In this chapter an attempt is made to offer conclusions on the nature and extent of the impact of economic development on political participation by the masses and leaders of wet and dry areas and the working of democratic institutions in these two areas as discovered in the study. This chapter includes suggestions for the maximum and effective participation and theoretical contribution, and the areas for further research.

Conclusions

In the course of nearly three decades the life of the people of the wet area has been changing. The changes are found in the economic, political and social aspects of the rural life of the people of the wet area. Though these changes are also visible in the dry area, the process of change is rather slow. This interesting course of change in the universe of the study is traced in this thesis. The changes in the life style and outlook of the people towards political participation are the result of economic development. The construction of roads, introduction of
reforms in agriculture, increase in the size of irrigated land, widespread starting of schools and colleges, medical facilities and expansion in the mass media services have had a profound bearing on the people. In the field of agriculture, with increase in the size of irrigated land and application of scientific methods and the use of high yielding variety of seeds, great improvement is made in the wet area. The study found that these developments have influenced the political attitude of the people of the wet area and enhanced their level of participation.

The study proved that with improvement in the economic conditions of the people there has been considerable improvement in the political participation by the masses and leaders. It is proved that masses and leaders of the economically developed wet area differed significantly with the masses and leaders of the dry area in the level of participation in all the political activities. In comparison to the economically developed wet area, the dry area is characterised by being less exposed to the political arena, less use of modern consumer goods, and less number of persons holding higher positions in political parties and economic and socio-political institutions.

The objectives of this study have been realised by linking the independent variable i.e. economic development
with the dependent variable i.e. political participation. The linkage between the independent and dependent variables is also explained through the intervening variables (size of land holding, occupation, literacy, caste/community). The hypotheses of the study have been tested with the help of the independent variable and intervening variables.

The study discovered that there is a positive relation between economic development and voting. It is found that there is an increase in the level of participation in voting with the increase in the level of income. In the wet area it is found that in Lok Sabha, assembly, Z.P. and M.P. elections the level of participation in voting has increased with increase in the level of income and has decreased with decrease in income. The study confirmed that in the dry area also the voting turnout is significantly less in the low income groups and more in the higher income groups. However the percentage of participation by the masses in voting in Lok Sabha, assembly, Z.P. and M.P. elections is more in the wet area than in the dry area. The frequency of voting in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections is also more in the wet area than in the dry area. The study discovered that economic development is positively related to valid voting. The
percentage of valid voting is more in the wet area than in the dry area.

With regard to canvassing the data presented and analysed obviously show that there is a positive relationship between participation by masses in canvassing and economic development. The study found that there is a change in the level of participation between the masses of the wet area and of the dry area. It is evident that the level of participation in election campaign to Lok Sabha, assembly, Z.P., M.P., and V.P.C., is considerably more in the wet area than in the dry area. The frequency of participation in canvassing in the wet area is more than in the dry area.

Regarding demonstrative activities like processions, agitations, strikes and rallies, the hypothesis—that higher income is followed by greater participation, is upheld. The study discovered that variation in the geographical area leads to variation in the level of participation by the people. It is proved that economic development affords more opportunities for participation in demonstrative activities.

As far as membership of the economic co-operative institutions and socio-political institutions is concerned it is found that, compared to the dry area, the rising economic
development of the wet area is positively associated with membership of these institutions. In both areas middle and higher income group respondents secure more number of memberships of the organisations than the low income group respondents. It is found that the percentage of membership of the various organisations has been considerably more in the wet area than in the dry area.

While examining the impact of economic development on the membership of political parties by masses it is proved that economic development widens the scope to become members of political parties. The percentage of members of political parties is more in the wet area than in the dry area. The economic threshold to participate in donating money by the masses appears to be above an annual income of Rs.10,000/-. 

While analysing the office bearers of economic and socio-political institutions it is found that barring some exceptions the percentage of persons holding positions in these institutions is more in the wet area than in the dry area. Most of the office bearers of these institutions are drawn from the middle and higher income groups. The study proved that economic development helps people to hold more positions in economic and socio-political institutions. The data helped to predict that to become office bearers of
economic and socio-political institutions an individual should have an annual income of above Rs.5,000/-. It is found that very few persons having less than Rs.5,000/- annual income tend to become office bearers.

In the study of the relationship between economic position and holding positions of political parties, it is proved that the higher economic position of a person the greater are his chances of holding positions in political parties.

