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COOPERATIVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE WAY TO FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY IN PURBA MEDINIPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Financial inclusion is considered crucial from the viewpoint of developing a conceptual framework and identifying the underlying factors that lead to low level of access to the financial system. Financial inclusion is essential to achieving financial well-being and securing future. India has a huge, low income, rural populace with constrained access to formal banking facilities. A web of parallel informal banking emerged to fill the vacuum. At its inside was moneylenders, who used to charge over the top rates of interest. To fill the vacuum of nationalized bank and to get rid from the clutches of moneylenders the alternative way astoundingly can be the cooperative. Co-operatives are designed to help their members meet their economic and social needs and aspirations. As democratic and participatory organisations, they encourage equity and equality. As economic entities, they provide their members with commercial services. As locally-rooted institutions, they reflect their communities' concerns with social justice and the environment.

KEYWORDS

alternative way, cooperative, financial inclusion, rural development, socio-economic development.

INTRODUCTION

Defining financial inclusion is considered crucial from the viewpoint of developing a conceptual framework and identifying the underlying factors that lead to low level of access to the financial system. There is no universally accepted definition of financial inclusion. Government of India had constituted a committee in 2006 under the chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan to study the pattern of exclusion from access to financial services across region, gender and occupational structure and to identify the barriers confronted by vulnerable groups in accessing credit and financial services and recommend the steps needed for financial inclusion. The committee submitted its report in January 2008. The committee has given a working definition of financial inclusion as; *"Financial inclusion may be defined as the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups at an affordable cost."* (<https://en.wikipedia.org>)

FIG. 1



Source: - <https://en.wikipedia.org>

The essence of financial inclusion is in trying to ensure that a range of appropriate financial services is available to every individual and enabling them to understand and access those services. In order to achieve a comprehensive financial inclusion, a slew of initiatives have been taken by Government of India, RBI and NABARD. Some of the important initiatives include; SHG-Bank Linkage programme, opening of No Frills Accounts, mobile banking, Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna etc.

Financial inclusion is essential to achieving financial well-being and securing future. From the above picture we can see that there many sides of financial inclusion. India has a huge, low income, rural populace with constrained access to formal banking facilities. {"Ponzi schemes show failure of formal banking". *The Economic Times*.} A web of parallel informal banking emerged to fill the vacuum. At its inside was moneylenders, who used to charge over the top rates of interest. To control this practice a few Moneylenders Acts were authorized by the State governments of India by the 1950s. {Gupta, SC; Shankar, Girish; Giridhar, A (2007)} However disappointments to supplant the role of moneylenders ascend to deceitful financial operators that worked Ponzi schemes. A few commentators put the fault for these sorts of Ponzi schemes on ravenousness as opposed to exclusion from formal banking systems. {Chaki, Deborshi, 2013} To fill the vacuum of nationalized bank and to get rid from the clutches of Ponzi schemes the alternative way astoundingly can be the cooperative.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

PACS or cooperatives are playing a crucial role in improving the economic and social conditions of the common masses of India and as well as in West Bengal. They provide short-term and medium-term loan to the members/farmers at reasonable interest rates to meet their various needs. They are providing credit to the farmers for agricultural purposes at cheap and easy terms. PACS is the foundation of the Cooperative Credit System on which the super structure of the short-term cooperative credit system is built.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A number of studies related to performance of co-operative banking sector and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in India have been conducted. In order to evaluate the objectives of the present study, it was felt more desirable to have an idea of the findings of some of the earlier research studies and the tools adopted therein.

Very few researches have been conducted so far with special reference to the "COOPERATIVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE WAY TO FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT – A STUDY IN PURBA MEDINIPUR DISTRICT" most of these researches did not adopt an integrated approach. In previous works, different aspects have been investigated and analyzed without taking notice of their inter-dependence on and relevance to other factors. Consequently, findings, too, are not virtually admissible. An attempt, therefore, has been made in this chapter to review some of the noticeable studies having direct or indirect bearing on the objectives of the present research work. Here, an attempt is being made to provide an overview of various aspects and issues of this study through the review of existing literature. Some of the main studies selected for review have been discussed below.

