Chapter - VI

Generalization
Generalizations

In the rural social organization the village community is divided into many conflict groups known as factions. Indian social organization is a network of face-to-face informal factional groups. It is woven of such an intricate sets of interpersonal relationships which are influenced by the multiple factors like dominant caste, kinship and caste system. These factions have their own leaders which guide, control and direct the community actions in different spheres of life.

The study has been confined to three villages of the Development Block Kalyanpur District Kanpur i.e. Singhpur Kachhar, Bagdaudi Banger and Kainchha. Singhpur Kachhar is located at the vicinity of the block office, village Bagdaudi Banger is situated in the middle of the block area and village Kainchha is located at the periphery of the development Block Kalyanpur. A comparative estimate of the universe of villages under study presents the following general features.

(1) The development work has created the infra-structure for the villagers to raise their standards of living and to maintain their social position.

(2) The occupational structure demonstrates a change in the fixity of occupations as prescribed by traditional caste hierarchy. The lower orders are trying to climb the upper social classes to share the ownership of production through
the political and social networks in the village and outside the village.

(3) Social relations and economic relations are cutting across each other in real life situations. Thus the rigidities of social, political, economic and cultural values of the traditional hierarchy are loosening and comparatively more freedom is ushering into the social life.

(4) Although the caste hierarchy has not lost its total grip over the political and economic decisions of the village community yet the combined forces of backward and scheduled castes are making a dent into the power structure of the villages. This is evident from the higher enrollment in Primary and Junior high school classes of lower castes students.

(5) The government institutions and state legislation have enabled lower and backward sections of society to fight out for a higher and meaningful socio-economic status.

(6) The class and caste consciousness is visible in the lower caste of the villages and they are tending to organize themselves to find their place in higher social scale.

(7) It has also been observed that ritual status and ranking as embodied in traditional hierarchy are crumbling down. In scheduled castes ritual ceremonies are being officiated by the educated or aged low caste persons.
The factions of the villages Singhpur Kachhar, Bagdaudi Banger and Kaindha under study have following origins and causes of their formation:

(1) Embezzlement and misappropriation of government loans and Gram Panchayat money.
(2) Consolidation of holding (chakbandi).
(3) Gram Samaj land litigation.
(4) Caste and class conflict or conflict in hiring agricultural labourers etc.
(5) Panchayat or cooperative elections.
(6) Dominance, rivalry, security, murder, and sexoffences.

The analysis of the socio-economic and cultural structure of all the twelve factions of the villages Singhpur Kachhar, Bagdaudi Banger and Kaindha under study reveals the following features -

(1) The upper castes, involved in faction-politics, are in majority but the scheduled castes and backward castes are also coming to take part in faction-politics for raising their social status and to maintain their prestige.

(2) Mostly the persons of (30-50) years of age are involved in faction politics to oppose and watch the malfunctioning of dominant persons like pradhan of the Gram Panchayat.

(3) The rich persons are in majority in faction-politics to become quick richer but the poor are also trying to share
the fruits of development and thus to raise their economic position high.

(4) Most of the faction members are concentrated in farming, business and service but those performing traditional occupations or unclean jobs are also coming out to take part in faction-politics to utilize the facilities provided by the government.

(5) Most of the faction members are not highly educated but they are mostly educated upto primary standard. The highly educated persons are emerging out in rural social organization to share the fruits of development and to accelerate the process of development.

The factions of the villages Singhpur Kachhar, Bagdaudi Banger and Kaincha under investigation have their following problems:

(1) Most of the faction members are educated upto primary standard so they face many difficulties to get new knowledge about daily affairs. Thus they have a problem of better education.

(2) Money and resources is the major problem of factions because without proper money and resources the factions members can not oppose or face the malpractices of dominant persons. They also can not fight for their rights and existence.
(3) The needs of the faction members are unlimited and the gains or fruits of the development are limited. So an equal distribution of gains among faction members may not be possible. In this way equal distribution of gains is an other pressing problem of factions.

(4) To fulfill all the needs of each faction member is hard nut to crack because sometimes satisfaction of the needs of one faction member may create dissatisfaction in another faction member or may harm the needs of others. This is also a problem.

(5) Factions feel the problems of clinging to traditions. Traditions die hard. The faction members blindly support the traditions thus make the factional activities lame.

(6) To maintain secrecy and security is an other problem of factions. The nature and behaviour of faction members is so much dynamic and flexible which creates a very difficult problem to maintain secrecy of the plans and security of the factions.

(7) In day to day affairs faction members on account of misunderstanding create unhealthy rivalry and unhealthy thoughts which changes in the form of tensions and conflicts. Thus to create healthy rivalry and healthy thoughts is a vexed problem of the factions.
(8) To get honest leadership is also a problem of factions.

The functions of the factions of the villages Singhpur, Kachhar, Bagdaudi Banger and Kaindha reveal the following facts:

(1) Main function of the factions is to provide leadership, to maintain the social control and to accelerate the process of development.

(2) The sharing of the fruits of development is the major function of the factions.

(3) Factions create caste and class awareness for their rights. Hence there is integration and sensitivity for the social norms and rights.

(4) Factions also play a very dominant and important role i.e. development role.

