

CHAPTER - VI

-: CONCLUSION :-

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C O N C L U S I O N

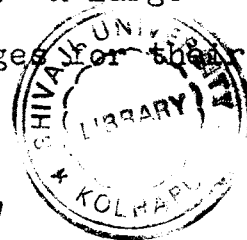
Mangalwedha is an industrially backward Taluka in the Solapur District. It is mainly inhabited by small farmers and agricultural labourers. The farmers here have mainly engaged in traditional agricultural activities for generations. Of the total cultivable land, only 6006 hectares, i.e. 6 percent, are irrigated. Therefore, the non-irrigated land depends upon rainfall which is scanty as well as uncertain. Hence, in Mangalwedha, the agriculture sector is a subsistence sector and does not constitute a profitable proposition. Jawar is the major crop, but constitutes an important subsistence crop. The production of cash crops is discouraged by the non-availability of assured water supply.

Since the Mangalwedha is an economically backward Taluka, its per capita income is less than the District average. Industrially it is a completely neglected Taluka. Some cottage industries like oil ghanies do exist, but they are of house hold nature. Thus the 'Poverty and rural development in Mangalwedha with special reference to I.R.D.P.' will be fairly useful in analysing the socio-economic structure and possible changes in them. Rural development embraces all those programmes

that touch all levels of human living, e.g. agriculture and related matters, irrigation, communications, education, health, supplementary employment, housing, training and social welfare. Rural development forms an integral part of the planning process. The public services like Community Development Programme, The Intensive Agricultural Area Programme were meant for the area as a whole. These could, apparently be of use to only those people who owned some productive assets, like land. The affluent sections of the rural community flourished in the wake of these programmes, where as the large majority of the rural community consisting of landless agricultural labour, rural artisans and small and marginal farmers were unable to derive any benefits. In the wake of this assessment of India's economic development, there has been a reappraisal of the development strategy. As a consequence, an emphasis has come to be placed on target group approach.

The fact that the Integrated Rural Development Programme is an instrument for an ultimate war against poverty needs no emphasis. The I.R.D.P. is to be focused on the target group comprising small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans, where economic improvements is an important concern of rural development.

Mangalwedha consists 79 villages with 100499 number of rural population. Out of 17588 rural total families, 5946 families are classified as B.P.L. families. A large number of families depend upon agricultural wages for their



income. The 40 percent of the total B.P.L. families fall in the income group of between Rs. 1000 and 3000. Out of 5946 of the total B.P.L. families only 2645 have landed property, and 3301 belong to agricultural labourers class. The majority of the families have their own house but a very small number of families have permanent household assets, with them.

Out of 5946 total B.P.L. families 3380 families (i.e. 56.84 percent) have benefited (by the end of 31st March 1987). Since the implementation of this programme, within a relatively short period of 7 years, the government is able to provide benefits to more than 50 percent of the families through this programme. Among the beneficiary families 40 percent belong to backward class. Out of 79 villages only 49 villages account for more than 50 percent of the beneficiary families.

A note worthy thing is that 20.35 (i.e. 688 families) of the beneficiary families fall in the income group of between Rs. 1000 and 1500, and 46.21 percent are in the income group of between Rs. 1501 and 3000, and remaining 33.43 percent are in the income group of between Rs. 3001 and Rs. 3500. Therefore it will be clear that the families of lower income group have not got equal justice in the implementation of this programme. The family with an income of Rs. 800 or Rs. 1000 is comparatively poorer than the family having an income of Rs. 3500. But the sample survey has made it abundantly clear that the priority is given to higher income groups

in the implementation of this programme. Among the beneficiary families, the agricultural labourers accounts for only 17.82 percent. Further only 12 female members have got the benefit of this programme. Therefore the priority should be given to B.C., S.T. agricultural labourers and female members.

From the Table 5.6 it is clear that there is no variety of purposes in getting loan. People are engaged in traditional activities even after getting the benefits of this programme. For example majority of the families have got loans for purchasing goat, sheep, buffalo etc. To cross the poverty line, people should use their loans for modern and profitable business. But do to lack of modern view and modern type of agriculture, people are still under the grip of inertia and as a result continue to remain in the same occupation, much to the detriment of their families' interest. The profit rate in rope making business, in Panshops, in vegetable selling at the village level is very low. If the B.P.L. families are to cross the Poverty Line, they should use their loans for irrigation, purchasing of agricultural implements, poultry, and for small scale and cottage industries. The loan amount should be in sufficient quantity. With this sufficient amount of capital, families will be able to run their businesses profitably.

