CHAPTEER - 1

Introduction

Rural Development holds a pivotal position in the socio-politico-economic development of our country. In India it has become the foremost national task, as it involves a lion’s share of our population residing in the villages.

Hence, the necessity for improvement in the living standards of the rural population has increasingly been realized in India.

India lives in villages. The progress of our country depends on the progress of our villages. Hence, rural development needs a special significance and attention in India. As a progress, Rural Development involves interaction of social, political and economic processes in raising the standard of living of the people in rural areas. After independence we were confronted with the problems of transforming the traditional society with low level of literary, production and rural development into modern one. It is a complete process of change in the socio-politico-economic field of the rural. In modern India rural development involves a gigantic exercise.

The concept of ‘Rural Development’ was born in the context of agriculture, and was maintained for a long time and linked with agricultural
development in India. The Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1928 gave this kind of interpretation to rural development.

The World Bank defines rural development as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people — the rural poor. Rural development involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek livelihood in the rural areas. The group includes small-scale farmers, tenants and the landless. “A National programme of a Rural Development should include a mix of activities including projects to raise agricultural output, create new employment, improve health and education, expand communication and improve housing.”

Rural Development is not a time bound process. It is a ceaseless and continuous effort which requires long term planning, and for which certain bold assumptions have to be made. These would include, apart from other things, a certain degree of devotion and honesty on the part of the officials in discharging their responsibilities and also a will on the part of those for whom such programmes are meant. In the absence of this, any programme of Rural Development would be an exercise in futility.

In the various Five Years Plans, development of rural areas has been one of the most abiding concerns. The Government of India started its plan of planned growth after independence. Rural Development is an elastic
concept and everyone interprets it in his own way. Gandhiji said, "India lives in villages." This is true of today too. Thus, rural development as a concept is not a new one. It has received the attention much before independence. Tagore’s Shantiniketan was perhaps the first systematic attempt in this direction. Gandhiji concretized the problem of rural reconstruction. However, rural development is identified with the development of the under-development of rural poor. This is evident from the World Bank’s definition of rural development as "the strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of the people that is the rural poor. It improves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas. The group includes small scale farmers, tenants and the landless.”¹

Uma Lele defines rural development as, “Improving living standards of the masses of the low income population residing in rural areas and making the process of their development self-sustaining.”²

A.T. Biraow defines, “Conception clarity is helpful in understanding the nature of rural development as an independent identify. On the basis of these definitions of rural development we can bring out the following three major aspects of the rural development programme."³

¹ Uma Lele 1975, The Decision of Rural Development, lessons from World Bank, Africa.
² Ashok Kumar, Planning and Development in Rural Area
³ At Birow 1983, Rural Development Planning and Implementation in Growth and Equity in Agricultural Development, Proceedings of 18th International Conference of Agricultural Economists.
—Improving Standards of Living
—Mass Participation, and
—Making the process self-sustaining.

Rural Development is a distinct approach to intervention by the state in developing rural economy. It is at once broader and more specific than agricultural development. It is broader in the sense that it entails much more than the development of agricultural production for it is in fact a distinct approach to the development of the economy as a whole. It is more specific in the sense that it focuses particularly on poverty and inequality."4

Mahatama Gandhi and Mao, who differed radically both in philosophy as well as in strategy, shared a common vision on rural development. Both leaders felt the need for ensuring that the masses had adequate employment so that their basic minimum needs of food, shelter, education, clothing and health care were met. Both stressed the role of mass participation and involvement, and the need for the leadership to identify with the masses. Mahatama Gandhi writing in 1920 says, "Every village’s first concern will be to grow its own crops and cotton for its cattle. It should have a reserve for its cattle, recreation and playgrounds for adults and children. Then if there is more land available, it will grow useful cash crops. They will maintain a village theatre, school and public hall. It will have its

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4 John Harriss (Ed.) Rural Development Theories of Peasant Economy and Agrarian change. P-15.
own water works ensuring clean supply of drinking water. This can be done through controlled wells and tanks. The Education will be compulsory up to the final basis. There will be no castes as we have today, with their graded untouchability. Non-violence with its technique of ‘Satyagraha’ and Non-cooperation will be the sanction of the village community. There will be compulsory service of village wards that will be selected by rotation from the register maintained by the village. The adult villagers—males and female possessing minimum prescribed qualifications, will conduct the Government of the village. There will have all the authority and justification required. Since there will be no system of punishments in the accepted sense, this ‘Panchayat’ will be the legislature, judiciary, executive combined to operate for its years of office.”

