CHAPTER II

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND THEORETICAL CONCEPTS OF RURAL LEADERSHIP AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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2.1 Introduction

The present chapter is designed to present precisely various concepts used in the present study. Such concepts are the tools for analysing the problem at hand in a scholarly manner. Conceptual framework and theoretical concepts of rural leadership and rural development have been given.

2.2 Concepts Used

2.2.1. A Viable Rural Development

The discussions on the aforesaid concept perhaps, need our adequate understanding of the needs of rural man in rural areas in the sample district at the very outset.

The basic needs of man in rural areas have to do with water, food, clothing, housing, livelihood. No less basic is the need to develop his mental and intellectual faculties to the maximum to enable him to participate effectively in the all-round development of his country and of the world. The

problem of rural development is concerned not so much with making the rich in the rural areas richer leaving the poor where they are or even poorer. It is concerned with the development of the needs of the multitude which mainly consists of the poor. It is being increasingly realised that in the long-run, the poor and the rich cannot co-exist indefinitely and the level of the standard of life of the poor, including their material, physical and intellectual life requires to be raised substantially.[1]

We cannot live without water. The application of geology to this problem of meeting the water supply has given hopes that with the construction of bore wells sizeable sources of underground water supply could be tapped in most of these areas. What is called for in the solution of this problem is cooperation between the administrator identifying the needs of water, the geologist who indicate the probable sources and the engineer who then helps to bring the water from these sources within the reach of the population. A number of piped water supply schemes for these rural areas has been taken up by the District Planning Committee.[2] The problem is not merely one of applying

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1 Bhattacharya, S.N., "Problems of North Bengal Small Farmers — A study", in "Kurukshetra", June, 1972, Vol. 20, No. 17, P. 13.

2 Bhattacharya, S.N., (Supervisor of this thesis) is one of the members of the aforesaid Planning Committee.

knowledge of the existing techniques but of improving those techniques and devising ways and means whereby the cost to the community is more or less brought within its reach.

Besides drinking water, there is the question of water supply for agriculture, industry, fisheries, etc. It is well known that the difference between dry farming and irrigated farming is that between penury and prosperity. Many major and medium irrigation projects have been undertaken with the help of the engineers.[1] The time-lag which results in non-utilisation of the existing capacity is a dead loss. The administrators and the engineers have to exert together to reduce this time-lag to the minimum and to see that all preparations are well in hand by the time the projects are completed so that there is no non-utilisation and consequently, no waste. In the field of minor irrigation, there is considerable scope for small Bhandaras, percolation tanks and well irrigation. In those areas where the cultivators' holding is too small for an independent irrigation well to be viable, one could think of community wells. It is necessary to devote attention to the utilisation of such potential and the reduction of costs to the cultivator both in the construction of wells, the installation of the necessary equipment for drawing the water and in the maintenance and use of such equipment.

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1 Please see Appendix in this regard.

The green revolution appears to spread very slowly in the district.[1] The success of green revolution depends inter alia largely on the availability of water to the cultivator at the right time in addition to improved techniques of agronomy and the use of improved seeds.[2] It involves use of fertiliser, require water for the crops to prevent them from wilting.[3] In large parts of the district, one finds a single crop economy.[4] If we could only turn this pattern into a pattern of double crops or three crops in the year, it will be shown how short the road to prosperity will be.[5] In addition to cereal foods for healthy development of the body we also require vegetables, fruits and items of protein food including meat products. Entrepreneurs have their own contribution to make in the preservation and canning of fruits, vegetables, poultry and meat products, so that the production in flush season can be spread over to the lean season.[6]

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1 Bhattacharya, S.N., "Green Revolution, Small Farmers and Rural Cooperatives — A study of North Bengal Villages", "Indian Cooperative Review", April, 1971, Vol. 8, No. 3, P. 332.

2 Ibid, P. 325.

3 Ibid, P. 326.

4 Bhattacharya, S.N., "C.A.D.P. and Rural Cooperatives in North Bengal — A study", in "Indian Cooperative Review", April, 1974, Vol. 11, No. 3, P. 301.

