CHAPTER 4

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4.1. Theoretical Orientation

This study had an explanatory research design and its purpose was to assess the social implications of IRDP in Kashmir valley with main focus on block Ganderbal in district Srinagar. The theories of Sociological Dualism and Critical Minimum Effort Thesis by J.H. Broeke and Leibenstein were applicable to the
present rural development. J.H. Broeke explained underdevelopment in terms of Sociological Dualism which he defined as 'the clashing of an imported social system with an indigenous social system of another style'. He pointed out that any effort to develop the underdeveloped countries along western lines could only hasten their retrogression and decay.

The central idea of Harvey Leibenstein's thesis was that in order to attain sustained growth, it was essential that the essential stimulant to development was of a certain critical minimum size. Socio-economic backwardness was characterized by a set of inter-related factors which had a certain degree of stability at their small equilibrium values. The actual values were different from the equilibrium values because the economy was always being subject to stimulants and shocks. The stimulants had a tendency to raise PCI above the equilibrium level.\(^1\) But, in backward societies, long term economic development did not take

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place because the magnitude of stimulants was too small. Leibenstein's thesis was more realistic because it was applicable to developing countries like India. Giving a big push to the programme of development all at once was not applicable while a critical minimum effort could be properly timed and broken up into a series of smaller efforts for sustained development.

4.2. UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

The universe of this study consisted of 'Block Ganderbal' in District Srinagar. It had two regions—Ganderbal Main and Gulabag. Block Ganderbal was a rural area comprised of 125 villages.\(^2\) The population of the villages varied from few hundreds to few thousands. Census 2001 showed the population of Ganderbal as 1,156,654 persons, out of which males constituted 59,913 (52%) and females 55,741 (48%). The total area of the block was 269.3 square kilometers. Census 1981 showed that there were 16,930 occupied residential houses.\(^3\)

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\(^2\) Census of India 1981, Jammu and Kashmir p.1
\(^3\) Ibid p.2
Ganderbal was a developing block and the economy was developing gradually particularly in agriculture and handicraft sector. People were educationally backward and literacy rate was 44.24%. People were mostly divided on the basis of class and less preference was given to caste in social relations. (For detail, see profile of community)

4.3. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

In order to collect the information about the concerned topic, both primary and secondary sources were used. The primary sources included the responses collected through interview schedule and observation. It also included some original works such as Censuses, departmental reports etc. The secondary sources consisted of books, journals, magazines, reports, government records, new-paper items etc. In most of the cases, detailed interviews sessions were conducted in which researcher used tape recorder to record the responses of the respondents. However, in some cases the responses were
jotted down on paper and then arranged and re-arranged to give it a proper shape.

4.4. FEILD WORK. An extensive fieldwork was carried out in the block Ganderbal. The researcher developed rapport with the respondents and sought answers to questions put to them. An attempt was made to seek answers from respondents individually and not in groups in order to avoid repetition of answers by respondents from each other, the limitation of which always remained within the group interview.

Interview schedule was taken as a method of data collection. The reasons for such kind of a choice were mainly sociological and methodological, since the majority of our respondents in the block were illiterate. The research for the field study was conducted in the period of 2002. All the respondents were in a succession of series interviewed and responses recorded. The concept of objectivity, to have its maximum orientation was taken into consideration and every possibility of wrong information
was checked. If the answer to a question seemed ambiguous, it was rechecked by cross-examining the data.

4.5. INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

An extensive interview schedule was prepared which contained both fixed-choice and open-ended questions. The Interview Schedule consisted of two parts. Part I included questions for Beneficiaries of IRDP. This part of Interview Schedule sought personal information such as name, caste, age, sex, education, religion, income and occupation and included questions on nature of IRDP loans and their loan repayment. It laid emphasis on direct and indirect implications of IRDP viz., economy, education, housing, women, sanitation and hygiene, family health, dress, land reform and social conflict. Part II included questions for the Officials of IRDP. This part of Interview Schedule sought information mainly about the implementation and coordination of IRDP.
Questions were framed on the basis of themes. Direct questions were put in a very simple language so that they could be well understood by the respondents. Simple questions which could be answered with an 'agreement' or 'disagreement', 'yes' or 'no' were considered to be easier to answer and therefore most suitable for the respondents. The questions were arranged in a sequence from easier and general questions to more pointed ones. Care was also taken to avoid any influence by the contents of the preceding questions upon the answers of the questions following them. Some of the questions were inserted to check the consistency of responses as given by respondents.

4.6. SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The sample of the study consists of 2 parts:

4.6.1. Beneficiaries of IRDP

A random list of beneficiaries of the IRDP was prepared from the block Ganderbal and information was sought from them. Random sampling was followed
since the size of the universe was extensive. For the study, 250 respondents were selected.

4.6.2. Officials of IRDP

The Officials of concerned departments viz., IRDP, ICDS, Banks and Agriculture, etc. were interviewed by the researcher and response was sought regarding the involvement and implementation of the programme.

4.7. Variables Used for the Study

4.7.1. Income standard of respondents

Income standard referred to the monthly gross income of the respondent from all sources measured in terms of rupees. It was divided into four sub-variables:

a) Income up to Rs. 3,000/- per month,

b) Income up to Rs.3,001-Rs.10,000/- per month,

c) Income up to Rs.10,001-Rs. 20,000/- per month, and

d) Income up to Rs.20,001 and above per month.
4.7.2. Family size of the respondents

Family size referred to the total number of individuals in a family both male and female living together. The criteria for judging the size of family was:

a) 10 members and above,

b) 5-9 members,

c) 1-4 members.

4.7.3. Educational Qualification of the Respondents

Educational qualification referred to the level of formal education achieved by the respondents. The criteria were:

a) Illiterates,

b) Academic qualification: Primary / Matric / Graduate / Post-graduate and above,

c) Professional/ technical qualification if any.
4.7.4. Age of the Respondents

Age referred to the chronological age of the respondents in years. It was divided into three parts viz.:

a) 46 years and above,

b) 31-45 years, and

c) 15-30 years.

4.8. DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

The respondents of Block Ganderbal were put under Sociological investigation during the study. The response given by respondents was in a raw form and therefore assigned code. These code numbers with responses were then noted on tabulation sheets. These statistical figures made the tabulation of data possible. Tables were made theme-wise. Identical responses were counted and placed in a tabular form. The similar and dissimilar responses were aggregated. Each thematic table was explained on the basis of the aggregate of the
responses provided by the respondents. Correlation of the responses was made on the basis of respondents' social and economic affiliation, education and demographic status. A detailed sociological analysis of the findings of each thematic table and responses were provided in relation to the implication of rural development. This sociological explanation led to the finalization of present thesis.

4.9. DIFFICULTIES FACED. The researcher minimized the difficulties which arose during the study but still some problems could not be ruled out. First, many of the respondents lived in far-flung and scattered areas; it was a little difficult to approach them during rainy days. Second, the problem of rapport existed for some time but this was solved to a great extent by making the villagers in general and village notables in particular conscious about the objectives of purely an academic study. After developing rapport with the respondents they were assured that their identity would not be revealed especially with regard to some extremely personal and sensitive questions. Third, the research work stopped for some time because of the political conflict in the valley. The villagers initially
suspected the intentions of the study but their confidence was gained. However by adopting scientific technology and objective analysis the degree of bias was negated to the minimum.