CHAPTER VII

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, BUREAUCRATS
AND YOUTHS

The youth, the youth associations, elected representatives and government officials (generally called bureaucrats) have a pivotal role to play in the rural development process. In some of the earlier chapters we have already seen the role played by the youth and youth associations in rural development.

The elected representatives and government officials are closely associated with the rural development process and they are in a position to throw light on the present state of development and youths participation in it. The elected representatives could also greatly influence the youth's ideas about development, the means to achieve the development desired and their role in it. The government officials could play an important role in informing the youth about rural development schemes and guide them in getting the benefits of the same. But the role of the elected representatives and government officials would greatly be affected by the opinions they hold about rural development and the role they expect the youth to play.

In this chapter, we study the opinions held by elected representatives and government officials about rural development, their opinion about people's participation in general
and youth's participation in particular, the role expected of the youth and measures suggested by them to bridge the gap between the role expected and the actual role of the youth and what they could do about it.

Our study is based on the data collected through indepth interviews of twentythree elected representatives and government officials at different levels. These elected representatives include persons like the Sarpanch, the Gram Panchayat members at the village level, Saphapati at the taluka level, Zilla Parishad members and members of the Legislative assembly (district and state level respectively) and the officials include the Gramsevaks and Gramsevikas at the village level, Agricultural Extension Officer and Block Development Officers at the taluka level. These elected representatives and government officials belong either to one of the nine selected villages or to the talukas where the villages belong or Pune Zilla Parishad.

The social background of the elected representatives and government officials differed at the village and the taluka levels. They were broadly in the age category of 35-50 years at the village level and 45-55 years at the taluka level. (Details given in the Appendix I)

The elected representatives at the village level had generally completed their education upto the 7th standard and among the elected representatives at the taluka
and the district, the educational level ranged from 4th to 10th standard. The ex-member of the Legislative Assembly had a few years of college education too.

Agriculture was the main occupation of all the elected representatives except three who did business supervision of gobargas plants and mason work. The village level elected representatives had less contact with the cities than those at the taluka level. Most of them were associated with a number of other associations such as the credit co-operative society, dairy co-operative society, political parties, purchase-sale societies (Kharedi-Vikri Sangh), Land Development Bank and so on.

Among the government officials, the Gramsevaka/sevikas had education up to S.S.C. and had undergone a short term training of one or two years. One of them was promoted from the post of the Panchayat-Secretary which was a post existing prior to the introduction of Community Development Projects. The Block Development Officers at the taluka level have undertaken a few years of college education followed by administrative-in-service training. They had risen to the present position either through the administrative ranks or the extension ranks.

All these respondents were persons having a long experience. Many of them have observed the entire experiment and efforts of development since the introduction of the
community development programmes in the early 1950's and some of them were associated with development work even prior to Independence.

Ideas about rural development

Before we go to study the elected representatives' and government officials' opinions about the role of youth in rural development it is necessary to understand what their ideas are about rural development and what they thought about the present day rural development programmes.

Elected representatives and government officials' ideas regarding development mainly include economic development of the area by adopting various measures such as (a) increasing irrigational facilities and maximum utilisation of the water resources. This was stressed more by the respondents from the drought prone areas and the hilly regions. This idea was held even by the representatives having a poor financial background. One of the elected representatives emphasized that more stress should be laid on the introduction of small scale schemes like percolation tanks instead of going in for huge dams. (b) Some thought that it was necessary to get a reasonable price for agricultural products so as to give a better return to the rural farmers. (c) Some others thought that it was the development of industries in the rural areas by making use of the locally available raw materials. One of the Zilla Parishad members from Purandhar taluka suggested
that a cement industry could be developed in their area because its raw material like lime was available there.

In the opinion of one of the Panchayat Samiti members development of an ideal village meant that there should be a good school, a multipurpose agricultural service society and an effective Gram Panchayat.

According to many government officials a developed village should follow improved agricultural practices, have animal husbandry and other subsidiary occupations and improved health and educational facilities. They felt that if the government schemes were effectively implemented then all round development would take place. However, one of the Block Development Officers opined, "Real development should lead to a greater feeling of unity and more self-sufficiency of the village and reduced dependency on the government."