The study has precisely shown that economic development has acted as a unique agent of change in the level of participation by the masses in all the activities analysed above. It has exercised a far-reaching influence on political participation by the people. The level of political participation of masses belonging to high, middle and low income levels has been found significantly different. The study displayed that the masses from low income groups participate more in easier political activities like voting and canvassing and very few of them participate in the more difficult activities like donating money, holding positions in economic and socio-political institutions and political parties. But the middle and higher income group people participate more in easy as well as difficult activities. They exploit the opportunities of participation more than the low income group people do.
It is found that some of the respondents have never exercised their franchise. When asked for the reason they said "politics is the game of rich persons and we are poor." Some more respondents said that, they are socially backward and they have low status in society. Yet others said that they have no time to take part in politics and they have to go to the field to work early in the morning to earn their daily bread. Some others said that there is no gain from politics. Some answered that they have no interest in politics. The reasons for their non participation in voting reveal that most of the non voters are poor, they have no time to participate in politics at the cost of their daily bread and they are not exposed to political stimuli. Till today they are not benefited by any development programmes. They have no economic security. Hence they are unable to know the importance of their voting power and their role in democracy.

Effective and maximum participation depends by and large upon the economic development in particular and all-round development in general. Increase in the economic development is followed by greater levels and more varied forms of political participation. With the growth of economic development of the nation the political consciousness and efficacy of the individuals' increase.
Economic development is closely related with the intervening variables like, size of land holding, occupation, literacy and caste/community. In order to examine the impact of economic development on political participation, these intervening variables are used. As far as the correlation between the level of participation and size of land holdings is concerned, the findings of the study sustained the hypothesis that level of participation by the masses is more among big land holders than among the small land holders and landless labourers. The percentage of participation in voting in all the elections is more among the wet area land holders than among the dry area land holders. The level of participation in election campaign by the masses having no land and masses having below 2 acres of land of the wet area is more than of masses of the same groups of the dry area. Similarly, the level of participation by the big land holders of the wet area in canvassing is more than of the same groups of masses of the dry area. It is confirmed that as the size of land holding increases the level of participation in voting and canvassing increases. The size of land holding differentiates the level of participation between the masses of the wet area and the masses of the dry area.
Regarding the correlation between occupation and participation by masses it is found that the agriculturists, business-men, domestic workers, and labourers of the wet area vote more than their counterparts of the dry area. The masses who have occupations with higher incomes participate more in voting than the masses who have occupations with low incomes. So there is a positive relation between occupations with more income and a higher level of participation.

Both the literate and illiterate people of the wet area vote more than the literates and illiterates of the dry area. As a result of economic development and politicisation in the wet area the difference in the level of voting between the literates and illiterates is not found. But the level of participation in voting in the dry area in all the elections increases with increase in the level of literacy.

Regular voting in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections is more among the Lingayats in both areas. They have a high socio-economic status in the society. The frequency of participation in voting in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the wet area is more among the Lingayat, Jain, Kurba, Hanabar and Scheduled Tribe caste/community than their counterparts of the dry area. The Lingayats vote more than the rest in Z.P. and M.P. elections in both areas, yet the percentage of voting by the Lingayats of the wet area
is more than that of the dry area. The percentage of non-participants in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the wet and dry areas is more among the Scheduled Caste people who have low socio-economic status in the traditional society. The Scheduled Caste and Muslim community people do not vote regularly in both areas.

Upper caste groups like Lingayat and Jain in the wet area and Lingayat and Brahmin in the dry area participate more in canvassing. In the campaigning activity, the level of participation of Lingayat, Hanabar, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Jain caste/community groups of the wet area is more than of their counterparts of dry area. The Scheduled Caste which has traditionally low socio-economic status has become able to participate actively in canvassing in the wet area. This change is the result of economic development in the area.

The study of the relationship between caste/community and the membership of political parties upholds the hypothesis that participation by the upper caste people is more than by the lower caste people. The level of political participation by people belonging to upper caste/community is more than of the people belonging to lower caste/community. But the level of participation by the masses of different caste/community groups is more in the wet area than in the dry area. As a
result of economic development in the wet area, low caste people are becoming able to compete with upper caste people in the political arena. It is obvious from the study that economic development enables the low caste as well as upper caste people to avail of the political opportunities provided by a democratic form of government.

