CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS
A review of Scheduled Castes' economic development and social status in India during the past five decades reveals interesting trends. The trends show that there has been a slow but steady progress. The slow progress gives the impression that not much has been done in both economic development and social status attainment by Scheduled Castes. The trends also reveal that even to attain minimal progress it took more than four decades. It reflects the complexity of Indian stratification and the challenge of developing and reaching the downtrodden.

The trends further reveal that many preparatory and infrastructural facilities were required in the form of a host of developmental programmes for the poverty stricken general population and especially Scheduled Caste population.

In this context, it may be mentioned that "Jawahar Rozgar Yojana" which was launched after four decades of India's independence and its struggle for development through a number of programmes from Community Development Programme to Integrated Rural Development Programme made appreciable breakthrough in benefiting the Scheduled Castes through a specific programme component called provision of Community Irrigation Wells. This project not only created employment but could made it sustainable by generating assets and alleviating poverty.
However, there is paucity of literature with regard to the performance of JRY and its impact especially on Scheduled Caste beneficiaries. Hence an attempt is made in this study to examine the working of JRY with reference to Community Irrigation Wells in the context of a drought prone district in Andhra Pradesh and its impact on social transformation with reference to employment, asset creation, alleviating poverty, sustainability, and economic empowerment which facilitates social transformation of Scheduled Castes. A drought prone district, Kurnool in Rayalaseema region, has been selected purposefully for the present study.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study are:

1. To review the social status and development of Scheduled Castes during the post independent period;

2. To examine the working of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana with reference to community irrigation wells in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh;

3. To analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the JRY with reference to community irrigation wells in the context of sample beneficiaries;

4. To analyse the impact of the community irrigation wells on the social transformation of the sample beneficiaries; and

5. To suggest suitable measures to strengthen the community irrigation wells programme in the context of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries and their transformation further.
Method of Study

The methodological aspects of the study include selection of the district, selection of the mandals, selection of the beneficiaries of data, tools of data collection and analysis, and schedule of presentation.

Selection of the District (The Universe): Andhra Pradesh is geographically divided into three regions namely Coastal Andhra, Telangana, and Rayalaseema. The Rayalaseema region consists of four districts, namely, Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah and Kurnool. Among the districts of Rayalaseema region, Kurnool district has been chosen as the district was represented by the then Prime Minister and the then Chief Minister, and further the district is chronically drought prone.

Sample: "Jawahar Rozgar Yojana" was launched in the district in the year 1989-90. In order to examine the performance of JRY with reference to community irrigation wells and to study the impact of community irrigation wells and social transformation of Scheduled Castes, all the beneficiaries who were benefited from 1990 to 1995 under this scheme in the district have been taken into consideration and called it as "The Universe" for the purpose of the present study. Thus in the present study "The Universe" consists of 2011 beneficiaries who have taken assistance under JRY for community irrigation wells in the district.
The present study is based on the multi-stage random sample method of survey. Kurnool district is divided into three revenue divisions, namely, Kurnool, Nandyal, and Adoni. Each revenue division was taken into consideration at the first stage. In the second stage, in each division, one revenue mandal was selected randomly from among the Mandals which have higher concentration of Scheduled Caste population and community irrigation wells. Accordingly, Veldurthi Mandal in Kurnool division, Rudravaram Mandal in Nandyal division, and Aspari Mandal in Adoni division were selected. In the third stage, study sample beneficiaries will be drawn from Scheduled Caste beneficiaries of Community Irrigation Wells scheme of these three revenue Mandals.

Selection of Beneficiaries: As we selected only one Mandal in each revenue division, 50 per cent of the beneficiaries who have taken assistance under JRY in each of these three Mandals formed the study sample for the present study. Thus, 72 beneficiaries in Veldurthy Mandal of Kurnool division, 49 beneficiaries from Aspari Mandal of Adoni division, and 29 beneficiaries in Rudravaram Mandal of Nandyal division formed the sample. Thus a total of 150 beneficiaries in Kurnool district formed the sample for the purpose of the present study and constituted 7.46 per cent “The Universe.”
A summary of the major findings of the study has been presented with reference to the features of Kurnool district, performance of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana with reference to Community Irrigation Wells scheme in Kurnool district, socio-economic features of the respondents under study, implementation of Community Irrigation Wells programme with reference to sample beneficiaries and the impact of Community Irrigation Wells on the social transformation of the study respondents.

I. The Important Features with regard to the Kurnool district are as follows:

1. Kurnool district is one of the four districts of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh State, Kurnool was the capital of Andhra Pradesh from 1st October 1953 to 31st October, 1956. It is also regarded as the "Gateway of Rayalaseema".