According to a Gramsevika, "Development shall be complete only when all the rural development schemes reach the rural women."

**Observations and opinions about current Rural Development programmes**

Regarding the current rural development programmes, both the elected representatives and government officials made a number of observations and gave their opinions. Some of their comments were related to the planning procedure and most of the others were related to the implementation of the plan.
A few of the elected representatives and government officials drew our attention to the gap existing between the local needs and the rural development programmes. As the programmes were centrally planned some of the elected representatives felt that at the village level there was not much choice left to the local leaders or government representatives to direct the funds as per the requirements of the village. One of the Gramsevaks observed, "The government machinery has not reached the people. Most of the planners are bred in the urban areas and they do not have the necessary insight into rural problems."

Another problem which few elected representatives and government officials pointed out to was the limited spread over of the benefits of the scheme in the rural areas. The announcement of various schemes created a feeling of high expectation of benefits among the rural population but in reality each village got very little or nothing out of it. One of the Backward class representatives expressed, "The government announces so many schemes for backward class welfare, but the amount sanctioned under each is so less that many of the applications are returned back, creating a feeling of frustration and mistrust among the depressed sections of the community."

As regards the implementation of the schemes the main opinions were relating to target completion and interference
of political leaders in the day-to-day administration of various matters handled by them.

The main issue raised by many elected representatives was that the government officials' main concern was fulfilment of targets in the form of proposed expenditures rather than in the form of a specific performance of a material change. This was done by sending a satisfactory target completion report to the government. One of the Panchayat Samiti members observed, "The government officials are not much concerned as to whether the completion of the target will benefit the people directly or indirectly and improve the life and living of the people in the rural community." Many examples were cited by the respondents where subsidies or grants under schemes like the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, schemes for backward class welfare were either not disbursed to eligible persons or were not utilised for the sanctioned purpose. The results were shown in terms of expenditure and not in terms of actual benefits.

Another major objection raised by the elected representatives was the reliability of the returns filed in by the government officials. One of the elected representatives observed, "They are routine returns sent formally. Many times they are guesstimates. We can neither evaluate the progress nor the end-results of the scheme nor can we prepare future projects on these figures."
About this the government officers have said that the targets were communicated to them as regards the implementation of the plans. And hence their main concern was with the fulfilment of the targets and sending a completion report to their superiors. Two Block Development Officers have expressed their difficulty in carrying out schemes already assigned to them. Even before any scheme was stabilised, new schemes had to be launched. For the old and new schemes they were expected to send progressive reports/returns which were quite exhaustive and time consuming. This left them with very little time for field work. One of the officials at the taluka level remarked, "We have been asked to distribute so many different types of subsidies that we have no time for an appropriate scrutiny of applications or to see whether the subsidies distributed are being utilised for the sanctioned purpose." However, there is an interesting observation regarding the implementation of the recently introduced Integrated Rural Development Programme. The Block Development Officer and the Mukhya Sevika observed, "Under this scheme for the first time in the last twenty-five years we have come in direct contact with the really poor persons. When the initial survey was conducted to locate all families below the poverty line, the people especially the leaders and rich persons were not aware of its probable benefits. As a result, much reliable data was obtained and the lists went through strict scrutiny. Now as the beneficiaries are to be selected only from this list, the politicians do
not have much scope for manipulation. As a result we find that this scheme is really benefiting the poor, the implementation and follow up is also quite rigorous."

Some of the government officials have also said that as they have lost contact with the field, the communication gap between them and the people has been increasing and hence often they found it difficult to convince people about the need of a project. An ex-member of the Legislative Assembly remarked, "Under some schemes money lapses as they are planned in the central places and communication often does not reach the grass root levels in time." One of the recently elected female representatives belonging to the Scheduled Caste observed, "We are not informed about many of the schemes. Now that I have been elected, I shall see to it."

