Chapter – I

RESEARCH ISSUES AND DESIGN

1.1 Content
1.2 Statement of the problem
1.3 Objectives of the study
1.4 Methodology
1.5 Organization of the study
1.6 Limitations of the study
1.1 The context:

The problem of rural development in India is multi-dimensional and complex and its crux is abject poverty. In underdeveloped countries like India, poverty is a condition of life so characterized by the economic, social and sex conflicts. The problem of poverty in India is not merely economic, it is symptomatic of a deeper socio-economic and political crises.\(^1\) (Prasad, 1992:1) India is primarily characterized by her rural areas encompassing about 5,50,000 villages. Rural areas have been defined as those having human habitation of 5,000 and below, with agriculture as the main economic activity and with a density of population less than 400 per Sq.Km. However, some habitations with more than 5,000 population are also classified as rural in view of agriculture—being the main economic activity of a vast majority of population in that area.\(^2\) (Balakrishna, 1990:11)

The importance of rural areas in the Indian context is portrayed by the fact that, nearly about 74.17 per cent\(^3\) (GoI, 2001) of the total population lives there, of which an overwhelming majority i.e., about 68 per cent\(^4\) (GoI, 2001) is employed as agricultural workers and labourers.
It is thus fairly clear that, despite recent urbanization, agriculture continues to support a major population.

The basic village structure in India has its own identity accompanied by its various castes and a fine blend of agricultural and industrial occupations. It is thus, rightly pointed out that, "The village communities are little republics, having nearly everything that they want within themselves, and almost independent of foreign relations, they seem to last, where nothing else lasts. Dynasty after dynasty tumbles down; revolution succeeds revolution... but the village community remains the same." (Carl, et al 1965: 29) Besides this, the villages have also preserved much that we value as our cultural heritage” (Sushila, 1980: 27). Rural development is at the top of the agenda in national policies of developing countries. Rural development as a concept has been variously defined and interpreted. In the past rural development was often considered synonymous with agricultural development. In India, during the sixties, agriculture became the nuclear of developmental activities, but extension concerned with agricultural development created disparities and inequalities, which is against the basic objectives of rural development.

However, in recent years rural development has transcended the area of agricultural development and is looked upon in national development plans in broader perspectives. Infact, rural development
is wider in scope and deeper in impact. It is essentially concerned with improvement of living standard of the low income population living in the rural areas on self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio spatial structure of their production activities. Further, it implies a broad based reorganization and mobilization of rural masses, so as to enhance their capacity to cope effectively, with the daily task of their lives and with the changes consequent upon this. (Moboquiyal, 1980: 26)

The rural development policy paper of the World Bank observed that, "Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people – rural poor. It involves, extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas. The group includes small scale farmers, Tenants and the landless". (World Bank, 1975: 3)

With the above context, it is clear that, the basic strategy for the gradual and rapid development in any country lies in the upliftment of the villages. Keeping this in view, the present day developing countries, like India muster their administrative abilities to gear up the rural development as their future strategy lies in it. The wretched conditions of the millions of the poor, who live in cornered villages dragged the attention of the democratic and socialistic pattern governments and made them to realize that, their future stability and
safety lies in the planned and attentive gradual rural development. Hence, the government has bent upon prophesying and implementing a wide variety of developmental programmes with the objective of providing higher income, employment generation and basic necessities like food, shelter, clothing and health to the downtrodden sections of the society through rural development. Thus, in the recent times the importance of rural development is widely discussed in a developing country like India, as a part of this process. The Indian government gave much importance to the rural development after Independence, and the result is the flow of several programmes whose main objectives are to utilize the natural resources and manpower and to drive away poverty.

Unfortunately, rural development programmes failed to produce upto the marked standards and expected results. As the self-introspection gave a clear idea to the government that, it cannot completely shoulder the responsibility of rapid rural development, so, it has given a clarion call to the local and voluntary organizations whose objectives, ideas and programmes coincide with the objective of the government. Thus, the picture is made very clear for the voluntary organizations to come into the developmental scenario, as voluntary action is global phenomena. In the course of time the role of voluntary organization in rural development reached a watermark and their
importance cannot be denied by any scholar who wishes to have an overall assessment of rural development programme.