2. Kurnool district with a population of 29,73,024 as per 1991 census occupies 11th place among the districts of Andhra Pradesh, third place in the population of Rayalaseema region, 4.47 per cent of the total population of Andhra Pradesh, and 17.57 per cent of the total population of Rayalaseema region. The sex ratio of the district was 953 females per 1000 males.
3. The population of the Scheduled Castes in Kurnool district accounts for 17.42 per cent of the total population of the district. The Scheduled Caste population in the State accounts for 15.92 per cent of the total population of the State.

4. The percentage of literates in the total population of Kurnool district as per 1991 census is 32.52 per cent as against 44.09 per cent of the State.

5. Agricultural workers (cultivators plus agricultural labourers) constitute a very high proportion to the total working population. Cultivators and agricultural labourers together form 72.04 per cent of the total workforce in the district as against 64.76 per cent for the State as a whole.

6. The Scheduled Caste population consists of 5,18,108 and constitutes 17.42 per cent of the total population in the district. Among the Scheduled Castes males and females constitute 51.32 and 48.68 per cent respectively.

7. Only 1,15,141 people belonging to Scheduled Castes are literates and the percentage of literates among the Scheduled Caste is 22.22 per cent against the district percentage of 32.52. Among the Scheduled Castes, female literacy is very low, i.e., 25.80 against the male literacy of 74.20 per cent.
8. Among the total cultivators in the district, the Scheduled Caste cultivators comprise only 8.31 per cent, whereas among the total agricultural labourers in the district, the Scheduled Caste agricultural labourers comprise 29.03 per cent. Among the total population of the Scheduled Castes, the agricultural labourers, marginal workers and other workers constitute nearly 45.93 per cent.

9. All important towns and villages in the district are well connected by a network of roads.

10. The average rainfall from south-west monsoons and north-east monsoons in the 1990-91 was 629.2 mm and in 1995-96 it was 60.50 mm. The average normal rainfall of the district was 630 mm against the State average normal rainfall of 840.0 mm.

11. The principal rivers flowing in the district are the Thungabhadra and its tributary Hundri, Krishna, and Kunderu. Three major irrigational, one medium irrigational, and 609 small irrigational projects are the major sources of irrigation. With the available irrigational facilities, it was evident that only 16.72 per cent of the net sown area was irrigated from all sources during the year 1993-94 as against 37.55 per cent for the State as a whole.

12. The district has nearly 900 industrial units, medium and small. These units are mostly agro-based and provide employment to
nearly 25,000 workers. Kurnool district possesses enormous deposits of limestone suitable for cement production, and as a result of this, cement industry is prospering in the district. Handloom weaving is also an important cottage industry in the State.

II. Major Findings with regard to the Performance of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana with reference to Community Irrigation Wells in the district are as follows:

1. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana programme was initiated in the year 1989 in the district. The main objective of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is generation of additional gainful employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed persons in the rural areas. The secondary objective is creation of durable community and social assets in the rural areas.

2. The Million Wells Scheme (MWS) was launched as a sub-scheme of the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) during 1988-89. It continued as a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana from April 1989 to 31.12.1995. Since 1st January, 1996, the Million Wells Programme has been functioning as an independent scheme. The Million Wells Scheme is also referred to as Community Irrigation Wells Scheme.
3. Upto 1992-93, the target group for the Community Irrigation Wells Scheme comprised small and marginal farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labourers. Since 1993-94 the Community Irrigation Wells Scheme has been extended to include poor, small and marginal farmers belonging to non-Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category also.

4. With regard to the financial performance of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in the district for the period from 1990 to 1997 as much as Rs.7252.48 lakh was received from Central and State Governments in order to execute the works under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and only Rs.6695.55 lakh was spent on the works of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

5. As many as 75.99 lakh mandays of additional employment was generated during the period 1990-97 under the works of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

6. The provision of Community Irrigation Wells which is a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has had a positive impact on the performance of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. As many as 2,737 Community Irrigation Wells were provided to different categories of the beneficiaries during the period 1990-97 in the district.
7. The highlighting feature of the scheme is that, a good percentage of the wells, i.e., 81.84 per cent, were provided to Scheduled Caste categories.

8. In so far as the financial performance is concerned, as much as Rs.655.05 lakhs was spent on the Community Irrigation Wells Scheme during the period 1990-97. However, the percentage of the amount that was spent on Community Irrigation Wells was only 9.78 per cent of the total amount spent on Jawahar Rozgar Yojana works during the same period.