III

The socio-economic background of the leaders reveals that the percentage of women and the number of new and young leaders is more in the wet area than in the dry area. The level of literacy of the leaders of the wet area is higher than that of the leaders of the dry area. In both areas a greater proportion of leaders has emerged from the agricultural profession. Labourers, artisans, unskilled workers and unemployed persons lag behind in holding political positions in both areas. In both areas, leaders having above 5 acres of land are fairly ahead in holding political positions than the small land holders. In both areas the Lingayat community leaders are more in number and they hold a large number of positions. 83.3% leaders of the wet area and 67.2% leaders of the dry area are generated from the income groups of above Rs.10,000/- annual income.
The impact of economic development on political participation by the leaders is very clear. The level of participation in house to house canvassing and frequency of participation in house to house canvassing by the leaders of the wet area is considerably more than by the leaders of the dry area. The study proved that higher income has a distinct relationship with frequency of participation by the leaders in house to house canvassing. The frequency of participation in this activity among the low income group leaders is remarkably less. The hypothesis—that the economic development or higher income of the leaders significantly increases their level of participation, is sustained.

While analysing the correlation between economic development and conveying voters to the polling booth, it is found that there is a positive relationship between the two. The frequency of participation by leaders of the wet area in this activity is more than that of the leaders of the dry area. The level of frequency of participation increases with increase in the level of income of the leaders.

With regard to the frequency of contributing money to political parties or candidates, the income variable exercises considerable influence. The relationship between economic development and the level of participation in contributing
money is positive. The frequency of participation in donating money by leaders to the political parties or candidates is more in the wet area than in the dry area. The level of contributing money directly increases with increase in the income of the leaders.

It is found that leaders of higher income groups are fairly ahead in solving the problems of their locality than the leaders of low income groups. The level of participation of leaders of the wet area in solving the problems of the locality is more than that of the leaders of the dry area. It can be said that a higher level of economic development enables the leaders to participate in solving the problems of their locality.

It has emerged from the study that economic development has increased the level of participation of the leaders of the wet area in the organisational activities. As the organisation of election meetings, political processions, agitations and strikes is a difficult activity; the level of participation by the low income group leaders is remarkably less in these activities. The level of participation of the leaders of wet and dry areas in the organisational activities is more among the higher income groups. But the level of participation by the leaders of the wet area in this activity
is significantly more than that of the leaders of the dry area.

The study confirmed the hypothesis— that the higher economic position of a leader the greater are his chances of participation in political activities. It is obvious from the study that in both areas, participation in leading delegations or joining delegations as one member of delegations is meant for the leaders of middle and higher income groups. In wet and dry areas maximum number of participants in this activity are drawn from income groups of above Rs. 15,000/- per year. The level of participation by leaders from the wet area in leading or joining delegations is more than that of the leaders of the dry area.

The study confirmed that there is a close relationship between the higher level of economic development and higher level of participation by leaders in contesting elections to various democratic institutions. It is evident from the study that leaders from the low income groups contest elections only to the local bodies like M.P. and V.P.C. elections, and they do not contest state level elections like the assembly. As the income increases the level of participation in contesting elections to district or state level democratic bodies increases. The percentage of leaders contesting elections to
various democratic bodies is more in the wet area than in the dry area.

As far as the linkage between economic development and holding offices in economic co-operative and socio-political institutions is concerned, it is found that economic development exercises its influence to the maximum extent on the leaders' participation in holding offices in economic co-operative and socio-political institutions. It is proved that higher the income of a leader greater are his chances of holding an office in economic co-operative and socio-political institutions. The percentage of leaders holding positions of different institutions is more in the wet area than in the dry area. Economic development has enabled the leaders of the wet area to hold more positions in institutions than the leaders of the dry area. The study discovered that there is an economic threshold of holding positions in economic co-operative and socio-political institutions. The threshold indicated by the study is nearly an annual income of above Rs.10,000/-. The chances of a leader with an annual income of below Rs.10,000/- holding positions in the economic co-operative and socio-political institutions are likely to be less than those of the persons having an annual income of above Rs.10,000/-. 
The findings of the study confirmed that leaders from higher income groups are dominant in holding positions in political parties and there is a direct relationship between higher level of income and holding office in political parties. The level of participation in the decision making process by the leaders of the wet area is more than that of the leaders of the dry area. It is observed that low income group leaders do not have much voice on the floor of the house. But the higher income group leaders can either support the proposal made or oppose them strongly. Therefore it is proved that economic development not only leads to wider political participation but to effective participation.