Integrated rural development of Marx and Mahatama Gandhi’s conception is an organic integration, while a Western-trained social scientist tends to see it in terms of provision of inputs and infrastructure required to raise outputs and productivity. It became apparent after the Second World War. The post-war development strategy aiming at industrialization was a copy of the Western historical experience of economic development.

While expressing the view on some aspects of rural development, the social scientists conceived it as a desired positive change in the rural areas – both in a qualitative and quantitative sense. Thus, rural development is an
ideal concept. It is a complete term that integrates a variety of human life and activities which can broadly be classified into the broad dimensions of social, economic and natural rural development means desired change in all these dimensions. In brief, we can say that rural development involves a process of change in rural system and their interaction, leading to desire. It implies improvements in rural employment, income, welfare, income distribution, health and other aspects of rural life and giving more opportunities for a better standard of living, expanding facilities for education, nutrition and health, housing, welfare, an equitable distribution of wealth and safeguarding the rural habitats.

Rural Development has been given a special significance for a country like India for rural uplift was carried out prior to Independence by Mahatama Gandhi in Sevagram and F.L. Brayne in Gurgaon in the 1920s. In the independence era, leaders, intellectuals, scholars and scientists showed their interest in rural reconstruction.

Rural Development, of course, implies an economic development of the rural sector of the economy. As a process, it can be expressed in terms of organizing the people for initiating and running the activities and programmes which contribute to raising the income levels of the rural people.\(^5\)

Rural Development has been given due attention not only in India but in the Third World Countries also. According to the Human Development Report in 1996, nearly 56 percent of the world population still lives in villages, but a greater part of this percentage is still living in the developing countries and only 27 percent in industrial countries.

Mahatama Gandhi, the Father of the nation, paid special attention to the development of villages, though he was not an economist in the academic sense. To him, Gandhi, rural India is real India. Therefore, the country can not prosper so long as villages are not prosperous.

Under his programme of reconstruction of the villages, Gandhiji advocated a self-sufficient village economy and self-reliant village community and full utilization of local resources for the development of rural areas.6

Gandhiji talked of self-sufficient village units. Villagers themselves must produce all the essential goods and services they require. This provides an enough work for the rural labour. There will be no exodus of labour force from rural to urban areas. Gandhiji visualized decentralized planning with local participation.

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The basic principles of village Swaraj are supremacy of man, physical labour, equality, trusteeship, decentralization, Swadeshi, self-sufficiency, co-operation, satyagraha and equality of religions.

Gandhiji wrote, “Every village of India will almost be a self-supporting and self-contained unit exchanging only such necessary commodities with other villages where they are not locally producible”, the village system should also provide sufficient leisure to villagers so that they can take up certain creative works.

Gandhiji felt that cities and villages should have equal opportunities of employment, and comparable facilities and social services should be made available to all without any kind of discrimination. Man will be the center of this kind of the new strategy.7

Under Rural Development, decentralization and development of administration should be given top priority. Decentralization would be helpful in curbing bureaucratic handicaps, delays and red tape. Decentralization alone can make the administration responsive to the people’s needs and wishes.” Decentralization would be effective only when the lower level agencies enjoy functional and financial autonomy”.8

We must evolve and strengthen the non-bureaucratic approach to rural development. For example, famous voluntary agencies may be associated

7 Ibid.
8 Ibid.
with the framing and implementation of rural development schemes. The effect of bureaucracy on rural development programmes should be kept at the minimum. It is need for encouraging self-help groups.\(^9\)

The Eighth Plan document has well summed up the task, "Increased participation of people in the rural development process, decentralization of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit and inputs go a long way in providing the rural people with better prospects for economic development."\(^10\)

However, one must remember that rural development should not be at the cost of growth but should be integrated with the growth process.\(^11\)

The rural programmes run into the rough environment in the absence of political leaders' support to such programmes. They should show keen interest in the successful implementation of rural development programmes. With the great experience gained in the rural field, it is not difficult for the Govt. to successfully implement various rural programmes.

Rural Development is an all round development of traditional rural society into a modern one by bringing about socio-economic reforms and planned progress. The planners and administrators have been concentrating

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\(^9\) Satya Sundram, *Rural Development in India*, P.12


on the problem of the rural masses. Rural poverty, unemployment and the general backwardness require the attention of the authorities concerned.