Many scholars have explored the hidden facts regarding the objectives of voluntary organizations. Their research has gone to the extent of bringing into limelight the awareness of the rural people regarding the voluntary organizations and the mutual relationship they have maintained with the rural people.

1.2 Statement of the problem:

The present study examines the broader role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (sometimes it is also called voluntary organization) in rural development programmes. The study stresses on the aspect of the role and the necessity of NGOs in the rural development as well as making a critical analysis of their success and failures. The aim of the study is to analyse deeply, with the help of empirical data, their role and contributions to the rural development. The role of NGOs whose existence and service in the rural development has to be noticed, accepted and appreciated.

In view of this, the present study plans to analyse, understand the role of NGOs in rural development in Bagalkot District of Karnataka. Specifically Bagalkot districts is selected on the ground that, it is one of the backward district of North Karnataka and is rural based district
because it consisting 625 revenue villages, 244 habitations and 163 Gram Panchayats\textsuperscript{9} (PCR, GoI, 2001). As many as 33 NGOs which are specially undertaking Rural Development Programmes in this district, since 1983, for the upliftment of rural poor people.

Hence, the study is taken up to analyse the various programmes undertaken by these NGOs in addition to the Government sponsored programmes, such as employment generation, agriculture development, household industries, self employment, formation and development of SHGs, social, cultural and economic development, social, legal, political, environment and sanitation awareness programmes. It is therefore also important to generate and document information regarding the rural development programmes undertaken by the NGOs in the district. This is useful for policy makers to design, investigate resource activity for promoting sustainable development in the study area. The findings of the study will add to the knowledge about the voluntary sector and its role in rural development besides providing valuable data to researchers, academicians and planners. It will also be useful to the organizations working in the field of rural development. In sum, it may be stated that the findings of the study will be of immense use to all connected with the issues of rural development.
The NGOs contribution to the rural transformation is significant. They are not only helping to the success of government programmes but also trying to improve the rural people through their own various programmes. But so far there are no adequate studies throwing light on the role of NGOs and their contribution to the rural development in the study area. The present study is a unique one, which is mainly trying to identify the role and contribution of NGOs in the Bagalkot district and identifying the problems faced by them. For this purpose two NGOs viz., Rural Development Society (RDS) and Socio Educational and Rural Child Health (SEARCH) are chosen, which are functioning since more than a decade in the district.

These two NGOs are non-political, secular and working for economic and social justice. Since their inception, they have undertaken a number of rural development programmes. In view of the above justification it was planned to study the role of NGOs for the welfare of the rural people in Bagalkot district of Karnataka.

1.3 Objectives of the study:

The objectives of the study are to:

➢ analyze the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries;
➢ analyse the programmes undertaken by the NGOs under the heads of Training, Economic, Social and Cultural and Awareness programmes;
➢ study the role of NGOs in promoting employment and income of the beneficiaries;
➢ study the impact of Government sponsored rural development programmes implemented through NGOs;
➢ identify the problems faced by NGOs in implementation of the rural developmental programmes.
➢ provide policy prescriptions for effective implementation of rural development programmes.

1.4 Methodology:

The present study is a micro level study in the Bagalkot district of Karnataka based on primary and secondary data.

1.4.1. Selection of NGOs:

Bagalkot district is one of the backward districts of the North Karnataka. Consisting of 625 revenue villages, 244 habitations and 163 Gram Panchayats. As many as 33 NGOs are working for the development of rural poor and marginalized. There are many NGOs whose objectives varies in their nature and activities. Among them we have selected these two NGOs namely Rural Development Society (RDS) and Socio-Educational and Rural Child Health (SEARCH). Which are registered and are members of FEVORD-K. The main purpose of selecting these two NGOs is that these are mainly concerned with the rural development programmes and are working for more than a decade in the district. These have been actively engaged in
implementing a number of programmes in rural areas of the district since their inceptions. These two NGOs are non-political, secular and working for economic and social justice. Since their inception, they have undertaken a number of rural development programmes for the upliftment of the poor in rural areas. These two NGOs are also the pioneers in implementing Campaigning Against Child Labour (CACL) and SHGs programmes in the district.