The study has undoubtedly displayed that economic development variable is the most powerful variable of political participation. The quantity and efficacy of participation of the leaders belonging to high and low income groups has been found remarkably different. The study exposed that low income group leaders participate more in easier political activities like house to house canvassing, but few of them participate in the more difficult activities like organisation of election meetings, processions, agitations and strikes, leading or joining delegations, holding offices in economic co-operative and socio-political institutions, holding positions in political parties, etc. On the other hand the higher income group leaders participate
more in easier as well as difficult activities. Low income group leaders contest elections only to the local bodies at the village level. But the higher income group leaders contest elections to the district level and state level democratic bodies.

The higher income group leaders have more money, time and skill than the low income group leaders. That is why high income group leaders participate more in difficult activities which require these resources. The process of economic development is followed by the process of politicisation. Hence the leaders of the wet area are more benefited by these developments. So their level of participation is higher than the level of participation by the leaders of the dry area. This process of uneven development in the two areas has widened the gap in the level of participation between the leaders of the wet area and the dry area.

The study of linkage between the level of literacy and the level of participation by leaders revealed that the level of participation increases directly with increase in the level of literacy. Literacy has become an important instrument of canvassing in the wet area more than in the dry area.
Regarding the level of participation by the leaders in convincing the people why they should vote for one of the parties or candidates, it is confirmed that the level of participation by leaders in this activity increases with increase in the level of literacy. With regard to donating money it is found that literate leaders donate money more to the parties or candidates than the illiterates. The literate leaders of the wet area donate more than the literate leaders of the dry area. Similarly illiterate leaders from the wet area donate more than the illiterate leaders of the dry area.

The level of participation by the literate leaders of the wet area in the organisation of election meetings, political processions, agitations and strikes is more than that of the literate leaders of the dry area. Similarly the illiterate leaders of the wet area participate more in the organisational activities than the illiterate leaders of the dry area. The more educated leaders participate more in the organisation of demonstrative activities than do the less educated.

Regarding the linkage between literacy and leading or joining delegations, the findings of the study proved that leaders with more education participate more in this activity than the less educated leaders. The literate and illiterate leaders of the wet area participate more in leading or joining
delegations than the dry area literate and illiterate leaders respectively.

The impact of economic development on the literacy groups in holding offices in economic co-operative and socio-political institutions is remarkable. The literate leaders of both areas hold almost all the positions in these institutions. But the percentage of leaders of the wet area in holding positions in various institutions is more than that of the literate leaders of the dry area. It is discovered that economic development positively influences the literacy variable and in turn literacy (intervening variable) influences participation of the leaders. Hence there is a higher level of participation in the wet area.

It is proved that the more educated leaders participate more in the decision making process than the less educated leaders. The level of participation of the more educated leaders of the wet area in decision making is more than of the more educated leaders of the dry area. It is evident from the study that economic development of the wet area has motivated the illiterate, less educated as well as the more educated leaders to participate in political activities. But the process of economic development and politicisation is very slow in the dry area and compared to the wet area leaders, the
level of literacy of the leaders of the dry area is less. Therefore the level of participation by literate and illiterate leaders of the wet area is more than that of the literate and illiterate leaders of the dry area. So it is confirmed that literacy is positively related to the leaders' participation in various political activities.

The study found that the upper caste/community leaders who have a high socio-economic status in the traditional society are even today ahead of the low socio-economic status leaders in the level of political participation. Even so, as a result of economic development the leaders belonging to the traditionally low caste/community have also improved their position in the level of participation. The process of participation of these caste/community leaders is, however, slow, but a definite change is taking place.

The analysis of the relationship between caste/community and leaders' participation in distributing polling cards and literature revealed that the Lingayat leaders of both areas who have a high socio-economic status in the traditional society are fairly ahead of others at the participatory level. The frequency of participation in distributing polling cards or literature is more among the Lingayats of both areas. The Lingayat leaders of the wet area are followed by Jain and
other castes leaders who have also a high socio-economic status. But Scheduled Caste leaders having a low socio-economic status in the traditional society secured second place in this activity. In the dry area Lingayat leaders are followed by other caste and Brahmin leaders in that order. Compared to the level of frequency of participation by the leaders of Lingayat, Jain, Beda, O.B.C., Other caste and Scheduled Caste of the wet area, the level of frequency of participation by the leaders of these castes/communities of the dry area is less.

