

Chapter X

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

10.1 SUMMARY

The dissertation is an exercise in the planning of distribution of occupations of men and women in a non-discriminatory way in our rural economies. Because if the planning of this distribution is perfect from the point of view of women and if the countryside is so planned that not a single man or woman seeking fully paid full employment remain without full employment, then proportional occupational distribution of men and women will be more than fulfilled in the whole of the national economy. We have granted that there are physical differences among men and women. We have also granted that most of the women have an inborn urge for domestic happiness. But eventually intelligent women find that they have as much ability as menfolk to shine in productive and creative work. This realisation has been already spreading and girls as well as their guardians now feel that as domestic happiness may not be in every girl's lot, it is also that she is trained in some productive or creative work education. We have supported this sort of thinking through the protagonists of sociology, economics, demography and other disciplines.

Those who follow utilitarian ethics following Jeremy Bentham include now a powerful set of thinkers who consider that a community, national or international, has a common community utility. The individuals must not be allowed unlimited freedom to be far from the common community utility. In other words, an individual's choice must be consistent with what is best for the community in a given situation.

Since these twelve villages are located either in Block I and Block II of Koch-Bihar subdivision of the Koch-Bihar district some of these villages are nearer Koch-Bihar hospital and others nearer to Alipurduar hospital just outside the boundary of northern block. Since Koch-Bihar subdivisional hospital and Koch-Bihar district hospital are combined into one we have considered the same as a subdivisional hospital. The second regressor is the number of families where every adult woman had at least two years of schooling. The third regressor is the number of families where per capita annual income is below Rs. 3600.

The definition of expectation of life in this study of regression is expectation at birth. The study has conclusively shown that females have suffered relatively whenever their families live further from subdivisional hospitals, or they belong to families where the number of families with every adult woman had at least two years of schooling was small, or they belong to families where the number of families with per capita annual income below Rs. 3600 is large. Since these regressors are directly related to poverty, absolute or relative, we conclude that lower expectation of life at birth of females is a result of poverty, absolute or relative. On the basis of this finding we also hold that lower expectation of life at different cohorts for females in each of these twelve villages is also a result of absolute or relative poverty. We have not come across a single case of infanticide in any of households covered by this study of expectation of life.

This study points sufficiently to the need of massive efforts we require to remove poverty completely from the surface of our countryside and install a system of proportional distribution of occupations among males and females – a system that will at the same time liquidate the discrimination against women and remove absolute and relative poverty through massive increase of output and employment.

An analysis of the data we collected from these villages leads to the finding that male-female ratio in employment is too high to give any

reasonable scope to female employment. Yet there is some tendency of females from relatively better-off families getting increasing share of services and professions than hitherto.

One of the pioneering innovations of this study is to build up systematically male-female ratio on domestic chores. The domestic chores of the whole of the reference years are divided into three kinds. The first kind of domestic chores are such chores which are done daily. These chores include daily sweeping, cleaning utensils, fetching water, cleaning cowsheds, cooking, daily prayers or pujas and care of children. The second kind of domestic chores include shopping, going for ration, drying and grinding of wheat and husking of paddy. The third kind includes holding of festivals, family ceremonies, medical treatment and nursing of the sick.

To be fit for domestic chores males and females must be 10 years and above. If we sum up the three kinds of domestic chores the male-female ratio is 0.39 for the group 15 years and above. But this ratio for the age-group 10 - 15 years is a little higher, namely, 0.68. Secondly, even though on total [10 years & above] male-female ratio on domestic chores is too low, male-female ratio in the second kind of domestic chores is 2.89 because these chores involve going away from domestic borders.

On defining employment as employment even for one or more days in the reference year we see that 1277 men and 31 women are employed during the year. But of these persons 150 men and 5 women are fully employed outside the villages. So, 1127 men and 26 women are employed by the household productive activities of the villages, defining employment, in this case, employment for one day or more during the year. Excluding the 150 men and 5 women who fully employed outside, and converting the whole of the partially employed 1127 men and 26 women into full-employed persons, taking just 150 days of employment as full employment, we see that the productive activities of the villages can fully employ 303 men and 7 women.

On this basis the residual of 824 men and 19 women are now regarded as fully unemployed.

Again, one of the pioneering innovations of this study is that we have surveyed the opinion of women of all the 600 households. We find that 815 women fearlessly express their need of employment. These women and 22 males have had no chance for employment even for a day in the reference year. So the amount of net additional demand for full employment is calculated to be 1680 person-years.