Kalyankar (1983) in his study titled, "Willful Default in Loans of Co-operatives" where he examined the trends in deposits, share capital, working capital, loans outstanding, advances, over dues and recoveries at the district level financing institutes. Socioeconomic factors responsible in projecting and promoting future development in the operations and approaches of the co-operative credit organizations were also considered to examine the specific progress made by Central Co-operative Bank of Parbhani District. The study revealed that the cropping intensity, irrigation facility and working capital of the societies were the major factors for explaining over dues at primary agricultural credit societies' level. The socio-economic factors were not responsible for increasing over dues at the borrowers' level, but over dues were mainly mounted due to the non-economic factors in case of willful defaulters.

D.Narayana (1993) in his article titled, "Financial Sector Reforms – Is there a Strategy for Agricultural Credit", described about the need for investment in infrastructure for turning over of the financial sector to trade and industry. On the agenda for future reform the paper list i) a complete ban on generalized loan waivers ii) effective loan recovery process iii) careful targeting of concessional lending iv) phasing out of ceiling and floors on bank deposit and lending rate. The author pointed out that there cannot be a broad based credit spread.

P.R.Sivasankar and D.Krishnamoorthy (1995) in their article, "Cooperative Finance for Agriculture in India", described the importance of cooperative credit in the post green revolution era with advanced technology and the need to supplement the traditional owned resource base. It was observed that demand for the duration of credit depended upon the nature of requirement for which it was sought. Dependence on external finance is due to the nature of return from agriculture which is seasonal; ancestral debt; uncertainties and crop failure.

P.Satish and D.V.Deshpande (1998) in their article, "Challenges before Cooperative Banks and RRBs", pointed out the major issues relating to challenges being faced by the cooperative banks and RRBs flow from the changes in the financial sector in the country. If these banks had to be effective in the changing scenario they have to be effective in the changing scenario they have to respond suitably to these changes which require appropriate strategies including those for equipping these institutions with suitable measures in the areas of HRD, technology up gradation, systems and procedures, market oriented products and services.

Satyasai and Badatya (2000) conducted a study regarding restructuring Rural Credit Co-operative Institutions. They analysed performance of rural co-operative credit institutions on the basis of borrowings and lending operations, cost structure, financial viability, etc. and found that co-operative system, in general, had failed to perform its functions properly. They advised the co-operative banks to diversify their business and also to overcome internal (rising transaction cost, declining business level, mismanagement of overdues) and external (excessive bureaucratization, politicization) weaknesses.

From the above study we can say that till now no study has been undertaken by any researcher so far as the state of West Bengal or especially for as the district of Purba Medinipur are concerned. The present study will be expected a good step in this direction.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The precise objectives of the research work are:-

1. To evaluate the progress made by the Cooperative Banks or Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in its present role in India and in West Bengal with a comparative reference of Purba Medinipur district relying mainly on secondary data.
2. To find the potential area of intervention of Cooperative Banks or PACS in socio-economic development of members through primary survey of selected regions in District Purba-Medinipur.
3. To find the potential role of PACS as an important buffer or cooperative controller of rural market between vulnerable farmers and aggressive external agents of trade in a rural based structure.

METHODOLOGY

This paper includes the study with the help of both secondary data and primary data. The primary data on the performance and role of PACS or Cooperative in the socio-economic upliftment of the society have been done through random sampling of households in selected region with higher incidence of impact of PACS throughout the district of Purba Medinipur. Stratified analysis of the Households economic conditions according to different criterion such as MPCE (Patnaik, 1987) and Acreage (NSSO) have also been performed. Ratio Analysis and Trend Analysis of the financial data will be conducted to study of the financial position of the PACS. Apart from that various books, journals, Internet data etc. were also be consulted for this research work. Most importantly the archives of these institutions have also been consulted to highlight the political environments that are inherent in its origin and development from its very inception.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study as stated are to examine the needs of Cooperative in the present liberal economic scenario, to evaluate the progress made by the Cooperative in India and in West Bengal with special reference to Purba Medinipur district, to evaluate the role of the Cooperative in the socio-economic development of the society etc. Depending on the above objectives the following hypotheses are indicated:-

First, the progress of cooperative banks or PACS in its present form though appears to be satisfactory, requires a thorough restructuring in its basic objectives like socio-economic development of the society and so on.

