CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
Villages of India in the past were known for their self-sufficiency in matters of economic, political, judicial and social functions. Therefore, they were lauded as "little republics" by many western social scientists. The self-sufficiency was disturbed due to colonial role. By the time of independence, the villages in India came to possess the problems of poverty, ill-health, unemployment and underdevelopment. It is in this context that the policy makers and planners of modern India took up the cause of rural development very seriously and came out with various rural development strategies and programmes from time to time.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

In defining rural development, the study took into account the explanations of Hunter and Lele. According to Hunter (1979), economic and social development of rural communities leading to employment, health, education, transport, commerce, political and social upliftment is considered as rural development. While the approach of Hunter is on broadfront lines, rural development at a subsequent stage came to represent the development of specific sections of population. Uma Lele (1975), contributing to the target approach rural development, came to the opinion that it implies the
improvement of the living standards in rural areas leading to self-sustained development among the poor.

India has experimented with various rural development programmes from the early years of independence. Initially rural development was taken up in the form of Community Development and National Extension Services. Community development encouraged participation and decision making by the people in rural development through the sectors of animal husbandry, industries, communications, education, health, women welfare and social welfare. As the number of villages as well as the programme components are more, the community development programme did not yield the expected results. Another important cause behind the failure of community development programme is that the planning and decision making was in the hands of Community Development officials. Quite often the people remained spectators of the development process.

In order to promote the involvement of people in the development process and to decentralise the political power, a new programme was introduced in 1959 in India in the form of Panchayat Raj. The Panchayat Raj institutions came to provide the statutory power to the people at the grassroots level. Planning, preparing and implementation of the development activities have
been left to the people and their elected representatives. While, the Panchayat Raj succeeded in enlisting the peoples' participation in rural development, the politicization that came out of Panchayat Raj bodies, resulted in creating additional problems in the villages. Factions, cleavages and political conflicts in the villages hindered the development process.

The problems emerged out of Panchayat Raj system resulted in diversifying the rural development programmes and in taking them back to government agencies. It is in this process, a new set of developmental programmes emerged in India leading to the area and sectoral approaches. The sectoral approach advocated that the limited resources are to be used properly for the development of priority sectors like agriculture, animal husbandry and industry. The studies conducted at various levels have come to indicate that the benefits of the sectoral approach have been cornered by the richer sections of the population. The situation resulted in the perpetuation of inequalities among the rich and the poor. In addition, some of the areas that were not bestowed with natural sources failed to make use of the sectoral programmes. Areas such as the drought regions, deserts, hilly regions, tribal areas etc., remained backward. The situation necessitated the need for fresh rural development approach.
The sociological studies in India have come to the conclusion that the inequalities basing upon income and assets are on the rise. The number of people living below poverty line went on multiplying. To confront the situation and to ensure the development of poorer sections, rural development strategies started paying attention towards these target people. It is in this process that the target group programmes like Antodaya, Food for Work Programme, Small Farmers Development Agency, Marginal Farmers Development Programme etc., started working for development of poorer sections. At a later stage, it was felt by the rural development authorities that these programmes are working in isolation and that sometimes the development services are duplicated and misused. To avoid this, in the 80's, the development approach has been revised into that of the integrated approach.

In integrated approach, the poorer sections of the population are being supported, strengthened and assisted to build up a constant income and to improve their assets, IRDP has been the main focus of the integrated rural development programmes.

EXTENSION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The various approaches for rural development in India depended largely upon the extension. The role of extension in rural development has been realised in 1952 wherein extension played a
significant role in community development. Since then, each and every programme of rural development made a provision for extension.

The emphasis in extension is to bring out changes in the knowledge, skills and adaptability levels of the people. Extension in this study is based upon the definition of Van den Ban and Lowdermilk. Extension, according to Van den Ban (1979) is a purposive communication designed to assist people in solving their problems. On the other hand, extension is treated as an educational process of transferring useful information and research findings to the users for their benefit (Lowdermilk, 1985). In the context of our study, it may be noted that the extension personnel have the responsibility of providing the information about the development activities to the people; giving them basic knowledge about the programme through extension education; clarifying the doubts if any of the prospective beneficiaries; motivating the beneficiaries to take up the programme positively; and finally promoting adoption of the development programme.

STUDIES ON EXTENSION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The need for extension in rural development has been brought out more emphatically by the study conducted by the Project Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission in
1955. The study team recommended that the extension should be strengthened in the community development so as to ensure people's participation. Despite, strengthening the extension organisation in the rural development, participation of the people in rural development remained peripheral for a considerable period of time. Only in the last two decades, rural development became more and more participatory in nature on account of the active role played by extension personnel.

The quantitative and qualitative progress in rural development achieved in the recent past has been attributed to the extension personnel by the studies conducted by FAO (1992), Hofs and Hinterberger (1995), Karami (1980). However, certain areas of limitations have been identified in the extension process. Chakrarthy Reddy (1975) noted that the extension personnel are under qualified and are inadequate in their orientation for extension. In a study of extension workers by the Directorate of Extension (1990), it was observed that a significant number of extension workers had less than secondary school education.