Some have pointed out to the problems they face because of the inadequacy of the field staff. "In the absence of adequate field staff our understanding about the problems in the rural areas is not adequate." observed an Agricultural Extension Officer working at the taluka level. Another aspect pointed out by some of the government officials themselves was that they needed orientation from time to time regarding the new knowledge and skills in their area of work.

Some of the government officials drew our attention to an issue which they thought was serious, namely, the interference in day to day administration by the political leaders
and elected representatives which forms a hurdle in the proper implementation of the schemes. A village level government official observed, "The elected representatives have a direct access to the administrators at the higher levels and this is often utilised to harass us, mainly by the threat of transfers. As a result of this we operate in a climate of fear and uncertainty."

One of the Block Development Officers remarked, "Even though there are audit objections to misappropriations of funds we cannot take any action due to political interference. The power which we have as administrators is decreasing day by day."

When one of the elected representatives was asked pointedly about such interferences by elected representatives his reaction was different. He said, "the existing bureaucratic set up is unsuitable for developmental administration. The present arrangements for selection and appointment of officers is a general procedure which fails to take into consideration the developmental abilities needed by the officers. The only alternative open to us in such a situation is to have a constant watch over the working of these officers."

Another problem faced in the implementation of the developmental plans was the increasing expectations of the people as a result of which all developmental work was expected from the government. One of the elected representatives
remarked, "In the pre-Independence period, people had the objective of attaining the independence of the country. But after that as it was our government, people expected development to be a full government responsibility and the people thought that they were just to receive from the government." A Block Development Officer remarked, "In the initial stages of the Applied Nutrition Programme, we gave a 100 per cent grant. It was expected that gradually the grant would be reduced and the project would become self-sufficient. Now we have reduced the grant to 50 per cent and we find that people are not ready to take the responsibility of carrying out the programme."

This leads us to our next issue on people's participation, i.e., the observations of the elected representatives and government officials on people's participation in rural development in general and youth's participation in particular and factors affecting them.

Many respondents observed that in the initial stages, immediately after the achievement of Independence, there was a lot of enthusiasm among people for participation in developmental efforts. With the introduction of the community development programme, the normal expectation was that the enthusiasm of the rural communities for self-help would be locally stabilised. Factors like newness of the programme, availability of funds have been responsible for the initial
enthusiasm according to some government officials. However, subsequently it began to wane out and at present it seems to be completely absent.

We enquired from the respondents about the factors leading to active participation in carrying out these development schemes of some villages and absence of participation in some. Many respondents have stated that a higher level of education, an effective system of communication facilities with the urban communities and good economic conditions were the factors responsible for more participation of people in villages. Examples of some active villages were cited by the respondents and they had the above-mentioned characteristics. The Mukhya Sevika of Mulshi Taluka, who had earlier worked in other talukas (Shirur, Purandhar and Haveli) observed, "The participation of the people is very little in this taluka because of poor economic conditions. Paddy is the only source of income which is supplemented to some extent by the income from dairy farming. Because of poverty, education too receives a low priority. Further about one fourth of the villages are inaccessible. As a result, in this taluka, the participation is very low."

Also many of the elected representatives drew our attention to the role played by effective leaders in influencing the participation of the people. If the leaders could take the villagers together, the village progress was rapid. The leadership given by 'Bhau' (Sarpanch of Mawadi Supe) was
cited by three elected representatives which led to the development of Mawadi Supe. Some of the elected representatives have cited the progress made by particular village or taluka because they had leaders holding important positions either at the taluka, district or at the State level.

A Mukhya Sevika has drawn our attention to how the leadership given by an educated youth was effective. In one of the villages of Mulshi taluka, a scheme of boring a well was in progress. A difference of opinion arose over the location of the well. The ex-Sarpanch wanted it to be drilled near his house, whereas the technical persons found a site near the school suitable. They referred the matter to the Block Development Officer (BDO). The BDO talked with the Sarpanch. This point was well taken up because the Sarpanch who was educated appreciated the point. The Sarpanch convinced the people in the village that that was a technical issue and should not be made a prestige issue.

