CHAPTER - VI

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The present study "Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha: A Sociological study of peasant organisation" set out with the following objectives:

1. To trace the rudimentary stages, and the subsequent development of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha as a peasant organisation.

2. To compare, contrast and distinguish the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha with other peasant movements in the Indian context.

3. To systematically analyse and understand the functioning of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha as a peasant organisation by making an in-depth study of its organisational structure, functions, membership profile and organisational goals.

4. To highlight the objectives of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha and to assess the organisational achievements as against its programme of actions.

5. To assess the performance of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha in the political front.
6. To understand and assess the role and impact of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha as a peasant organisation in the rural society.

The thesis, has been, as a matter of convenience divided into six chapters and presented along with necessary statistical tables and diagrams. In the first chapter we have attempted to portray the scenario of Indian agricultural sector, in which it has been pointed out that pre-independent and post-independent government policies have pushed Indian farmers to various socio-economic problems and has driven them to an irredeemable position of poverty and chaos. As consequence of this, various agitations by farmers emerged all over the country. The emergence of farmers' agitation in Karnataka has also been discussed. Only after 1970, we come across the genesis of a few peasant organisations and the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha is one of them. While surveying the research on peasant movements it had been pointed out that a micro-comprehensive study of peasant organisations had been neglected. The chapter concludes with the definition and jurisdiction of the study.

In the second chapter objectives of the study and methodology of investigation have been discussed. The sample and identification of data needs and method of data collection along with conceptual frame work has been defined. The origin and
development and organisational history of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha ever since its inception, has been traced in this chapter. Various conditions that necessitated the emergence of this organisation has also been discussed.

The third chapter begins with a brief history of the district of Shimoga, which is the focal point of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha activities in Karnataka. In this chapter, the present organisational structure of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha has been presented with the help of an organizational chart. The chapter also discusses the nature of membership, code of conduct for satyagrahis, important guidelines for padayatris, and slogans to be used by the yatris. The unique features of the present organisation, the working of the organisation and sub-units have also been discussed in this chapter.

The fourth chapter pertains to the charter of demands presented by the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha to the state government. The various agitations and programmes organised by the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha, in order to pressurise the government has been presented in tabular form, in the chronological order. The achievements of the organisation against the goals set, have been explained. The socio-cultural dimension of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha with its unique
features has been explained. New programmes undertaken, like the orientation and training programme for office-bearers, and grass root workers, has also been mentioned.

In the fifth chapter the political ideology of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha has been discussed in detail. The thrust of this chapter is to show that the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha strives to be a political party with a difference; and such a difference arises from its novel and original ideology, which has been envisaged in the election manifesto. The election manifesto of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha has been analysed and the performance of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha as a political party in different elections and at different levels has also been discussed. While discussing the not so happy performance of the sangha, the views of members and leaders have also been discussed. The causes for the poor performance in the political front emerges from the fact that though the time is ripe for social and cultural identity and unity, the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha has not been able to emerge as a mammoth political entity. The influence of caste, religion, the present system of election etc., act as big hurdles in the way of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha in organising as successful political party, to establish a government of farmers.
Over a period of time the organisation has earned a track record of being sober, volatile, passive, at different times. The internal leadership conflicts has caused some cracks in the district units, and thus has been causing great setbacks to the organisation. In general, a large chunk of the members do not approve the political ambitions of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha.

Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha as a peasant movement and organization did not consolidate as a sound peasant organization as it neglected some vital issues in the agricultural sector. Issues like land for landless land reforms, Agricultural labourers wages social justice, class and caste issues were not properly addressed by the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha organization. In the early periods, the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha attracted Dalits and other weaker sections of rural society. The class and caste dimensions kept them away from the organization.

The professed Ideology of Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha appeared to be very broad based, the social content of the leadership and the social structure of the membership guided organization towards landed gentry and upper caste control. The leadership of the Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha organizations remained exclusively in the domain of dominant castes.
Secondline leadership did not develop at state district and other levels. The style of functioning of Prof. Nanjunda Swamy has proved to be boths strong and weak point of Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha. While Prof. Nanjunda swamy provided a strong leadership along with a very strong think tank to Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha. Sometimes his style of leadership and excessive centralization of organization discharted many and drove their out of the organization.

It has been found that the influence and existence of Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha in Karnataka State is uneven. In some districts like Shimoga, Chikamagalur, Hassan, Mandya Mysore, Dharwad, Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha has developed Stronghold. Incidentally, these districts also have large areas of cash crops cultivation. In other districts it has a limited existence and influence

The Karnataka Rajya Ryotha Sangha movement which aimed at fighting for causes of farmers and rural society did not achieve its untended objective of bringing all the farmers, labourers different rural classes and social categories under one Ideological umbrella to gear for a strong movement was struck by internal class and caste equations and relation
Presently, the organisation is trying to regain its hold on the farmers of Karnataka, by introducing a large number of programmes aimed at revitalising and rebuilding the organisation at grass root levels. The study concludes at this point.