Secondly, PACS may play an important role for socio-economic development of the society particularly poorer and vulnerable section of the rural area. Specifically, PACS may play a potential role as an important buffer (or controller of rural market) between vulnerable farmers and aggressive external agents of trade in an agrarian sector.

Ed Mayo, secretary general of Co-ops UK, smashes the perception that co-ops have a mere walk-on part on the world stage. "Globally co-ops employ over 100 million people, 20% more than multinational businesses, whilst the largest 300 co-ops in the world have an annual turnover of over \$1 trillion," he writes. Looking at their ethical values -honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others-, it's no wonder co-operatives should be leading the way towards the end of the economic crisis and the beginning of a fairer economic system. So co-operatives can move in to create a social economy rather than one based on whoever makes more money first. (The guardian, 2013, website)

CASE STUDY

To show the financial inclusion and human development through cooperative here we have depicted performance of members of the cooperative banks of the district of Purba Medinipur on the basis of primary data collected through field survey in the year 2012-13. As mentioned earlier, within the district of Purba Medinipur there are three cooperative banks Balageria, Mugberia and Tamluk-Ghatal. We have tried to assess the potential area of intervention of Cooperative Society or PACS in socio-economic development of members through primary survey of selected regions among the randomly selected members of the cooperatives that is PACS under the jurisdiction of the above mentioned DCCBs.

Unemployment is the big problem for India. Unemployment in India is a serious social issue. From 1983 till 2011, Unemployment rates in India averaged 9 percent reaching an all-time high of 9.4 percent in December 2010 and a record low of 3.8 Percent in December 2011. { Bureau of Labour Statistics, Indian Government. (8 October 2010). "Report on Employment & Unemployment Survey (2009-10)". Retrieved 29 March 2014.} There are many reasons for unemployment but the cooperative can be the best solution of unemployment. According to modeled ILO estimate employment to population ratio, 15+ total (%) for India was 54% of total population in 2012. According to primary data the condition is something better. With some tables it will be tried to discuss.

TABLE 1: EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE LOANEE MEMBERS

Employment Status	Loanee Members	Percent
Service	74	35.2
Self Employed	123	58.6
Unemployed	13	6.2
Total	210	100.0

Source: Primary Data

From the table 1, it is very clear that the percentage of unemployment among the respondent is very low which is only 6.2% whereas the percentage of self-employed is in highest position and the percentage is 58.6%. The survey found that cooperative in the service sector has been effective in improving employment opportunities, particular for the marginalized class of the society.

TABLE 2: JOB DETAILS OF THE LOANEE MEMBERS

Job Details	Loanee Members	Percent
Agricultural Labour	16	7.6
Agricultural Labour & Business	24	11.4
Cultivation Only	42	20.0
Cultivation & Business	65	31.0
Cultivation & Service	25	11.9
Cultivation & Agricultural Labour	3	1.4
Service	24	11.4
Business	11	5.2
Total	210	100.0

Source: Primary Data

From the above table we can observe that most of the people among the respondents are engaged with cultivation and business and the percentage is 31%. After taking loan from cooperative they invest it in cultivation, business and with help of this they can maintain their livelihood and can be independent also. Among all respondents only 7.6% people are engaged with agricultural labour and don't do any other job. This is a clear indication that cooperative is a good source of sustenance and with the help of cooperative one can survive independently. Economic freedom which is the most important freedom among all freedom can be achieved through the cooperative system.