As against this, cases have also been cited by the respondents where due to leadership conflicts, effective participation could not take place and the development plans like school building, drinking water pipe line scheme had to be shelved. One of the female elected representatives pointed out to the feeling of jealousy among the members of the kinship group - either consanguinal or affinal being widespread in the rural areas. This according to her acted as a barrier
Another factor affecting the participation was the nature of the programmes in which participation was expected. If the programmes satisfied a felt economic or social need it was bound to evince keen interest and more participation of the people. The example of seed capital scheme for educated unemployment was cited. In villages where youths felt that self-employment projects could be developed and credit was needed and as this need was met by the seed capital scheme for educated unemployed, there was greater participation of the youths from such villages. It was observed that if there was some mutual understanding between the elected representatives, government officials and the local rural community, the synchronisation of the programme and people's felt needs would become effective and lead to greater participation.

In Chapter V we saw that the youth's education, income, acquisition of information through urban contacts influenced his participation. The above-mentioned observations of the elected representatives and government officials that participation of the village community was influenced by their economic position, education, availability of communication facilities substantiates our earlier observations.

Further we enquired about today's youth participation in rural development. As a frame of reference prior to that
we enquired from the elected representatives and government officials about their concept of youth. Their responses show that a wide range of age group was covered to define their concept of youth, namely, 12-40 in the case of male youths and 12-30 in the case of female youths. Some included only a narrow age group of 20-25 for males and 15-18 for females. The reason given was that the general age for marriage in the rural areas was 22 to 25 years for males and 16-18 years for females and it was only during this brief period they are neither children nor adults and hence could be called youths.

Youth's participation (sphere, level and background)

Males: According to the observations of the elected representatives and government officials, the male youths generally participated in different programmes such as Dhol Lezim, sports, wrestling, mobilisation of people for programmes, management of village fairs, shramdan and fund raising. While these activities were generally at the village level, in case of cultural events like Dhol Lezim, sports competition participation extended beyond their villages to some of the neighbouring villages too.

According to one of the Agricultural Extension Officers, the youths participated in the implementation of programmes involving public relations like the Van Mahotsav, Health day, Family Planning Campaign. However, many
respondents observed that even at the village level out of the total youth population only a small proportion participated in various community activities.

Among political activities the youth mainly participated in canvassing during elections and a few contested for the Gram Panchayat membership. (Our observations showed that nearly one-fifth of the Gram Panchayat members were below the age of 30.)

Further enquiry about the background of those who participated revealed the changing socio-economic characteristics of the participants. The general observation was that an agricultural youth having at least a minimum qualification of S.S.C. participated actively.

Regarding the economic position of the youth participants, the general observation was that earlier only youths from higher income groups participated and now even the middle class youth because of his education participates in some of these activities. However, one of them said, "This is the picture at the village level but yet at the taluka level things have not changed. Generally well-to-do and experienced youths participate at the taluka level. Their number is very small." (Our observation show that only 6 per cent of the elected representatives at the taluka level are youths.)
One of the Block Development Officers observed, "Earlier the youth used to get frightened to face senior officials but now because of his education, his contact with the outside world, he approaches us without any hesitation."

Many elected representatives and government officials observed that the present day youth does not accept anything blindly because of his education. The Gramsevak from Peth had high praise for the present day youth, "Because of his contact with the mass media, his education, he takes initiative and does not have to depend on his parents."

A member of the Gram Panchayat from Mahur observed, "Generally the youths who have stayed outside the village for a few years and then return to the village become active participants. For example, Govind, who was working in a cotton mill at Indore has initiated the Tarun Mandal in our village."

One of the respondents who viewed the rural youths as composed of two groups, namely, the agricultural youth and the educated rural youth having a job in the urban areas said, "The former youth group does not have any say in development matter whereas the latter group, because of their education have a number of viewpoints and hence find it difficult to come to a decision."

Some of the factors due to which youths could not play an active role was opposition from vested interest,
lack of full time youth workers and youth's lack of urban contact.

