CHAPTER I

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

India has traveled a long distance on the road to development since independence and has made significant progress in various sectors. However, the development has not kept pace with the overall progress in other facets of national life. Even today, nearly 27 percent of the rural poor subsist in poverty and there remains an acute shortage of basic facilities such as housing, drinking water and roads in rural areas.

To correct the imbalance remedial steps have been taken in the last few years to bring Rural Development to the forefront of national reconstruction. In the process the most disadvantaged sections of the society receive high priority. To ensure sustainable development of rural areas the allocations for rural development have been increased substantially. As against a budgetary allocation of Rs.9760 crore during 2000-01 the allocation provided in the year 2001-02 was Rs. 12,265 crore. This has been further enhanced to Rs.13, 670 crore for the year 2002-03.

The Anti-Poverty programmes are a dominant feature of government initiatives in the rural areas. The programmes have been reviewed and strengthened in successive years in order to sharpen their focus on reduction of the rural poverty.

The government from time to time for rural reconstruction and the removal of rural poverty has launched many programmes. It is a sad commentary that even after the passing of five decades rural sector has failed to register any substantial development. Rural development efforts are marked by regional imbalances in growth, implementation of the development schemes, lack of people's full participation in the programmes, vested interests of the local politicians, wide spread illiteracy, ignorance and poverty along with the prevalent resistance to
the change and inertia of rural population. These factors have formed an unbroken chain or a vicious circle of poverty.

In Sangli district majority of population lives in 731 villages, amidst the shadows of under development and poverty. Majority of villages are still inhabited by the rural poor peasants who have been identified as small and marginal farmers, farm tenants, share croppers, landless workers including indigenous artisans. Field observation has shown that land still plays a pivotal position in the economic structure of the study region.

The present study concerns such a people of rural sector of Sangli district especially in the context of the functioning of the Rural Development Programme. The study is directed to assess the impact of the programme of Rural Development on the beneficiaries in selected villages of Sangli district especially in terms of rural reconstruction.¹

In the present study we also studied with special reference to Central Government Scheme Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). SGSY play an important role in the developing of rural area in Sangli District. In April 1999 Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied programmes such as Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), and Million Well Scheme (MWs) have been restructured into a single Self-Employment Programme called the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

It is the result of such latest review and restructuring of programmes. The SGSY is different from earlier programmes in terms of strategy envisaged for implementation and has been conceived as a holistic programme of Self Employment. This programme is basically a Self-Employment Programme.²

1.2 CONCEPT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural Development has been the main plan of India’s development strategy from the very beginning of the planned era. In a broad perspective, rural development contains all aspects of improvement
in the quality of rural life. However, in true sense, it involves extending the benefits of developments to poorest among those who seek livelihood in rural areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development. But in its limited interpretation, rural development has come to mean a direct attack on rural poverty through various Rural Development Programmes.

Seventy percent population of India is living in rural area and majority i.e. nearly 30 percent of them living below poverty line. The upliftment of the rural people and the alleviation of the rural people and rural poverty are the necessary and logical components of rural development. The economic development of the country in the true sense means development of the rural areas. The Mahatma (Gandhiji) had rightly observed; “If Villages perish. India will perish”.³

As the main problem of rural area is associated with poverty, unemployment, underemployment and inequality, the process of rural development will naturally tend to solve these problems. But the concept of rural development is associated only with the weaker sections of rural population consisting of small and marginal farmer’s, landless agricultural laborers, rural artisan, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes who are economically and socially poor. The problem is not merely one of the developments of rural areas but of the development of the rural communities, of which our nation intends to dispel ignorance and poverty and assist the process of creating self-reliant and self-sustained healthy modern life communities.⁴

This is a reason that the concept of rural development is very complex and therefore, one must however, be cautious in defining rural development as the word carries different dimensions in different situations.