A.K.Singh (1995) came to the conclusion that the functioning of the extension personnel is affected on account of inadequate transport facilities and delays in the release of finances required for development. Despite, the growth of the extension organisation,
some of the studies have come to the conclusion that the area to be covered by extension officers still is too large for their effective functioning. Nikhade and Kite (1984), Lohakare (1987), Varma and Pande (1990) and others have confirmed these observations.

The success of extension depends upon the methods adopted by extension personnel. Parmahamsa (1976) observed that most of the extension is carried out by demonstrations. Sinha and Deahpande (1982) noted that audio-visual aids are not only being extensively used but are also found their necessary results in promoting rural development. Ramegowda (1989) has come to the conclusion that training and visit system adopted in the development of agriculture which includes home visits, field visits, demonstrations, exhibitions, film, campaign etc., are more effective in promoting rural development. Vani (1999) found that person to person communication is an effective mode of convincing rural population for acceptance of new development practices. Lakshminarayana and Veerabhadaiah (1992) also came to similar conclusion.

The studies in brief on role of extension in rural development reveal that extension has been recognised in India as an essential requirement for rural development. Many institutions have come up in India to promote knowledge and skills on extension. A
network of extension personnel has been organised at the village, block, taluk and district level throughout the country. However the extension personnel at grassroot levels are not effective in their functioning due to large area of operation and vast target population. Their problems are compounded with the absence of appropriate extension tools, lack of institutional support, absence of coordination and job stress.

Extension depends not only on the personnel but also on the kind of people who were about to receive the extension. Santhanam (1981) observed that there are variations among the people in the adoption process. While some are found to be very quick in responding extension, some are moderate and others require plenty of persuasion before they accept the programme. These variations in adoption and acceptance are due to various factors such as physical, situational, economic, cultural and personality factor.

Fliegel and others (1968) are of the opinion that adoption of innovation depended on the geographical living conditions. Reddy and Kivlin (1968) considered younger age, higher caste status, better education and higher income are the factors in favour of extension. Gaikwad (1970) noticed that the awareness levels among the villagers are high when the people are more educated. Psycho social aspects of adoption, as studied by Kolfe (1973) indicated that
socio-economic status is in congruence with the adoption process. On the other hand, Ganorkar and Bhugal (1978) confirmed that persons with lower socio-economic background seem to be the laggards in adoption. The studies of Bhagwan (1996), Lingaraju (1998) and others lead to the conclusion that nuclear family status, younger age, upper economic status and higher caste background made the people to be more receptive to change and rural development.

Majority of the studies are of the opinion that the extension process is depended on the quality of the extension personnel, the methods used by them and the area allotted to them for carrying out extension. It is in this context, the present study is proposed to examine the role of extension in rural development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study is an attempt to measure the impact of extension programmes and services on rural development. The following are the specific objectives of the study:

1. To study different rural development programmes and the concerned beneficiaries;
2. To evaluate the performance and progress of rural development programmes as envisaged by the policy statements and implementing agencies;

3. To understand the nature, and role of extension services in the implementation of the selected rural development programmes.

4. To study the role of extension functionaries with reference to their background, knowledge, extension methods and achievements, and

5. To evaluate the extension role in rural development on the basis of programme performance.

**METHODOLOGY**

Wardha district in Maharashtra, known for its exposure to rural development right from the period of Mahatma Gandhi, has been the area of the study. Wardha district consists of eight Panchayat Samitis. The study has been confined to only two Panchayat Samitis. The selection of these two Panchayat Samitis has been made on the basis of their level of advancement. Deoli, a Panchayat Samiti listed as the most advanced Panchayat Samiti in the district and Samudrapur, a Samiti which known for its underdevelopment have been selected for the study.
In both these samitis, about 17 rural development programmes are being implemented currently. In order to increase the depth of the study, only five major rural development programmes have been identified. The identification is based upon the variations in extension process adopted by them and variations in the target population. Accordingly, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, National Programme of Improved Chulha, National Project for Bio-Gas Development and National Programme of Family Welfare have been selected for a detailed study.

Since the study is concerned with the analysis of the role of the extension in rural development, two different type of units have been identified. The first unit consisted of the beneficiaries of rural development programmes and the second set of units include the extension functionaries. The beneficiaries representing the five selected programmes constitute the universe of the study as far as the beneficiaries are concerned. In order to limit the size of the universe to a manageable level, five villages each from the two selected samitis have been identified on the basis of the spacial distribution. In all, 625 beneficiaries from ten villages participating in the five selected programmes have been identified as the universe. Out of these, by applying stratified random sampling
method, 250 beneficiaries have been selected as a sample of the study.

The Deoli and Samudrapur Panchayat Samitis together consist of 213 extension personnel engaged in the selected rural development programmes. On the basis of random sampling method, 75 extension personnel representing different categories have been selected for an in-depth study. Thus the study is based upon a sample of 250 rural development beneficiaries and 75 extension functionaries.

Primary and secondary sources of information have been used in the present study. Interview schedules formed the basis for collecting information from primary sources. Schedules for the beneficiaries and the extension staff have been prepared. The schedules have been readjusted and administered after a pilot study. Secondary data have been collected from the official records available with the Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and District offices.

