

**ROLE OF GRAM PANCHAYATI IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A
STUDY OF UTTUR VILLAGE OF MUDHOL TALUKA, BAGALKOT
DISTRICT (KARNATAKA)**

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ABSTRACT

The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in rural development in India, particularly after independence. Plan documents of both the central and state governments and various committees have emphasized the importance of these bodies in the polity. Five-year plans, specially the second five-year plan, laid special emphasis on the role of Panchayats in rural developments.

The paper contains need and importance of the study, methodology, objectives of the study, hypothesis, general observations, evolutions of panchayat raj, development programmes in Uttur gram panchayati, etc. An attempt is made to study the role of gram panchayats in rural development in general and Uttur village of Bagalkot district (Karnataka) in particular.

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INTRODUCTION:

The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in rural development in India, particularly after independence. Plan documents of both the central and state governments and various committees have emphasized the importance of these bodies in the polity. Five-year plans, specially the second five-year plan, laid special emphasis on the role of Panchayats in rural developments. Second five-year plan envisaged a panchayati as responsible for village development keeping transformation of social and economic life of rural areas as its goal of development. It says that, the rural progress depends entirely on the existence of an active organization in the village which can bring all the people, including the weaker sections, in to common programmes to be carried out with the assistance of administration. To achieve this objective the second Five year Plan entailed the Panchayats to perform civic, developmental, land management, land reform and judicial functions. Subsequent plans and policy pronouncements of national leader to emphasized the role of Panchayats in village development⁻¹

The role of panchayati Raj institutions as instruments of rural reconstruction and development needs no emphasis. They have been reorganized with wider powers and financial resources not merely as institutions of political participation but institutions of social and economic development. Panchayati Raj has come to be associated with two broad images. First, it is a government by itself and second it is an agency of the state government. In the integrated exercise of planning for social and economic development, co-ordinate roles, the present set up is a three-tier representative structure of government where the administrators, elected leaders and local population participate in the developmental effort.

In fact the elected representatives play the key role in the decision making process, leaders are regarded as facilities of the process of development. Since the emphasis of rural development policies is bringing about people's participation in the development programmes, it is possible to achieve this through the leaders (B.C. Muttayya, 1979, p-1). The administrators are expected to participate with missionary zeal in the life and development of the villages and these Institutions are to be galvanized to become effective instruments of social and economic change (Harichandan. C, 1983, p-3).

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY:

The Panchayat Raj System is playing important role in rural development. Gram panchayat Uttur has taken the responsibility of implementing various rural development programmes of both state and central governments. The study is needed for evaluating the role of panchayati and the impact of the same on the development of study area. Hence, this study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To evaluate the rural development activities of Uttur gram panchayati,
2. To identify problems of Uttur gram panchayati in implementing rural development programmes.
3. To give suggestions for the better implementation of policies and development.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

The study seeks to test the following hypothesis.

“Panchayati Raj institution is playing key role in rural development and enriching the positions of the rural people”.

METHODOLOGY:

In the light of objective and the hypothesis of the study, a systematic research design is drawn. The relevant data for the study was collected through primary and secondary sources. Research tools such as interview schedule and participant observation was used. The Secondary sources comprised of official records of Gram Panchayati Uttur.

Separate questionnaires were used for collection of information from Gram Panchayati members, and rural poor people, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people who have taken assistance and other benefits under the jurisdiction of gram Panchayati.

The data is also collected through the interview schedule. Respondents were interviewed at their respective residences. An questionnaire was prepared which comprised questions on various aspects dealing with their social, economic, political and educational conditions.

EVOLUTION OF PRI'S-AN OVERVIEW:

Rural development has been massively a government supported process rather than the people-led process in India. To formulate and implement rural development programs an appropriate institutional structure is required. This need was met by the establishment of Panchayat Raj Institution (PRIs) in India. Further, the PRIs, being

local self-governing bodies ensure, the opportunity for people's participation and involvement in the formulation and implementation of rural development programs. Thus, the PRIs are entrusted with the task of promoting rural development in India.

Since Independence greater emphasis has been laid on the social, economic and planning policy of our country for creating an appropriate rural, economic and social infrastructure and promoting overall development. The planning policy of our country accorded the highest priority to agriculture and rural development. The measures envisaged from first five-year plan had considerable bearing for the growth of rural economy. The first five-year plan laid down that "development of agriculture, based on the utilization of man power resources of the countryside and the maximum use of local resources, holds a key to the rapid development of the country".