In developing countries, rural development and national development are inter-related, the formal determining the level and rate of the latter. It is a driving force for the entire development process and lies at the heart of national development.⁵
Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people the rural poor. It involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in rural area. The group includes small scale farmers, tenants and the landless.6

Rural Development is often confused with agricultural development. Agricultural development no doubt, constitutes the heart but not the whole of rural development. In fact, the concept of rural development is much larger other sectors play an important role in the overall development.7

Rural development might be defined as a gradual increase in agricultural production accompanied by equitable distribution of the fruits of development, making possible production investment and a relative rise in the peasant’s standard of living through a more rational use of natural resources, technique and labour. Rural Development must be combined with the general development of the country concerned.8

Rural development implies not only a total change in the techniques used at present in agriculture, but also a change in the living and thinking habits, a redistribution of agrarian property a remodeling of village structures and a reorganization of present method of cultivation. The question of sanitation, water, rural education, community development, agriculture credit and so on are in reality, the specific aspects of the area of rural development and modernization of rural life. Thus, to think rural development in agricultural development alone is very narrow concept.9

In the views of D.V. Urs and R.P. Mishra, “Rural Development means desired change in economic, social, technological and natural atmosphere of rural community”.10

According to Radha Raman Singh, “Rural Development, a new rural urban nexus must be forged that is egalitarian and productive and not discriminatory and exploitative.11
In the words of R.P. Singh, “the idea of rural development includes the complete transformation of rural areas”.\textsuperscript{12}

Rural development is, thus a process of fundamental, social and economic changes. It includes all activities intended to improve directly the living condition of rural people. They may consist of a multi-sector or specialized nature. Rural development is therefore, an integrated process because of the nature of the rural community, low level of specialization, absence of separation between economic and non-economic interests, important of group obligations and responsibilities, combination of vertical functions and horizontal stratification in the society and above all the integration of problems imposed by poverty at the margin of survival. Hence rural development must be considered both as an integral part and driving force of the entire development process.\textsuperscript{13}

1.3 PROBLEM

Rural Development is an all round Development of rural economy with more emphasis on socio-economic amelioration of rural people. Rural Development is one of the development programmes in India. The aim of this programme is to improve the socio-economic life of rural people, especially rural poor. The fundamental objectives of Rural Development display the standard of living of the rural masses.

Seventy percent of India population lives in villages. The landless rural labour appears to be the main source of rural poverty. Amongst the various sectors of economy, the rural sectors are the most important and hold the key to economic progress of the country. This sector is at the center stage of economic development after Independence, India decided to handle the problem of poverty and economic Development though the process of planning. Different programmes of rural Development were prepared and implemented in our country.

Maharashtra is one of the leading states in India. Since its formation, Maharashtra state has been recognized as the leader in economic growth. Sangli is a one of the important district in
Maharashtra. Zilla parishad Sangli has been playing an important role in implementation of Rural Development Programmes.

Sangli district situated in the southern part of Maharashtra is a part of Deccan Plateau. It is endowed with the gift of fertile black soils in the central and eastern parts. The rainfall decreases from west to east. The eastern part of the district has a scanty drought-prone belt of the state. Thus there are regional disparities. These disparities are reflected in the implementation of success of the Rural Development Programmes.

The geographical diversity, differences in the attitude of the masses towards Integrated Rural Development Programme, percentage of participation of the people in the programmes, political and social awareness, disparities in the availability of basic infrastructure and attitude of the implementing authorities are the basic reasons behind the disparities and uneven implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme in the district.

The present problem is study the impact of geographical disparities and socio-economic diversity on the implementation of the Rural Development Programme with special reference to Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY). In the other words it is an attempt to present the, “Dynamics of Rural Development in Sangli District with special reference to Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana from a geographical viewpoint”.