(5) Factions functioned as to struggle for existence and for the survival in socio-political life.

(6) Factions oppose the malpractices of dominant persons over the villagers thus to regulate their fair activities and behaviours.

(7) Factions play a cooperative role. They unite the villagers to solve their problems.

(8) Factions function as an effective institutional media of communication between rural and urban community and also
afford an opportunity to communicate with the other members of the factions.

(9) Factions are also watch dogs so they oppose the misappropriation of the government loans and the embezzlement of government money.

(10) Factions also accelerate the development activities, maintain security and preservation of cultural norms.

(11) The orientation of the faction members is to grab the social, economic, cultural and political gains generated from the development activities.

As rural society is the fabric of groupings and divisions with a complex patterns of relations and behaviours and usages. It has some important problems as land hunger, money lending and class and caste conflicts. Apart from it there are so many other problems in rural society pertaining to irrigation, cultivation, education, fertilizer, seeds, medical, agricultural labourers, exchange of commodities, suppression, transportation, supply of raw material and security. The above problems are main and important in rural society.

The rural society is divided in factions. These factions have their own leaders, called as faction leaders, which control guide and direct the community actions in different spheres of community life. Such type of leadership is known as factional
leadership. The faction leaders are emerging out in rural society to solve so many vexed problems of the factions in day to day affairs.

The structural analysis of the factional leadership of villages Singhpur Kachhar, Bagdaudi Banger and Kaindha under study reveals that although primary leadership of the factions (12) is manned by higher castes members but the secondary and tertiary leadership is being cadred by backward and scheduled castes. This trend makes out clearly that the village leadership is poised for a break through in capturing the political and economic power from the traditional caste hierarchy.

Although roles and functions of the faction members as well as faction leaders are classified in three main categories (groupings) i.e. 'Group task roles', 'Group building and maintenance roles' and 'individual roles'. But in villages Singhpur Kachhar, Bagdaudi Banger and Kaindha under study the faction members or faction leaders are performing the following roles and functions.

(1) Accelerator of Development activities;
(2) Oppose the malpractices of other factions;
(3) Problem solver;
(4) Communicator;
(5) Watch the misappropriation of the government money;
(6) Coordinator-integrator;
The roles and functions of the faction leaders are very dynamic and flexible as a result they have to face the role conflict which almost all members of contemporary societies experience at one time or another and this inter role conflict or role incompatibility occurs when the leaders are called upon to enact two or more incompatible roles simultaneously. But most of the roles of faction leaders are to strengthen the factions and to accelerate the process of development, because both dynamic social roles and structural social positions are parts of larger established social organizations. Due to their role performance most of the faction leaders interchange their positions in the factions such as Primary leader becomes Secondary leader and Secondary leader becomes Tertiary leader. On the other hand tertiary leader becomes secondary leader and secondary leader becomes Primary leader of the faction. Hence the roles and functions of faction leader (Primary leader) are thorny and full of responsibility.

Most of the faction members (leaders) are rich powerful belonging to upper castes, and dominant persons of the village so they are affiliated to higher authorities such as officials of Development Block Kalyanpur, District level political leaders,
revenue officials, administrative officers, powerful persons of the other neighbouring villages and other political parties or institutions. The faction leaders perform their duties and maintain the factions through the help and guidance of higher echelons of the power structure formations.

The work system of the faction leaders is known as under -

(1) The faction leaders call a general but secret meeting to discuss some pressing problems of the faction members. After this the faction leader thinks deeply on the problem and tries to achieve group goals or to solve the problem by the help of faction members and by the guidance of higher authorities.

(2) Faction leaders try to widen and strengthen the factions by helping the villagers in their day to day affairs or by solving their problems.

(3) Faction leaders maintain their dominance by opposing the nefarious activities of the dominant persons or officials.

(4) Most of the faction leaders accelerate the process of development to fulfill their personal needs and the interests of their faction members.

Most of the activities of faction leaders are to accelerate the process of development because the concept of development
means a change in the tradition oriented social organization to that of rational or modern social organization. This change is initiated in the social organization through leadership in social, economic cultural and political fields. In essence the contributions of factional leadership may be summarized as below.

1. Contribution of factional leadership in integrating and disintegrating the rural social organization.
2. Factional leaders contribute in the achievement of community goals.
3. Factional leaders are the catalysts in the achievement of adoption of new practices of modern living and new techniques of agriculture and other occupations.
4. Faction leadership counsel and advise in the solution of personal problems of the members of factions in the transactions and meets of cooperative societies.
5. Faction leaders help in assisting the community to obtain the financial and political aid from the government institutions and political parties.
6. Factional leaders also serve as the channel of communication between rural social organization and urban society.
7. Factional leaders create interest in the villages in the panchayat and cooperative elections and other activities.
(8) Faction leaders also contribute in the acceptance of social change by the rural society from traditional bound society to modern society.

This study leads us to a loud thinking and serious considerations of the phenomenon of factions and factional leadership for exploration in the following areas -

(1) A comparative study of rural and urban factional leadership as the agent of social change.

(2) A study in the personality characteristics of rural and urban factional leaders.

(3) The study of factional leaders as the watch dogs of the democratic social institutions.

(4) The study in the assessment of potential factional leadership in the process of social, economic and political development.