CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The youth of the country constitute the backbone of a nation and plays the pivotal role in the socio-economic change of the nation. Many studies have been carried out on urban youth and their development and changes. The role of rural youth also cannot be ignored in social development and change. Whether they may rural or urban they are credited with a burning zeal and unlimited enthusiasm even if they are accused of lack of direction and approach.

Today’s rural youth are very keen towards change. Though there are some hurdles in their villages they are eager to changes. The scenario of Indian villages has not radically changed till today. They are surrounded by casteism, blind beliefs, traditions etc. In spite of all these the rural youth are optimistic towards the change in their villages.

For the sake of clear understanding the rural youth is defined in the present study as, ‘Rural youth is the age group of 15-24, who resides in Indian rural society.’

The present study on ‘Rural Youth and Social Change’ is therefore aimed at understanding the rural youth and their life and problems. The
The present study has been carried out in Hirekerur taluk [Haveri Dist; Karnataka state]. The study has analyzed 250 samples drawn from four villages such as Gundagatti, Balambeed, Kaalvihalli, Doodihalli.

These 250 samples were selected with Random Sampling method and as a major tool used to collect the information was interview schedule, comprising 125 questions. The findings of the interview have been analyzed, discussed and conclusions drawn as stated in the proceeding chapters.

The study begins with the profile of the sample selected for the present study. The profile of the study included an account of objectives, study area, demographic conditions of the field, socio-economic background of the samples etc.

The main and important results of the present work are categorized into four parts for the presentation as shown below:

- profile of the respondents
- Political participation and youth leadership
- Changing attitudes and aspirations of rural youth
- Problems of rural youth

**Findings Regarding Profile of the Respondents.**

An understanding of the socio-economic background of the respondents is very necessary to understand the nature of the respondents.
The profile of the respondents included mainly their age, religion, caste, occupation, income, marital status, family type, education etc.

Out of 250 respondents most of the respondents in this study are in the age group of 15-24. The average age of respondents is 18 year the age which is more crucial and productive in the life of any youth.

The present study mainly included two important religious groups, they are Hindu and Muslims. It is observed from the analysis that a majority of the respondents belong to Hindu religion. [90.0 per cent] Muslims are only 10.0 per cent.

The study reveals that, most of the villages in Hirekerur taluk are dominated by caste, it is true with the present study i.e. the selected four villages such as Gundagatti, Balmbeed,kaalvihalli,Doodihalli are also dominated by caste system. Lingayat caste [ sadar Lingayat] respondents are more than other caste.

In present study the caste is divided on the basis of hierarchy into three categories.

1] Higher caste groups
2] Middle caste groups
3] Lower caste groups

It is observed in the study that high caste groups enjoy all opportunities as a regional dominant caste.
Since occupation of the family is having direct link with the socio-economic status of rural youth, the family occupation of the respondents is analyzed. It is observed from the analysis that a majority of the respondents represent agricultural family i.e. about 65 per cent of the households are engaged in agriculture. The present study proved that till today agriculture serve as a dominant occupation in Indian villages.

With regard to the annual income of the households significant number of the households [50 per cent] have annual income less than Rs 10,000/- only, 2 per cent of the households of the respondents have annual income Rs 2-3 lakhs.

With regard to the size of family concerned a majority [90.0 per cent] families are nuclear in nature. And only 10 per cent of the families are joint. It clearly indicates that, the villages of present study have favorable tendency towards nuclear family.

Regarding the marital status only few respondents are early married [6 per cent] the rest are unmarried. So far as literacy is concerned the findings show that a majority of the respondents are literates [96.0 per cent].

**Findings Regarding Political Participation and Youth Leadership**

In the present study the political participation and youth leadership are analyzed. It is noted that youth participation in civic and political
processes is increasingly recognized. In this context an attempt is made to analyze the representation of their political party.

The findings show that around 58 per cent male and female youth have not represented any political party. On the whole the scenario indicates that rural youth are having less interest in direct political participation.

The role of the youth will be the deciding factor in the general elections. Similarly an attempt is made to analyze the role of youth in elections. Majority of the respondents have interest only in voting [64.8 per cent] rather than propaganda, active participation and competing in the election.

With regard to the youth organization findings show that, most of the rural youth are happy with informal organization such as ‘geleyara balaga’, ‘bhajana manadali’ etc. where as 44 per cent of the rural youth are not involved with any organizations.

An attempt is made to understand the rural youth leadership quality, the present study shows that most of the respondents are in favor of youth leadership [97.2 per cent], they prefer youth leadership for change oriented and their progressive ideas. The findings in the present study clearly indicate that youth leadership is necessary for changes and developments in the villages.
Experiences reflects that though rural youth are expected to play better role in political participation, but some factors hinder their active political participations. With regard to this, respondents expressed their obstacles such as poor economy, lack of support from parents, caste etc.

Caste determines everything in Indian society. It is true with political participation also. Present study reveals that, upper caste people [Sadara lingayata in present study] enjoy more privileges than the lower caste. Lingayata [18.4 per cent] and Kuruba’s [8.4 per cent] have participated in political activities. Hence it is proved that higher the caste status and higher the political participation.

With regard to the voting 48 per cent respondents have opined that it is a sacred right some 21 per cent rural youth have not interested in casting votes.

Findings regarding political disgust of rural youth reveal that some 39 per cent youth have developed political hatred ness for corruption. Some 16 per cent youth hate for its moral deterioration. 12 per cent of the rural youth hate politics for goondaism.