Participation of female youth: The traditional role of women of mainly looking after the kith and kin was upheld by many of the respondents. One of the elected representatives, Maratha by caste, informed us about the historical evolution of the Purdah system which was traditionally accepted in their caste. He observed that there was a marked tendency to follow the life style set up by leading elite families. During the pre-British period the dominant Maratha caste adopted the traditional life style of the Muslim communities. As a result the system of Purdah came to be adopted by the women in the Maratha community. Due to this system, the participation of young females outside the house was inconceivable in those times. Thereafter, with the spread of education during the British period, women gradually started participating in various community activities. Many respondents have observed that a number of factors have facilitated or forced female participation, namely, (a) spread of education facilities, (b) introduction of facilities like the pipe water scheme or the water drawn by other mechanical means reduced the time and energy spent by the women in fetching water. (c) improvement and extension of communication facilities, (d) adoption of adult franchise, (e) deterioration in the rural economic situation caused by natural
calamities like droughts, inflationary rise in the cost of living which forced the female folk to seek employment outside the home and (e) finally with the advent of the community development programme, deliberate efforts were made to promote the participation of the female folks. Appointment of Gramsevikas, female primary teachers, auxiliary nurse midwives from the rural areas accelerated this process.

Many of our respondents observed that women mainly participated in religious programmes. One of the Gramsevikas informed us, "As the rural women like religious programmes we have to approach them through such programmes." But participation in such programmes is mostly done by the elderly ladies. However, in programmes like nutrition demonstrations, tailoring, poultry, family planning, the younger females who have left education and awaiting marriage also participate. Another group of female youths who participate are the wives of officials and teachers. They are more in number in the big central villages."

Another Gramsevika observed that gradually the nature of women's participation was changing. They now eagerly attend social function. They also go to deliver the milk to the milk collection centre of the milk cooperatives and keep accounts.

A Grihasevika observed that in one of the villages the Mahila Mandal had done very good prohibition work. One
of the wellknown elected representatives cited the case of village Limbut in Baramati Taluka where the whole Gram Panchayat was composed of women only.

The background of the women who participated was different from that of the male youths. Some of the respondents informed that generally the middle class female youth participated. The Gramsevika of Feth remarked that the women belonging to the upper income group felt that they had all what they wanted and they need not attend the Mandal.

On the whole most of the respondents have observed that female youth participation is very less as there are a number of inhibiting factors such as (a) the main role of women is yet perceived to be that of a mother and a wife. And only if compelled by the economic conditions then only she would go out to earn a living. (b) Secondly the condition in the village are such that free movement of isolated young females would mean an invitation to anti-social elements. A Sarpanch remarked, "There is only 2 to 5 per cent of such anti-social element in society, but because of them the women hesitate to participate in different activities." (c) Thirdly, young females in the rural areas get married between the age of 15+ to 22 and then reside at the place of their husband playing the role of a wife and mother, and also help in the farming operations, which leaves them with less free time. As most of them stay with
their in-laws, they are often under the strict supervision of their mother-in-laws. Further at the husband's house a young married woman in case found talking or mixing with unknown outsiders would be frowned upon and would be prohibited to do so.

A Gramsevika remarked that often the timings of the programmes were not suitable. Some did not like it and some were not allowed by the family members. The problem of securing permission was much greater when young girls were to be sent for the overnight camps outside the village.

Further there was the problem of conducting appropriate programmes. A Mukhya Sevika observed, "At present we do not undertake any economic activities, as a result the women from the poorer sections do not feel the utility of the Mahila Mandal, as their immediate needs are not satisfied.

Lastly in many villages there were no appropriate institutions and suitable opportunities available for women where they could participate. The number of Gramsevikas was highly inadequate. For every taluka consisting of 80 to 100 villages only 6 to 8 Gramsevikas were there. As a result very few villages got the guidance of the Gramsevikas. A Sarpanch commented: "One of the greatest inhibiting factors is the lack of women workers to guide the young woman."
**Expected Role of Youths**

**Males**: As mentioned earlier in the beginning of this chapter, the role of youths expected by the elected representatives and government officials can greatly influence the role the youth perceive for themselves and the role the elected representatives and government officials would play in influencing youths actual participation.