5 Ibid.

6 Bhattacharya, S.N., "Rural Development and Technologists in North Bengal" in "Industrial and Economic Trade Journal", July, 1972, Vol. 1, No. 5, P. 36.

With the use of fertilisers goes the use of pesticides and insecticides. These two are problems related to other farm equipment such as tractors, winnowing machines, threshers, etc. Entrepreneurs specialising in these fields must constantly exert to produce equipment easy to handle and cheaper equipment.

A considerable part of rural population in the district is inadequately clothed. One has to endeavour to develop new materials from the existing sources whereby basic clothing can become cheaper.

In the matter of housing, the old mud huts serve to give shelter and are economically built. Modern construction in brick and mortar no less than in reinforced concrete-make houses is almost beyond the reach of the poorer sections of the community. The problem here is to devise ways of more extensive use of local material in our designs so as to bring down the cost of housing.

Different methods of livelihood are in practice in rural areas of the district. But new resources of livelihood could be devised and developed with proper utilisation of resources in each area many of which go waste at present. It should be possible in many cases to devise processes which can be utilised advantageously by the small scale entrepreneur. With the development of transport and communication, rural electrification and the development of

mass media — particularly radios and transistors — and the use of diesel and electric pumps in the rural areas of the district, it is necessary that thought should be given to the proper planning and development of training facilities for the mechanics required to handle all such equipment and gadgets.[1]

Mass media communication appears to offer a tremendous scope for human development in the field of rural education in the district. A constant endeavour requires to be made to make such media more effective and economical.

Problems of rural development in the district are so vast that each one of us will have to make his contribution.[2]

With the development of Panchayati Raj institutions and the realisation of the need for rural development by the administration, some more funds under different schemes are to be made available to the countryside of the district but the problem quite often is that the people for whom these facilities are given are not able to avail themselves of them to the desired extent partly through want of knowledge, partly through inertia and party through want of contact between the administration and the people. A great deal,

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1 Bhattacharya, S.N., "Economics of North Bengal Cooperative Farming — A study", in "Industrial and Economic Trade Journal", June, 1972, Vol. 1, No. 3, P.44.

2 Ibid.

however, can be done in this direction provided proper leadership and guidance are available to the countryside of this district.[1]

After discussing in brief, some of the many needs of the rural man in the sample district, it is perhaps, interesting to point out what actually we mean by viable rural development.

Viability in rural development in the sample district appeared to depend on sustained growth in rural incomes, derived primarily from agriculture, that could meet the costs of development programmes.

The following six basic principles appeared to offer the prospect for developing a self-supporting agriculture in the district : (i) labour-intensive agriculture ; (ii) labour-using minor development works ; (iii) agriculturally-oriented light industry with low capital requirements ; (iv) an atmosphere of self-reliance ; (v) early adoption and institutionalisation of essential organisational arrangements ; and (vi) establishing a hierarchy of marketing centres.

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1 Discussions on "Needs of Rural Man in the district" rest on the following sources apart from the sources already indicated :

(i) Bhattacharya, S.N., "Rural Conditions in Agricultural North Bengal" a thesis of the Calcutta University for which he was awarded the Ph.D. (Arts) degree in Economics, chapter I, pp.1-15 ; and

(ii) Field experiences of the present investigator.

(i) Labour-intensive Agriculture :

Since the most abundant resources of poor farmers and rural workers is labour which is often underemployed or unemployed, and since for them capital is relatively much scarcer than labour, low-cost labour-using techniques may be employed to the greatest extent possible in agriculture, if poor farmers and workers are to benefit most. Moreover, this requires that agricultural production should use only small amount of capital (including working capital) per unit of employment and output. Technologists need to be more productive than existing traditional methods.