9. Out of the total 2,240 Community Irrigation Wells that were provided to Scheduled Castes in the district, 47.72 per cent of the Community Irrigation Wells were provided in Kurnool revenue division, 36.56 per cent in Adoni revenue division, and only 15.72 per cent in Nandyal revenue division.

III. Major Findings with regard to the Socio-economic features of the Respondents under study are as follows:

1. As many as 70.00 per cent of the respondents were below the age of 45 years and are in the productive age group. The average age of the respondents was found to be 39.90 years in aggregate.

2. A prepondering majority of the respondents were men and married, i.e., 92.67 per cent and 97.83 per cent respectively.
3. Alarmingly, as many as 77.33 per cent of the respondents were illiterates. Among the literates, none of the respondents had education above the intermediate level. The percentage of literates in Rudravaram mandal was very low, i.e., 10.35 per cent.

4. With regard to the type of family, 56.00 per cent of the respondents had joint families. The total population of the households was 1,086 which included 586 males, 500 females, and constituted 53.96 per cent and 46.04 per cent respectively. The average size of the family of the respondent households was 7.24 persons per household and the sex ratio in aggregate was 853 females per 1000 males.

5. The literates constituted only 18.78 per cent of the total family members. Among the literates, female literacy was very low i.e., 13.23 per cent only.

6. As many as 83.00 per cent of the respondents were residing in their own houses and 17.00 per cent of the respondents in the houses that were constructed by the Government. However, 68 per cent of the respondents were residing in pucca houses.

7. Only, 30.00 per cent of the respondent households were electrified. None of the respondent households had individual toilet facility. The major source of drinking water to the 60.00 per cent of the respondent households was public bore well.
8. Prior to implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, most of the respondents were involved in their traditional calling (leather work), seasonal manual labour besides occasional dry land cultivation.

9. After implementation of the programme, agriculture and agricultural labour was the primary occupation for 85.00 per cent and 15.00 per cent respectively of the respondent households.

10. A good majority of the respondents i.e., 66.00 per cent were small and marginal farmers who had less than 5 acres of land. There were no large farmers among the respondents.

11. Out of the total family members, the workers constituted 54.33 per cent and among the workers the male and female composition was found to be 53.73 per cent and 46.27 per cent respectively.

IV. Major Findings with regard to the implementation of the Community Irrigation Wells Programme with reference to the study respondents are as follows:

1. The Community Irrigation Wells scheme was sanctioned to all the respondents between 1990-1994.

2. The extent of amount sanctioned for this scheme ranged between Rs.10,000 and Rs.28,000 and as many as 57.00 per cent of the
respondents were sanctioned amount ranging from Rs.22,000 to Rs.28,000.

3. All the proposed wells before digging were surveyed by the Government geologist and water potential points selected. Digging of trial pit was also taken up in the case of all the beneficiaries.

4. Majority of the respondents completed digging their respective wells in the same year in which they were sanctioned financial assistance.

5. As many as 63.00 per cent of the beneficiaries dug their respective wells on their own while 37.00 per cent of respondents entrusted the job to the contractors.

6. The wells' diameter ranges between 15 to 25 feet and the average diameter of the well in aggregate is found to be 21.65 feet. With regard to the depth of the wells, it ranges from 20-35 feet. The average depth of the well in aggregate is found to be 26.60 feet.

7. The highlighting fact to mention here is that all the wells had water in the initial period and subsequently some of the wells have become dry. 17.00 per cent of the wells in aggregate are dry even in monsoon season.
8. The depth of water in all the remaining wells is significantly high in the monsoon season when compared to the other seasons and the depth of water in this season is more than 10 feet.

9. The recuperation of water takes place within a day in the monsoon season in the case of 55.00 per cent of the wells in aggregate. However, in the summer and other seasons, it takes place only after two days in case of the majority wells of the respondents. A good majority of the respondents use the water for their own agricultural land without sharing.

10. In aggregate as many as 69.00 per cent of the wells of the respondents' have been energised either with electric motor or oil engine. However, 17.00 per cent of the wells have dried-up and hence their wells have not been energised, and 14.00 per cent of the wells have not been energised due to the problem of finance though there is water in the wells.

11. As many as 50.00 per cent of the respondents however utilised the amount for procuring electric motor/oil engine within the sanctioned amount by the government. All the beneficiaries purchased necessary accessories like crowbars, baskets and spades within the sanctioned amount only.

12. Nearly 52.00 per cent of the respondents wish to receive training in wet land cultivation as they do not have sufficient knowledge.
13. A good majority of the respondents, i.e., 81.00 per cent, do not have proper knowledge and awareness in using modern inputs for agricultural purposes. The beneficiaries want demonstration of modern inputs in cultivation.