1.4.2. Selection of Villages:

Through a multi-stage random sampling method 10 villages viz., Kamatagi, Ameengad, Sulibhavi, Bevinal, Ramthal (all belong to SEARCH NGO) and Gaddankeri, Semikeri, Soknadagi, Yadahalli and Kundaragi (all belong to RDS NGO) belonging to three talukas (Bagalkot, Bilagi and Hunagund) of Bagalkot district in Karnataka are selected. The criteria of selection of village is as follows:

a) Villages, where all the programmes of these two NGOs are implemented.

b) Distance from the of NGO Head quarters – The main purposes of selecting villages on basis of distance from the head quarter is to know how far the programmes have reached the remote villages and the villages around the head quarters. Kamatagi and Gaddanakeri these two villages are being head quarters of the NGOs of SEARCH and RDS, respectively. Two villages
(Bevinal and Ramathal), which are nearer to the NGO head quarters i.e., within 10 Kms. Four villages (Amingad, Sulibhavi, Kundargi and Simikeri) which are away from the NGO head quarter between 10 – 20 Kms and two villages (Yadahalli and Sokanadagi) which are away from the head quarter more than 20 Kms. are selected.

1.4.3. Selection of Beneficiaries:

The beneficiaries are selected on the following criteria.

a) A beneficiary who has been associated with NGOs for a minimum period of 2 years, this time period would help beneficiaries to form opinion.

b) The beneficiary who has availed or participated in atleast 5 programmes/activities undertaken by the selected NGOs.

On the basis of these criteria, the list of beneficiaries was prepared with the help of NGOs officials and staff. We have selected 300 beneficiaries (i.e., 150 beneficiaries from each NGO) of both male and female (150 male beneficiaries and 150 female beneficiaries from 10 villages i.e, 30 beneficiaries from each village are selected at random. A technique of verbal method for securing data is used and the relevant data was collected through a schedule by contacting and interviewing them personally.
1.4.4 Collection of data:

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. For the collection of primary data a structured interview schedule is used. Care was taken to include most of the variables which are relevant for the study. Information is collected by interview method. The data is also collected through unstructured interview with NGO leaders, members, experts and officials. The data were collected during April to June 2006.

The secondary data is collected from published and unpublished reports of the Government, NGOs, Journals, Books, Articles etc.,

The present study analyses the Training, Economic, Social and Cultural Development Programmes and Awareness Programmes undertaken by these two NGOs in the study area during the last 5 years i.e., 2000-05.

1.4.5. Tools and data analysis:

The present study makes use of simple statistical tools like average, percentage etc., and emphasis is on tabular analysis of the data. Different types of graphs as such bar chart, pie charts are also used wherever necessary to present the data.

1.4.6. Importance of the study:
In Bagalkot district, nearly 33 NGOs are specially undertaking rural development programmes. Their contribution in the rural development of Bagalkot district is significant and their contribution in improving the standard of living of the rural people through a variety of programmes is very significant. The studies emphasizing their role and contribution of NGOs in transforming the rural economy are not adequate in study area. The present study is a unique one which is focusing on the identification, of their role and contribution to the rural development through a number of programmes in Bagalkot district.

The programmes undertaken by the NGOs are broadly classified into 4 main groups. Viz – (a) Training programmes (b) Economic programmes (c) Social and Cultural development programmes and (d) Awareness programmes.

a) Training programmes - are classified into two categories i.e., (A) Agricultural Training programmes which are sub-divided into (i) Agricultural development training programmes such as training in the use of modern techniques in agriculture, use of HYV seeds, fertilizers, feticides, sprinklers, vermi compost, harvesting machines etc., (ii) Training programmes in agricultural allied activities such as dairy farming, sheep and goat rearing, poultry farming etc., (B) Employment training programmes which are classified into two categories viz. (i) Vocational training programmes, such as weaving, tailoring,
readymade garments etc., (ii) Self employment training programmes such as food processing production of home industries products like pickle, pappad, agarbatti etc.,

b) Economic programmes – Economic programme undertaken by these NGOs classified in to three categories viz. (A) Agriculture and agricultural allied activities such as agriculture, vermi-compost programme, dairy farming, sheep and goat rearing, poultry farming. (B) Employment programmes are grouped into two types (i) Self-employment and (ii) Wage employment, which are sub divided into (a) wage employment generation through NGOs own programmes. (ii) Government sponsored wage employment programme through NGOs. (C) Formation of self help groups.