In the words of Committee on Plan Projects, "so long as we do not discover or create a representative and democratic institution which will supply the local interest, supervision and care necessary to ensure that expenditure of money upon local objects conforms with the needs and wishes of the locality, invest it with never be able to evoke local interest and excite local initiative in the field of development" and the team recommended a three-tier model of Panchayat Raj to serve as instrument of rural development in India (Committee on Plan Projects Report, 1957, Vol.I, p-5).

Panchayats have been in existence for a long period. The present set-up clearly marks itself off from the past in respect of powers, functions and financial resources. The four main aspects of the present system are (i) democratization of the constitution and universal establishment of Panchayats. (ii) transfer of more powers from the state to these bodies, (iii) expansion of the scope of and transfer of more functions to the panchayats in regard to agriculture and allied activities, health and welfare and education and (iv) strengthening of the resource position of these bodies (Muttayya.B.C., 1979, p-1).

Rural development is generally conceived as a multi-sectoral activity which includes, besides agricultural development, rural industries, the establishment or improvement of social overhead facilities or infra-structure, such as schools, clinics, roads, communication, water supply, markets, welfare sources, improved nutrition, literacy, adult education etc. The primary objective of rural development is the enrichment of the quality of the rural masses, particularly the poorer and the weaker sections of the rural society (Shah. 1990, pp-7). The implementation of democratic decentralization

through the Panchayat Raj institutions was meant to give an opportunity for local initiative and participation in the developmental activities.

Pandit Nehru with his characteristic long-range vision and idealism went to the extent of saying, “democracy is not merely parliament at the top or in the states, but something that excites every person and indeed any place in the country if need arises” (K.Sheshadi, 1976, p-7).

Gandhiji drew the picture of free India’s political structure in these words, “Indian independence must begin at the bottom. Every village should be a republic or a Panchayat having full powers. The greater the power of Panchayats, the better it is for the people”. “Swaraj” signified to him the vesting of the ultimate authority in the peasant and the labourer. True democracy cannot be worked from bellow by the people of every village (Dayal Rajeshwar, 1970, p-15).

In this light, The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 has provided a new dimension to the concept of Panchayati Raj. In other words, the concept of participation of the people should be considered as an ideological commitment and, therefore, what is needed is legislative and structural measures to give legitimacy to people’s participation (Vijayakumar. A, 1984.p-32 & 33).

The Panchayati Raj institutions are statutorily elected bodies at the village, Block and District levels with powers of local government. The primary objective of Panchayati Raj is to strengthen the base of democracy at the grass roots and to enable the people of each village to achieve intensive and continuous development in the interests of the entire population, irrespective of the caste, class, and creed of religion.

Panchayati Raj or local self-government is an exercise in democratic decentralization of administrative authority. The system is based on the following principles.

- i) There should be a three-tier structure of local-self governing bodies from village to district level, with an organic link from the lower to the higher ones.
- ii) There should be a genuine transfer of power and responsibility to these bodies.
- iii) Adequate financial resource should be transferred to those bodies to enable to them to discharge their responsibility.
- iv) All development programs at these levels should be channeled through these bodies.
- v) The system evolved should be such as to facilitate further decentralization of

power and responsibility in the future (Dahama 1993, p-41).

The future of the country really depends upon effective Panchayati Raj and people's participation or co-operation. It is the only effective instrument. Which can put speed and substance in our planning process and ensure the most effective use of the country's resources productivity. In that lies the future both of democracy and real development of the economy as well as of the people in the country. In the years to come, Panchayati Raj will be a catalytic agent of integrated development of rural.

Meaning of Rural Development

The term 'Rural Development' is of focal interest and is widely acclaimed in both the developed and the developing countries of the world. There is however no universally acceptable definition of rural development, and the term is used in different ways and in vastly divergent contexts. As concept, it connotes over all development of rural areas with a view to improve the quality of life of rural people. In this sense, it is a comprehensive and multi dimensional concept and encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities - village and cottage industries and crafts, socio-economic infrastructure, community services and facilities, and above all, the human resource in rural areas. As a phenomenon, it is the result of interactions between various physical, technological, economic, socio-cultural, and institutional factors. As a strategy, it is designed to improve the economic and social well being of a special group of people the rural poor. As discipline, it is multidisciplinary in nature representing an intersection of agricultural, social, behavioral, engineering and management sciences (Katar Singh, 1995, p-18).