14. Nearly 71.00 per cent of the respondents in aggregate are facing the problem of working capital, and 20.00 per cent of the respondents do not have the capacity even to purchase a bullock cart and a plough.

15. In aggregate, 25.00 per cent of the respondents face the problem of silt in their wells.

16. At present, 17.00 per cent of the wells of the respondents have dried-up.

17. In aggregate 14.00 per cent of the respondents do not have electric motor / oil engine though there is water in the wells.

V. Major Findings with regard to the Impact of the Community Irrigation Wells Scheme on the aspects of landholdings, value of assets, income, employment, expenditure and indebtedness etc., which facilitate social transformation of the study respondents are as follows:

1. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has enabled the beneficiaries to change their low prestige, poorly paid and socially disadvantageous
occupation of leather work and seasonal and daily wage manual labour to that of respectable, more sustainable and rurally coveted occupation such as agriculture.

2. All the respondents possessed only dry land before implementation of the programme and as many as 64.00 per cent of the respondents are small and marginal farmers. The average size of the land holdings in aggregate is found to be 5.62 acres after implementation of the programme, and 22.00 per cent of the respondents in aggregate do not possess dry land at all. At present the average dry land and wet land in aggregate is found to be 3.06 acres and 2.07 acres respectively.

3. Only 33.00 per cent of the respondents wish to take up land developmental activities such as land levelling, land cleaning, prevention of soil erosion, etc.

4. With regard to the agricultural assets as many as 44.00 per cent of the respondents did not have assets before implementation of the programme and it has been reduced to 36.00 per cent after implementation of the programme. The average value of the agricultural assets of the respondents has increased from Rs.3020 to Rs.3860 in aggregate at present.

5. With regard to the livestock wealth of the respondents, 47.00 per cent of the respondents did not have livestock before
implementation of the programme and it has been reduced to 30.00 per cent after implementation of the programme. The average value of the livestock wealth has increased from Rs.5180 to Rs.6520 in aggregate at present.

6. The total value of the assets includes the value of agricultural assets, livestock wealth, land holdings, and residential house. Accordingly, as many as 50.00 per cent of the respondents in aggregate possessed assets of less than one lakh rupees before implementation of the programme but after implementation of the programme it has reduced to 26.00 per cent. At the same time, the value of the total assets has increased from Rs.1,21,000 to Rs.1,64,000 at present.

7. With the provision of Community Irrigation Wells to the respondents, the income of the respondents has increased. The average income of the respondents from agriculture in aggregate is found to be Rs.9,000 per annum and the same has increased substantially to Rs.22,940 per annum after implementation of the programme.

8. With regard to the average earnings from other sources of the respondents, the earnings have come down after the implementation of the programme from Rs.5,950 to Rs.3,530 per year in aggregate. This is primarily because of the involvement of family labour in their own agricultural activities.
9. With the increase of agricultural income, the average total income of the respondents has also increased after the implementation of the programme from Rs.16,300 to Rs.27,300 per annum in aggregate.

10. With the increase of the agricultural activities of the respondents, the average working hours per day of the respondents after implementation of the programme has increased from 7 hours to 8.38 hours per day.

11. Apart from increasing number of hours per day in agriculture, the number of days have also increased per month after the implementation of the programme. The average working days per month of the respondents in aggregate has increased from 22.50 days per month to 26 days per month. Before implementation of the programme as many as 55.00 per cent of the respondents worked only 6 months in a year and the same percentage of the respondents work more than 9 months and less than 10 months in a year after the implementation of the programme. Accordingly, additional mandays of employment has been generated with the provision of Community Irrigation Wells to not only the respondents but also to the members of their families.

12. The highlighting feature of the study is that there is a substantial increase of productive investment. Accordingly, the average productive expenditure of the respondents in aggregate has
increased from Rs.5,572 to Rs.9,420 in this year. On the other hand, with the increase of the income, the average unproductive expenditure of the respondents has also increased slightly from Rs.8,930 to Rs.10,870 this year. Important to mention here is that, the average unproductive expenditure is more than the average productive expenditure before implementation of the programme. After implementation of the programme it is vice-versa.

13. Interestingly, it can be stated that tremendous impact has been noticed with regard to the indebtedness of the respondents after the implementation of the programme. Accordingly, the percentage of the respondents who are in debts has drastically came down from 94.00 per cent to 29.00 per cent in aggregate after the implementation of the programme. Thus, the average indebtedness of the respondents has decreased from Rs.10,460 to Rs.1,500 in aggregate.