The expectations of the elected representatives and government officials could be broadly classified into (a) values to be upheld by the youth, (b) level of participation expected, and (c) participation in particular programmes.

Most of our respondents cited the present state of degradation of values like the growth of individualistic tendencies, lack of self-control and spirit of sacrifice and they expected the youth to inculcate values of sacrifice discipline and develop a feeling of equality. One of the values specifically emphasized by many elected representatives was the respect for manual work. This was greatly lessening among the educated rural youths. The Sabhapati of Purandhar Taluka observed, "A youth who holds the 10th standard qualifications starts using terricot dresses and shirks manual work. He is fascinated more by the white collar jobs. Their way of life also demoralises those youths who are staying in the village. Hence the pride in manual work needs to be
revived."

Many respondents also emphatically stated that the rural youths were full of vigour but in their enthusiasm they should not be led by emotions. They should have self-control and patience and think from all aspects while taking a decision and should take the people along with them. The Gramsevak from Lawale quoted an example of a village where the full Gram Panchayat body was composed of youths. Although they were very enthusiastic, they could not be effective as they could not carry the people with them.

The elected representative from Nhavare, who was a Sarpanch and a Zilla Parishad member remarked that any youth who is interested in helping others and who takes the opinion of other people especially the elder persons while working is bound to succeed. Often the educated youth feel overconfident and forget to consult others or do not ask others become frustrated because they fail to get the co-operation of other people.

Further some of the elected representatives have suggested that the youths should stay away from publicity and do selfless work. A word of caution was given by one of the Zilla Parishad members. He said, "A youth going in for development activities is bound to face opposition. He should be ready for it."
As regards the level of participation, most of the officials saw youth's main role as that of propagating, supporting and implementing the government schemes. The Block Development Officers have drawn our attention to the role of youth as educator/communicator and follower/supporter in the implementation of the schemes. The illustration of Family Planning Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Integrated Rural Development Programme were cited in which the youth could educate people, motivate them and take benefits of the scheme. In cases where funds were inadequate, the youth could supplement them. The Agricultural Extension Officer of Mulshi taluka suggested, "The youths should participate in the implementation of the schemes and play a greater role in the follow up of the scheme."

Some elected representatives expected the youths to participate in all activities whenever their services were required. Only a few elected representatives saw the youths role as that of initiating some programmes. (These expectations in a way reflect how respondents view their own roles of propogating and implementing the directives coming from above and a very less of initiative taking.)

Among the different programmes which the youth should implement according to elected representatives and government officials were the Gram Safai, family planning programme,
animal husbandry camp, afforestation. Others stated in
general that all government programmes should be imple­
mented by them wherever possible.

One of the government officials from Peth stated that
the youths should take up programmes of social reforms
like reducing expenses on dinners given in marriages,
Shraddhas and other social occasions. He gave the example
of Ghodegaon where the youths had made a rule that only
guests outside the village were to be invited for the
marriage dinner and the whole village should be excluded.
(Generally it is a custom in rural areas to invite the
whole village on the occasion of a marriage.)

One of the taluka level representatives from Furandhar
Taluka said, "The youth should develop co-operative societies
for economic projects. Generally parents in the rural areas
are not in a position to help such endeavours, it is the
youth who should come together and help themselves."

An elected representative of an interior village said,
"Our youths have not travelled too far and they do not know
much about the outside world. The youths should go out of
the village and see what other youths are doing in an
organised way. They should attend different camps so that
more understanding and broader outlook develops." The
Sarpanch of Dive felt that if full time workers were there
then participation would increase effectively.
Female Youths: There was hardly any expectations from the female youths. One of the elected representatives from Mahur said, "We do not expect the female youth to take much part in social activities because of the Gosha system. At the most she could participate in the Haldi Kumkum programme." A Block Development Officer from Junnar taluka observed, "For another 15 years we cannot expect the female youths to go ahead. She cannot take independent decisions at her in-laws place." One of the elected representatives stated, "The question of young female's participation does not come up at all. Here in the rural areas, the female youth get married of as soon as she comes of age. Further as a daughter-in-law she has a number of responsibilities. At least the wives of different government officials and teachers can participate in activities outside the home." One of the female elected representatives also pointed out, "We cannot expect any participation from the women in agriculture. They are ignorant. Only the women staying in the market place, i.e., the wives of businessmen, teachers and government officials could take some part."