c) Social and Cultural Development Programmes – are classified into 5 categories viz.

i) Education programme namely Adult education programme.

ii) Health programmes such as General health check-up, Family welfare programme.

iii) Women and child development programmes – like immunization, care of pregnant mother, nutrition food etc.

iv) Housing programmes.
v) Cultural programmes such as sports, folk songs, folk dance, street plays, drama, youth competition.

d) Awareness programmes – are classified into five categories; (a) Social awareness programmes like child marriage, child labour, devadasi system. (b) Health awareness programmes like HIV, TB, Malaria, Tobacco related diseases. (c) Legal awareness programmes such as Dowry Act, Child marriage Act, Child labour Act, Devadasi system Act, Gender equality Act, Untouchability Act. (d) Political awareness programmes Function of panchayat raj, Rights and Duties of elected members, Indian Constitution, Fundamental rights, Leadership quality, Rural election, Importance of franchise, Patriotism etc., and (e) Environment and Sanitation Awareness Programme such as Social forestry, Importance of drainage, Cleanliness of house surroundings Use of toilets.

The study mainly emphasizes on these programmes and the strategy followed by the NGOs in the implementation of these programmes. It also studies particularly the impact of these programmes on the beneficiaries. It is also tried to know the success of the government programmes implemented through NGOs.

It is a qualitative analysis rather than quantitative using statistical methods. The study clearly shows the role of NGOs in transforming the rural economy through the implementation of various programmes in
the study area. The purpose of the study is to know how far these NGOs are implementing programmes successfully, how far these programmes have benefited the rural poor and thereby their performance is assessed.

1.5 Organization of the Study:

The study is organized into Nine chapters. They are as follows:

Chapter – I - Research Issues and design:

In this chapter the context, statement of the problems, Objectives, Methodology, Organization of the study and Limitations of the study are dealt.

Chapter – II - Rural development and NGOs in India:

This chapter is divided into two parts. Part-A deals with the Concept of Rural Development. Economic and social conditions and various rural development programmes undertaken in India before and after independence. Part-B deals with the definition of NGOs, classification and the some important NGOs in India and Karnataka in general and Bagalkot district in particular.

Chapter – III - Review of Literature:

This Chapter deals with the review of literature relevant to the present study.
Chapter - IV - Profile of the District, study area and selected NGOs:

The Geographical, Climatic and Infrastructural facilities available in the district and in the selected villages of the study are given. It also gives the profile of two selected NGOs.

Chapter - V - Socio-economic profile of the respondents:

In this chapter social and economic conditions of the selected respondents are analyzed.

Chapter - VI - Training and economic development programmes undertaken by NGOs: (Analysis of primary data)

This chapter is divided into two parts. Part-A discusses the training programmes undertaken by the NGOs. Part-B deals with the analysis of the economic development programmes undertaken by the NGOs based on the primary data.

Chapter - VII - Social and cultural development programmes and awareness programmes undertaken by the NGOs: (Analysis of the primary data)

It deals with social and cultural development programmes and awareness programmes undertaken by these NGOs.

Chapter - VIII - Overall performance of NGOs programmes:

In this chapter an attempt is made to understand the overall impact of NGOs programme, NGOs and Government programmes and problems faced by NGOs etc are dealt.
Chapter – IX - Summary and Conclusions:

A brief Summary, findings of the study and policy suggestions are given in this chapter.

1.6 Limitations of the Study:

The study is confined to the beneficiaries of two selected organizations only. The study is mainly based on primary data collected from the respondents (beneficiaries) of the organizations. The present study is confined only to a Bagalkot district of Karnataka state. The findings of the present study cannot be generalized to the other areas of NGOs role in rural development.
References:


2) Balakrishana, Sarita (1990): “Role of Voluntary Organization in Rural Development” (with special reference to their role in poverty alleviation) Ph.D. Thesis, Bombay University, Bombay. (memu)