PROFILE OF WARDHA DISTRICT

Wardha district forms part of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State. It accounts for a population of 10.6 lakhs spread over 6308 square kilometers. The district comprises of eight Panchayat Samitis, 507 Village Panchayats and 1379 villages.
Wardha district is primarily a district with rural background. Its economy is dependent upon agriculture. The major crops include jowar, cotton, tur, wheat and grams. Banana represents the horticultural crop of the district. The district is bestowed with Wardha river and many small river beds. It is rich in black cotton soil. It has a rainfall of 900 mm to 1250 mm annually.

DEOLI SAMITI

Deoli is the most developed Panchayat Samiti in Wardha district. It was formed in 1957 and reorganised as a Panchayat Samiti in 1960. Deoli Panchayat Samiti is spread over a geographical area of 625 square kilometers. There are 63 Village Panchayats and 148 inhabited villages in Deoli Panchayat Samiti.

Nearly 70,000 people are residing in Deoli Samiti. It may be noted that 54.2 per cent of them are literate. The literacy rate among male is upto 65 per cent whereas it is only upto 42 per cent among the females. Cotton, oil seeds, pulses and jowar are the major crops of the region. In the agriculture sector, Deoli has shown a considerable progress and almost 90 per cent of the targeted area has been brought under improved cultivation. The agricultural economy in Deoli is strongly supported by animal husbandry. The samiti consists of more than 22,000 bullocks at an average of 115 per village. An equal number of milch animals are also available at
an average of nearly 140 per village. A significant population of goats and poultry is also available in Deoli.

The economic development of Deoli is strongly supported by the presence of many cooperative societies. In all, there are 106 cooperative societies functioning in the Samiti and the annual credit disbursement by these societies is to the tune of Rs.53 crores.

SAMUDRAPUR SAMITI

Samudrapur Panchayat Samiti was constituted as a community development block in April 1957 under National Community Development Programme. It was modified into a Panchayat Samiti in 1960. It consists of 63 Village Panchayats and 212 villages. It has an area of 6249 sq.kms. It holds a population of 72,748 people.

Samudrapur is officially declared as a backward Panchayat Samiti in Wardha district. Only 39.4 per cent of the people in this Samiti are literate. The literacy level among the females shows that only 36 per cent are literate.

Cotton is the only major crop of Samudrapur Panchayat Samiti. In some pockets, oilseeds, pulses and jowar are being raised. The percentage of achievement in terms of agricultural development in Samudrapur stands around 62 per cent. In the sector of animal
husbandry, situation of Samudrapur is relatively better. It has more than 24,000 bullocks and about 32,000 milch animals. Goats and poultry are available in Samudrapur is abundant.

Several co-operative societies are presently working in Samudrapur Panchayat Samiti. The annual disbursement is around Rs. 31 crores.

PROGRESS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Deoli is showing a remarkable progress in terms of rural development. During the years 1993 to 98, Deoli utilised Rs.1.56 crores for implementing IRDP programmes for the benefit of 1354 beneficiaries. For the given period 2.82 crores was spent on JRY programme in which 697 beneficiaries have been assisted.

Rs.3.56 lakhs was spent during the years 1993 to 98 on NPIC providing benefit to 2015 people. In case of NPBD nearly Rs. one crore was spent in installation of 421 bio-gas units. The Panchayat Samiti also showed considerable progress wherein more than 4,000 persons have adopted family planning methods on which about rupees nine lakhs were spent.

Between the years 1993 and 98, about 1418 beneficiaries have been assisted in Samudrapur through IRDP. An amount of 2.2
crores was spent on JRY in this Samiti leading to the benefit of 765 families.

1856 Improved Chulhas have been distributed during the period of study in Samudrapur. It involves an expenditure of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs. The National Programme of Bio-gas Development took up the installation of 370 bio-gas units during the year 1993 to 98 with the cost of Rs.9.6 lakhs with an average of Rs.4500 per village. A reasonable progress was recorded by Samudrapur by promoting Family Welfare Programme. About 3600 people adopted family planning methods. The programme incurred an expenditure of Rs.7.2 lakhs in the five years of the study with an average of Rs.3400 per village. The progress of selected developmental programmes and their performance between Deoli and Samudrapur Samitis during the five years show that an amount of Rs.2.82 crores was spent in Deoli at an average of Rs.1.9 lakh per village under JRY. For the same period only Rs.2.2 crore was spent in Samudrapur at an average of around one lakh per village. The performance of NPFW shows as against 4000 adopters of family planning in Deoli, there are only 3400 in Samudrapur. Deoli was able to promote 421 bio-gas units as against only 370 in Samudrapur. The beneficiaries of NPBD, obtained Rs.7000 per head on an average as against only 4500 in Samudrapur towards the installation of the bio-gas plants.
IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The impact of selected rural development programmes in Deoli and Samudrapur Samitis has been measured in the study. It may be noted that 50 beneficiaries from each rural development programme have been selected as the sample. Out of the 50 beneficiaries from IRDP, it may be noted that 58 per cent opted for goat rearing, 18 per cent for tailoring and 10 per cent for dairy activity. Altogether a sum of Rs.2.28 lakhs was advanced as loan, while nearly Rs.2 lakhs were given as subsidy. The average loan given to the beneficiaries is up to Rs.8560 while the subsidy amounted to nearly 4000 rupees.