Rural Development has emerged as "strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a special group of rural people. It involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas." Rural development involves optimum utilization of the natural and human resources of a given rural area for the enrichment of the quality of life of its population.

The word 'rural' refers to all aspects of that area and of the activities and institutions within it; in which people live in villages, small towns or other relatively dispersed population.\(^\text{12}\)

The word, 'development' refers to quantitative as well as qualitative change which applied only when seen against something at a particular time."\(^\text{13}\)

Rural Development can be defined as a process through which collective efforts aiming at improving the well-being and self-realization of people living outside the urbanized areas can be made. The ultimate target of rural development is people and not infrastructure and one of the objective


\(^{13}\) Bose, P.R. and Vashist, Rural Development and Technology, (CSIR), N. Delhi, 1980 P.15
of rural development should be to widen the opportunities to each and everyone."\textsuperscript{14}

'Rural Development hence means development of the rural areas in such a way that the social, economic, technological and natural components of rural life can be changed in a desired direction within the framework of the national goals and objective and without prejudice to the development of urban areas of the country.'\textsuperscript{15}

The overall goal of rural development is to liberate the energies of the rural people, especially the poor, so that they can realize their potential and thus improve their capacity as well as commitment to development, organize and govern themselves towards the attainment of a higher quality of life for the individual and for the entire community. The twin major objectives of rural development programmes are accelerated economic growth with wider participation and the most equitable distribution of its gains.'\textsuperscript{16}

Three-fourth of India's population lives in rural areas, and half of the country's national income is derived from agriculture and seventy percent of India's population gets employment through agriculture. The raw materials for industries come from agriculture and the rural sector and a stable

\textsuperscript{16} S.K. Ratnam, Strategies for Rural Development, 2000, P.3
development of agriculture economy alone can help the stability of prices of industrial goods."\(^{17}\)

The programmes of constructive activities initiated by Mahatma Gandhiji and Pallid Same Movement promoted by Rabindranath Tagore in the environs of his Vishwa Bharathi University were based on the principles of self-help and self-reliance in the village communities, development of agriculture, industrialization, organization of Village Panchayats and cooperative decentralization of the economy and above all promoting basic human value while encouraging economic development. The ultimate objective for both of them was to provide for the masses of the Indian people the opportunity to lead a good life."\(^{18}\)

The main object of the Gurgaon experiment of P.L. Brained had been to lift the villager out of his groove and convince him that improvement is possible through better ways of living and farming. His experiment emphasized agricultural development, sanitation, education and co-operation.

In Elawah, Albert Mayor, an American town planner carried out an intensive rural development programme. In Elawah, within 3 years time 79,000 people from 102 villages covering an area of 100 square miles

\(^{18}\) Dubhashi, P.R., Rural Development Administration in India, Popular Prakashan, Bombay, 1970, P.68.
demonstrated how by co-operative and planned endeavour food production could be substantially increased and literacy conditions could be improved.

In 1951, the first report of the National Planning Commission stressed on Rural Development. The Five-Year Plans specifically focused on the development of rural areas by means of economic development. In the earlier plans for uplifting of the masses, planners attached much significance to the development of agriculture. In fact development cannot be achieved without the active co-operation of the Government and the rural community. While keeping in view this aspect the community development programme was launched on October 2, 1952.

Rural development is a vital task in an economically developing country. The objective of rural development is to identify the poorest of the poor and the needy families, bonded labourers, and landless, scheduled caste and scheduled tribes, women and other economically backward sections of the society and provide them with productive assets, finance, technical and other infrastructural support to cross the poverty line.

Since the independence, the Govt. of India has adopted several measures for rural development that include the Five Year Plans, the Panchyati Raj Programme and the Community Development Programme. In March 1950, the Planning Commission of India was appointed. In fact, the development cannot be achieved without the active co-operation of the Govt.
and the rural community. So, in this direction the Community Development Programme was launched on October 2, 1952.

Development is a concept that has found utmost relevance in the context of the poorer nations of the world. Thinkers, policy makers and the people at large do not view it in similar terms. Especially in the context of the poorer nation, development has come to mean higher expectations of material welfare. It is in this sense that development may be viewed as involving a strategy. A strategy of development is one that makes people believe that something is being done to their own benefit and well being.