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN UTTUR GRAM PANCHAYATI

The various rural development programs conceived and introduced at different points of time have been CDP, DPAP, SFDA/MFAL, MNP, IRDP, NREP, RLEGP, TRYSEM, DWCRA etc at every stage the programs with the same objective of poverty reduction have been recast to inculcate, the experience and the past failures. The presently working programs are SJGSY, PMRY, EAS, TRYSEM and DWCRA. The schemes are operative both in urban and rural areas under different names. There are rural and also other programs to benefit specific section like SCP, Ashraya, Neralu Bhagya, Indira Awas Yojana and Ambedkar Yojana etc. However not all of the programmes are implemented at the same time. Hence the programmes being implemented in Uttur Gram panchayati area during the last five years are, SJGSY,

JRY, EAS housing schemes like Ashraya, Neralu Bhagya, Indira Awas Yojana, Ambedkar Yojana and Supply of power to weaker section (Bhagya Jyoti).

In addition to the aforesaid functions, the Gram Panchyati is involved very much in the implementation of special economic programs/schemes sponsored by both central and state governments.

The study is confined to five years that is from 2001-02 to 2005-06, total number of beneficiaries during years 2001-02 to 2005-06, is 261 in which 129 belong to SC/ST category. These beneficiaries are included in various poverty alleviation programs like SJGSY, Housing schemes (Ashraya, Ambedkar, Indira Awas and Neralu Bhagya) and power scheme (Bhagya Jyothi).

The table-1 shows that, during the year 2001-02, the total 45 persons benefited by the 5 programs, in which 22 belong to SC/ST category. The total numbers of beneficiaries increased to 53 in the year 2002-03, where in 25 beneficiaries belong to SC/ST category. In the year 2003-04, there was slight decline in total number of beneficiaries that is 45, in which 22 belong to SC/ST category. Again there was decline in total number of beneficiaries; the number of beneficiaries in 2004-2005 is only 42, in which 22 belong to SC/ST category. It is less compared to the previous years due to the no grant for Ashraya scheme from the state government it leads to less number of total beneficiaries. In the year 2005-06, there was sudden increase in the total number of beneficiaries compared to the all previous years, the total number of beneficiaries during the year 2005-06 is 76, in which 38 beneficiaries belong to SC/ST category. It is clear from the above i.e. 45 in the year 2001-02, 53 in the year 2002-03, then there was slight decline in another two years i.e. 45 in the year 1998-9 and 41 in the year 2003-04 and once again the total number of beneficiaries increased to 76 in the year 2005-06.

TABLE-1. NUMBER OF BENEFICIERIES UNDEER THE VARIOUS SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED BY THE UTTUR GRAM PANCHAYATI : DURING 2001-02 TO 2005-06.

Sl.No	Schemes	2001-02				2002-03				2003-04				2004-05				2005-06				Total			
		SC/ST		Total		SC/ST		Total		SC/ST		Total		SC/ST		Total		SC/ST		Total		SC/ST		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1.	SJGSY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	ASHRAY YOJANA	3	1	8	2	4	2	10	3	3	1	9	3	-	-	-	-	5	3	13	7	15	7	40	15
3.	INDIRA AWAS	2	-	3	-	2	1	3	1	2	-	3	-	1	2	2	2	3	2	4	2	10	5	15	5
4.	NERALU BHAGYA	2	-	6	-	2	-	5	2	2	-	4	1	2	1	7	1	5	1	11	2	13	2	33	6
5.	BHAGYA JYOTHI	8	2	18	4	5	3	15	8	7	2	17	3	10	1	20	4	10	2	25	5	40	10	95	34
6.		17	5	37	8	18	7	38	15	18	4	37	8	17	5	34	8	28	10	58	18	98	31	204	57
	TOTAL	22		45		25		53		22		45		22		42		38		76		129		261	

Source : Gram Panchayati Records 2001 to 2006, Note : M : Male, F : Female

SC/ST : Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe

The above table clearly indicates that the male beneficiaries have taken large share in every program. The total number of beneficiaries is 261 in which 204 are males and 57 are female beneficiaries and out of the total 125 SC/ST beneficiaries, 98 are males and 31 are female beneficiaries in the year during 2001-02 to 2005-06. The Ambedkar housing scheme is purely extended only to the SC/ST people, and remaining housing schemes facilities are given both to SC/ST and other caste groups.