TABLE 3: PURPOSE OF LOAN

Purpose of Loan	Loanee Members	Percent
Agriculture	119	56.7
Trade or Business	32	15.2
Household Purpose	22	10.5
Personal Loan Repayment	7	3.3
Health	16	7.6
For making house	10	4.8
others	4	1.9
Total	210	100.0

Source: Primary Data

From the above table we can see that the most of the loanee members invest their loan amount in agriculture and the percentage is 56.7%. After investing their loan in agriculture there another category of loanee member who invest their loan in trade or business indicating their self-dependence. There are also other purposes for taking loan but their percentages are very low. Here are also another two important purposes that we have to mention. One is personal loan repayment and another is health. Generally the loanee members take their personal loan from private money lender, landlords etc and the interest of loan is very high there so after taking loan with low interest rate from cooperative they repay the loan to local money lender or landlords and get rid from their clutches. This is another way of getting free from exploitative credit sources. They also spend their loan on health purpose which is very important in current environment. Monthly per capita consumption expenditure is the most important measures of the level of living of the population and is a crucial input for estimation of economic wellbeing. The detailed results of a quinquennial survey on consumer expenditure are usually brought out by the NSSO through a number of reports. According to the report of NSSO in 2011-12 the poorest 10% of India's rural population had an average MPCE of Rs.453. The poorest 10% of the urban population had an average MPCE of Rs.599. The top 10% of the rural population, ranked by MPCE, had an average MPCE of Rs.2517. The top 10% of the urban population had an average MPCE of Rs.5863. The MPCE in West Bengal, for rural areas it is Rs. 952 and for urban areas it is Rs. 1965. The average rate of MPCE for all-India, for rural areas it is Rs. 1054 and for urban areas it is Rs. 1984. **{Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, National Sample Survey Office, KEY INDICATORS OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMER EXPENDITURE IN INDIA, 2011-12, website}**

TABLE 4: MONTHLY PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (TOTAL)

MPCE (In Rs.)	Loanee Members	Percent	Average MPCE (in Rs.)
below 1000	63	30.0	727.43
1001-5000	119	56.7	2127.65
5001-10000	26	12.4	7156.23
above 10000	2	1.0	12978.93
Total	210	100.0	22990.24

Source: Primary Data

According to NSSO in 2011-12 the poorest 10% of India's rural population had an average MPCE of Rs.453 and the poorest 10% of the urban population had an average MPCE of Rs.599 whereas according to primary data who are the member of cooperative their minimum average of monthly per capita consumption expenditure is Rs. 727.43. From above table we can see that 56.7% respondents' minimum MPCE is Rs. 1001 and average MPCE in this category is Rs. 2127.65. Here one interesting thing is that there are also 1% people whose MPCE are more than Rs.10000. So from the above data it is very clear that who are associated with cooperative they are more eligible to continue their healthy livelihood than the others people of the society.

TABLE 5: MONTHLY PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE FOR FOOD

MPCE for Food (In Rs.)	Loanee Members	Percent	Average MPCE
can't say	8	3.8	NA
below 1000	115	54.76	564.07
1001-5000	84	40	1336.2
5001-10000	2	.95	7253.3
above 10000	1	.48	13926.5
Total	210	100.0	23080.08