**Problems and prospects of Rural Development**

Rural Development in India is essentially an aspect of planned development launched by the Govt. in terms of succession of programmes and strategies formulated in the Five Year Plans of national development. Thus, a point to be stressed in this context is that rural development is viewed as an integral aspect of natural development. A greater part of Indian population is residing in the villages, and agriculture has been the main occupation of the rural population. The need for viewing rural development is recognized in view of the fact that the Indian villages have been subjected to a long time of neglect, especially during the British Rule. After the Independence, India felt the urgency of providing support and encouragement to the aspirations and real needs of rural development.
Development is basically a Western concept. The rural population, being ignorant of the implications of development for the local community, is rather slow in responding to the various programmes of development.

**The Meaning of Development**

Though there is a lot of literature presently available on the subject of development yet there seems to be no clear unanimity about the meaning of development. When we consider development as a change process that is multidimensional and interdependent. Many scholars have emphasized the multidimensional character of this change process. For example, Michael P. To dare writes that development is not purely an economic phenomenon. In an ultimate sense it must encompass more than the material and financial side of people's lives. Development should, therefore, be perceived as a multi-dimensional process involving the reorganization and reorientation of entire economic and social systems.

Rural Development, as a concept, is deeply involved in the planning process in India, leading to the formulation of appropriate policies and strategies. This concept has come to signify a whole set of policies, programmes and strategies, broadly covering the field of rural reconstruction.
Rural Development as defined by the World Bank is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people – the rural poor.

If a note is taken of such experience in the right spirit, it will go a long way in accelerating the pace of rural development. Rural development for us is the all round development of every section of the rural community, which we call socio-economic transformation. The right kind of socio-economic transformation leads to social and economic equality.

"The real India lives in the villages and the India of many dreams is one where the poorest of poor are to be brought to a high level of prosperity and development." – Mahatma Gandhi

Education is a powerful instrument for the sustainable growth of any country, and all over the world it is taken for granted that educational achievement and economic success are closely linked. The concept of rural progress and rural education are supplementary to each other. It is, therefore, necessary to impart most appropriate rural education specially designed to such demands, aspirations and capabilities of the rural masses.

The concept of development must be conceived as a multi-dimensional process involving the reorganization and reorientation of the entire social, economic and political system towards improving the quality of life of the entire society resulting in the happiness and welfare of
mankind. On the other hand, every major economic decision has social and political implications. Similarly, every major political decision has social economic dimensions. In this way the concept of development becomes a multi-dimensional undertaking and its components include political, social and economic elements.\(^\text{19}\)

While economic growth is an essential component of development, is not the only one, as development is not a purely economic phenomenon. In the ultimate sense, it must encompass more than the material and financial sides of people’s life. Development should, therefore, be perceived as a multidimensional process, involving the reorganization and reorientation of both economic and social system. It finally, although development is usually defined in a national context, its widespread realization may necessitate fundamental modifications of the international economic, social and political system as well.\(^\text{20}\)

A change may occur naturally or autonomously or may be induced. A development manager may accelerate the pace of development by both inducing a desirable change in a given system and by properly directing the autonomous change.

In simple terms, “Development means more of the good things in life.” In other words, “Development means improving the quality of life in

\(^{19}\) International Journal of Development Planning Literature, January-April, 1995.
all its aspects including improving the physical environment for man.” Development aimed to improvement of the human condition, food, cloth, shelter.”

Rural development includes raising the socio-economic-status of the rural people on a maintainable basis through favourable utilization of local resources both human and natural. The rural development may be achieved in terms of its objectives when external help is compulsory and rural people actively participate in the development process. The rural people should know how to maintain themselves financially and gain economic independence so that the pressure of rural development should be on self-reliance. Although, rural development should result in great access to the rural to the rural population to goods and services.

The stress on rural development is on majority of the people living in the developing countries. The majority of the population lives in the rural areas, and their backwardness would be slow progress growth in other sectors and in the economic as a whole. The emphasis on rural development is also due to many constraints facing the rural areas that simply suffer from inadequate infrastructure facilities and technological advancements. Even minimum needs like safe drinking water, electricity, primary health, center and road transport are not available in the rural areas, and rural population

21 Amarjit Singh Dhillon, Rural Development and Administration an Indian Scenario, P. 14
suffers from poverty, ignorance and illiteracy. Their conservative outlook towards development has been preventing them from availing benefits of the incentives offered by the Govt. With the large exposure of media, the rural sector is moving towards self-reliance and economic independence. But the ownership of land and other assets has enough been concentrated in the hands of a few. It is clearly for this cause that the benefits of rural development programmes failed to reach the poor rural population.