TABLE- 2. AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANT UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES DURING 2001-02 TO 2005-06.

Sl. No	Schemes	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		Total	
		SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total
1.	SJGSY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	108600	-	-	-	108600
2.	ASHRAY YOJANA	60,000 (40)	21,50,000	90,000 (89.55)	1,00,500	80,000 (33.33)	2,40,000	-	-	2,20,000 (47.83)	4,60,000	4,50,500 (47.34)	9,50,500
3.	INDIRA AWAS	30,000 (66.67)	45,000	45,000 (75)	60,000	40,000 (66.67)	60,000	60,000 (75)	80,000	1,00,000 (83.33)	1,20,000	2,75,000 (75.34)	3,65,000
4.	NERALU BHAGYA	1000 (33.33)	3000	1000 (40)	2500	2000 (40)	5000	3000 (37.50)	8000	6000 (46.15)	13000	13000 (41.26)	31500
5.	BHAGYA JYOTHI	5000 (45.45)	11000	4000 (34.78)	11500	7200 (45)	16000	8800 (45.83)	19200	9600 (40)	24000	34600 (42.35)	81700
	TOTAL	165000 (52.03)	269000	230000 (67.02)	264500	229200 (53.33)	421000	171800 (54.40)	315800	475600 (62.82)	757000	1106900 (51.83)	2249300
	Grand Total	269000		264500		421000		315800		757000		2027300	

Source : Gram Panchayati Records 2001 to 2006, Note : Figures in bracket Indicate percentage of spending on SC/ST section.

Table-2 shows the loans granted under various rural development programs by the Uttur gram Panchayati. Totally Rs. 2027300 has been sanctioned during the course of five years, which is taken as the period of study, in which Rs 1106900 for SC/ST people. During the year 2001-02, total amount of Rs. 269000 was sanctioned as a financial assistance to the all beneficiaries, in which Rs. 165000 (52.03%) was sanctioned to the SC/ST people. The amount of grant realized in 2002-03 increased to Rs. 264500 in which Rs. 230000 (67.02%) for SC/ST people, these two years (2001-02 and 2002-07) amount is very less compared to the 2000-06 amount. As revealed in table there was a substantial increase in the 2003-04 the total amount of Rs. 421000 was sanctioned in the same year, in which Rs. 229200 (53.33 %) for SC/ST people. The total of Rs. 315800 was sanctioned for all beneficiaries in various programs, in

which Rs. 171800 (54.40 %) for SC/ST people, grant realized through the Ashraya Yojana programs is Predominantly higher than all others and IRDP is redesigned as the SJGSY, the assistance is shown accordingly since 2004-05.

Once again there was a substantial increased in the year 2005-06, the total amount is Rs. 757000 in which Rs. 475600- (62.82 percent) for Sc/St people, it is very higher amount compared to the previous years.

The table shows that there was an increase in amount in the first three years i.e. Rs, 269000 (12.18 percent) in the year 2002-03 and Rs. 421000 (26.27 percent) in the year 2003-04. There was sudden decline in the year 2004-05, i.e. Rs,3,15,800 (-32.95 percent), it is very less compared to the previous year 2003-04,because government should not realized the fund of Ashray Scheme, and once again the percentage of the amount was increased to Rs. 7,57,00 (139.95 percent) in the year 2005-06, it is very higher amount compared to the previous years.

The total sanctioned amount includes all rural; development programs. (SJGSY, Housing scheme and power scheme). The amount is not directly sanctioned by the Uttur gram panchayati but it is sanctioned by the taluk panchayati, on the basis of the selection list formed by gram panchayti. As per the government rules and procedures Ambedkar housing scheme made for only SC/ST people and the amount relatively sanctioned to other castes is higher because beside Ambedkar Yojana, they can take the benefit under other schemes. It means that still rural poor and SC/ST people need much benefit in the future also until the progress of these people and they are the people living below the poverty line.

Thus the Panchayati Raj institutions have helped in sanctioning more assistance to poor for their alleviation of poverty in rural area.

TABLE-3 AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANT UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES DURING 2001-02 TO 2005-06.