According to some elected representatives, the women should take up the responsibility of preprimary education (Balwadi), learn about first aid, cooking methods, nutrition, savings, legal position of women, send children on time to school and keep accounts of family expenditure.
Another elected representative stated that more and more women should go to the Mahila Mandal, as many new things could be learnt there. A Gram Fanchayat member said, "We want our women to take up a leading role. But inspite of our saying so they don't come out. First, they need to get necessary support from their family to go out for such programmes and get opportunities for expressing themselves." A Gramsevika lamented that yet the participation of the females was far from satisfactory. They should take up more initiative.

One of the elected representatives felt that only when the age of marriage of the rural female youth increases, she will have a youth period of longer duration when some training could be imparted to her.

We found that more was expected by female government officials than male government officials. But most of the expectations from her were centred around her role as a mother rather than an individual person.

It is interesting to note that some of the elected representatives have emphatically stated, "We have no right to expect anything from the youth, as we cannot give anything. Until and unless the employment problem is solved we cannot expect the youth to play any role. Elected representatives have made a number of suggestions to increase employment opportunities for the youths about
which we have stated in the beginning of the chapter while discussing their opinions on the present day rural development programme. An ex-member of the Legislative Assembly from the Purandhar taluka constituency observed, "In the urban areas we find more than one person in a family holding a job. In the rural area, more opportunities for jobs should develop and at least one youth from each family should have a job. This will give some security to the rural population especially in the drought prone regions."

Other suggestions for facilitating youths participation were those of giving training to youths for making Gobar gas plants, sanitation, village environment maintenance and doing social service.

One of the Mukhya Sevikas observed: "Only if a separate department is opened for women's development, then only there will be chances of paying attention to them." Even the Griha Sevika in her discussions emphasized this point and also suggested that women should get guidance on how to organise and run small scale enterprises.

After enquiring about the role expected from the male and female youths, we further enquired from the elected representatives and government officials their own role in bridging the gap between the youth's expected and actual role.
The elected representatives gave varied responses but the responses from government officials was more or less stereotyped.

The village level elected representatives talked more about involving youths in Shramdan, fund raising. Individually, they would try to get them admissions to Institutes of technical training or jobs in State undertakings, where they knew influential persons who are members on various Committees. A young Sarpanch recently elected said that he would make efforts to run an adult education class. Some of the elected representatives said that they could not do anything as there were factions in the village. A female representative opined "we will do what our Sarpanch asks us to do."

As regards the female youths, many did not see any role. Only two of the elected representatives remarked, "We can try to help them increase their participation, so that they would speak more boldly in meetings and give whatever help possible through the Gram Panchayat.

Some of them have also said that they would advice the youth if asked for. A Sabhapati said that he would attempt to arrange some training programmes for youths and widowed women through the Panchayat Samiti.

Many of the government officials have remarked, "We cannot do much to bring about greater participation of youth
both male and female. If schemes for youths are directed from above then we can implement them. At present there are no specific schemes for them." The village level government officials felt that they could inform youths about rural development schemes and seek their participation in it. One of the Gramsevaks remarked: "Today our knowledge and skills are so outdated that sometimes the educated rural youths could teach us. We don't think we could guide the youth."

Another reason given by a Block Development Officer was that they were already overburdened with work and could not take up any additional responsibility. He suggested that perhaps the voluntary associations could take up that role. He said, "At the most if the youth approaches us for some schemes we could guide them."

Conclusion

In this chapter we briefly saw the ideas elected representatives and government officials hold about rural development, their observations about people's participation in general and youths participation in particular, the role expected of the youth and the respondent's own role in bringing about the expected role.

