CHAPTER - 7

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS
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This part of the present study contains two sections. First section includes the summary of the main findings of the previous chapters. In second section suggestions are drawn in the light of the main findings.

Gulbarga district had very low development base when it was integrated with Mysore (now Karnataka) state. The conditions prevailing today continue to be the same. The under developed nature of the district economy is reflected in various characteristics such as dominance of agriculture, above 70 per cent of the population is engaged in it, the weak industrial base, inadequate infrastructural facilities etc. Gulbarga district is a classic case characterised by agrarian backwardness and high incidence of suicides related to agricultural crop loss were reported in Gulbarga district. Hence, it would be of great importance to study the nature and dynamics of agrarian structure of the district.

The present agrarian structure of Gulbarga district is characterised by decrease in the average size of holdings, increase in the number of small and marginal sized holdings due to increase in concentration of land, sharp increase in number of agriculture labour households, inaccessibility of institutional credit to rural poor, and deterioration in condition of tenants as more and more tenancy has been
brought under crop-sharing tenancy mostly under informal tenancy arrangements. The present agrarian structure can be radically changed only by effective implementation of land reform programmes. The specific objectives of the study are to: 1) analyse the growth performance of Gulbarga district, 2) examine the agrarian environment of the district in terms of production, marketing and financial constraints. 3) analyse the changing size distributing pattern of operational holdings in Gulbarga, 4) examine the changing composition of agricultural workforce in Gulbarga, 5) evaluate the progress of land reforms in Karnataka and analyse the impact of land reforms on the socio economic status of agrarian structure in Gulbarga, and 6) suggest measures to improvement socio-economic conditions of the farmers and agricultural laborers.

The study seeks to verify the following hypothesis. 1) There is an intensification of marginalisation process of the agrarian structure. 2) More backward the region, more unfavourable is the agrarian climate.

The study is based both on primary as well as secondary data. The primary data were collected from the 253 sample households from the four selected villages. While the primary were collected from the sample farmers by interview schedule, the secondary data is collected from the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, the District Statistical Office, District Commissioner's Office and the Census reports as well as the books and articles in public domain. Simple statistical techniques are used in the study.
The study adopts a multistage stratified systematic sampling method. In the first stage the district was purposively selected and the next stage selection of the Taluks was done by comparing their performance in 14 development indicators. Thus, one advanced (Sedam) and one backward (Jewargi), were chosen for study. In the third stage four villages from each Taluks one advanced and one backward village were selected. In last stage from each size classes of farmers and agricultural laborers 8 percent sample was derived using systematic sample from each of the villages.

SECTION - I

7.1 SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS

1) The major problems facing the district economy are poverty, unemployment, inequality in differences in the level of development of different parts of the district. The backward position of the district is due to low agricultural development caused by recurrent droughts and famines and inadequate irrigation facilities. The scarcity of capital, entrepreneurial skill and low infrastructural base have contributed to the low industrial development of the district economy.

2) The analysis of spread of development across taluks in the district, with the help of fourteen development indicators shows that imbalances in development have steadily declined over the period. The ranking pattern from 1970-71 to 2000-2001 obtained with
fifteen indicators shows wide differences. Gulbarga emerges to be the most developed taluk in all the time periods and Shahapur, Chitapur taluks are at the bottom level of development.

3) The demographic factors viz., literacy rate, occupational status reveal that they are more favourable in advanced villages than in backward villages.

4) The trends in operational holdings suggest that the number of total holdings in the district as a whole and across the Taluks increased from 433490 to 548808 between 1980-81 and 2000-2001 and also the area under them increased from 1393291 to 1399381 hectares, which is not in the same proportion.

5) Across the farm size classes, the proportion of marginal holdings and area under them has increased during the two decades. Such an increase is more rapid in the dry and unirrigated Taluks, like Aland, Gulbarga and Yadgir. Thus, there is intensification of the marginalization process in the district agrarian economy.

6) The proportion of small and semi-medium holdings and area under them is also significantly increased. These two are the dominated classes in the study area. Contrary to this, the proportionate share of medium and large size holdings and area under them declined in the district as a whole, but it was not uniform across the Taluks. The decline is mainly due to the high rates of partitioning, land
alienation for diversification into non-farm employment and alienation due to sale etc.

7) The average size of holdings has declined from 4.97 hectares to 2.55 hectares in the district as a whole. The decline was much faster in Aland, Afzalpur, Jewargi, Shahapur and Shorapur.

8) The proportion of irrigated area is higher in advanced villages (4.6%) as compared to backward villages (1%). It is found that the marginal and small farmers owned more irrigated land under the study area.

9) The tenancy practice is more in backward villages than that of advanced villages. The lessors and lessees predominantly hail from marginal and small size classes.

10) The proportion of purchased land is more in small and semi-medium size classes. It is 35.3 per cent and 27.6 per cent respectively. The sold land is more in case of medium and large size classes (59.5%).

11) The proportion of area under food crops (87.4%) is higher than that of non-food crops (12.7%) in both category of villages. The low productivity of major agricultural crops is quite glaring and also a major concern. However, higher productivity is observed advanced villages rather than in backward villages.

12) The proportionate share of output enhancing inputs is more popular and extensive in advanced villages, whereas, the backward villages are lagging behind in this respect. This widens the gap between the
advanced and backward villages. The main reasons for low utilization of the strategic inputs by the farmers in backward villages are lack of extension, poor transportation, illiteracy, absence of demonstration, under-development of non-farm activities, soil erosion and inadequate use of new technology.

13) The marketing and financial facilities are more favourable in advanced villages than in backward villages. Nearly 49 per cent of the formers is reported to have sold 28.2 per cent of their produce in the village it self. However, relatively lesser production is reported to have sold in village itself and the quantity sold is also relatively lesser. Where as non-institutional agencies have played a crucial role in providing credit for sample households that of 57.84 per cent.

