The Community Development Programme was introduced in order to develop socio-economic resources of the rural masses with a view to bridging the gap between haves and have-nots. As the existing rural institutions lacked the strength and capacity to shoulder the heavy responsibilities generated by the programme, it was considered necessary to associate people in its multi-farious activities. To meet the situation the device of Democratic Decentralization was recommended by Balwant Rai Mehta Committee. The purpose was to involve the rural population in the gigantic task of their own uplift, without which no progress could be visualised.

The object of my thesis is to evaluate the system of Democratic Decentralization & study its impact on various activities with reference to U.P. One important aspect which did not receive proper attention earlier was the fact that the superstructure of the political system could never be viable and strong unless it was supported by a sound socio-economic infrastructure. The present work is a modest attempt to inter-relate, these two aspects after a detailed study and close analysis of the working of the Panchayati Raj in U.P., during the last two decades.

The thesis has been divided into seven chapters. The first chapter deals with the historical background and circumstances leading to the emergence of democratic insti-
tutions at the grass-roots. The second chapter gives an account of the development of the idea of village institutions in India with special reference to Uttar Pradesh. This chapter also deals with the Gandhian impact on Panchayati Raj. In the context of modern parliamentary democracy Panchayati Raj is intended to serve as a democratic base of the political infrastructure. As an agency of a welfare state and as a means to achieve the basic objectives of Community Development its economic aspects are also emphasised. Conceptually speaking Panchayati Raj is an improvement on Community Development Programme. The triple objectives of Panchayati Raj are modernisation, politicisation and democratisation while the Community Development Programme may at best be treated as a preparatory stage for modernisation. For an effective realisation of these objectives different states have adopted different organisational patterns of Panchayati Raj. The third chapter makes a comparative study of these patterns and their functions in order to find out their suitability in the context of varying economic, social and political set up in different states. The different models have been characterised as:

a) Rajasthan Pattern.
b) Maharashtra Pattern.
c) Andhra Pradesh Pattern.
d) Gujarat Pattern.

A comparative study of these patterns has been made and their respective merits and limitations have been put under a microscopic examination.
The fourth chapter outlines the economy of Uttar Pradesh with reference to agricultural and industrial development in the rural sector. An attempt has been made to highlight the problems of rural masses. A close examination of these factors is necessary for an analytical study and better understanding of the various avenues of community development programme and their relationship with Panchayati Raj.

The fifth chapter deals with the evolution of community development programme, its aim and objects with reference to Uttar Pradesh.

The sixth chapter gives a balance sheet of Panchayati Raj, examines, in detail, its achievements and failures under two heads - Assets and Liabilities. References have been made to the newly emerging leadership - The new elite in the rural sector and the changing inter caste relationships which have altered, to a very large extent, the political complexion of the traditional society with the result that new patterns of rural self government are appearing on the surface.

The seventh chapter highlights the challenges which the whole process of rural development poses and the way these challenges can be met with positive, imaginative and purposeful action. The need and scope for reforming the whole system from top to bottom have been pointed out in this chapter.
In the conclusion a resume of the findings has been given and the main outcome of the study have been summed up. It has been emphasised that the Panchayati Raj and its natural concomitant, the Community Development have come to stay and all efforts, official and un-official should be directed to remove any obstacles that might inhibit their simultaneous advancement.

Some relevant appendices and a comprehensive bibliography have also been given at the end of the thesis.

Acknowledgements,

I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge with gratitude my indebtedness to my teacher and guide Professor S.A. Haqqi, Head, Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, who inspired and guided me at every step. His valuable suggestions and precious guidance are mainly responsible for the completion of this work. I am also beholden to Professor S. Nasir Ali, Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for the help that he rendered during the preparation of this thesis. I am also grateful to my husband Dr. Sami Uddin, without whose constant encouragement and sustained interest this work would not have seen the light of the day.

My thanks are also due to Messrs M.A. Qureshi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development Cooperation & Panchayati Raj, Mr. Khan, Panchayati Raj Officer, Aligarh and various other state/district and block level officers who assisted me in the collection of material.
utilised in this work. I am also grateful to Dr. (Miss) Rafat Bilgrami for going through the manuscript. I am also thankful to those writers whose work I have consulted and whose views I have quoted, I am, however, entirely responsible for the views expressed, conclusions drawn and suggestions offered.

September 20, 1972.

Mrs. Abida Sami Uddin,
M.A. (Pol. Sc.) Alig; Diploma in German; Diploma in French Alig;
Cert. in H.E.S. Italy;
Lecturer in Pol. Science,
Women's College,
Aligarh Muslim University,
A L I G A R H. (U.P)