Sl.No.	Schemes	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		Total	
		SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total
1.	SJGSY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	108600	-	-	-	108600
2.	ASHRAY YOJANA	60,000 (40)	21,50,000	90,000 (89.55)	1,00,500	80,000 (33.33)	2,40,000	-	-	2,20,000 (47.83)	4,60,000	4,50,500 (47.34)	9,50,500

3.	INDIRA AWAS	30,000 (66.67)	45,000	45,000 (75)	60,000	40,000 (66.67)	60,000	60,000 (75)	80,000	1,00,000 (83.33)	1,20,000	2,75,000 (75.34)	3,65,000
4.	NERALU BHAGYA	1000 (33.33)	3000	1000 (40)	2500	2000 (40)	5000	3000 (37.50)	8000	6000 (46.15)	13000	13000 (41.26)	31500
5.	BHAGYA JYOTHI	5000 (45.45)	11000	4000 (34.78)	11500	7200 (45)	16000	8800 (45.83)	19200	9600 (40)	24000	34600 (42.35)	81700
	TOTAL	165000 (52.03)	269000	230000 (67.02)	264500	229200 (53.33)	421000	171800 (54.40)	315800	475600 (62.82)	757000	1106900 (51.83)	2249300
Grand Total		269000		264500		421000		315800		757000		2027300	

Source : Gram Panchayati Records 2001 to 2006

Note : Figures in bracket Indicate percentage of spending on SC/ST section.

Table -3 gives the information of subsidy to the beneficiaries under granted under various development schemes. The total amount of subsidy during the years 2001-02 to 2005-06 is Rs. 1690900, where in Rs. 126000 went to SC/ST people. The table reveals that there was increase in the amount in the first three years. The total of subsidy during the year 2001-02 is Rs. 21250 in which Rs. 156000 for SC/ST people. During the year 2002-03, the total amount of Rs. 298500 as a subsidy to the all people in which Rs. 234000 provided for SC/ST people.

In the year 2003-04 there was slight decline in the total amount compared to the previous year (1997-98). The total amount of subsidy during the same year is Rs. 3399500 in which Rs. 229200 for SC/ST people. As shown in the table, the subsidy to the various programmes, the total amount of Rs. 243500 as a subsidy, in the year 1999-2000, in which Rs. 170800 for SC/ST people. Due to no grant for Ashraya scheme of government amount, it leads to low amount of total. In the year 2005-06, there was sudden increase in the total amount compared to the all previous years, the total of subsidy during the year 2000-01 is Rs. 16,600, where in Rs. 4,75, 600 provided for SC/ST people.

It is clear from the table that there was increase amount in the first three years, i.e. Rs. 339950 in the year 2001-02, Rs. 298500 in the year 2002-03 and Rs. 339950 in the year 1998-99. There was decline of Rs. 2,43,500 in the year 1999-2000 and also once again total subsidy total amount increased to Rs. 6,16,300 in the year 2000-01. The SC/ST people have taken large amount of the total subsidy because of the government rules and procedures, SS/ST people have 100 percent subsidy in housing schemes and merely 40 percent in or SJGSY. The other caste people have 50 percent subsidy in housing schemes and nearly 20 to 25 percent in other schemes. Hence the eligible beneficiaries have got the subsidy in specified amounts. This is the advantage of involving panchayat raj institutions of rural development schemes.

OVER ALL IMPROVEMENT OF THE VILLAGE CONDITION INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES:

Provision of basic infrastructure is a pre-condition for the success of rural development program, who have easy t infrastructure, benefit most and those who do not have adequate access to the infrastructure get by-passed in the process of growth. Opinions of the sample beneficiaries regarding the accessibility, adequacy of different infrastructure facilities such as drinking water, sanitation, street light, education, health quality of roads, and transport etc. was collected. And also whether they are satisfactorily implemented or not.

The following table-4 shows the extent of satisfaction and dissatisfaction of IRDP beneficiaries about the infrastructure facilities. The analysis is for all the villages that come under the Uttur Gram Panchayati.

TABLE-4. Number of Beneficiaries Reporting Improvement in Village Infrastructure After setting Up of Gram Panchayat

Sl.No.	Item	Beneficiaries reporting Satisfaction	Beneficiaries reporting Dissatisfaction	Total
1.	Drinking water	17 (22.72)	5 (22.72)	22 (100)
2.	Sanitation	6 (27.27)	16 (72.73)	22 (100)
3.	Street light	15 (68.18)	7 (31.82)	22 (100)
4.	Quality of roads	6 (27.27)	16 (72.73)	22 (100)
5.	Schools	20 (90.09)	02 (9.09)	22 (100)

Source : Survey data. Note : Figures in Bracket indicate percentage to the total.