14. As many as 67.00 per cent of the respondents are willing to continue the present occupation. The remaining percentage of the respondents also like to continue in the occupation provided some of the facilities like electric motor/oil engine, in-well bores are created.

15. As many as 50.00 per cent of the respondents are aware of educational facilities and all of them availed themselves of these facilities in order to educate their children.
16. A great majority of the respondents (93.00 per cent) are still not aware of the reservation of seats in political participation.

17. An overwhelming majority of the respondents (95.00 per cent) are not aware of the on-going developmental programmes. Lack of literacy is an important hindrance to awareness.

18. Thus the above findings clearly shows the 'Social Transformation' experienced by the respondents under study on account of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The findings reveal that the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has brought a new light and vision and hope for these hitherto depressed people. They not only gained respectability as peasants by change of their low prestige, poorly paid and under employed vocational pursuits like leather work, manual labour but also they experienced sustainable development as evident from the increased earnings and mandays of employment and the decreased indebtedness.

Conclusions

In the present study an attempt is made to examine the working of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana with reference to the Community Irrigation Wells Project in the context of a drought-prone district in Andhra Pradesh and its impact on social transformation with reference to employment, asset creation, alleviation of poverty, sustainability, and economic empowerment, which facilitate social
transformation of Scheduled Castes. The analyses and major findings in this regard are presented in the earlier sections. Based on these findings the following broad conclusions are drawn.

The **first** conclusion is that the Scheduled Caste beneficiaries have fruitfully utilised the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana scheme. The Community Irrigation Wells and their energisation enabled the beneficiaries to undertake agriculture as a full-time primary vocation. As a consequence, the number of mandays of employment for the beneficiaries and their family has increased substantially. Further, the provision of assured irrigation facilities to the farmers has led to greater value appreciation, resulting in asset formation. Earlier, these lands were considered to be very poor and non-paying assets.

The **second** conclusion is that the provision of assured irrigation in the form of Community Irrigation Wells has enabled the beneficiaries to reap regular harvests without being constrained by the vagaries of the rain-god. As a result of regular harvests, the beneficiaries' income levels have increased substantially and their indebtedness too has decreased. As a consequence, these beneficiaries were able to cross the poverty line barrier.

The **third** conclusion is that the Community Irrigation Wells have led to sustainable farming and a decrease in the debt bondage, and the improved incomes have led to economic empowerment of the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries and their family, now seldom look
forward for the mercy of money lenders, landlords, and other exploiters who were oppressing these sections earlier.

The fourth and final conclusion is that the sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and economic empowerment of these Scheduled Caste beneficiaries on account of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana led to social mobility and social transformation. This is evident from the fact that the Scheduled Caste beneficiaries were able to abandon their low-prestige traditional calling of leather work, seasonal and poorly paid wage labour to that of respectable peasant. Further, their family's involvement in the wage labour too has been very much restricted and the children are being sent to schools as their aspirations have raised.

Suggestions

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) Programme may be extended to cover more number of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes. Further, in order to make it more attractive and effective, the following suggestions may be considered in the implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana programme.

1. Defaulters - A re-look: Financial assistance has been given to the beneficiaries for digging wells under the Community Irrigation Wells project. At the time of digging all the wells may have water, but subsequently some of the wells may become dry as it is evident
in the case of study beneficiaries. With the provision of Community Irrigation Wells the beneficiaries are gradually coming out of indebtedness. Further investment for digging the well deeper for fixing in-well bores may make these beneficiaries poor again and so the beneficiaries should not be blamed as the defaulters. To avoid this, financial assistance may be extended through this programme to such beneficiaries to dig their wells deeper or to have in-well bores.

2. Silting: Though there is water in the majority of the wells, some of the beneficiaries have expressed the problem of silt in their wells. A provision may be made as a component of the Community Irrigation Wells project that some financial assistance is earmarked for desilting of such tanks in future.

3. Remunerating Farming: No doubt the Community Irrigation Wells project is fruitful for the beneficiaries but it alone will not be sufficient to enable the beneficiaries for more remunerative farming. Financial assistance may be extended for those beneficiaries who are not able to procure electric motor / oil engine because without electric motor / oil engine lifting of water is very difficult as it is evident from some of the wells of the study beneficiaries that have water without an electric motor / oil engine.

4. Improved / Modern Farm Technology: The lack of awareness of the respondents with regard to the improved method of cultivation
and modern agricultural operations is also evident in the study respondents. Awareness camps may be conducted as a component of the Community Irrigation Wells project on improved agricultural operations and modern farm technology. Mobile demonstrations on these aspects will make the beneficiaries familiarise themselves with the same and follow them.