By increasing employment, labour-using agriculture which eschews costly capital inputs as much as possible, becomes a medium for promoting a more equitable distribution of the benefits of agricultural growth than can be obtained from capital-using agriculture, since it necessarily requires a greater absorption of rural labour with a concommitment increase in incomes to those who provide the labour (Farm improvements built up by a farmer's labour, which may be quite durable and might, therefore, be termed 'capital', are not what is meant by capital here). At the same time, the richer farmers who tend to employ increasing amounts of capital in production, sometimes even when the practice conflicts with economic efficiency, thereby exclude

themselves from the benefits of labour-using, capital -minimising agriculture.

(ii) Minor Development Works :

Since even labour-intensive agriculture is unlikely to provide year-round full-employment in the countryside of the district with surplus labour, "employment-generating" minor development works with high labour content (e.g. the construction of feeder roads, irrigation and other waterworks), as well as social overhead facilities (e.g. school houses, clinical buildings) should be carried out with under-employed and seasonally unemployed rural labour. To minimise housing and transport costs, construction activities should be concentrated as much as possible in areas with the greatest excess labour, and timed to coincide with slack seasons for farm work. In addition, local materials should be employed wherever possible, because their use provides employment and reduces transport costs.

(iii) Light Industry :

Small-scale, labour-using, light industries with low capital requirements should be established in rural areas to supplement employment opportunities in agriculture. However, this does not call for decentralisation of all types

of industry ; such decentralisation may be desirable from the point of view of regional development, but that is another matter. What is needed is the establishment of specific kinds of farm-related industry in rural areas. Light industries in rural areas should be mainly of two kinds : (a) the processing of agricultural commodities produced in the area concerned, such as fruit and vegetable canneries, flour and rice mills, wood-working factories, slaughter houses, milk-powder plants, sugar refineries, paper mills and processing units for cotton ginning and edible oils ; and (b) the fabrication of inputs for agriculture, which might include cattle, pig and poultry-feed mills, fertiliser-mixing plants, small tool-making shops and clay, brick and tile works.

The agro-industries using agricultural inputs, involve weight or bulk-losing processes, and therefore, have locational advantage, if established near their sources of raw-materials. Some of the second type of agro-industries, those producing products intended primarily for the use of farmers in the area, have transport advantages when located near their markets. This is especially true if their products are heavy (e.g., brick, tile and concrete blocks) or bulk-gaining (e.g. seed drills) or, if their major inputs can be

purchased in large quantities (e.g. fertiliser for mixing). Many kinds of agro-industries are therefore, well suited to small or medium-scale production in rural areas.

(iv) Self-Help as the Foundation :

To be self-sustaining, our concept of viable rural development rests on a foundation of local self-reliance or self-help. This means that these communities which benefit from rural development must assume responsibility for raising a reasonable proportion of the resources. Otherwise, the total quantity of resources available for rural development in backward areas of the district is likely to fall short of what is needed. One way of doing this is to encourage local authorities and organisations to provide some funds, through taxation or otherwise by offering government-matching grants, or other appropriately devised incentives, to those jurisdictions which gather what is considered to be an adequate amount of funds.

Where local areas are completely dependent on outside grants and loans, rural development planning becomes a matter of drawing up "shopping lists" of desires for outside funding without making the hard allocative choices which realistic planning requires. But if the regions, sub-regions and localities are to participate in the planning process, as good planning requires, it is likely that the quality and

reliability of rural investment choices, as well as their management, will be improved, if the people in the area involved are required to raise and risk significant quantities of their own resources.

At the individual level, the concept of self-reliance implies a full participation by small farmers, through their own organisations or through other institutions where they feel they can freely express their views and get a sympathetic hearing during the formulation of rural development plans and projects. It is idle to expect farmers to help implement programmes which do not reflect their needs and objectives. In addition, the participation of farmers in savings schemes can represent both a means of self-help and in time, a source of capital for investment in agriculture or other forms of rural production.

(v) Organisation for Rural Development :

The preparation and implementation of a programme of self-sustaining rural development is necessarily a long-term task which requires much planning and farmer's support. This means that it must be a product evolved by the area concerned, as well as its farmers ; and by the same token, it cannot be the product of short-term missions of outside international or national lending agencies. These agencies can do much to support rural development by financing components of useful

programmes, but it would be unreasonable to expect them to provide the continuing, long-term effort which viability requires. Only the area concerned can do that.