IRDP programme had a reasonable impact in promoting employment and in generating income. Almost all the Deoli beneficiaries were able to obtain additional employment. The employment generated was around three months in the case of 60 per cent of the beneficiaries. Employment of more than three months was reported by 40 per cent of the beneficiaries. The programmes yielded reasonable income to the beneficiaries. While the income of the 40 per cent of the beneficiaries got enhanced by rupees six thousands or less, about 34 per cent of the beneficiaries got an income ranging from rupees 6000 to 8000. Income of more than Rs.8000 was earned by 26 per cent of the beneficiaries.
The performance of the IRDP beneficiaries in Deoli Samiti is at a higher level than that of the beneficiaries from Samudrapur. The study observed that in Deoli 45 per cent of the beneficiaries resorted to goat rearing, 24 per cent for tailoring and 12 per cent each for petti cloth business. The average loan sanctioned to the beneficiaries in Deoli is to the tune of nearly 9000 rupees while they were able to get a subsidy of around 5000 rupees per head. The programme generated more than two months of employment among the beneficiaries. It may be noted that 72 per cent of the beneficiaries from Deoli were able to earn above 6000 rupees per annum additionally.

In Samudrapur, 72 per cent of the IRDP beneficiaries opted for goat rearing. It shows that there was less diversity in the option exercised by these beneficiaries. A loan amount of Rs.8000 on average and subsidy of Rs.3000 on average has been obtained by the beneficiaries of Samudrapur. The employment generated by the Samudrapur IRDP beneficiaries is only for a short period. About 80 per cent of these beneficiaries were able to have around three months workdays on account of IRDP. The income generated was less than Rs.6000 per annum in the case of 52 per cent of the beneficiaries and ranged from Rs.6,000 to 8,000 in case of 28 per cent of the beneficiaries.
The performance of IRDP is certainly better in Deoli Samiti than Samudrapur Samiti. In Samudrapur the respondents opted mostly for goat rearing, the amount obtained by them both as loan and subsidy was very low and the employment generated and income obtained out of these schemes was comparatively low. The success of IRDP in Deoli can certainly be attributed to the diversified economic activities. Similar observations were reported by Dandekar (1985), Kurian (1987) and Thimmaiah (1988).

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana had a differential impact in Deoli and Samudrapur Samitis. In all, the value of work undertaken through Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in these two samitis put together is around rupees five lakhs, at an average of nearly Rs.10,000 per beneficiary. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana resulted in creation of community assets, individual assets, employment and income in both the samitis, about 589 per cent of the beneficiaries were able to gain individual assets like nurseries, houses and sanitary provisions through JRY. As far as employment is concerned, about 46 per cent of the beneficiaries were able to get employment for more than three months. The wages earned by the beneficiaries are less than 1000 rupees per annum in case of 54 beneficiaries and from 1000 to 1500 per annum in case of 20 per cent of the beneficiaries and remaining 26 per cent of the beneficiaries earned more than 1500 rupees per annum.
The backward Samudrapur Panchayat Samiti reported underutilisation of the programme JRY. The employment generated in Samudrapur was less than three months in the case of 70 per cent of the beneficiaries as against only 28 per cent of the beneficiaries in Deoli. Similarly, while 48 per cent of the beneficiaries earned less than 500 rupees per annum. The earnings of all the beneficiaries in Deoli Samiti are above 5000 rupees per annum.

Improved Chulhas have been distributed at subsidised prices to the beneficiaries in Deoli and Samudrapur. However, in Samudrapur the utilisation of the chulhas is not up to the expected levels. The Improved Chulhas are being put to use daily by 84 per cent of the beneficiaries in Deoli compared to only 52 per cent in Samudrapur. Majority of the beneficiaries in Deoli are attending to the maintenance of the chulhas weekly or monthly. The beneficiaries in Samudrapur, at least in half of the cases, are not concerned with the maintenance of the chulhas.

It may be noted that majority of the beneficiaries are using the improved chulhas for routine cooking purposes such as preparing roti, dal and sabji in Deoli whereas a limited number from Samudrapur are using the Improved Chulhas for routine cooking. The beneficiaries from Deoli are unanimous in
understanding that Improved Chulhas save time, money and energy. Majority of them are of the opinion that it promotes domestic hygiene because of its smokelessness. On the other hand, the positive effects of the Improved Chulhas are noticed by lesser number of beneficiaries in Samudrapur.

The underutilisation of the chulhas in Samudrapur Samiti may be attributed to the fact that due to lack of proper maintenance, nearly half of the beneficiaries are having problems in the use of the chulhas. The problems noticed are cracks in the outer walls and leakage of water during the rainy season. It has been noted by Mittal (1993) that about 20 per cent of the Improved Chulhas are not being put to proper use at the national level. While Deoli is living up to the national standard, Samudrapur is found to be lagging behind. It was observed by Kalra (1993) that the beneficiaries are generally accepting the Improved Chulhas for the convenience and better health and sanitation. Similar findings are observed from the responses of the beneficiaries from Deoli, while Samudrapur respondents continued to express doubts about the utilisation aspects of the improved chulhas.

