CHAPTER VI

Major Findings
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(i) Findings:

Data collected on a micro level study is necessary for planning, formulating and implementing specific programmes to address issues relating the socio-economic backwardness of any disadvantaged group.

The foregoing analysis on the basis of data collected has yielded the following findings. The researcher has enumerated one by one in a logical order.

(I) The striking observation is that 64 percent of households are still under the Joint Family System. This means a large chunk of dependants is in a household. Only 45 percent of respondents are bread-winners. The prevalence of large number of dependants means large numbers have to share the cake. The dependency ratio is high. Income being low the per capita income will become lowest.

(II) Only 62 per cent of the respondents come under literates. Nearly 38 per cent can not read and write. Illiteracy is a factor that impedes socio-economic growth.

(III) The Backward Community respondents have fewer children. Households having less than 2 children constitute 75 percent of
the backward community people. But the Scheduled Caste households have more than 5 children (18 percent of the community). Poorer the households higher will be the size of the family and vice-versa.

(IV) Only 65 per cent respondents live in own houses.

(V) Most of the respondents own tiny pieces of land. Seventy percent of the respondents own less than one acre. Nearly 33 percent own less than 0.5 acre. Therefore the revenue from small tracts of land will be very low. Almost all of them do not have surplus produce to be sold. Most of them do agriculture for self-consumption only. Agricultural operations provide additional wages to these small land owners. Nearly 56 percent of their income comes from farming alone.

(VI) The agricultural labourers do not have employment throughout the year. They have employment for not more than 240 days in a year. Further they do not have easy access to credit or subsidies.

(VII) As for as the consumption pattern is concerned the percentage on consumption of food alone is 66.4 per cent. The high percentage (66.4%) spent on food explains the low standard of living. They could not afford to go for other items. All the respondents are in the same position as regards to expenditure. They are unable to make both ends meet. The Consumption pattern reveals that all are on the same boat as the consumption expenditure stands at 80 per cent.
(VIII) The income analysis yields the following results. On the whole there is significant variation in income (55.78%). But the category of **land owners has lesser Coefficient of variation**. They have an edge over the others. The per day income for them is Rs. 46 whereas for most backward category and Scheduled Caste it is Rs. 28 per day. It is crystal clear that **those who are in the lower rung of the society are under the clutches of poverty**.

(IX) The striking finding based on the statistics from the micro level survey is that the **poverty among the respondents are due to few factors**. They are:

(i) Illiteracy level (38 per cent)
(ii) Larger family size and high dependency ratio
(iii) Ownership of lands below 0.5 acre by a majority group.
(iv) Presence of casual agricultural labourers in the area (26 Per cent)
(v) Prevalence of joint family system to a large extent (64 per cent) and the presence of drones.
(vi) Non accessibility of government schemes, credit and subsidies.
(vii) Dependence on agriculture by all families.
(X) The factors have been statistically analyzed and found that **the illiterates are large in the case of Scheduled Caste respondents** (57.64 per cent). Nearly 51 per cent of them have **lands below 0.5 acre** and 47 per cent of them
are illiterates. Most of the families (75 per cent) have 5 to 6 children. Hence the poverty is acute among the **Scheduled Caste households**. The analysis reveals that poverty among the Scheduled Caste people is apparently higher than the other communities.

(XI) Further the poverty among the **agricultural labourers** who own tiny piece of lands is acute than poverty among the small land owners and the tenancy cultivators. Most of the casual labourers are below poverty line and respondents having less than 1 acre of land fall in that group.

(XII) The income and consumption pattern of the farmers reveal interesting findings. Only the respondents belonging to Most Backward Caste and Scheduled Caste respondents have been below the poverty line. The **Backward Community people are just above the poverty line**. They are mostly the land owners and their income level is higher than the incomes of other communities. Their literacy level is high. They do have fewer children. Mostly operating on lands more than 1 acre **they are having an edge over the other communities**. Of course the lower the ownership of land higher will be the impact of poverty on them and

(XIII) An estimate of percentage of households below poverty line on the basis of less than cumulative frequency curve
for the income levels shows that 17 per cent in Backward Community households fall below poverty line and 19 per cent in Most Backward Community households and 21 per cent in Scheduled Caste households fall below the poverty line. As per the official estimate (Census report – 2001) the percentage of people below the poverty line is 47.02. Here we have confined ourselves only to the small farmers, a section of the population. Even this estimates pertain to 2001 whereas the study period is 2004 – 05.