AN EPILOGUE

In this chapter, an attempt has been made to gather the important concluding remarks and recommendations based on the previous chapters of this study. Opinions of the beneficiaries, experts, administrative authorities and my observations during my visits and discussions on this study are herewith incorporated.

1: The concept of rural development as understood by most of the officials is concerned with weaker sections of society and raising their living standard and status. In fact, the concept of rural development must be a multi-dimensional approach and priority should be given to the development of human beings and their occupations. It should also include the programmes which will ensure the qualitative improvement in the life style of the rural masses.

2: The successful implementation of all the rural development programmes depends upon the infrastructural development of the rural areas. The infrastructural facilities like irrigation, approach roads, electrification facilities, medical and health facilities, educational facilities, availability of gainful employment and veterinary aid etc. must be available and developed as per the requirements of concerned village for rural development.
3: The working of existing rural development programmes helped, to some extent, in improving the socio-economic-political conditions of rural poorers of my study area. For examples, educational programmes, (Vide: Table - 1.4), health programmes (Vide: Page - 38), rural road development programme (Vide: Table - 1.6), village electrification programme (Vide: Table - 1.7). Under this programme 5,484 villages were electrified in Gujarat State, during the years from 1981 to 1990, and in water supply programme an outlay of Rs. 2,411 crores was an increment in seventh plan over its previous sixth plan. (Vide: Table - 1.5).

4: The sample survey study of 20 villages of Kheda district significantly pointed out that agriculture, animal husbandry and co-operative dairy sector are the three major pillars on which the entire structure of villages is designed in the Kheda district.

5: Animal husbandry and dairy industry as most popular occupations have been playing most important roles in my study areas for the developing the rural areas and uplifting the lives of rural mass.

6: Majority of the beneficiaries do not possess factual knowledge of rural development programmes but they know that something is going on at various places throughout the year in their respective villages. However, the educated rural youth having some knowledge and information about rural development
programmes were of the opinion that rural people for whom these programmes are prepared and try to implement them are no doubt beneficial to them but not fully. Only at about 25 to 35 per cent benefits reach to the hands of beneficiaries.

Rural Development Programme has direct bearing on socio-economic life of rural society and this includes the rural poor people of Kheda district of Gujarat State. The implementation and successful working of each and every rural development programme require basic facilities, strict and continuous supervision and control, feed-back at proper time and places and the evaluation and follow-up at certain period. This would definitely help in providing the fruits of rural development programmes to the needy people of the rural class. Unnecessary middlemen, agencies and administrative machinery should be cut-off from each programme for the better results and thereby government can reduce the burden of administrative cost and expenses.

Rural development programme should be selected on the basis of the requirements of each village separately. Common rural development programmes be used commonly for all the villages but a specific rural development programme be also used for a specific purpose and requirements of a particular
village only. For instance, the employment guarantee programmes must be used in drought-prone area where employment generation and rural works could be started to provide at least employment at the time of non-availability of agricultural employment to the concerned needy people of a particular rural area only. A similar type of works could also be started, such as digging of wells, ponds and construction of trowths, in this area. This way, a particular class of rural society can easily get the jobs and thereby they could sustain their lives even during the days of hardships.

Infrastructure facilities like water supply for both (i) drinking purpose and (ii) irrigation purpose, rural roads and their connections with state roads, medical and health services, availability of veterinary centres, post and telegraph services, rural education for craftmanships and cottage industries, rural electrification for the supply of fuel power to rural industries, primary and secondary basic education to all, etc should be developed and provided by the State and Central Governments specially for underdeveloped rural areas so that the process of reaching the benefits of rural development programmes to all concerned and particularly to the weaker sections can be expedited.
My personal visits of the surveyed villages and respondents and the extracts of the discussions with them regarding the need and utility of rural development programmes impelled me to suggest that a detailed village-wise survey of the Kheda district should be undertaken and try to find out opportunities for undertaking the employment-oriented activities. This would definitely guide us to rethink and launch a new rural development programme for a particular village so the actual requirements in developing rural areas can be judged effectively as and when need arises.

Whatever may be the rural development programme, the implementation of the programme requires an urgent need to involve and participate the local authorities. For instance, Gram Panchayat, Local Industrial Units, Banks, Co-operative Societies, Educated Village Youth, must be a part and parcel in the working and evaluating the rural development programme. This would help in the smooth operations of the programmes and fruits of any programme, would directly reach to the needy people for whom these programmes were prepared.

