

CHAPTER-VII

CONCLUSION

Gobar gas plant is one of the tools used in rural development programme. The expectations from this gobar gas plants are, that they should increase the standard of living of rural people and especially rural housewives should get rid of traditional type of fuel used with smoke and carbon hampering the health and mind of the woman.

The group under study has revealed many important things concerned with the life of rural housewives.

IMPACT ON LIFE STYLE :

The number of housewives studied have shown that there has been a positive impact of gobar gas on their life style. The traditional sources of fuel used to affect the physical as well as mental health. The dung cakes, firewood and sugarcane shoots and agricultural wastes produce smoke and carbon. The kitchen is full of smoke and it affects the eye and throat of the housewife. This type of fuel produces polluted environment and affects the housewives health.

Gobar gas is the non-conventional form of energy produced by the dung and organic wastes available in rural areas and agriculturalist families can easily utilize it in the form of fuel as well as can get improved farm yard manure. Indian Agricultural Research Institute had produced biogas on experimental basis for the first time in 1939. However, it initiated it for the public use in 1961-62. In Maharashtra since the dawn of the sugar co-operatives the installation of gobar gas on large scale has been initiated.

The use of gobar gas is expected to have direct impact on rural households, particularly on rural women's life style. The present study was designed to examine the socio-economic impact on the life styles of rural housewives. The specific objectives of the study were

1) to study the socio-economic characteristics of adopters of gobar gas plant in a particular village.

2) to study the changes in the working and time utilization pattern of the adopters.

3) to study the problems which arise in the adoption of gobar gas plant and to find out the reasons for non-adoption of gobar gas plant.

To accomplish these objectives the present study was confined to the village Koparde selected purposively for the intensive study. The group of adopters and non-adopters was taken into consideration for the purpose of this study. The data was collected through personal interviews and with participant observation methods.

The major findings of the study are listed below :

1) All the respondents having gobar gas plant have been benefitted by the gobar gas in many respects.

a) They can get smokeless and direct free fuel continuously.

b) Their kitchens are more clean and neat than ever before.

c) The utensils are not spoiled by the carbon, which used to be in the traditional type of fuel and with the use of mud chullah.

d) They have saved the time in cooking and cleaning of utensils.

e) They can serve their guests without any physical strain and can extend hospitality more than before.

f) They have been freed from the drudgery of dung collection and storing of fuel.

g) They can save fuel as they can use it as and when required and close the gas plate immediately after the work is finished. They can get the water heated with less fuel and with less time and physical efforts.

h) Gobar gas has been accepted as a better alternative fuel as a readymade fuel. The housewives have the freedom of simply turning and lighting a match whenever they needed the fire.

i) The new type of fuel has been able to save eyes and throats of the housewives from inflections from smoke and carbon. The environmental conditions have been improved and a there has been an improvement in the health conditions.

j) To have a gobar gas plant is the symbol of higher status and prestige in rural areas. There has been an enhancement in social aprestige as far as the adopters group is concerned.

k) Availability of improved quality of farm yard manure has become possible with the use of gobar gas. The farm yard manure produced by the gas contains higher nitrogen and gets mixed up with the soil easily. It is helpful for more agricultural production for the adopters.

These are some of the important benefits derived out of the use of gobar gas plants.

ii) The housewives from the adopters group have been particularly benefitted personally.

a) They are getting more time to look after themselves and can develop their personality. They get sufficient time for knitting, weaving and other personal works as they can getrid of household duties in a considerable less time.

b) They can devote more to their children. They can spare time to their health, studies and other matters. The role of a mother is performed better than before.

c) The housewives can look after domesticated milch animals and can get more money to support their families.

d) These housewives can support their husbands in farm activities without tension and physical strains.

iii) The group of non-adopters under study has revealed that due to situational, economic and psychological reasons they have not been able to install gobar gas plants in their courtyards. The explanation given by them regarding the situational reasons and regarding their financial constraints are acceptable. But the psychological reasons, especially they are not mentally prepared to use the fuel produced out of the use of organic wastes shows that they are not having scientific outlook andthey are still under the age old conceptions about fuel and cooking. They feel that gobar gas gives bad smell and if the food is cooked with it, it will be with a bad smell and odur. This explanation cannot be accepted.

Thus, it can be concluded that this non-conventional source of energy is bringing significant change in the life style of rural housewives. Gobar gas as an instrument of rural development can be used effectively.