The findings of Muneer, Sindhu and Deorai (1990) that the maintenance problem of smokeless chulha are less when they are put to regular use are confirmed in this study also. In Deoli where
the chulhas are used regularly for cooking purposes, the problems confronted by the beneficiaries are less. Since the use of the chulha only occasional in Samudrapur, the maintenance problems are at a higher level.

The impact of National Programme of Bio-gas Development is more explicit in Deoli. It was due to the fact that the Bio-gas plants of Deoli are having sufficient quantities of dung. In Samudrapur, the beneficiaries opted for larger bio-gas plants but at the same time are confronting the problems of non-availability of sufficient quantity of dung. Therefore more beneficiaries of Samudrapur are confronting the problems of insufficient gas supply. As a result, 12 per cent of the Bio-gas units in Samudrapur have been shut-down.

The observations made by Nimbal and Ansari (1995) that the bio-gas plant owners in rural areas are confronting many problems in gas production and maintenance are confirmed in our study also. The study of Digraskar and Wangikar (1993) indicated that about 18 per cent of rural farmers are disposed unfavourably towards Bio-gas plants. In our study, it may be noted that more or less an equal number of beneficiaries are entertaining unfavourable attitude towards Bio-gas plants.

The National Programme of Family Welfare produced more or less equal impact on the beneficiaries of Deoli and Samudrapur.
Samitis. The programme created sufficient awareness on health and family planning among the beneficiaries. The awareness level of the beneficiaries is relatively high on the permanent methods of family planning. Among the temporary methods, only condom and abortion are known to majority of the people. Knowledge about oral pills is limited to only 38 per cent of the beneficiaries. IUD is known to 54 per cent of the beneficiaries. It may be noted that 38 per cent of the beneficiaries in these Samitis have undergone sterilisation and rest are practicing temporary methods. Among the temporary methods, condom has been the most popular method of family planning.

Only 32 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the methods of family planning adopted by them, the rest have been experiencing various side-effects and problems on account of the use of contraceptives. Between the beneficiaries of Deoli and Samudrapur, it can be noted from the study that the awareness levels on child health, maternal health, delivery care, family planning are better in Deoli. Coming to the awareness about contraceptives, 88 per cent of the beneficiaries in Deoli know about vasectomy compared to only 64 per cent in Samudrapur. Knowledge about condom as a temporary method of family planning, is found with 96 per cent of the beneficiaries in Deoli, compared to 60 per cent only in Samudrapur. While 36 per cent of the beneficiaries in
Samudrapur underwent sterilisation, about 40 per cent from Deoli got sterilised.

The family planning adoption pattern in Deoli and Samudrapur show certain variations compared to the national situation. The National Family Health Survey (1998) indicated that 67 per cent of the family planning adopters are going for tubectomy while only 3 per cent constitute the vasectomy cases. However, the respondents from the Samitis in our study are more or less equally distributed between the vasectomy and tubectomy adopters. The study confirms the observation made by Singla (1986) that the awareness on oral pills is limited to a small section of the rural population.

The impact of the selected rural development programmes thus varied between the two Samitis. Deoli exhibited a higher adoption level and positive impact through the programmes of IRDP and JRY. The beneficiaries from Deoli are making use of Improved Chulhas and Bio-gas plants properly and are confronting less problems. NPFW influenced the people in favour of family planning more or less equally in Samudrapur and Deoli Panchayat Samitis.

EXTENSION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

In Wardha district, rural development is carried out by and large by the extension staff assigned to the Panchayat Samitis. The
overall development of the Panchayat Samiti has been entrusted to BDO and Extension Officers. Extension supervisors at the area level and Village Development Officers and Gram Sevikas at the village level are put in-charge of extension. Some of the programmes like District Rural Development Agency, National Programme of Family Welfare, National Programme of Bio-gas Development, Improved Chulhas Programme and others have their own extension wings.

There are 260 extension positions sanctioned for Deoli and Samudrapur Samitis. However, only 213 extension positions are filled in these Samitis. The vacancy positions indicate that out of 131 positions sanctioned for Deoli, 119 have been filled in. In case of Samudrapur, only 94 out of 129 sanctioned positions are occupied.

PROFILE OF EXTENSION STAFF

Socio-economic analysis of the 75 extension personnel indicated that 76 per cent of them have rural nativity while 24 per cent are from urban areas. While majority (85%) of the extension staff in Deoli have rural background, only 64 per cent of the Samudrapur extension personnel are from rural areas. It has been observed that some of the extension personnel with urban nativity have their residential accommodation in the nearby urban localities
and therefore their concentration on extension activity seems to be less.

Educational background of the extension staff revealed that 25 per cent are graduates, 45 per cent are diploma holders and around 30 per cent are matriculates. Among the extension staff, only 17 per cent from the Samudrapur Samiti are graduates whereas 32 per cent from Deoli Samiti have degree as the minimum qualification. Coming to the pre-service training, only six per cent of the staff from Samudrapur, compared to 10 per cent from Deoli, have been exposed to pre-service training.

The experience of the extension staff indicates that 20 per cent of the respondents have five years of service, 23 per cent are in service for five to ten years and around 15 years of service was reported by rest of the extension personnel. Samudrapur consist of mostly less experienced extension staff. As against 31 per cent in Deoli, 57 per cent of the staff in Samudrapur have less than 10 years of service.