The study reveals that certain social facilities like sanitation and quality of roads were found in adequate. As the extent their adequacy and accessibility varies from village to

village, nearly 72.73% of the beneficiaries have expressed their dissatisfaction over the adequacy and accessibility of the above mentioned facilities. Hence there is an urgent need of providing those critical facilities on top priority basis.

Although the beneficiaries have expressed their satisfaction over some services like drinking water education and streetlight etc. There is a greater need for improving the quality and quantity of their services. Similarly the education facility was found to be accessed, However out of the total 22 beneficiaries, 20 persons have expressed their satisfaction about education facility and only 2 persons have expressed dissatisfaction. This calls for improving the quality of education facility and making it possible within the roads of a high level education facility and making it possible within the roads of a high level education. Therefore along with extending the infrastructure, quality maintenance and enhancement should be given due care.

STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE RURAL AREAS

It is quite interesting to see the likely change in the structure of rural community. As a result of poverty alleviation programs to support the income and employment of the household in the lowest strata of the rural society. For a long time these house holds were with the victims of exploitation by the elite which had taken deep roots in the rural economy, Now the question is whether the poverty alleviation programs have weakened these roots and created any favorable atmosphere for the rural poor the improve their conditions.

Another equally important change that we witnessed in the rural scene after poverty alleviation or rural development programs are that the poor people who never had any voice in the functioning of the village institutions. Now they are taking active part in these village institutions. This shows the confidence gained by the poor in framing the programs and policies meant for them. This change is predominantly due to the PRIs and their functioning.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

It is found that majority of the respondents were quite with the program as it had helped them to improve their economic condition at least marginally and to some extent employment. Majority of the sample beneficiaries (82.5%) felt that the scheme under which they were selected was not different from their traditional occupation. Those indicated it was different from their traditional occupation (91.4%) felt quite

satisfied with the change. Since the change has resulted in an increase in income and employment.

To another question as to whether they would suggest any change in the scheme. Majority of the sample beneficiaries (94.5%) said no and those who pleaded for the change suggested that, the amount of assistance should be enhanced, and if possible it should be released in one installment. The respondents from allied agriculture sector demanded the supply of cross breed buffaloes and sheep.

Thus the rural development programs implemented through the Panchayati Raj institutions in selected area have provided more employment opportunities for village landless people, artisans, small and marginal farmers and handicrafts. These programs have also provided good social and economic positions for the rural people. The SC/ST people are getting more facility of rural development program compare to the other caste people, because they were socially and economically backward than their counterparts.

And the rural development programs also become a good instrument for infrastructure development of rural area. The Panchayati providing more facilities like drinking water, sanitation, health services, school buildings, adult education, roads and bridges, street lights and etc, these facilities provided by Panchayati Raj institutions like a Uttur Gram Panchayati as a agency of state government.

Thus, the hypothesis that Panchayati Raj institution is playing crucial role in elevating the positions of the rural people stands confirmed.

CONCLUSION:

The implementation of rural development programs through the Panchayati Raj institutions has a drastic change in the socio economic conditions of the rural people in the selected areas. The implementation of rural development programs has affected even the social and political affairs of the people of the selected area. In the economic front of the rural development programs have created an improvement in economic position of the selected area, as a result of implementation of rural development programs most of the people gain additional income. From the created assets which has resulted into deprivation in selected areas. After the implementation of rural developments programs, efforts have been made to strengthen village and cottage industries, as a result most of the people have become employed in various agriculture and allied activities like animal husbandry, sheep/goat rearing, handicrafts, small

business and other activities. This has brought vigorous change in socio economic setup of the selected Gram Panchayati.

The implemented rural programs like SJGSY, housing schemes and power schemes have created various gainful activities for poor in selected area to be placed above the poverty line. Further more in the newly built houses and provided power connection for houses, it indicates that there is a cumulative process for infrastructure development of rural area.

As an exceptionally results some beneficiaries undergone losses of assets even by adopting rural development programs, but it is insignificant on other hand poor people who have not cover under the schemes are leading a measurable life.

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