14) One fifth of the sample farmers reported production constraints and crop failures due to various reasons. It was highest in advanced villages than in backward villages. The proportion of marketing constraints like transportation facilities are not available, inadequate storage and packing facilities are reported to be better in backward villages than in advanced villages. The marginal and small farmers reported more production, marketing and financial constraints in study area. Thus, the more backward the region, harsher is the agrarian climate.

15) The changing composition of the agricultural workforce in Gulbarga district shows that the proportion of agricultural workforce has
declined from 70.70 per cent to 67.29 per cent between 1970-71 and 2000-2001.

16) The proportion of male workforce has experienced a decreasing trend. As against this the female share has increased. It is higher than that of the total agricultural workforce, which points towards the feminisation of the agrarian structure.

17) The proportionate share of cultivators has declined whereas that of agricultural labours has increased. It seems that prolaterisation of agrarian structure is underway in the study area.

18) The agricultural workforce is highly casual in Gulbarga district. Casualisation already exists in the rural area. Therefore, it may be concluded that the agrarian structure of Gulbarga is characterised by the process of prolaterisation, feminization and casualisation, which leads to the problem of poverty and insecurity.

19) According to survey data the agricultural workforce is higher than that of non-agricultural workforce in rural area. The male workforce predominates in the cultivation of land, but female workforce is predominating in agricultural and non-agricultural labour force in sample villages. The majority of male workers have received wages of Rs.50 and above and female workers have received upto Rs.50 only.

20) The implementation of land reforms in Gulbarga shows that hardly 17.76 per cent of tenants got ownership rights and 41.58 per cent of
surplus land was redistributed. It would seem that land reforms were not properly implemented.

21) The predominant tendency in the selected villages under study is growing marginalisation and landlessness largely due to debt mortgage etc. The proportion of middle and large farmers also declined because of partitioning. The poor in these villages are landless and marginalised farmers who are characterized by growing family size and high dependency ratio. They depend on uncertain labour market and hence, depend on local moneylenders for loan. The marginal farmers are not able to invest in land development due to poor resource base and lack of support from financial institutions. Another important factor is that these households are exposed to greater vulnerability as they do not have any productive assets to fall back during crisis.

22) The landless and marginal farmer households are characterised by pauperization small pieces of land holding, higher dependency ratio, unproductive landholdings, and dependence on wage labour. The viability of small farming seems to be low; and, this gets reflected by almost total lack of investment on land development. At the same time, it does not mean that these households are not adopting any strategies to overcome the pauperising tendencies. They seem to be diversifying into non-agricultural activities and are adopting other strategies to derive sustenance.
23) More of the marginal and small farmers belong to SC/ST households than medium and large farmers and 50 per cent of agricultural labourers belong to these categories of households. It is revealed by the present study that average wages paid to agricultural labour is quite low. The wage paid to female labour is lower than the average paid to male labourers.

24) Per capita income of agricultural laborers including small and marginal farmers is less than that of medium and large size farmers. Agricultural labourers have been get a lower amount of loan by institutional agencies than other size class of farmers under study.

SECTION -II

7.2 SUGGESTIONS

The findings of the present study will lead to the following suggestions for policy purpose.

1) The backward position of the district economy is mainly due to inadequate irrigation facilities, low infrastructural base, low industrial and agricultural development. Hence, these urgent attention for the overall development of the district economy.

2) The inequality in the distribution of land holdings among different size classes have lot of implications for poverty and inequality in rural areas. Land reform need to be rigorously implemented.
3) The inadequate use of new technology, poor transportation, illiteracy, absence of demonstration etc., are problems that need special attention by authorities concerned.

4) The institutional agencies should be encouraged to lend more loan to small farmers. The marketing structure also needs a reorientation to serve the small and marginal farmers in a better way.

5) All necessary efforts should be made to redistribute the surplus land and enforce ceiling laws with firmness. Moreover, the rights of tenants and share croppers need to be recorded and security of tenure be provided to them.

6) The central and state governments should formulate and implement a comprehensive scheme, specially for the small and marginal farmers in order to make their farms viable and also profitable by extending all services including supply of inputs at cheaper rates and extension. Modernisation of these farms with the latest technology and management methods is essential. Research as well as the development of agricultural and related sectors should be small farm oriented.

7) Government wastelands, degraded lands as well as fallows should be reclaimed, developed and allotted to the small and marginal farmers and agricultural laborers. Further, land consolidation and updating of land record should be implemented expeditiously.
8) The government must take steps to improve socio-economic condition of labourers with better implementation of the minimum wage Acts, eradication of illiteracy, increasing the bargaining power of the agricultural workers, better housing conditions, better health facilities, (for instance, village health centres with adequate supplies of medicines and provision of safe drinking water), creation of public works, by organising public works Programmes (e.g, the building of roads, bridges, schools, hospitals etc, or the digging of canals) in the lean months to solve the economic problems.

9) The active role of mass organisation and non governmental organisations is necessary for the successful implementation of the Anti-Poverty programmes. The farmer and agricultural labour organisations should reorient their activities so as to mobilise the benefits and fight against the leakage of funds.

Thus, the general backwardness of the district is reflected in the backwardness of its agriculture. The conditions are still worse in backward regions of the district. Further, it is the smaller farmer and landless households that bear the major burnt of underdevelopment. Whatever development initiations taken up so far seem to have not benefited these sections. Hence, the study recommends region specific and group specific approaches to solution of the problems. Moreover, in a liberalising economy, the poor farmer should not be left to the vagaries of the market.