In the level of leaders' participation in solving the problems of the locality, Lingayat leaders are ahead of others in both areas. A comparative study of wet and dry areas showed that the down-trodden caste leaders are slowly coming up and participating in the organisation of demonstrative activities. Economic development of wet area has influenced the oppressed caste leaders to participate in organising demonstrative activities. In wet and dry areas the percentage of Lingayat community leaders in the organisation of election meetings, processions, agitations and strikes is more than the remaining caste/community leaders. The Lingayat, Scheduled Caste, Jain, Other Backward Caste/community leaders of wet area participate more than their counter parts of dry area in the organisation of demonstrative activities.
Participation in leading or joining state level delegations to contact chief minister and state government ministers is found mainly among the leaders of high socio-economic status caste/communities, and particularly among Lingayat, Jain and other caste leaders of the wet area and Lingayat, Brahmin and other caste leaders of the dry area. The percentage of participation by the leaders of the wet area in leading or joining the state level delegations is more than by the leaders of the dry area. The leaders of low socio-economic status caste/communities participate generally in the easier delegations like delegations to contact government officers of their area.

As a result of economic development the low socio-economic status caste/community leaders, particularly, Beda and the Scheduled Caste have become able to hold some positions in economic co-operative and socio-political institutions in the wet area. But in the dry area, till today Lingayat, Brahmin, and other caste leaders who have a high status in the traditional society have a hold over these institutions, and the low socio-economic status caste/community leaders lag behind in holding positions in these institutions.

In both areas offices in political parties at the state and district level are held only by the Lingayats. Since 1970
no low socio-economic status caste/community leader has held these positions. In both areas the taluka level positions in political parties are also held mainly by the Lingayat, Brahmin, Jain and other caste leaders.

It is clearly proved that upper caste leaders, particularly, Lingayat, Jain, Brahmin and other caste leaders are fairly ahead in the level of participation in difficult activities like leading or joining delegations to contact chief minister or state government ministers, holding offices in economic co-operative and socio-political institutions and positions of political parties at district or state level. The low socio-economic status leaders participate generally in the easier activities. But in the wet area the leaders of low socio-economic status groups are gradually participating in leadership activities. It is evident from the study that the higher socio-economic status of a leader the greater are his chances of political participation.

The Lingayat community leaders are dominant in the sphere of political participation in both areas. Jain and other caste leaders of the wet area and Brahmin, Jain and other caste leaders of the dry area participate more than the leaders of low socio-economic status caste/communities. The study has precisely shown that, though the caste/community groups are the same in both the areas, the level of participation in almost all activities by the leaders of different caste/communities of the wet area is generally
more than that of their counter-parts of the dry area. This reflects the economic development of the wet area. The study has clearly established that, as a result of economic development, the level of political participation by the leaders of the wet area has immensely increased. The high socio-economic status caste/community leaders are in a position to avail of the opportunities of participation offered by the democratic system. The sources of the strength of the leaders as discovered by the study lies in their socio-economic background.

The study of participation by leaders of wet and dry areas established that the leaders of high income groups and upper caste/communities dominate the political sphere. The economically developed and traditionally privileged leaders of both the areas have acquired new sources of political power and entrenched themselves firmly in positions. However, in the wet area some Scheduled Caste people have also become leaders. The emergence of new and young leaders of high socio-economic status as well as some Scheduled Caste leaders is an evidence of the progressive change in the political arena. In the economically developed area leadership is slowly emerging on the basis of economic status. Economic power has become a source to hold political positions. But the number of Scheduled Caste leaders compared to other upper caste leaders is
insignificant. The extent of emergence of new leaders in the wet area indeed is very impressive. The younger generation is slowly taking charge of the political leadership and the old leadership is slowly giving place to the new.

IV

The process of economic development has led to building of institutions. There is a significant variation in the number of economic co-operative institutions and socio-political institutions of the wet area and the dry area. The process of growth of these institutions is speedier in the wet area than in the dry area. The growth rate of the membership of the economic and socio-political institutions of the wet area is also faster than that of the institutions in the dry area. This enormous increase in the number of institutions and their membership is the result of motivation by the economic development of the wet area.

The democratic working of the institutions of the wet area is altogether different from that of the dry area. The study found much variation between the wet area and the dry area in respect of the mode of election of the board of directors, chairmen and vice-chairmen of various
institutions. There is greater competition in the wet area in holding positions in economic co-operative and socio-political institutions. Elections to choose the office bearers are more in the wet area than in the dry area. The frequency of changes in the office bearers of the economic co-operative and socio-political institutions is more in the wet area than in the dry area.