1.4 HYPOTHESIS

Geographical location, topography and other geographical factors in particular villages influence its degree of rural development. The successfully implementation of various programmes depend upon the participation of people in the region and the beneficiaries of Rural Development Programmes are mainly landless labourers and marginal farmers there are spatial disparities in the levels of rural development in Sangli district. Consequently a few hypothesis were formulated on the basis of pilot survey and were verified.
A. The geographical location and topography of a particular village influence the Rural Development Programmes.

B. The complete development of the study region depends upon all round development. Rural Development is the basis of multidimensional progress of the region.

C. Rural development does not mean the development of agriculture alone. The rural industrial development constitutes a significant ingredient of rural development. Overall development of rural areas includes development of all sectors of rural economy.

D. The Government policies have been made to provide credit facilities for all the sectors of rural development by the financial institutions.

E. Maximum beneficiaries selected for I.R.D.P. are either landless laborers and or marginal farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and economically Backward Classes, especially Below Poverty Line.

F. The present rural development administrative structure has proved incompetent in coping with the developmental challenges, which need improvement.

1.5 CHOICE OF THE REGION

The region selected for study is Sangli district. The researcher herself is from the district so she is familiar with various aspects of the district and knows very well all the administrative offices to collect the data forms. All the programmes of Rural Development are implemented in the district. Especially the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana has proved to be of great help to the poor masses below Poverty Line.

It is really interesting to study the progress and impact of various programmes of Rural Development in the district with special reference to Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana.

The western part of Sangli district is hilly region. Shirala tehsil is having the largest forest area. The central part of district is cultivable
area. The Krishna and Warana river basins have highly cultivable areas in the district. The eastern part including Jat, Atpadi and Kavate Mahankal Tehsils is drought prone area and has insignificant irrigation facilities. There is always acute shortage of drinking water.

In the central part of district level of rural development is high. In the western hilly area and the eastern unirrigated area have comparatively low level of rural development. Taking into consideration all these facts we have studied and analyzed the impact of Geographical factors on the rural development in the study region.

1.6 OBJECTIVES

The presentation of “Dynamics of Rural Development in Sangli District, with Special Reference to Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana” is the main objective of the present study. It includes spatial growth and temporal changes in the implementation of selected aspects of rural development in the selected villages in the district and study the impact of geographical factors on the implementation and results of various programmes of Rural Development in Sangli district.

The particular objectives of the research work are:

1. To study the changing nature and implementation of the Rural Development Programmes in Sangli district and to co-relate them to Geographical aspects.

2. To describe theory and functioning of the rural development schemes and to classify them.

3. To study the implementation and impact of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana.

4. To study the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries of the rural development schemes selected for study.

5. To evaluate the people’s participations in the programmes of the rural development.

6. To review various aspects of rural development.

7. To present an objective appraisal of the dynamics of Rural Development in the district with special reference to
Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana from the geographical view point

1.7 METHODOLOGY AND DATABASE

i. There are two different kinds of data required for the study. Primary as well as secondary data is directly collected from the respondent by the tools and techniques of interview, questionnaires and schedules.

ii. The secondary data is collected from various government offices. Using quantitative and statistical methods, we have processed the collected data and it is applied to bring out the geographical reality.

iii. The villages and beneficiaries are selected by stratified random sampling mainly by using case studies of beneficiaries and the villages as well.


v. The data thus collected is processed, edited and analyzed by using different quantitative and statistical methods, to bring out the geographical reality. The details of appropriate methods are discussed in the respective chapters of the thesis.

1.8 REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Numerous research as well as general studies has been made over the years with regard to the agriculture, industry and other schemes under the programme of Rural Development. As it is not possible to deal with all the studies an effort has been made to review some of the important works having a great bearing on the present study.