Source: Primary Data

Increases in the cost of food often leads to changes in the quantity and type of foods that are purchased. This may result in a reduction in the amounts of foods consumed and/or the substitution of higher priced foods for less expensive foods which are often less nutritious. A household is considered food secure when its occupants do not live in hunger or fear of starvation. Attaining food security is a matter of prime importance for India where more than a-third of its population is estimated to be absolutely poor, and as many as one half of its children have suffered from malnourishment over the last three decades. According to NSSO, monthly per capita food exp. (Rs.) of India was Rs.600 in 2009-10 and for West Bengal it was Rs. 604 during the same period. For the average rural Indian, food accounted for 52.9% of the value of consumption during 2011-12. For the average urban Indian, 42.6% of the value of household consumption was accounted for by food during the same period. As has been stated in the above table based on monthly per capita consumption expenditure for food, among the respondents who are the loanee members of the cooperative, minimum average of consumption expenditure for food is Rs. 564.07. Among the respondents very few percent people are there whose expenditure for food is above Rs. 5000 or Rs.10000 though the percentage is very low but among the respondents 40 % people whose expenditure is more than Rs. 1000 are also there. Agriculture – farming, forestry, fisheries and livestock – is the main source of employment and income in rural areas, where most of the world’s poor and hungry people live. Cooperatives play an important role in supporting small agricultural producers and marginalized groups such as young people and women. They empower their members economically and socially and create sustainable rural employment through business models that are resilient to economic and environmental shocks. Through this support, smallholder producers secure their livelihoods and play a greater role in meeting the growing demand for food on local, national and international markets, thus contributing to poverty alleviation, food security and the eradication of hunger.

Education is perceived to be a vital source of human development. It helps a person to show their best by their mind and spirit. It gives a lot of knowledge in whatever aspects. Education plays a vital role in the success and in the personal growth. According to primary data, MPCE on education of the loanee members of the cooperative has in a good stratum. With a table it can be explained properly.

TABLE 6: MONTHLY PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE FOR EDUCATION

MPCE on Education (in Rs.)	Loanee Members	Percent
can't say	56	26.7
100-500	61	29.0
501-1000	40	19.0
1001-5000	23	11.0
5001-10000	30	14.3
Total	210	100.0

Source: Primary Data

According to NSSO Monthly per consumer expenditure on education (rural) was Rs. 200 for all India and Rs. 170 for West Bengal in the year of 2009-10. From the above table it can be observed that the condition is not so poor for our respondents, among all respondents 14.3% respondents’ expenditure on education is more than Rs. 5001. From above discussion we can say that among cooperative members educational level is quite formidable.

Generally, the context in which an individual lives is of great importance for both his health status and quality of their life. There are a lot of types of health issues common with many people across the globe. Achieving and maintaining health is an ongoing process, shaped by both the evolution of health care knowledge and practices as well as personal strategies and organized interventions for staying healthy. Personal health depends partially on the active, passive, and assisted cues people observe and adopt about their own health. These include personal actions for preventing or minimizing the effects of a disease, usually a chronic condition, through integrative care. {Wikipedia + Health, website}

TABLE 7: MONTHLY PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE FOR HEALTH

MPCE for Health (In Rs.)	Loanee Members	Percent
can't say	32	15.2
less than 100	19	9.0
100-500	44	21.0
501-1000	39	18.6
1001-5000	76	36.2
Total	210	100.0

Source- Primary Data

According to WHO the Yearly Per capita Expenditure for the purpose of health in India was 61\$ or approximate Rs. 3300 in 2012. From the above table we can see that among the respondents 36.2% people’s monthly expenditure for the purpose of health is Rs. 1001 to 5000. From above discussion we can say that who are related or engaged with cooperative they can support for themselves to get rid from the chronic diseases.

The Planning Commission has declared new poverty line for rural and urban areas in 2013. It is Rs 27 a day for rural areas and Rs 30 a day for urban areas. Just a year ago when the Commission suggested a poverty line of Rs 22 a day for rural areas, there was a national outrage over it. Subsequently, government scrapped the poverty estimate based on a survey carried out in 2009. The current estimate is based on survey carried out in 2011-12. According to the new estimate, some 216.5 million people in rural areas are poor while 52.8 million in urban areas are poor. This means out of the country's total population, 269 million people survive on Rs 27-30 a day. Going by the press note released in 2013 by the Planning Commission, poverty level has shown steepest ever fall in recent history. Since 2004-05, coinciding with the UPA's ascent to power, 138 million people have escaped the poverty trap. In rural areas the dip in poverty is stark: there were 326 million poor in 2004-05; in 2011-12 the number fell to 216 million—a decline of 110 million. {downtoearth + Indias-new-rural-poverty-line-rs-27-day, website}

But according to our survey we found that the conditions of BPL members of cooperative of our survey area have in good position. With a table it can be explained properly.