The meetings of political, economic co-operative and socio-political institutions are held more periodically in the wet area than in the dry area. Regular attendance of office bearers of these institutions is also more in the wet area than in the dry area. The opposition in the institutions of the wet area is also stronger than in the dry area institutions. The incidents of walk-out on account of disagreement with resolutions to be passed on the floor of the house are more in the wet area than in the dry area. Because of the strong opposition by members of the institutions, some of the proposals made in the meetings are withdrawn in the wet area. But in the dry area in no institution any proposal has been withdrawn. It is due to the weak opposition or absence of opposition in the institutions of the dry area. Unlike in the dry area institutions, in the wet area the opposition party or groups have a considerable voice in the process of decision making.
and the opinion of the opposition members is respected by the ruling party.

Most of the members of institutions of the wet area participate more actively in the proceedings of the meetings than do the members of dry area institutions. The decisions taken on the basis of majority of votes of the members of the institutions are more in the wet area than in the dry area. In the dry area almost all decisions in most of the institutions are taken unanimously. In the wet area all the institutions are responsible to the general body for the acts of omission and commission. But in the dry area two socio-political institutions are not responsible to their general bodies.

As a result of economic development in the wet area the financial position of 52.8% political, economic co-operative and socio-political institutions is sound but in the dry area the financial position of 31.8% institutions is sound. Due to economic development of the area, sound financial position of the institutions and more competitive nature of the members of the institutions of the wet area, 72.2% institutions of wet area are working quite satisfactorily. On the contrary, as most of the institutions of the dry area are facing financial difficulties, only 22.7% institutions are working quite satisfactorily. These findings amply
prove that the institutions of the wet area are working more democratically than the institutions of the dry area.

As there are more number of institutions in the wet area, the leadership provided by them is more than that of the dry area institutions. The findings of the study proved the hypothesis—that the growth and democratic working of the political, economic co-operative and socio-political institutions is more in the wet area than in the dry area.

It is evident from the study that economic development has brought about changes in the growth and democratic working of the institutions of the wet area.

V

Irrigation is the key towards political participation in an agricultural society like India. In the light of the findings of the study it can be theorised that large-scale irrigation facilities generate resources of economic development and agro-based industrialisation, which in their turn provide a higher standard of living, more literacy, more transport and communication facilities, market centres, urbanisation, etc. These factors in turn politicise the people and leaders enabling them to participate more actively and effectively.
The new irrigation facilities not only change the crop pattern from single crop farming to double crop farming but it also replaces dry crops like Jowar, ragi, millet, etc., by cash crops like sugarcane, paddy, fruits and vegetables and oilseeds. The changes in the crop pattern and introduction of cash crops multiply the proportion of agricultural crops and completely change the economic position of the farmers. This breakthrough in the field of agriculture leads to economic development of the agriculturally dominated area.

The increase in the proportion of agricultural production as well as agro-based industrial production requires new markets. So new markets come up. The new markets and the agro-based industries provide a number of job opportunities and attract the rural people to these centres. This leads to urbanisation. Further development in agriculture, industrialisation and urbanisation leads to more education, flow of information, advancement in the field of transport and communication, more employment facilities, higher income, higher standard of living and so on. These factors ultimately influence the political attitude of the people, and motivate them to participate more actively and effectively in political activities. Thus large scale irrigation facilities lead to politicisation and effective political participation. Though increase in the
large scale irrigation facilities does not directly politicise the people, it generates the process of politicisation through relative or intervening factors. It means that the process of politicisation, effective as well as widespread participation are indirect result of irrigation in the countries where agriculture is a predominant occupation.

In the present study the wet area has gone through all these stages to a limited degree and it indicates the general trend that more irrigational facilities will ultimately lead to greater politicisation of the people.