It is a hard fact that the process of economic development includes a shift from agricultural activities. It is; however, wrong to believe that the increase in non-agriculture activity should be limited to towns and cities. After all, villages with growing non-agricultural activity will, undoubtedly, become towns in the course of time. What needs to be done is that non-agriculture activities in the rural areas need to be focused upon and strengthened on priority basis.

As far as development of economic work activities is concerned, the rural areas remain worse in quality in comparison of cities and towns. Every essential commodity like toothpaste is being produced in the urban areas and the basic infrastructure facilities for setting up industrial units are available in the urban areas. But it is generally forgotten that such facilities would be available in rural areas only when those areas become centres of growing economic activity. Therefore, Gandhiji laid stress on village development.
As long as the rural areas lack in minimum facilities, there is a great number of rural people will continue to migrate to urban areas. The migration of rural people to urban areas has serious implications proving to be burden on the available resources and facilities in urban areas. It is estimated that urban population is growing at the rate of 4% per year, and 2% of the increase in urban population per year is reportedly caused by migration from rural areas. The administration in the urban areas has been finding it difficult to provide employment to the rural labour force migrating to towns and cities. The large number of migration of people to towns and cities creates some big problems like growing slums and law and order, while the Govt. has stepped up its investment in rural areas and when rural services are heavily subsidized by the Govt., the rural rich have an obligation to step up their investment in rural areas.

The rural development has emerged as “a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of the rural poor people. It involves extending the benefits of development to the rural population who seek a livelihood in the rural areas”.23

Rural development is three dimensional in nature. As a method, it seeks people’s involvement in all programmes and schemes. As a process, it seeks to modernize, through the application of science and technology, the

traditionally oriented rural cultures. Its main objective is to bring about improvement in the quality of life of rural people. The concept of rural development is comprehensive and multi-dimensional in nature. It includes development of agricultural and allied activities, traditional crafts, cottage and small-scale industries, infrastructure of socio-economic, rural manpower and improvement in community facilities and services.

Rural Development covers, besides agricultural development, a comprehensive set of activities related to all aspects of rural economy. It provides benefits to a number of sections like cultivators, tenants, landless labour and rural artisans.

Broadly speaking, agriculture is a very huge sector including a variety of activities like irrigation, land development, horticulture, soil and water conservation, dairying, animal-husbandry, poultry, pig-farming, fishery, handloom and cottage industries, social forestry and setting up agro-based industries and forest-based industries.

Rural development needs a large infrastructure but provision of this is not easy task, because it is undertaken by the Govt., and private investment in this field has been small and continues to be so. But the direction of quantity investment in the rural area is generally changing in terms of economic life. Simultaneously it is not easy task to achieve the twin
objectives of raising growth rates and create more opportunities for employment.

A single system to rural development would not be effective. In reality rural development is the product of interaction among various physical, technological, economic, socio-cultural, institutional and environmental factors. Indeed, the rural area should experience the required changes so that it can join the mainline of national development and contribute its share for economic development. However, rural development should not be seen as a package of specific needs but as a transformation of rural life and conditions."

Objectives of Rural Development

- To change traditional attitude of rural people towards development programmes and schemes launched by the Govt.
- To promote democratic vision at the grass roots level by setting up Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- To provide basic needs such as drinking water, education, health care, electricity, better sanitation, play ground.
- To develop both farming and non-farming activities to generate enough employment.

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• To improve infrastructural facilities in villages, especially transport and communication.

• To ensure a healthy life for rural people by promoting communal harmony and unity, level of education, cultural and literacy activities.

• To set up cottage and agro industries in rural areas.

• To create scientific temper which implies a changing of the mind and old habits of thought and action.

• To realize the creative energies of the rural people.

• To enhance participation of all sections, particularly women and youth in the rural development process.

• To improve the quality of life through integration between development and environment.

The Rural Development puts stress on creating employment opportunities for the rural people so that they can be able to meet their basic needs and become main agents of economic process and social change. A healthy climate has to be created which enables the rural poor people to realize their full potentialities to attain a high quality of life with economic security to sustain themselves. This alone can stop rural exodus.

