

CHAPTER -I

A : PRELIMINARY SECTION OR FRONT MATTER

B : MAIN BODY OF DISSERTATION

C H A P T E R - I

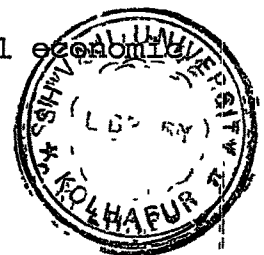
INTRODUCTION :

Co-operative movement in India, in recent years, has made considerable progress and diversified its activities. It has emerged as an important force in the economic life of the community and has entered different spheres of the national economy.

One of the most striking experiences of planned efforts in India, has been that economically backward regions and economically backward and socially oppressed people in both developed and backward regions have gained little. On the other hand same thing has been happening in the case of Co-operative movement, benefits of Co-operative enterprises have passed more to already rich and socially prevailed sections of the society.

The backward classes that is SC/ST constitute the bulk, and Crux of the weaker sections of the society; and its socio-economic and demographic state of affairs attracts our attention towards distinguishing characteristics of the SC/ST population. These are illiteracy, Socio-Economic backwardness etc. The same characteristics are prevalent among the general population also but they are more prominent in the case of scheduled groups.

In this study the major Hypothesis advanced is that the Co-operatives are supposed to be a means for the general economic



development of the rural areas and more particularly economic upliftment of the weaker sections of the society. However a general impression seems to be that Co-operatives so far failed in respect of the latter objective.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

In order to understand the impact of Co-operative institutions it is necessary to carry out in depth research. While there has been much literature dealing with Co-operatives in India very few of them have gone in to the actual working of the Co-operatives formed by SC/ST people.

In the present study an attempt is made to review the performance of Co-operatives formed by SC/ST people and to measure the Socio-economic benefits accruing to SC/ST families through their Co-operatives.