It can therefore be theorised that increase in the large scale irrigation facility leads to effective and more political participation. The process of politicisation is shown in the diagram below:

\[
\begin{align*}
A & \rightarrow \text{Irrigation facilities.} \\
D & \rightarrow \text{High literacy, more transport and communication, urbanisation.} \\
B & \rightarrow \text{More production, more employment, more income.} \\
E & \rightarrow \text{Politicisation and more political participation.} \\
C & \rightarrow \text{Agro based industries market centres.}
\end{align*}
\]

A is the cause and E is the effect. B, C and D are relative or mediating factors.
The socio-economic environment constitutes the input and political participation constitutes the output in this study. There is more change in the environment of the wet area than in the dry area. The higher income, more education, more exposure to mass media and widespread transport and communication facilities have exposed the individuals in wet area to the outer world including political participation. All these factors have positively influenced the individual's attitudes and political behaviour. Thus the environment consisting all these factors have politicised the individuals and encouraged them to participate in political activities in the wet area. As there is not much improvement in the environment of the dry area in terms of the above components, no such great change is witnessed in the political behaviour of the people of the dry area.

**Suggestions for Maximum and Effective Political Participation**

In the light of the findings of the present study, the following suggestions are made for maximum and effective participation by the masses and leaders and to strengthen the various democratic institutions.
The study has proved that economic development maximises political participation. Economic development or higher income and higher education provide greater opportunity and ability to the masses and leaders to participate in various political activities effectively and to the maximum extent. This would mean that an all-round development of the nation maximises the level of political participation by the masses and leaders. Therefore every action should be taken by the government of India and every state government to realise the goal of economic development in particular and all-round development of the nation in general.

The government would do well to take measures to increase the agricultural production by increasing the area under cultivation and irrigation facilities. It has to do something to increase the yield per hectare by encouraging multiple cropping patterns and scientific cultivation. It has to fix fair support prices to all the products of farmers by taking into account the cost of production and purchase the products. The farmers should be persuaded to follow modern scientific methods by providing them sufficient seeds, fertilizers, equipments of cultivation and financial assistance.
It is found that uneven or unbalanced economic development increases the gap between the rich and poor as well as a developed area and a backward area. This variation leads to variation in the level of participation. This can be prevented by even or balanced economic development and elimination of the gap between the rich and the poor.

With the growth of economic development of the nation political consciousness and efficacy of political participation of the individuals increase. For economic development leads to more education, more communication, urbanisation, higher standard of living, etc. In brief, economic development provides more incentives and opportunities for participation. So the government and the political leaders who are in power have to launch new programmes for economic development and implement them sincerely.

The people who belong to the traditionally low socio-economic status caste/community should effectively participate in political activities to the maximum extent to improve their socio-economic conditions. Political participation is the strongest weapon in the hands of the citizens of a democratic country. People from the low
socio-economic caste/communities can use it to draw the attention of the government and policy framers to their problems. In short, those who have a greater need of the services from the government should participate more actively in political activities than the others.

The findings of the study suggest that to make institutions to work democratically, punctually, and to motivate the office bearers and members of the institutions to participate actively and effectively in the affairs of the institutions, economic development of the area is fundamental. So the government should initiate necessary programmes in this regard.

The economic co-operative and socio-political institutions should get more guidance through training programmes for their office bearers. The financial position of the institutions of the dry area is weak. So the government should provide sufficient financial assistance to them.

**Contribution to the Democratic Theory**

So far, some political scientists have made studies of the correlation between socio-economic status variable and political participation. The findings of these earlier
studies are sustained in the present study. The present study has tried to identify the impact of economic development on political participation in the two regions having a disparity in the level of economic development.

The study provides an insight into the working of the democratic theory by correlating the economic development and political participation in various spheres by the masses and leaders.

This empirical study contributes to the democratic theory by analysing the impact of economic development on political participation. Every theory is to be tested on the basis of empirical work. This work partly explains how the economic factor contributes to the successful working of democracy at the grass-root level. The study reveals that the successful working of democracy depends among other things on economic development. Higher the economic development, greater is the political participation. This democratic theory can be operationally valid and relevant only when economic development takes place.

The study has tried to suggest several dimensions of economic development and their impact on many dimensions of the working of democracy at the grass-root level. This study empirically contributes to the successful working of participatory democracy at the grass-root level.
Area for Further Research

A single factor approach is used to understand the multi-dimensional political participation in this study. Only a few intervening variables are considered in this work. A study which can analyse all the factors influencing the level of political participation needs to be designed.

To identify the impact of economic development on the political participation by the masses and leaders, a study should be made in different phases, particularly after every five years. Such studies help to find out the stages of changes as well as degrees of changes in the level of participation.

A study of the changing leadership in the economically developing democratic society with reference to certain areas can be taken up.

Finally, a study of the impact of democratic leadership, political parties, pressure groups etc., on economic development can be made.