Yet another innovation introduced in this study relates to the building of a Tableau Economique with the modified Chenery variation. On the basis of an input-output table of the modified Chenery variation we construct input coefficients. These help us to understand the need and direction of planning. A new people's planning authority is derived in the form of Raiffeisens and their associations.

10.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Fortunately, the Indian countryside with its infinite potential is capable of bringing in vaster additional full employment than posed by the above-mentioned challenge.

The preparation of take-off, with the aim of separate lead sectors in separate areas on the basis of specific but different endowments of lands, cannot begin in right earnest unless the countryside is made completely free from the coercion of the central finance ministry and the Reserve Bank of India in respect of fixation of interest. This is necessary because we propose a radical reform in the planning apparatus of countryside and massive savings are necessary. The Raiffeisen model of farmers' credit bank, the liability of members of which is unlimited, provides an unusual security to depositors because the members do not fail to be present in the general meeting which

holds the power of appointing the whole board of management and approves or rejects the decisions of the Board. Non-members may also get loans against securities of members or against collaterals.

Two of the West European countries benefitted greatly from sound cooperative system. Specialized agriculture in these two countries were possible since the 1880's when cheap grains from U.S. appeared there in torrential flow. They also had to import oil cakes from South Asia for expansion of poultry output.

For us in India our countryside is so diverse that we do not have to import such huge items as the Netherlands or Denmark did. And even in a particular area like the districts of the North Bengal Division of the State of West Bengal we can produce all the important inputs for an eventual complete milk complex. Similar complexes in other commodities can be built up in other areas of land endowments.

A Raiffeisen cooperative may be set up for a number of villages with a central village so that members of other villages have no difficulty to walk on foot to general meetings to hold supremacy over the activities of their board. Persons without immovable property under the area of an individual Raiffeisen cannot be members of such Raiffeisen Cooperative.

Men and women will get new enterprises by a Raiffeisen's dispensation of proportional allotment among men and women. Such men and women with new enterprises will work individually or on a cooperative basis under the supervision of the Raiffeisen Cooperative. An association of all Raiffeisens of a district is of especial advantage and will be part of general reforms for cooperation in respect of essential infrastructures for the district.

This district association will decide which infrastructures they will get accomplished by autonomous business houses such as district circular railways and special district electricity projects. The state government has got to step in here for transparent cooperation between the government and the autonomous business houses. This transparent cooperation will be needed for

correct fixation of prices and assurance of quality of the services. The advantage of Raiffeisens is that these people's cooperatives will act as a built-in check against any corruption of this cooperation between the government and autonomous business houses.

Apart from the district cooperation of the Raiffeisens some of the Raiffeisens of a just part of a district many have an association to install special projects within that area narrower than the whole district. In the districts of North Bengal Division of West Bengal, for example, such association of a number of Raiffeisens may set up cooperative of farmers to have kilometers of pastures for the purpose of setting up cooperative milk processing plant under professional management and hired technologists. As this Division of the state of West Bengal is relatively very under-developed it is not difficult to divert at the start lands from one use to the other. In other areas also diversion of lands from one use to another need not be a problem, because infrastructures and newer activities will greatly add to the physical texture as well replenish the fertility of the soil.

The formation of Raiffeisens requires that good proportion of members have a good degree of literacy. Recent surveys conducted here show that even the proportion of matriculates and persons with still higher education have jumped from just 5 per cent to 50 per cent in just 15 years. This determined bid of the people to have higher literacy shows itself despite large-scale poverty in these rural economies. It is, therefore, possible to hold that lack of sufficient literate members is now no obstacle to the large-scale installation of Raiffeisens in our countryside. Raiffeissen Cooperatives, their smaller and bigger associations make up people's planning authorities for complete elimination of unemployment and underemployment as well as ensuring proportional distribution of occupations among the sexes in the rural economies.

10.3 CONCLUSION

The above mentioned scheme of reforms with the new planning authorities are capable of eventually ensuring per capita income in rural economies as higher than in the urban areas. But the state government has multiplicity of responsibilities. One great responsibility is to install an agency of extension (advice) in respect of new activities of production, development of the basic resources and maintaining purity of land, air, water and overall beauty. For this purpose it would be necessary to assure maximisation of organic farming, organic transport and full taming of the local streams. The state government has also the duties to let the Raiffeissens choose from technologists and management experts. The Central Government will balance its budgets reducing its internal debt to zero. This will induce all state governments reduce their internal debts to zero.