Most of the respondents have complained that those who are well-to-do and have all the haves become the beneficiaries and have-nots—the real needy persons—are always intentionally left out, and
not included in the list of beneficiaries. They have also stated that a Watch-dog-Committee or Action Committee consisted of concerned classes of the rural society be appointed to supervise and feed-back the rural development programme at village level, block level and at district level. It is also necessary to disseminate the ideas and utility and the benefits of rural development programmes in rural areas so the rural people can take interest and involve themselves in the rural development programme prepared specifically for them. Sometimes, people do not know why and for whom this types of programmes are prepared and implemented in rural areas. The misunderstanding about the programmes — viz., all the programmes are prepared to get the votes by ruling party must be removed by providing proper information and guidance at the very grass-root level. I, herewith, also suggest that the training to the executive machinery should be imparted to propagate and despatch the message of rural development programme to the rural mass. It would, then, help the beneficiaries in getting the benefits of all the rural development programmes.

The role of VCMPSs in developing the district unions and thereby providing milk and milk products throughout the country does not require any
explanations and discussions as we all know what they are? and how they are working? "AMUL" is a world wide brand name for white revolution and the socio-eco and co-operative impacts on rural as well as urban and city people are very well known by all of us. On the basis of Amul Pattern, the NDDB has extended its activities in establishing and running district unions throughout the country. At present, our annual milk production registered an impressive growth in the decade of the 'Seventies to cross the 30 million-tonne-mark in 1980 and the 50 million-tonne-mark in 1989 and it reached at the 54.9 million-tonne-mark in 1990-91.

:14: Insofar as the per capita milk availability is concerned, it has been increasing despite the growth in population from 132 grams/day in 1950-51 to 178 grams/day in 1990-91, and it will reach to 193 grams/day in 1994-95. This shows that VCMPSs have been playing an important role since their establishments in rural areas.

:15: The various services and facilities in the areas of animal husbandry, veterinary, cattle feed, artificial insemination, loans and subsidies for various purposes, and other types of financial assistance, etc. are nothing but the contributions of VCMPSs in improving the rural economy.
Kheda district is one of the most important districts in the State of Gujarat. It has most fertile land for agriculture, its population is highly educated and the purchasing power of the people of this district is highest in Gujarat State, and if I say in the whole country, I may not be wrong, because the Patels of Kheda district are wealthy and rich by all the means. Their incomes from abroad is one of the important means for the utilisation of their funds in various areas of activities as well as donations to the rural institutions for improving rural economy of their own villages as well as surrounding villages. They are also helping and assisting their relatives and friends to do some business and family occupations.

The women of this district are of peculiar nature. They do not worry about their jobs in dairying industry and animal husbandry Patels and Rajput Women take care of their milch animals and most of their time spent in dairying activities. 40.46 per cent members of the total 388 earning members surveyed for this study, were engaged in dairying activities, and 68.15 per cent women members of these 157 members were fully engaged in dairying activities. (Vide: Table - 4.3).
Insofar as the sizes of the family of surveyed members are concerned, 67.39 per cent families were reported as separate families and the average size of the family was recorded by 5.86 members in the family. No doubt this district is highly congested district in the State of Gujarat and therefore, to live separately is a problem, yet the education and living style based on western pattern play an important role in separating members from their joint family system. Insofar as from social view point this is a good sign of living separately, as it helps in maintaining good relations with co-family members.

The dairying occupation is fully bloomed and nourished in this district. Farming and dairying occupations of this district have shared by 84.53 per cent of the total occupations. And in service sector only 4.38 per cent members of the total 388 earning members were engaged from the rural areas of Kheda district. However, this figure is related only with 92 families of the district. On account of high rate of dairying activity in the district, the average no. of animals per family was also reported as 2.60. However, only milk giving animals are considered in the calculation of average number of animal per family.
Dairying and animal husbandry require the land to grow green fodder for milch animals. In my study, out of 92 families selected for study, 10 families were landless families and therefore, it was a difficult job for them to have a sufficient no. of milch animals. Similarly, 47.82 per cent families having land up to 2 acres had also faced a problem of green fodder for their milch animals. What I want to say here is that dairying, animal husbandry and agriculture must go simultaneously for the purpose. Sufficient agricultural land, i.e., for cultivating grass and other foods for milch animals must be available to each and every milk producer families so an economically viable quantity of milk can be gained from each milch animal. I, herewith, again suggest that the non-used land should be converted into agricultural land by joint efforts of Government, private land owners and concerned village panchayats. For example, the non-used land in lakhs of acres available nearer the banks of the Mahi River can be used for the agricultural purposes after making it useful. It should be, then, distributed among the needy persons for the dairying and animal husbandry occupations.
Again, dairying occupation is a business of cash and a regular income to the family involved in it. My study has found out that a family having 2.60 average no. of milch animals, can earn an average income of Rs. 24,030 per year. However, the share of dairying only in this income was 37.50 per cent in the total income of Rs. 24,030. But this is not a meagre share. It was next to farming, i.e., the share of farming in total income earned was by 42.45 per cent. The net income from dairying per family was arrived at Rs. 9011.70 paise. No doubt, a family totally rests on dairying only and having no other source of income hardly passes his days with a bare necessity of life. But if we compare this income with the income of a family rests on agricultural labours, then dairying occupation would be benefitted to a family who is engaged in it.