It can thus be concluded that the extension personnel in Samudrapur Samiti are mostly from the urban background, less educated, less exposed to training and are less experienced.
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AMONG THE EXTENSION STAFF

The knowledge base of the extension staff varied between Deoli and Samudrapur Panchayat Samitis. The variations have also been witnessed among the extension staff drawn from various rural developmental programmes. In case of IRDP the extension personnel involved have sufficient knowledge with regards to selection procedures, subsidy and loan component of the programme. Only half of the respondents are aware of monitoring and evaluation procedures of the programme.

In case of the extension personnel involved in Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, the selection criteria and the procedures related to identification of the beneficiaries and payment of wages are known to most of the extension staff. The knowledge levels regarding the programme components and objectives of the programme are moderate. Monitoring and evaluation procedures relating to JRY are known to only half of the extension personnel.

The extension staff involved in NPIC have poor levels of knowledge with reference to the programme objectives, procedures related to the selection of the beneficiaries, pattern of subsidy and monitoring and evaluation. Similarly, the extension personnel involved in NPBD also exhibited a lower level of understanding.
about the programme. It may be noted that while IRDP & JRY, extension personnel are given multiple roles with regards to rural development extension, the NPIC and NPBD extension personnel have exclusive duties related to the programme. However as the functionaries of NPIC and NPBD are drawn from various departments on deputation, their knowledge levels seem to be low.

The National Programme of Family Welfare have an extensive extension organisation in both the Samitis. The knowledge levels of the extension staff with reference to the objectives of the programme, criteria for identification of the beneficiaries, knowledge on the methods of contraception, etc., are at reasonable level.

It may be noted that by and large, about 75 per cent of the extension staff exhibited appropriate skills of communication and problem solving techniques. Only 66 per cent of the respondents have necessary skills of community organisation. In application of the principles of extension, only 60 per cent of the respondents prove to be competent enough. The levels of competence of the extension staff in Samudrapur Samiti are far below that of the level exhibited by extension staff of Deoli Samiti.

Coming to the extension methods, almost 90 per cent of the extension personnel are familiar with home visit as a method of
extension. Group discussions are put to use by 54 per cent of the extension personnel. Around 73 per cent of the staff are using lecture and exhibition as methods of extension. Demonstration and result demonstration are used by very few extension personnel.

ROLE IN COMMUNICATION AND MOTIVATION

Information about rural development programmes was received by the beneficiaries mostly through the extension personnel. The beneficiaries of Integrated Rural Development Programme came to know about the programme mostly through extension workers (86%) and through friends (68%) and media (56%).

As far as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is concerned, 90 per cent of the beneficiaries got the first information through extension workers while friends gave the first information in case of 10 per cent of beneficiaries. Communication about improved chulhas was carried out to the extent of 78 per cent by the extension workers. About 46 per cent of the beneficiaries received information through friends and local leaders. Mass media took the information to around 36% of the beneficiaries.

Extension workers (94%), friends (62%), relatives (56%) and local leaders (48%) are found to be the sources of information to the beneficiaries of NPBD. With reference to Family Welfare
Programme, extension workers (94%) and mass media (90%) have played a dominant role providing information to beneficiaries. Local leaders and friends of the beneficiaries also contributed significantly for the spread of the programme in case of National Programme of Family Welfare.

In the process of development adoption, various types of motivators have been identified by the study. These motivators include extension workers, village leaders, school teachers, friends, relatives and spouses. The extension workers played major role in motivating the beneficiaries in JRY, IRDP, NPBD, Improved Chulha Programme and in NPFW. As far as JRY programme is concerned, the village leaders especially the village sarpanches played the dominant role in motivating the participants.

PROBLEMS OF ADOPTION

Between Deoli and Samudrapur Samitis, the data are reveal that the level of understanding about the developmental programmes is better among the Deoli Samiti and in the process the extent of satisfaction is found to be more among the beneficiaries of Deoli Samiti. In case of Samudrapur, majority of the beneficiaries are not satisfied with the programmes they have adopted.

The adoption of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana programme is mostly to the satisfaction of the participant beneficiaries. More than 90 per
cent of the beneficiaries are satisfied with the wages provided to them and the nature of work entrusted. More than 70 per cent of the beneficiaries explained that the drainage works, irrigation works and link roads taken up are to the satisfaction of the beneficiaries. Only in case of the works related to the improvement of irrigation tanks the exists some kind of dissatisfaction among the beneficiaries. Between the beneficiaries of Deoli and Samudrapur, once again, the satisfaction levels of the beneficiaries from Deoli is at a higher side compared to the beneficiaries of Samudrapur.

The reactions of the beneficiaries with reference to adoption process of improved chulhas shows that the chulhas supplied are to the satisfaction of around 94 per cent of the beneficiaries. About 70 per cent of the beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction with reference to the installation, maintenance and utilization of the improved chulhas.