Rural Development is a difficult process. It can be achieved only through concerted efforts on various fronts. It is correctly said, "It seems that of
major weak links in rural development planning are absence of total approach at the strategy level, lack of coordinated planning at the programme level and weak planning component if individual programmes."

Rural Development Programmes cannot be successful without proper regional planning, strong-central co-ordination, effective local organization and people’s active participation at the stages of making and implementing planning.

Even wellconceived rural development schemes and programmes have run into rough weather, because of inefficiency and corruption at various levels which are again attributed to “the absence of proper accountability and deterring punishment for failures.”

The rural people look up to the Govt. for financial help, while external help is necessary and desirable, in the starting for developing areas. Rather it should come from the rural people themselves. It may be necessary form self-help groups. These have to be linked with formal financial institutions before chalking out location -- specific development schemes in the rural sector.”

There is, however, a strong case for intensifying non-agricultural activities in rural areas, in the service sector as much as in manufacturing. The trends towards urbanization are quite welcome. Some Govt. schemes and programmes indicate that non-agricultural activities in the rural areas are increasing. If this general tendency were strengthened, it would be very easy to change villages into small towns.

Rural Development can be possible if only there is genuine balance between service-oriented programmes and development oriented and self-reliant programmes. The importance attached to service-oriented schemes besides retarding rural development, has also resulted in wastage of precious resources.28

**Research Methodology**

On the region-political plane, the state of Haryana is divided into ninety assembly segments. Under the programme “Govt. at your Door” or “Janta Darbar”, development activities have been equitably accomplished in all the villages of these segments.

The programme covered the entire state. So the researcher selected the Beri and Jhajjar constituencies by applying the Area Sampling Method. Owing to a large number of villages in these constituencies five villages

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28 Satya Sundaram, Rural Development Himalaya Pub: New Delhi, 1998, P.8
each constituencies were selected by using the Lottery system under the Method of Random Sampling.

Primary sources were referred to collect data related to development schemes under this programme. For this purpose a comprehensive questionnaire was devised. Besides members of Panchayats, the government representatives were also interviewed by using Observation Method. M.L.As of the opposition political parties were also interviewed to verify the authenticity of the data.

The study covered a period of five years starting from 2000 to 2005. Chaudhary Devilal, the former Chief-Minister of Haryana, and Deputy Prime Minister of India, and Chaudhary O.P. Chautala, then the Chief Minister, Haryana, were interviewed.

Apart from them, Chaudhary Bhupender Singh Hooda, the present Chief Minister, Haryana, Ch. Ranjeet Singh, former Agriculture Minister, Haryana, Dr. Raghuvir Singh Kadyan, present M.L.A. Congress Party, and Brigadier (Retd.) O.P. Chaudhary, former Vice-Chancellor, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak were also interviewed. Besides them, about one hundred Panchayat Raj Representatives were interviewed to verify the practical aspects of the programme.

After the departure of the previous government, new 100 Panchayat Representatives from the districts such as Jhajjar, Sonepat, Rohtak, Hisar,
Bhiwani, Jind, Gurgaon and Panipat were also interviewed to verify the facts related to these programmes. Secondary sources were also referred to obtain more information about the programmes.

**Hypotheses**

Has the programme “Government at your Doorsteps” or “Janta Darbar” speeded up the process of rural development in Haryana?

- Has people-participation increased in these programmes?
- Have these programmes proved helpful in bringing about rural development?
- Have the announced schemes under the programme been completed timely?
- Have more powers been delegated to the Panchayats under the programme?
- Has the programme “Janta Darbar” proved helpful in solving the problems?
- Has the programme brought out any improvement in the socio-economic and political conditions of the rural life?
- Has corruption or red tape obstructed the course of rural development under the programme?
Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

• To increase people’s participation in the implementation of Welfare schemes in the rural areas.

• To strengthen functioning of the Panchayati Raj Representatives (Pries).

• To promote public awareness and participation in the poverty alleviation programmes.

• To promote co-operation and co-ordination between the Government and Panchayats.

• To form healthy public opinion about democratic system.

• To avoid unnecessary wastage of public money, time and energy in litigations or disputes.

• To form popular government in all respects.

• To mitigate the political vacuum between the Government and masses.

• To curb corruption and red-tapism in the administration.