The problem of more income from dairying is connected with the more and more production of milk, but again milk yield is totally depends on the health and care of milch animals. It requires nutrition food to be provided to each animal. My study has found out that the milk producers were of the opinion that the fodders nowadays became costly and the supply of it also became irregular. The cost of concentrates and Amul dan, rachco, etc, increases every time by a higher rates and the income from milk, i.e., the
prices of milk do not increase proportionately, so the net income is going to decrease every year. Yet, they are in this business because of their own land, irrigation facility, and the other family members take care of this occupation and to that extent it helps us in supplementing the family income.

23: The milk producers of the study area have discussed the points regarding the prices of fodders and eagerly waiting for a time of decliming the prices of fodders including Amul dan. Only because of the high prices of concentrates, including Amul dan, the surveyed families have used only 1.97 kg. concentrates in giving the total 23.39 kg. fodder per day per animal.

24: My data analysis shows that inspite of the availability of 12.50 litres of milk per day per family, the average consumption of milk was only 2.02 kg a day by per family. No doubt, it is higher by more than double rates than the per capita consumption at national level. Inspite of using more milk per head, the rural families sell it out for our urban and city people and thus play an important role in supplying the required quantity of milk at some reasonable rates.
Again, my study reveals that the price realisation of milk was at the lowest rate. The same quality of milk is purchased by private milk businessmen at a price of Rs. 7.00 to 8.00 per litre. However, milk producers have highly considered the services, assistances, amenities, subsidy and guidance provided by district union, NDDB, Veterinary College, etc. in dairying activities and animal husbandry. And only because of these services all the milk producers first sell their milk to the YCMPS only and if need arises they sell it out to private businessmen. I, therefore, suggest that the district union must control and reduce its administrative expenses and other indirect expenses to give higher prices to the milk producers, otherwise days are not far away of hasty seizing by national and multinational private milk business houses.

Dairying and animal husbandry provide an additional employment to the family-members throughout the year. For example, employment of 126 hours was generated by pre milch animal in my study. In other words if a family possesses a milch animal for dairy purpose, it will generate 126 hours a year. Different types of activities, viz., milking of cows and buffaloes, watering and foddering them, their health care, supplying of milk — both the times — to VCMPS and grazing, etc. generate an
additional employment everyday. If a family having large no. of milch animals can also get the benefit of generating additional employment for extra person over and above the family members. Thus, in a nut shell, the existence of VCMPS and adoption of animal husbandry and dairying activities by a rural family, generate employment opportunities regularly for rural people throughout the year. It also provides an additional as well as regular source of income to the family. The Kheda district in Gujarat State is a solid example of these phenomena. Out of total 968 villages, 923 villages are covered under the dairying and animal husbandry activities. In other words, in Kheda district there exist 923 VCMPSs and 4.57 lakh members are engaged in dairying activities.

:27: The role of VCMPSs in developing rural areas is surprising one. Out of total 20 VCMPSs surveyed in this study, 18 VCMPSs were prepared to contribute the amount of bonus-earned throughout the year for their members - in various rural development programmes. 83.33 per cent VCMPSs of the prepared VCMPSs were prepared to invest their bonus amounts from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 60,000 per year in their respective villages' rural development programmes. Not only the VCMPSs of Kheda district, but the members of these VCMPSs were also ready to invest
their bonus amounts into the various programmes for developing their villages. 94.12 per cent members were ready to contribute their amounts into the employment guarantee programmes as one of the rural development programmes. This shows that they were in need of gainful employment.

Similarly, individual VCMPS in its own village plays an important role by providing financial assistance and subsidy, supplying services and amenities, and assists in getting the service from Amul Dairy, NDDB and Veterinary Colleges and insemination centres to its members for more and more production of milk and at the same time provides, contributes and creates funds for the developing programmes of rural areas. For example, almost all the surveyed VCMPSs have contributed their profits for education fund, animal improvement fund, co-operation development fund and staff welfare fund.

The most important activity undertaken by VCMPSs of my surveyed villages is that they have donated huge funds to the various local institutions for different purposes. For instance, a VCMPS of Samarkha — a village of Anand taluka — has donated Rs. 15,263 during the year 1990-91 to the rural based institutions to undertake rural development programmes. Similarly, the VCMPS of
Limbasi village has also disbursed the loan amounting Rs. 8,12,614 to its members for the purchasing of buffaloes and cows.

The last point of the study is that it is my great pleasure to note here that the people and VCMPSs of my study areas are full of desire and ready to assist any rural development programme it programme results into a real amelioration of village itself and improves the socio-eco conditions of rural society as a whole. At present, on the basis of the data and information provided by various VCMPSs and family-members, I can definitely say that rural people are ready to help the institutions and rural development programmes to work positively for rural economy and society as a whole.