TABLE 8: CROSS TABULATION BETWEEN POVERTY LEVEL AND MPCE

Poverty Level	MPCE (in Rs.)								Total
	below 1000		1001-5000		5001-10000		above 10000		
	Members	Average (in Rs)	Members	Average (in Rs)	Members	Average (in Rs)	Members	Average (in Rs)	
APL	33	838.02	68	2576.67	1	5864	2	12118.26	104
BPL	30	613.27	51	1528.95	25	7207.92	0	0	106
Total	63	1451.29	119	4105.62	26	13071.92	2	12118.26	210

Source: Primary Data

From the table 8 it is much cleared that average of minimum Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure of BPL is Rs. 613.27. Here one very interesting thing is that there are 25 BPL respondents whose MPCE are more than Rs.5000. It is understood that cooperatives provide a model for pooling resources of people of limited means to achieve commonly identified development needs of the respective people.

COOPERATIVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE INSTITUTION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Gandhiji envisaged that each village in India would be a republic, where the village panchayat would have the full power of managing its affairs, including defence. He expected the panchayat to perform the legislative, executive and judicial functions necessary for smooth functioning of the village economy. Various developmental activities such as education, health and sanitation would also be taken up by the village panchayat. But this institution means panchayat is not enough for all this because political unwillingness, corruption and partiality are also there. So we have to now think about an alternative way to the panchayat. Gandhiji saw a great virtue in cooperation as an instrument of rural development. He assigned specific roles to cooperatives in the field of agriculture, commending the promotion of cooperative farming and thereby preventing further fragmentation of landholdings. He also advocated the establishment of other types of cooperatives, such as credit cooperatives, weavers and spinners’ cooperatives and dairy cooperatives. India now has the world’s largest network of cooperatives, which occupy an important place in India’s rural economy. { Singh, Katar, Rural Development: Principles, Policies and Management, 1999}

TABLE 9: REASON FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH PACS

Reasons	Loanee Members	Percent
Time and Flexibility in Working	170	81.0
Members who are involved in Management	7	3.3
Freed from the clutches of the usurers	11	5.2
Members who repay loan of usurers after taking loan from PACS	7	3.3
Above mentioned all	15	7.1
Total	210	100.0

Source: Primary Data

PACs have a much wider reach than any institution in rural areas. From the above table we can see that 81% respondents are ready to do business with PACS because of time and flexibility. The most interesting thing is that to get rid from the clutches of usurers 5.2% and 3.3% respondents are ready to do business with PACS. No other institutions can help the poorer section of the society like PACS.

PROBLEMS

Notwithstanding quick development the general advancement of cooperative movement amid 100 years of its presence is not exceptionally great. It is in this way to know the reasons for poor execution of the movement and on that premise make such strides as would advance a speedier development of cooperative movement in India. {Rubina Antao on Jan 07, 2010, website}