The effort also usually requires major adjustments in governmental agencies concerned. This is so because each ministry, department or agency tends to concern itself only with its own functional sector to sub-sector. However, a rural development programme requires coordinated action among ministries, departments and agencies which cuts horizontally across the vertical organisation typical of most governments.

It is imperative, however, to start the organisational structures required as quickly as possible after the inception of rural development programme to make them operatable as soon as possible, for it takes a long time to institutionalise the organisations and the hierarchical relations among them.

(vi) Development Centres :

Rural development should be seen as a part of regional and national development. If rural development is to proceed beyond minimal levels, a way must be found to bridge the wide gap between rural villages and the metropolis which is characteristic of less developed countries. To accomplish this, it is essential to ensure the creation of a hierarchy of development centres, that is, a wide dispersion of small rural

market centres, connected with a smaller number of small towns supplying a wide range of services, with these connected, in turn, to larger towns or small cities, and so on up to the very large city or cities.

The above discussions rest on the compilation of the data and information obtained from the following sources : (i) an article by Bhattacharya, S.N., on "Rural Development and Technologists" in "Industrial and Economic Trade Journal", July, 1972, Vol. I, No. 5, PP. 36-45 ; (ii) an article by Bhattacharya, S.N., on "A Development Project for Landless Agriculturists in North Bengal", in "Kurukshetra", April, 1973, PP.15-17 ; (iii) a book (in the press) by Bhattacharya, S.N., on "Rural Industrialisation in India — its nature and problems" ; and (iv) field experiences of the present investigator. Thus, both the secondary and primary sources have been tapped to prepare the concept of a viable Rural Development.

2.2.2. Rural Leadership

Talking or writing about rural leadership, one gets a little uneasy feeling of running the risk of creating an impression that rural leadership can be acquired through diligent study of text-books, and as if it were an advertised product to be sold. "Leadership in ten lessons" and such

other attempts at reducing the process of leadership to certain rituals and rules need to be understood in the right perspective. Rural leadership is a flesh and blood affair. It is not only a matter of diagrams and formulas, or of rules and armchair study, but a matter of men, their hopes, their fears, their strength and weaknesses, their moment of greatness and failures.

One of the main reasons for the present study is that we no longer can afford the luxury of wasting manpower on the grand scale as in the past in the vast countryside of the district consisting of more than six hundred villages. Civilizations rise in response to a not too great challenge of nature. Civilizations fall when the challenge of men working with each other becomes too great. It would probably not be an exaggeration to say that the principal source of human waste in the sample district lies in the failure of leadership to take advantage of group resources.[1]

2.2.2.1 What is Rural Leadership ?

Rural leadership may be defined as influence. More specifically, it has been equated with any positive influence to act, with behaviour required to direct a group ; and with

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[1] Bhattacharya, S. N., "Rural Conditions in Agricultural North Bengal", PP. 85 - 87.

behaviour making a difference among groups. It is conceived in the presence of interaction rather than an act by a leader.

It is a process or focussing the attention and releasing the energies of the rural people in a desired direction by changing motivations or changing habitual modes of responding.

Bhattacharya, S. N. has developed the concept of Rural Leadership in his article on "Growth Model of Leadership in Indian Rural Cooperatives" published in "Indian Cooperative Review", January, 1973, Vol. 10, No. 2, PP. 167-185 in the following way :

"If individual/individuals living in the countryside preferably belonging to the place of work having some amount of will and power are identified to behave (or, makes/make an attempt to behave) preferably voluntarily (or is/are motivated to behave like the same) in such a manner that their aforesaid behaviour - pattern is able to generate some 'forces' which may be called 'internal' in the sense that the origin of such 'forces' comes from within the area with the efforts of the local people and nature of such 'forces' are expected to provide with some amount of 'stimuli' to the fellow rural people for going ahead with their development preferably making them (rural people) more and more involved in various growth-activities in their respective areas and these rural people help and cooperate voluntarily

with the former type of person/persons who are expected to utilise the 'external forces' (these are called 'external' because these are coming not from the local rural people but these originate from the government, semi-government and similar other sources engaged in rural development in the respective areas concerned or from outside the area) fruitfully ultimately to integrate both the forces referred to in a meaningful manner in the context of bringing dynamism to bring an accelerated rate of growth in their respective areas at their earliest opportunity (such person/persons acting in the manner referred to either individually or through rural institutions/organisations), such individual/individuals may be called as rural leader/leaders."

