course of the downtrodden people of Surat district. The NGO is further characterised by their non-partisan character and development oriented philosophy in working for the empowerment of the poor people.

Finally it is realised that the VPSS should be more accountable to the people they are to serve. Through flexibility of approach, their capacity to reach intended target groups, their cost effectiveness as delivering agents
and transparency in their operations. The VPSS has the potential to inspire trust and confidence in both the government and other development partners.

In the era of globalisation and privatisation, in Gujarat serious collaboration is required between government and non-governmental organisations for the total and integral human development of the people of Gujarat, especially poorest of the poor residing in the tribal and rural areas. Our concrete suggestions can be summarised in following two categories:

(A) Desirable Relationship Between Government and NGOs

NGOs have several advantages over governmental organisations in becoming more innovative in the provision of assistance to the rural poor (i) the rural poor and tribals are given higher priority by NGOs; (ii) their close contact with the poor was likely to suggest ways to adapt new ideas to succeed; (iii) such NGOs might be willing to spend more time experimenting if they were not under pressure to disburse funds to meet the fixed target and were committed to long term involvement.

On the other hand, government, because of its command over the access to much greater resources and broader institutional framework, had the potential for designing suitable programmes to reach much wider
sections of poor. Because of an almost indiscriminate proliferation of the various poverty alleviation programmes.

To achieve the above objectives, the following suggestions are made:

(a) Government should be committed to the support of NGOs, which were engaged in developing innovative participatory models having potential for wider replicability. It should also encourage and facilitate setting up innovative institutions, so that NGOs could undertake poverty alleviation programmes and institution building particularly in least developed and depressed areas of the country.

(b) Government should accept the responsibility for facilitating a framework of grassroots institutions of the rural poor, which was absolutely necessary for involving the poor in the development process for their poverty alleviation.

(c) Initiatives or strengthening the NGO sector by formation of an organisation such as (Council for the Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) at state levels should be taken up.

(d) NGOs should be given freedom to raise funds from bilateral sources without any hindrance. The funds should however, be subject to independent audit for their proper utilisation.
(e) Government should make a sincere efforts towards NGO involvement and participation at policy-making levels and if it finds the poverty alleviation programmes of the NGOs to be more effective and efficient. Government should make every effort to replicate the same elsewhere in the country.

(f) To foster better understanding, there should be a systematic effort at all levels for continuous interaction and dialogue between the NGOs and the governmental agencies.

(g) The NGOs as support organisations for fostering roots institution building could greatly benefit from forgoing linkages with the local council at various levels. Government could take effective steps towards such an environment.

(h) Government should make laws to safeguard the interests and welfare of the field staff, administrative and other personal working in the non-government organisations. Even judiciary system should be evolve to protect the basic rights of the employees working in the NGOs.

(B) Effective and Innovative Role of NGOs in Development

(a) NGOs play a vital role in the process of empowering the people making the whole system participatory. For instance, until now the NGOs were working with the people in isolation but now they will
have to reorient themselves to the new panchayati raj and come to some kind of equation within the new system. Will it be that of an antagonist or that of watchdog over the system or working with the panchayat body providing training and other support to them is what the NGO will have to decide for themselves.

(b) Another important concern of the NGOs should be the gender issue. We are on some point of social revolution in India which is part of the change we are going through today. In whatever field we work it is impossible to believe that women will continue to be subservient in the process of development. And unless we recognise their role in every sphere of our social life, involving them in planning and implementation. The voluntary organisations play a major role in highlighting the women’s way of doing things and their share in development.

(c) Non-governmental organisations should be efficient in whatever they undertake just the way government and the corporate sector are required to perform. Apart from taking over grassroots development the NGOs need to be self-sustaining where decisions on course of action are determined by the people.

(d) If the NGO do not know the art and science of management then they are merely multiplying hundred failures because professional management is basically the art or science of learning from the success experiences of good organisations and making this available
in form of a body of knowledge. So NGO needs to adopt professionalism in the voluntary sector.

(e) NGOs must understand articulate and advocate public concern and demands by working closely with the people. They must have greater access to media to be able to voice their demands, organise mass movement. As said in the Gujarati, ‘Sangarsh ane Rachna’ (confrontation and creation) the NGO need to perform this dual role. Confrontation with the factors harming the rights of the people and as a watchdog on the implementation of policies; creation in terms of making resources available to people, helping them have access to means of production, credit and market enabling economic empowerment of the people. The NGOs cannot avoid either.

(f) Though the member and range of NGOs have increased today but they are still too small compared to the government, which is the main development player. Decisions from government policy will have more far-reaching implications than what the NGOs can achieve. If the NGO can influence the government policy towards empowering people, they would be in turn because equal partners in planning and implementation of the programme.

(g) The young people who join the organisations with a desire to after service, but in course of time when all the decisions are made by the top management and they are increasingly treated as employees and their zeal and enthusiasm drains away. It is here NGO needs to take
help from the supporting agencies in order to help these organisation manage themselves and their personnel.

(h) Today because of liberalisation state has become mediator and facilitator to resources and NGO must be able to lead and take quantum jump for development, linking people to the resources and to the policy makers.

(i) Development of people is basically, capacity building and empowerment of people at the grassroots level. Providing education, health facility, self-employment, creating values comprise empowerment. And in order to achieve this ideally each community should have its own NGO managed by people in the organisation in order to be able to understand the communities needs. The larger organisations of the support agencies could be the facilitators in making resources and managerial assistance available to these grassroots organisations. Networking these small organisations with the bigger ones would solve the problem of both; the smaller organisations do not have to worry about funds and management while the large organisations would be in a position to better understand the need of the community.

7.5 CHALLENGES AHEAD

Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti (VPSS) working for the tribal and rural development in Surat district, in particular and other NGOs engaged in rural
and tribal reconstructions across the country by their ideas, action and advocacy have contributed a great deal in the economic development of poor masses along with other major issues such as environmentally sustainable, development equity, gender and popular participation as well as the issues of people centred development in general. Apart from sensitising the government and policy makers, they have covered considerable ground in sensitising the rural poor leading to increasing regeneration, social action, and pressure from the bottom. Mass mobilisation, strategic networking, and peaceful social activism have brought about a qualitative change in the NGO sector as regards rural poverty alleviation, social transformation and other vital issues.

However, looking to the deep rooted systematic constraints and current trends in public policies, it appears that rural poverty alleviation and tribal development in India will continue to be like “swimming against the current”. New economic policies of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation, supposed to be dictated by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) covering currency devaluation, trade, industry, banking, resource mobilisation and allocation, structural adjustment, etc.
Hardly offer any hope for the rural poor on the contrary, the poor are hardest hit by high inflation resulting from these policies.

In such adverse situation, the brightest hope lies in the poor people's own will power, and action to alleviate their poverty, reshape their destiny and transform society. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as others having empathy and commitment for the poor would therefore, be well advised to concentrate on helping, and empowering poor to help themselves.