P.R. Dubhashi's book, 'Rural Development Administration in India', is an attempt to study the administrative structure of rural Development. The author has explained various scheme & programmes of Rural Development, launched by government of India, Maharashtra State Government, District Rural Development Agency, Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samities and Gram Panchayats. All the commercial banks
extending credit facilities to finance beneficiaries for various schemes and programme have been discussed in the book.\textsuperscript{14}

N.P. Sinha's book, "Geography and Rural Development" explains the importance of Rural Development in the Indian economy, and the geographical factors impact on the rural development.\textsuperscript{15}

Dr. P.K. Dhar in his book, "Indian Economy", has remarked that the Rural Development is most important in the developing country like India. He has also explained the programmes of Rural Development in India.\textsuperscript{16}

B.S. Sanho explains in his book, "Banking and Rural Development" that without development of the rural sector; complete development of the country is not possible. He has also explained the concept of Rural Development, programmes of Rural Development, the administrative structure of Rural Development, and Integrated Rural Development Programme.\textsuperscript{17}

According to prof. Bhoomitra Dev in his book, 'Dynamics of Integrated Rural Development', rural development has to play a phenomenal role in the overall socio-economic development of a country like India, where majority of the population lives in rural areas. He also explains the Theory and practice of Integrated Rural Development Programmes, the developmental administrative structure, a socio-economic profile of beneficiaries etc.\textsuperscript{18}

Same researcher has studied the Rural Development Programmes and their implementation for the thesis submitted for Ph.D. degree in Economics (Shivaji University, Kolhapur).

Rupa Shaha (1987) has studied the Integrated Rural Development programmes in Kolhapur for the Ph.D. degree in economics. She has explained the Rural Development Programmes in Kolhapur district and implementation of the various of schemes of Rural Development.\textsuperscript{19}

Mrs. M.V. Sawant (1988) studied the social and economic conditions of the poor families improved on account of Integrated Rural Development Programmes. She also studied the administrative structure
of Integrated Rural development Programmes and their implementation.\textsuperscript{20}

Mrs. J.D.Khambete (1992) explained in her thesis working and impact of IRDP and EGS in respect of poverty eradication in the district. She has also studied the points of strengths and weaknesses of the schemes.\textsuperscript{21}

Mr. N.A. Swami (1995) examines the working of the I.R.D.P. and evaluates its impact on the landless laborers under this scheme in the Gadhinlag taluka. He also studies the impact of IRDP on landless laborers.\textsuperscript{22}

Mr. Ranjeet Pawar (2004) explained in his thesis, the spatial growth and temporal changes in the implementation of Rural Development in the selected villages in the Kolhapur district and he also studied the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries of the schemes of Rural Development Programmes and co-relates them to geographical aspects.\textsuperscript{23}

1.9 ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS.

The present research work has been divided into six chapters, each distinctively highlighting various points having bearing on the different aspect of the study.

The first chapter deals with the appraisal of the problem, aims and objective, hypothesis, sources of data and information and methodology. Brief review of literature has been presented in the chapter.

The second chapter deals with the geographical setting of the study region. The chapter presents the historical background of Sangli district. Location and geology, forest, minerals, and all the geographical information about Sangli district, with special reference to Swaranajayanti Gram Swarojagar Yojana.

The third chapter includes the theory and functioning of Rural Development, the historical background of Panchayat Raj, structure of
Panchayat Raj, concept of Rural Development planning process in India and operational concept of Rural Development.

The forth chapter deals with the information about the District Rural Development Agency and the Progrerammes of Rural Development in Sangli district. The structure of Zilla Parishad and the details of Integrated Rural Development Programmes are also explained in this chapter. Various Rural Development schemes and programmes implemented in the district have been presented in the chapter.

The fifth chapter presents detailed account of the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana

The sixth chapter includes the socio economic profile of the beneficiaries. In this chapter researcher has presented the case studies of 30 villages. Which also include number of beneficiaries, their economical, social, marital, and literacy status, their participation, saving magnitude family structure etc.

Chapter seventh is devoted for the I.R.D.P. presenting the findings and the suggestions made for the development. The detailed bibliography, which could be of enormous utility for researchers in the sphere of rural development, has been given at the end of the thesis.

REFERENCES

13. Ibid.


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