The above conceptual framework of rural leadership has been fruitfully used in the present study as far as feasible under the circumstance.

2.2.2.2 Theoretical Concepts of Rural Leadership and Rural Development

Bhattacharya, S. N. has developed theoretical concepts of rural leadership and rural development and has made further attempt to find a relation between the two in his illuminating article on "Rural Leadership and Rural Credit - A Relation in the Indian Economy", Published in "The Indian Economic Journal",

University of Bombay, Vol. XIX, No. 1, July - September, 1971, PP. 46 - 54 in the following way :

(i) G = Growth Rate of change of (rural leadership x rural People)

$$= \frac{d}{dt}(RL) = L.\frac{dR}{dt} + R.\frac{dL}{dt} \qquad \ldots (i)$$

(ii) Let,

M = External Force (different types of facilities extended to the rural people to uplift the conditions of the rural people by Government, etc.).

Now, we can say,

The growth G will be accelerated if

$$G = L.\frac{dR}{dt} + R.\frac{dL}{dt} + M. \qquad \ldots (ii)$$

(iii) The growth G will be retarded if

$$G = L.\frac{dR}{dt} + R.\frac{dL}{dt} - M \qquad \ldots (iii)$$

(iv) Let,

n = any positive integer ; and

F = external force per unit of time.

Clearly,

$$G = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\text{rural leadership} \times \text{rural people} \right) + F.t.$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} \left(L \times R \right) + F.T.$$

$$= \frac{dR}{dt} + R.\frac{dL}{dt} + F.t.$$

But $R = nL$

Then,

$$G = 2nL \frac{dL}{dt} + F.t.$$

Also, $L^2 = t + c$, for we have assumed a parabolic path for the relation connecting L and t. The above path is to be assumed because rural leadership will change as the increase of time but this change is not uniform.

or, $L^2 - t = c$

or, $2L \frac{dL}{dt} - I = o$

or, $2L \frac{dL}{dt} = I$

or, $2nL.\frac{dL}{dt} = n$

$\therefore G = n + F.t.$ ... (iv)

(v) If F is variable, then

$$G = L.\frac{dR}{dt} + R.\frac{dL}{dt} + \frac{dF}{dt}$$

Clearly, $R = nL.$,

$$\therefore \quad G = 2nL.\frac{dL}{dt} + \frac{dF}{dt}$$

Also, $L^2 = t + c$

or, $L^2 - t = c$

or, $2L.\frac{dL}{dt} = I$

or, $2nL.\frac{dL}{dt} = n$

$$\therefore \quad G = n + \frac{dF}{dt} \qquad \ldots \text{(v)}$$

(vi) Let,

I = Internal forces originated from L in the rural area ; and

E = External effects originated from the summation of different facilities extended to the rural people to go ahead with development.

Since G is dependent both on I and E, we have

$G = \lambda \cdot I.E + \lambda_1$, where λ and λ_1 = constants,

$$\text{or, } \frac{dG}{dt} = \lambda \left(\frac{dI}{dt}.E + I.\frac{dE}{dt} \right) \qquad \ldots \text{(vi)}$$

From our assumption, I and $\frac{dI}{dt}$ are always positive i.e. efficient rural leadership is always increasing.

Hence, $\frac{dG}{dt}$ is positive, if either E and $\frac{dE}{dt}$ are both positive,

or, $\frac{dE}{dt}$ is negative, but

$$\frac{dI}{dt}.E > I.\frac{dE}{dt}.$$

Therefore, we conclude that G may ply on merrily through efficient rural leadership even when rate of E is diminishing.