Most of the ideas of the respondents about rural development centre around economic development for which measures such as small scale industries, utilisation of local raw materials, reasonable price for agricultural produce and
increased irrigational facilities. A few other ideas of rural development included effective working of Gram-panchayat, good schools and effective implementation of rural development programmes. Some believed that the unity and self-sufficiency of a village were the indicators of development and when the benefits of development schemes reached the rural women, development would take place.

The observations relating to the present day development schemes were mainly relating to planning which did not take into consideration local needs and different aspects of implementation. The elected representatives have drawn our attention to the absence of qualitative output from the scheme, a thin spread over of different schemes, whereas government officials have pointed out about their increased workload, increased expectations of the people, their outdated skills, and interference of elected representatives in day to day administration of development schemes.

According to the observation of the elected representatives and government officials, the villages indicating more participation were mostly those having a high level of education, good economic conditions, better communication facilities with the urban centres and where programmes were in tune with the local needs.

Male youths participated, as observed by the elected representatives and government officials, mainly in cultural
and recreational activities. The educated middle class youth, having urban contact participated more than other rural youths. Female youths participated only in some programmes, but yet a number of factors inhibited their participation.

The elected representatives and government officials expect youths to uphold the values of sacrifice, equality, respect for manual work, self-control, patience, staying away from publicity and readiness to face opposition. Their participation was expected by the government officials mainly in propogating and implementing government programmes. Few others have expected them to follow up government schemes, attend to cost reduction programmes, form small scale cooperative industries. Some have said, that it would be wrong to expect anything from the youth when the society is not in a position to satisfy his needs by offering proper employment.

Very few respondents have expected female youths to play any role in rural development. Many have stated that women in general should play the role of effective mothers.

The roles visualised by elected representatives for themselves for promoting the role of the youths were to involve youth in Shramdan, fund raising programmes, procuring jobs for the youths wherever possible. Few have perceived their own role as advisors or organisers. Some felt that they could not do anything because of the factions and
quarrels among kinship groups in the village.

The government officials felt that until and unless specific directives about youth schemes came from above they cannot do anything. They are already overburdened and could only give information to the youth about the existing schemes and guide them.

Our comments on the opinions and observations of the elected representatives and government officials are stated in the concluding chapter.
## APPENDIX I

**Socio-Economic Background of Elected Representatives and Government Officials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sarpanch</td>
<td>Mahur</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Sarpanch</td>
<td>Nbaware</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Sarpanch</td>
<td>Kolwan</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>S.S.C.</td>
<td>Gobargasc Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Sarpanch</td>
<td>Mawadi Super</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Sarpanch</td>
<td>Dive</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>S.S.C.</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Gram Panchayat Member (female representative)</td>
<td>Kolwan</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Gram Panchayat Member (female representative)</td>
<td>Darawli</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Sabha Pati</td>
<td>Purandhar</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>S.S.C.</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Zilla Parishad Member</td>
<td>Dive</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>S.S.C.</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Ex-Panchayat Samiti Member</td>
<td>Darawli</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Masonry</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Zilla Parishad Member</td>
<td>Junnar</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Social work</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Gram Sevak</td>
<td>Peth</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>S.S.C.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Gram Sevak</td>
<td>Dive</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>S.S.C. &amp; Gramsevak Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

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### Appendix I (Contd.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Gram Sevak</td>
<td>Lawale</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>S.S.C. &amp; Gramsevika Diploma</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Mukhya Sevika</td>
<td>Mulshi</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>S.S.C. &amp; Gramsevika Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.</td>
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<td>Ambegaon</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>Agricultural Extension Officer</td>
<td>Mulshi</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>B.Sc. (Agri)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Block Development Officer</td>
<td>Shirur</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Jr. B.A. Diploma in Rural Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Block Development Officer</td>
<td>Mulshi</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>F.Y. Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Block Development Officer</td>
<td>Junnar</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>B.Com., Diploma in Coop. A/cs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sr. Nos. 1 to 7 are village elected representatives.

Sr. Nos. 8 to 12 are Taluka, District and State elected representatives.

Sr. Nos. 13 to 17 are village government officials.

Sr. Nos. 18 to 23 are Taluka government officials.

** Refer to their designations in Column No. 1.