INTRODUCTION

The present study explains through a comparative analysis the interwoven changes that have occurred in the life of village communities of the Punjab due to Community Development. Because of cultural diversity of the Indian sub-continent each village community is a representative of its own, yet there are certain features common to wide group if not to, all communities. This enables a field investigator to select a set of communities, for analysis with the help of certain controlled variables and sampling techniques. Neither the fieldwork nor the report has attempted to prove any thesis. The aim rather has been to record observed phenomena and thereby to present through systematic analysis the differences which may exist by the introduction of planned change and the gradual change. This in the present study has been achieved through a comparative analysis of villages covered by community development and village not covered by it. The study is both descriptive and analytical. Certain body of data relating to community, community development and its relations to social change have been presented for proper appreciation of the impact of community development upon rural people.

Study of Community Development and Social Change has been chosen for two reasons. One is that villages are pivotal for the development of India as a nation. Often it has been pointed out that India's future lies in her villages which accommodate 82.03 per cent of the total population and provide them sustenance and employment. Further more, improvements in agricultural technology is the only source of food sufficiency in India. The second reason is that an exclusive and a systematic sociological appraisal of India's community development is very limited though each field worker who,
since the inception of community development, has studied the village communities has touched the problem.

Sociologists have expressed a special concern over the community as a unit of scientific study. They have explored and studied its composition, its internal functions, its relations to institutions and interactional pattern in and between communities. For want of referents these studies fail to demonstrate as to how variations in properties of communities affect the problematic aspects of human behaviour under investigation. To meet this weakness the present study follows "a design of comparative community" analysis, for which it is necessary that:

1) We must first establish that the units of analysis possess community characteristics so that systematic variations among communities may be established.

2) In order to study the impact of the community development upon any problematic community phenomenon we should first determine properties which either systematically vary by community or which make two or more communities analogous.

3) Community characteristics may be taken as dependent variables so that we may look to variables external to community system to produce variations rather than to conditions within the community system. Community characteristics, however, may be taken as inter-dependent then the focus of study are inter-community, intra-community relations or human behaviour and these may be related to independent variables.

4) There are certain situations in which community characteristics may be taken as intervening variables. Reiss, for example, points out that to, "investigate the effect of the size of the community of first job on an occupational inheritance relationship, community characteristics may be regarded as intervening variables".

5) In order to meet the problem of delineation of variables or community attributes, theory is the main consideration. Three important considerations pointed out are: a) determination of attributes which are defined by an aggregation of some characteristics of the individuals who are residents in the community, b) to characterize communities in terms of some measures of relationship of the individual members to the community. Here we seek variables which characterize the reciprocity of relations of inhabitants in terms of community. c) characteristics
of the community system which are independent of individuals. That is, we may characterize communities in terms of their social institutions.

With these considerations in mind the present study is presented under seventeen distinct chapters. Chapter I deals with Indian village studies and the nature of village communities in the Punjab. While Chapter II, is devoted to review the literature on approach to community, definition of community for the present study and to the question; is the Indian village a community, chapter III, and IV deal with community development in India and social change and community development. In chapter V is presented the problem and chapter VI deals with social system of communities, their characteristics and similarities. Chapters VII to XVII are devoted to the analysis and presentation of field data and the role of community development in bringing about changes in different sub-systems of the social systems of the communities understudy. In chapter XVII are reported the important conclusions which emerge from the present study.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Reiss, Albert J., Jr., "The Sociological Study of Communities," Rural Sociology 24:2 (June 1959) p. 120.