The above conceptual framework of rural leadership and rural development (growth) as developed by Bhattacharya, S.N., has been used in the present study.

2.2.2.3 Indicators to Locate Rural Leadership

Considering our theoretical concepts of Rural Leadership and Rural Development, the following procedure had been followed to locate rural leadership in the sample villages.

We have identified two types of rural leadership namely, institutional/organisational like Panchayats, Clubs, Libraries, Schools, Cooperatives and Ramkrishna Krishi Seva Samiti and individual rural leadership.

In the first stage, workings of those institutions/organisations identified to provide leadership in the sample villages following the lists of indicators given below were analysed in the light of our conceptual framework of rural leadership and rural development :

(i) Those institutions/organisations which were found to have the will and power (however, little these might be) to increase the capacity and income-generating aspects of the rural people in their respective areas ;

(ii) Those institutions/organisations which were found to have the will and power (however, little these might be) to improve the socio-cultural atmosphere in their respective areas ;

(iii) Those institutions/organisations which were found to have the will and power (however, little these might be) to see the interest of their respective areas so that such areas were being benefited either economically, or socially or ethically or culturally or politically through such activities (such benefits might be small or not adequate but had some positive impact upon the people of the area) ; and

(iv) Those institutions/organisations which were found to have the will and power (however, small these might be) to increase the democratic spirit and working among the rural people in their respective areas so that a climate of peace, harmony and progress could be discerned and more and more rural people were in a position to be meaningfully involved in growth -activities in their respective areas.

Findings from the field in the light of the above 'indicators' were tested in the light of our conceptual framework of rural leadership and rural development and when such institutions/organisations were found to increase growth (economic or social or cultural), they were considered for a detailed study for the present project.

Institutions/organisations would have to be managed or organised by some individuals to realise the goals for which the same stood for. Hence, in the second stage, from amongst the members of the managing committee/board of directors/governing body as the case might be, following the 'indicators' listed below, individuals identified to provide leadership were located (some progressive farmers/innovators were also identified in a sample village in this regard and the methodology of such a selection has been given in chapter VII and they were also interviewed) and directly

interviewed to gather relevant information for the present study (Not all the members of the said committees were found to satisfy the 'indicators' listed below and they were not considered leaders for the present study) :

(i) Persons who had the will and power (however, small these might be) to act as worthy representatives in village Gram Panchayats ;

(ii) Persons who had the will and power (however, small these might be) to act as worthy representatives in Anchal Panchayats ;

(iii) Persons who had the will and power (however, small these might be) to act as worthy representatives in Cooperatives ;

(iv) Persons who had the will and power (however, small these might be) to act as worthy representatives in Clubs or in Krishi Seva Samities or in Schools ;

(v) Progressive farmers/innovators who by dint of their individual efforts or other ways (with the help of others) had produced the farm output which was higher than the village average farm output because by doing so, they might generate a feeling of confidence that something tangible in relation to the economy of the village could be produced in the farm sector and this might motivate others to go ahead

with their farm income and output ;

(vi) Persons belonging to any club, etc. who had the will and power (however, small these might be) to organise and to celebrate fairs, festivals and sports and also to organise religions ceremonies ; and

(vii) Persons who had the will and power (however, small these might be) to make attempt/attempts to increase the capacity and income-generating aspects either individually or through institutions/organisations to which they were representatives as well as to bring dynamism in the socio-political fronts to bring a climate for growth (economic, social, cultural, etc.) in their respective areas.

The factors that determined the worthiness of the aforesaid representatives were the following :

(i) Whether the representative attends at least 70 per cent of the meetings held in the bodies in which he is representing (information were obtained through noting the minutes of the meetings held during the period).

(ii) Whether he is aware of the resolutions taken during the meetings attended by him or in other meetings which may not be attended by him (he may not remember these resolutions in toto, but the essence of the contents of these resolutions

is remembered by him preferably with certain amount of interest. Information were obtained through direct interviews/discussions with all the executive members of organisations/institutions located) ?

