

P R E F A C E

Watershed development refers to the conservation, regeneration and the judicious use of natural resources including land, water, plants and animals within a watershed. Watershed is a basin or catchment area of a stream or river. It is the area from where the water to a river or stream comes from. Watershed development has been viewed basically as a strategy for protecting the livelihoods of the people inhabiting the fragile ecosystems experiencing soil erosion and moisture stress. The aim is to ensure the availability of drinking water, fuelwood and fodder and raise income and employment for farmers and landless labourers through improvements in agricultural production and productivity.

In the contemporary period, watershed development and management becomes a key for sustainable development. NGOs have played a vital role in watershed development. There are some such examples, which include Sukhomajiri, Ralegaon Sidhi, Adgaon, and certain tribal areas of Panchmahal, Mittemari and Jhabua. The scholars, who have reviewed the research efforts, emphasize the necessity and importance of undertaking studies in this area of research, particularly those focusing on role of NGOs in watershed development at all levels. Yerala Projects Society is one such NGO. This 'society' has launched watershed development projects in Kamalapur area of Khanapur Taluka

designed to summarize the finding noted in earlier chapters and to draw conclusions based on the present study.

The references to the literature that have been used in this work are listed in brief at the end of each chapter. The sources of references are given in detail in the bibliography, where they are arranged in alphabetical order.

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