**Findings Regarding Changing Aspirations of Rural Youth**

In present study an effort is made to analyze the changing aspirations of rural youth towards education, occupation, family structure, age at marriage and their recreational activities.
An attempt is made to understand respondent’s opinion on rural staying. Majority of youth prefer for rural living. Out of 250 respondents only 34 responses were in favor of urban dwelling.

Regarding their educational and career aspirations information is collected on whether an education is for job or knowledge? Around 60 per cent respondents said that it is for job, only 9.6 per cent said it for knowledge purpose.

A findings regarding present education, 75.6 per cent said that, the present education is good. Where as 24.4 per cent youth said it is bad.

Regarding educational aspirations, rural youth till today they aspire more for P.U.C and Graduation [48 per cent and 36 per cent]. But only 2 per cent respondents are aspiring higher education. It is also noted that higher the caste and higher the education. Majority of the respondents [95.2 per cent] have supported co-education for one or other reasons.

Findings on occupational aspirations show that, 39.2 per cent respondents are aspiring to become teachers, some 29.2 per cent are aspiring to get government jobs.

Regarding their social aspirations information was collected on family structure. Most of the respondents aspire to have nuclear families. only 10 per cent aspire to live in joint family. As regards ideal age at marriage.43.2 per cent respondents remarked 19-21 as an ideal age at marriage.
In present study an effort is also made to know their means of entertainment programmes. 36 per cent respondents said that rarely they visit film theatre. Except 10.4 per cent respondents all other youth oftenly visit theatres for their entertainment.

Regarding their aspiration towards modern dress information was also collected. 97.2 per cent youth aspire to modern dresses. Till 2.8 per cent youth are happy with traditional dress patterns.

**Findings on Problems of Rural Youth**

In present chapter an effort is made to understand problems of rural youth. They are saddled with many problems and which they cannot solve.

The present study has classified rural youth problems broadly under two categories:

1] Personal problems

2] Social problems

The personal problems include;

- Alcoholism and smoking
- Adjustment problem
- Inferiority complex

The social problems of rural youth are:

- Casteism
- Poverty

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Unemployment

It is evident that most of the social problems are confined to the rural social structure. Whereas personal problems are common to rural as well as urban youth.

Regarding their personal problems, alcohol and smoking are major causes of concern for our country. Alcohol addiction has not remained just an urban phenomenon but even the rural areas are widely affected by the same.

Hence an effort is made to study drinking and smoking habits of rural youth. Opinions were collected on these issues. Majority of the respondents [64.8 per cent] agree that drinking and smoking are the common habits of rural youth. 11.2 per cent have not responded to the question, some 24 per cent disagreed with the question.

Further it was studied that to what extent the rural youth have cultivated the habit of alcoholism. 4.8 per cent have just tasted, 10 per cent youth have drank forcibly, 16.8 per cent drink occasionally. Some 6.4 per cent seek opportunity to drink. 53.2 per cent have never consumed alcohol. It was noted that consuming alcohol even today is considered as a stigma which is totally prohibited to rural female youth.

An attempt is also made to understand their adjustment problem. In view of this information was collected from the rural youth. 44 per cent of rural youth said that lack of computer knowledge they face adjustment
problems, particularly with urban students and areas. About 22 per cent said they lack better exposure. Some youth [21.2 per cent] said they are poor in English language and communication which made them to face an adjustment problem.

Regarding their inferiority complex information was collected on how often they feel inferiority complex? 33.6 per cent have said they feel inferior all the time. Some [23.2 per cent] have said many times they feel inferiority complex. Over all majority of the respondents feel inferiority complex in varying degrees.

While studying their social problems responses were collected on caste impediment for education and mobility. Majority of the respondents [76.4 per cent] agreed that it is an impediment. 19.6 per cent have not considered it as an impediment for their education and mobility.

Further an effort is made to analyze the condition of poverty, a question was asked to the respondents on their basic facilities. Ultimately it is found that 36 per cent are living under below poverty line. Meanwhile information was also collected on their educational expenses. About 68.0 per cent respondents meet their expenses by their parents. 4.4 per cent youth by doing part-time work, meet their expenses. Hence it is clear that majority of the respondents are dependents for their expenses.

An attempt is made to understand their unemployment problem.11.2 per cent opined that, due to poor quality of education they
face unemployment. 24.8 per cent respondents have said that, lack of accessibilities and corruption is the main cause of their unemployment problem.

**Suggestions**

- The role of youth in general elections will be the deciding factor, but in present study the findings show that around 58 per cent male and female youth have not represented any political party. On the whole the scenario indicates that rural youth are having less interest in direct political participation. To make aware of politics and success of democracy the awareness should be created among rural youth by reserving some seats for them.

- Caste determines everything in Indian society. It is true with political participation also. Present study reveals that, upper caste people [Sadara Lingayat in present study] enjoy more privileges than the lower caste. Since independence the situation is same. It should be changed. The government and some political organizations have to bring awareness among rural youth to enjoy political participation, rights and privileges.

- In present study it is found that the level of higher education [post graduation] is very less, only 2 per cent respondents are getting higher education. In regard to this some measures should be taken
such as free bus pass, special scholarship, free admission for rural students etc.

- It is found that rural youth are having adjustment problems with urban environment and students. It is because of they lack of computer knowledge and communication skills. These can be set righted, with the help of government and non-government agencies. Infosys and Wipro are doing favorable work in this regard.

- In the present study it is noted that, in one or other way rural youth have inferiority complex which is psychological in nature. Measures like counseling, English speaking classes, personality development courses can improve the problem.

- It is found that in present study 36 per cent of the respondents are living below poverty line. Appropriate measure should be taken to eradicate the poverty of rural youth.

- Rural youth are anxious about unemployment problem. By giving quality education, training and skills it can be controlled.