- a. **Government Interference:** Right from the earliest starting point the govt. has received an attitude of disparaging the cooperative movement. Cooperative institutions were dealt with as though these were a vital part of the regulatory set up of the administration of the government. The govt. interference therefore turned into a fundamental component in the working of these foundations. Accordingly people’s excitement for the movement did not develop. The movement’s independence and self-reliance existed just on paper and records. After achievement of freedom specifically in the wake of start of the planning, some solid changes in the state of mind of the govt. did happen. It was not given fitting significance that it deserves in any plan. Yet, even the cooperative movement has not turned out to be undeniable people’s movement. Indeed, even today regularly cooperative societies are forced upon the members. This does realize an increment in the membership of the societies. Be that as it may, the spirit of cooperation can’t blossom completely in these circumstances. Neither it development occurred by plan nor did it turn into a people’s movement. It just became gradually and that too heedlessly. {Rubina Antao on Jan 07, 2010, website}
- b. **Mismanagement and manipulation:** The pith of the cooperative movement is that it gives the members the status of shareholders and guarantees them financial facilities. The relationship between the shareholder members and the cooperative is straightforward. The strength of the movement was association of the members. Throughout the years, this genuinely democratic idea got corrupted and the board members with bigger holdings became all the more powerful. By and by, this altered the power structure of the cooperatives. In the elections of the governing bodies of the cooperatives is a political factor.
- c. **Lack of Awareness:** Members are not very much educated about the objectives of the movement, the contributions it can make in modifying the society and the rules and regulations of cooperative institutions. Unfortunately, no exceptional endeavors have been made in this bearing. People look upon these institutions as means for acquiring facilities and concessions from the govt. Inasmuch as people hope to get something from the govt.; they see to it those societies by one means or another keep on working. Lack of knowledge, grimy politics of the village, caste ridden elections to the workplaces of cooperative societies, bureaucratic attitudes of the govt. officers at the lower rank are a portion of the obstacles in spreading the right data about the cooperative movement and in educating the people about its actual character and vital role in the society.
- d. **Functional Weakness:** The cooperative movement has experienced insufficiency of trained staff right from its initiation. Absence of trained staff has been created by two main factors. In first, there has been an absence of organizations stronghold this reason for preparing faculty. Besides in view of it unsatisfactory working of cooperative organizations, effective faculty did not feel pulled in or roused towards them. The working of the cooperative societies, too experience the ill effects of a few shortcoming. Some of these are, taking no consideration of the need of credit seekers or their reimbursing limit at the season of giving loans, making no sufficient procurement for the return of credits, unsuitable keeping of records, factional politics in it management, absence of coordination among different divisions of the cooperative structure, a lot of reliance on outside wellsprings of finance, absence of adequate auditing. Such shortcomings have kept them from advancing on healthy lines. Thus there are several pitfalls. Poor infrastructure, absence of quality management, overdependence on government, torpid membership, non-conduct of elections, need of solid human resources strategy, disregard of professionalism, and so forth are the limiting elements. Indian cooperatives are additionally not able to develop solid correspondence and public relation methodologies which can advance the idea of cooperation among the masses.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, we can say that as organisations of people, co-operatives are designed to help their members meet their economic and social needs and aspirations. As democratic and participatory organisations, they encourage equity and equality. As economic entities, they provide their members with commercial services. As locally-rooted institutions, they reflect their communities’ concerns with social justice and the environment. Hence it is not surprising that the United Nations Secretary-General, in a 1994 Report to the General Assembly, concluded that "co-operative enterprises provide the organisational means whereby

a significant proportion of humanity is able to take into its own hands the tasks of creating productive employment, overcoming poverty, and achieving social integration". {uwcc + sustain, website}

In a background paper prepared for the UN World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the United Nations commented further on the dimensions of the international co-operative movement: "A total of 740 million women and men are currently members of co-operative business enterprises associated through national federations and unions which are members of the International Co-operative Alliance. It is estimated that the total number of co-operators is 800 million persons worldwide, with a further 100 million persons employed by co-operatives. Moreover, because the co-operative enterprise has economic significance not only for members and employees, but also for their immediate families, the total of persons whose livelihoods are to a significant extent made secure by co-operative enterprise approaches three billion people, half of the world's population." {Co-ops & Human Sustainable Development: Global Perspective, website}

The basis of co-operative success is that they provide economies of scale. They provide an institutional means whereby individual people can group themselves into self-help units. Through their support structures at the secondary and tertiary levels, they provide common services and generate income in a way that would not otherwise be possible. Above all, co-operatives generate increased income for their members. Co-operatives have been seen by governments as instruments to be used in the pursuit of national objectives. As locally-based institutions, co-operatives are naturally concerned about the communities in which their members live. So cooperative all time is there not for personal gain but this is an opportunity for its members who are generally belong to poor class.

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