More than 90 per cent of the beneficiaries from Deoli Samiti are satisfied with the kind of chulhas supplied to them, the precautions taken at the time of installation and the uses of the improved chulhas. On the other hand, in Deoli it may be noted that around half of the beneficiaries are dissatisfied with the installation process, utilisation and uses of the improved chulhas.
The National Programme of Bio-gas plant found to be to the satisfaction of the beneficiaries in general. More than 50 per cent of the beneficiaries have positive response towards the amount of subsidy received, installation procedures adopted, cooking convenience of the bio-gas and maintenance aspect of the bio-gas plant. The levels of satisfaction were around 60 per cent in case of the manure derived from the bio-gas plants. The levels of satisfaction are considerably less among the beneficiaries of Samudrapur Panchayat Samiti.

National Programme of Family Welfare produced reactions of varying nature. Among the beneficiaries of NPFW the data reveal that 84 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with availability of temporary devices of birth control. Around 70 per cent of the respondents were expressed that the services provided during the sterilisation stage, post-partum services, and incentives given to them are satisfactory. Less number of problems are confronted by the adopters of Family Welfare Programme in Deoli Samiti.

The overall impression of the beneficiaries with reference to the development participation in various programmes varied significantly. As per the responses of the beneficiaries, more than 70 per cent of the respondents, they derived benefit out of NPBD, NPFW, IRDP and JRY are satisfied. In case of NPIC, around 60 per
cent of the beneficiaries were impressed with impact of the programme. The satisfaction with reference to the impact of the programme is at a higher level among the beneficiaries of Deoli Samiti.

**PROBLEMS OF EXTENSION**

The extension personnel have been facing many problems related to their extension work. Almost all of the extension staff felt that they are over-burdened with their responsibilities and that conveyance is their major problem. About 85 per cent of the respondents felt that their work is constrained on account of interference by political leaders. Lack of latest scientific and research information has been another deficiency according to 80 per cent of the staff. Around 70 per cent of the extension personnel felt that they are not getting the required co-operation from the sister development departments and that there are deficiencies concerned with their training. A few respondents are of the opinion that the untimely and unnecessary transfers are affecting their work while some of them are of the opinion that they are not receiving proper guidance from their superiors.

The levels of satisfaction concerned with their work among the extension staff shows that less problems are confronted by the functionaries from Deoli Samiti. A major impediment in the
functioning of extension personnel seems to be lack of proper recognition for the services rendered by them. Majority of the extension personnel felt that their services are often stagnated due to lack of promotion. About 85 per cent of the extension functionaries felt that their services must be rewarded financially with incentives and increments. Around 77 per cent of the extension personnel felt that there must be meritorious awards for the work carried out by them and that their contributions should be recognised through media.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

The study on extension and rural development is carried out in two Panchayat Samitis of Wardha district of Maharashtra State. While Deoli has been the most advanced Panchayat Samiti in terms of rural development, Samudrapur has been listed as the backward and underdeveloped Panchayat Samiti. The reasons of advancement and underdevelopment lie mostly in the natural set up and the demographic features of these two Panchayat Samitis.

Deoli represents a Panchayat Samiti with a lesser population, distributed in less number of villages. It consists of mostly literate population. Crops like cotton oil seeds, pulses and jowar which are commercially viable or being raised in Deoli Panchayat Samiti. The Samiti is bestowed with a better livestock
situation. The villages in Deoli have been exposed to 106 co-operative societies. About 50 crores of rupees are being disbursed in the Samiti through the cooperative institutions.

Samudrapur Panchayat Samiti presents a gloomy picture. The literacy rate is comparatively less. The population is more. The area and the number of villages are relatively higher making it an area which is not viable for development administration. Agriculture in Samudrapur is centred mostly around traditional crops with less commercial value. The livestock population is limited.

In addition to natural and demographic limitations, Samudrapur is also having problems related to extension. Some of the important extension positions at the block are left vacant and the existing extension staff have their roots mostly in urban areas and therefore are less concerned with development of Samudrapur Panchayat Samiti.

PROGRESS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The progress of rural development with reference to five different rural development programmes during the period of 1993 to 1998 indicates that Deoli has been utilising the rural development programmes in a better way. 1354 beneficiaries have been identified under IRDP during this period and an amount of Rs.
one lakh has been spent on IRDP per village in the Deoli Panchayat Samiti. In case of JRY, 697 beneficiaries got the benefit of employment at an expenditure of about 3 crores of rupees at an average of nearly 2 lakhs per village. Around 2000 families have been supplied with Improved Chulhas, while 421 families have been helped to install bio-gas plants. Nearly 4100 families was brought under the hold of family planning in Deoli Panchayat Samiti.

Samudrapur recorded a relatively lower level of development participation. Even though 1400 beneficiaries have been identified under IRDP, the per capita credit and subsidy received by them is not even half of the expenditure incurred per village in the Deoli Panchayat Samiti. 765 beneficiaries were helped through JRY and the expenditure involved in implementation of JRY is around one lakh rupees in Samudrapur compared to two lakhs in Deoli. Inspite of a higher population, only 1800 families in Samudrapur were given Improved Chulhas and only 370 families were able to install bio-gas plants.

THE BENEFICIARIES

The socio-economic background of the beneficiaries from the two Panchayat Samitis shows that the beneficiaries from Deoli are young and are in productivity age groups. Better literacy and nuclear family status are observed among them. The beneficiaries
from Samudrapur are relatively aged, less educated and are from joint families. Quite a significant number of beneficiaries from Samudrapur are with poor economic background.

DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATION

The development participation depended largely upon the overall socio-economic characteristics of the beneficiaries. Being progressive in nature, it may be observed that the beneficiaries from Deoli derived maximum benefit through better participation in development programmes. For instance, the economic activities adopted by the IRDP beneficiaries from Deoli are of varying nature and covered activities such as dairy, goat rearing, petti cloth business, carpentry, tailoring etc. On the other hand, the beneficiaries from Samudrapur concentrated mostly on goat rearing and tailoring. The amount of loan received per head on average in the Deoli Samiti under IRDP is to the tune of Rs.9000 compared to only 6000 in Samudrapur. Similarly, the subsidy obtained by Samudrapur IRDP beneficiaries is around 4500 rupees compared to only 3000 rupees in Samudrapur. IRDP programmes yielded better employment and income to the beneficiaries in Deoli.

The JRY programmes in Deoli resulted not only in building up the infrastructure but also in creating assets to the individual
beneficiaries, besides promoting more employment and higher wages.

As far as the Improved Chulhas are concerned, the respondents from Deoli Samiti are mostly using the chulhas for routine cooking purposes. On the other hand, in Samudrapur Samiti the respondents are using the chulhas only for occasional cooking. Due to lack of proper awareness, the owners of Improved Chulhas in Samudrapur Samiti are finding problems in the use of chulhas. The problems are mostly created due to underutilisation and lack of proper maintenance.

The bio-gas units installed in Deoli Samiti are functioning not only effectively but also providing the necessary cooking gas as well as manure to the beneficiaries. In Samudrapur productivity of the bio-gas units is less and the beneficiaries are often encountering problems of maintenance. In the process, it may be noted that more than 20 per cent of the bio-gas units in Samudrapur are not in a working condition.

The awareness levels of the beneficiaries of NPFW are relatively more compared to the Samudrapur beneficiaries. In addition, it may be noted that less number of post-sterilisation problems have been experienced by the respondents from Deoli Samiti. As far as Samudrapur respondents are concerned, side-
effects such as post-sterilisation bleeding, problems of backache, itching sensation etc., have been reported by the beneficiaries. The study thus comes to the conclusion that the beneficiaries from Deoli being young in age, with a proper educational background and with better levels of awareness are in a position to use rural development programmes in a positive way for their employment generation, income generation, asset building and for the health and hygiene of the family.

EXTENSION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The study collected information from various aspects of extension from 75 extension personnel. It may be noted that around 76 per cent of extension personnel have rural nativity. Majority of the extension staff with urban background are located in Samudrapur Samiti. Only one fourth of the extension personnel in general have graduate qualification. The graduates are more in number in Deoli. Very few extension persons received pre-service training and orientation. Almost 92 per cent of them were introduced to extension only after joining the service. The experience of extension personnel ranged from one year to about 24 years. The personnel engaged in Samudrapur Samiti are less experienced while those from Deoli are having considerable years of extension service.
In programmes related to IRDP and JRY, the knowledge levels of extension personnel are high. In case of the NPBD and NPFW programmes, extension personnel have moderate knowledge.

It is of a point of interest to note that in all the development programmes, the concerned extension personnel are not aware of the monitoring and the evaluation procedures. Despite, the need for community organisation, it may be noted that nearly one-third of the extension staff are not familiar with community organisation methods and with the principles of extension.

Home visits are being used extensively by the extension staff. Occasionally, group discussions and exhibitions are being organised. Very few extension persons are applying the methods of demonstrations and result demonstrations.

It is heartening to note that in almost all the cases, the extensive staff played a significant role in introducing the programmes to the people and in motivating them to adopt the development programmes. In addition to the extension staff, significant role has been played by the village leaders, friends and relatives.

The opinions of the extension staff with reference to their role in promoting rural development shows that those concerned with
IRDP, JRY & NPIC are satisfied with their role and with the responsibilities allocated to them.

The extension staff, even though performed reasonably well in taking the rural development programmes to the people, feel that their efforts are hampered because of many problems. Majority are of the opinion that they are overburdened with work in terms of the multiple roles and the large area they have to cover. Conveyance seems to be their major physical constraint. A significant number of extension workers are unhappy with the interference of political leaders in their day-to-day functioning, especially in the selection of the beneficiaries.

In a nutshell, the study concludes that the success of the rural development programmes depends upon the regional variations in terms of available natural resources, the socio-economic features of the people and mode of extension. The rural development programmes, eventhough common in nature, had a higher positive impact on Deoli Panchayat Samiti. The limitations of land and water, monoagricultural practices and remote location acted as barriers of development in Samudrapur Samiti. The beneficiaries being predominantly young, educated and nuclear family background utilised the development programmes in Deoli and gained more wages, income and assets.
Vacancies in the sanctioned extension positions, large area, lack of transport facilities, absence of latest information, lack of skills on advanced extension methods hindered the development process, more particularly in Samudrapur Samiti. A considerable section of the extension personnel are dissatisfied with political interference and lack of support from sister departments. Inspite of the professional and field limitations, extension functionaries have been successful in communicating, educating and motivating the people towards rural development.

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