(iii) Whether he is aware of the nature and extent of the follow-up actions taken with regard to the resolutions taken during such meetings (at least, he shows a rough idea of the aforesaid issue. Information were obtained through interviews/discussions withall the executive members of the organisations/institutions located) ?

(iv) Whether he takes some amount of interest in the activities of the aforesaid meetings (the answer to this question was obtained through interviews of other executive members of the bodies in which he happened to be one of the members and when majority of such members answered in the positive about him in this regard, the same was carefully noted and considered a positive reply in his favour) ?

(v) Whether he draws some amount of respect from his fellow neighbours for his work in such bodies (sample Head of the households in chapter IV, V, VI and VII were used to gather information in this respect) ?

(vi) Whether he discusses the affairs of these bodies with his neighbours sometimes and wants to know their opinions

in this regard (the same method as was followed in case of v, was followed in this case also to gather relevant information) ? and

(vii) Whether he has shown some amount of will and power to participate actively as far as possible in the bodies in which he is representing to enrich the prosperity/growth in his area either in economic front or in social front or in political front or in cultural front to the extent possible under the circumstance (the same method as was followed in the cases of v and vi was followed in this case also to gather relevant information in this regard) ?

The list is not exhaustive. Not all the leaders identified for the present study satisfied the requirements of the aforesaid list equally and in toto.

To arrive at a result, scoring method was adopted. Total scoring allotted for favourable replies of the items in the list was fourteen (two for a favourable reply to each item). If a representative scored eight, he was considered as a worthy representative for the present study.

Then, in the next stage, such persons identified as leaders, were directly interviewed to gather relevant information for the present study.

2.3 Self-Cultivator

For the present study self-cultivator means to cultivate on one's own account ——

(i) by one's own labour ; or

(ii) by the labour of any member of one's family ; or

(iii) by servants on wages payable in cash or in kind, but not in crop-share under one's personal supervision or the personal supervision of any member of one's family.

In the case of an undivided Hindu family, land shall be deemed to be cultivated personally, if it is cultivated by any member of such family.

2.4 Bargadar

Persons who cultivate the land of others on payment of rent in cash or in kind are treated as 'Bargadars' or 'tenants'.

In West Bengal, on the abolition of Zmindari, landlords were not allowed to resume lands held by raiyats or under-raiyats. Share-croppers (known as 'Bargadars' or 'Bhagchasis' in West Bengal) were not treated as under-raiyats and no protection was extended to them until July, 1970 when

the West Bengal Land Reforms Act was amended (it was further amended in 1977) to accord limited protection to the 'Bargadars'.

2.6 F a r m

For the present study, agricultural farm has been considered as a tract of land cultivated by a tenant on an agreed or contracted terms and conditions usually determined by the low and or local practice or cultivated by the owner himself with or without the assistance of hired labour. The presence of any go-between (there may be cases where a person takes lease of a piece of land i.e. farm and manages himself or by others) has not been considered and in the sample families, there is no such family other than either owner, share-cropper or hired labour.

2.6 Farm Management

We have not made any distinction between farm and the management (Farm-families) because of the fact that it appears that the farms are either owned or managed or operated by the sample farm-families.

2.7 Attitude

Attitudes have a number of criteria. In the first place, they always involve the relation of the individual to

specific situation in his environment. These may consist of 'object', such as one's automobile ; 'persons', such as oneself or another ; 'groups', such as the family or the community ; 'institution', such as a club or a church ; and 'values' or norms, formed or conditioned in the individual's contact with his environment, such as capitalism or socialism. In the second place, attitudes are formed or conditioned in the individual's contact with the environment. In the third place, attitudes have affective properties. They are affectively charged because they are usually held in connection with such important values as the home, nation, temple, etc. In the fourth place, attitudes are relatively enduring states of readiness. Lastly, attitudes are numerous and varied as the stimuli to which they refer.

Every social relationship involves in fact, an adjustment of attitudes on the part of those who enter the relationship.