In Mangalwedha more than 56 percent of the B.P.L.

families have benefited. But out of them a very small number of families have really crossed the Poverty Line. It seems that the implementation of this programme is not so satisfactory in this Taluka. Majority of the families have repaid their loans by selling some of their permanent household assets. Families have faced a number of difficulties in the implementation of this programme, i.e. lack of profitable market for their products, lack of water and grass for animals, the accidental deaths of cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats etc. and lack of infra-structural facilities.

People may migrate part of the year to the economically advanced places for seeking job opportunities. This migration will affect the agricultural sector adversely, and that related family will be disturbed. If the rate of such migration is to be reduced, it should become the responsibility of the government to provide job opportunities at local or village levels. This is possible by exploiting the local resources through I.R.D. Programme. Agriculture alone is not sufficient for development of rural poor. There should also be some development of agro-based industries.

For the successful implementation of this programme the families should not implement this programme individually. Ten or more families should come together and should adopt this programme on cooperative basis. But people of Mangalwedha, at the rural levels are not

willing to come together to implement this programme. Differents of opinion amongst the rural poor coupled with high rates of illitaracy, make a succsesful co-operative effort a very distant, faint dream. However all is not lost as, in some Talukas of Solapur District, B.P.L. families have adopted this programme on co-operative basis inrespect of lift irrigation, digging of wells, poultry, dairy etc. But Mangalwedha lags behind in this respect. Therefore, the B.D.O. and the concered village leaders should take the initiative to implement this programme on co-operative basis.

For better and successful implementation of this programme, block authority should select 20 to 25 villages at once, and should concentrate the attention on these villages only by providing huge amount of loans, all types of infrastructural facilities and good administration and supervision. The concentration by all sides on selected villages is very essential for the successful implementation of this programme. After three to four years again the Block Authority should select another 20 to 25 villages. In this way zonalwise implementation of this programme will yield good returns than the present method of implementation.

The responsibility of the government will not end at providing loan to B.P.L. families. An efficient supervision should be essential at the various stages in the implementation of this programme. There fore, at

the block level there should be a separate supervision body, which will supervise only after a family has been sanctioned a loan.

In the process of personal interviews it was observed that the selection of B.P.L. families by the B.D.O. staff was not satisfactory. There are many families who have registered their names in the list of B.P.L., but are economically in a far better position than a genuine B.P.L. family. And some of the real poor families do not find their names in the same list. At the time of preparation of this list, these poor families might have migrated to other places for seeking a job. Therefore, the government should prepare a revised list of B.P.L. families every year.

In Mangalwedha Taluka the rate of implementation of this programme is very slow. To cover the 50 percent of beneficiary families the programme required 7 years, and if this rate continued, further 7 years would be required to cover the remaining 50 percent of the B.P.L. families. And then what about the families who are on the cut-off line. (i.e. those who fall in the income group of between Rs. 3500 and Rs. 6000.) During the slow rate of implementation of this programme, with passing time, the cost of implementation of this programme will also increase.

There should be an extensive advertisement campaign about this programme at the rural level. Majority of

the rural people do not have the clear and thorough idea about this programme. Therefore there is need to supply all types of necessary information concerning I.R.D.P. The successful implementation of this programme requires that illiterate and backward rural people should be fully aware about this programme. This suggested advertisement campaign will fillin this lacuna and will be helpful in reducing the mischievous activities in the implementation of this programme.

From the study of the I.R.D.P. discussed above, we come to conclusion that, what we need is, not only institutional reform but also the self-sustaining, self-generating and self-perpetuating rural development programmes. Generation of more employment opportunities in agriculture by extension of irrigation and power for rural areas and support to small and cottage industries, by multi-dimensional programmes of the rural works would expand and improve the efficiency of infrastructural facilities and thereby increase the rural productivity. Now the task of rural development is not only a problem of economic and social planning but more of social justice. Therefore, the urgent need of the day is, a band of sincere, devoted and honest workers to implement this programme of rural development in an integrated manner so as to transform the living conditions of the rural masses from poverty to prosperity. It requires, people's co-operation and participation in rural programmes to the greatest extent. Our war against rural poverty depends

upon the successful implementation of the rural development programmes. Hence, the majority thrust of the seventh plan is to strengthen the existing rural development programmes for their effective implementation.