2.8 Institutions

Institutions may be defined as recognised and established forms of procedure governing the relations between individuals or groups.

Institutions are machinery through which human society organises, directs, and executes the multifarious activities required to satisfy human needs.

2.9 Customs

Customs are long established usages or modes of behaviour. They refer primarily to practices — such as eating, conversing, shaking or joining hands to greet other people, etc. ; — these have been oft repeated by many generations.

2.10 Social Group

A social group may be defined as an aggregation of individuals who are associated with one another in a certain net work of reciprocal relationships for a specific purpose or a set of purposes.

2.11 Scheduled Castes and Tribes

While the Constitution of India has abolished representation on communal lives, it has included safeguards for the advancement of the backward classes amongst the residents of India (irrespective of their religious affiliations), so that the country may be ensured of an all-round development. A major section of such backward classes have been specified in the constitution as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes because their backwardness is present.

There is no definition of scheduled castes and tribes in the constitution itself. But the President of India is empowered to draw up a list in consultation with the Governor of each State, subject to revision by Parliament (Articles 341 - 342). The President has already made orders, specifying the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the different States in India. These orders have since been amended by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1966.

2.12 Human Group

Groups are units of two or more people meeting in the same environment or overcoming distance by some means of communication, who are influencing each other psychologically. The distinctive bond of the group is reciprocal psychological interaction.

2.13 Marginal Farmers

Those who have landholdings below 2.50 acres.

2.14 Small Farmers

Those who own land between 0.01 acres to 5.00 acres are conceived as small farmers.

2.15 Agricultural Labourer

Cultivators without any landholdings but having a homestead and deriving more than fifty per cent of income as agricultural wages.

The small/marginal farmers and agricultural labourers should themselves be cultivators. The landholding limits will be applied on the basis of ownership holdings, ownership being taken on men transferable on heritable rights. The family should be treated as a unit for this. In respect of share-croppers and tenants such of them as have recorded rights should be identified as small and marginal farmers, those with substantial off-farm income of Rs. 200.00 per month or more for the family may not be included.

2.16 Agricultural Innovation

Innovation involves the degree to which one is capable of bearing risk and readiness that makes a cultivator an early adopter.

2.17 Agricultural Imitation

It is the extent to which an individual farmer is comparatively slow to adopt innovations.

Concepts from 2.3 to 2.17 have been taken from Lahiri, Chandidas's thesis on "Agricultural Enterprise in North Bengal — A study in Farm Economy in Jalpaiguri (1973 - 75)" submitted for Ph.D. (Arts) degree in Economics of the North Bengal University on January, 1978, PP. 16 - 24.

2.18 Field Research

Pauline Young in his "Scientific Social Surveys and Research" (P.37) has defined Field Research as "a method of discovering specifically and realistically what actually is, and not what something should be ; it is a matter of ascertaining intimately social attitudes, values and other forces which motivate the person and the group ; a method of depicting society as an organic social process."

2.19 Household

Household means a group of persons, males and females, related or otherwise, having a common kitchen and pooling all or part of their earnings and incomes.

Head of the household is the person accepted as such by members of the household.

2.20 Field Data

The term 'field data' comprises the facts gathered by a direct survey in the field.

Field data may lead to the collection of currently unknown or unavailable facts ; or may relate to facets of a problem which have not been adequately enquired into ; or often, they might be merely in the nature of verification of known facts and conclusions. The field data always involve direct contact between the researcher and the investigated 'subject' or 'field' either through a schedule or a mailed questionnaire or interview or observation or case study methods.

Gathering and processing data being raw and mixed needs a special kind of research ability and qualities such as patience, tact, perseverence and so on.

2.21 Social Survey

A.F. Wells in his "The Local Survey in Great Britain", Allen and Unwin, London, 1935, P. 13, has defined social survey as "a fact-finding survey dealing with the nature and problems of the community."

The primary aim of social survey is, in fact, to make an accurate and impartial collection and presentation of facts, the results of careful observation and not of hearsay.

It is perhaps, better to regard it as a study of social institutions and activities of a group of persons living in a particular locality.