

YOUTH INTEGRATION IN COOPERATIVES
(A STATUS PAPER ON INDIA)

Project Coordinator & Principal Investigator

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Project Assistants:

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Ms. Preethi S.K.
Mr. Prakash Pinto

PROJECT SPONSORED BY

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE (ROAP)
NEW DELHI INDIA 110 065

1997

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PRELUDE

This study is worked out within a short time and amidst constraints of data. It has a limited objective of projecting the general trends of youth and youth participation in Indian cooperative movement. Hence higher emphasis is laid on locating the youth of India amidst their socio-economic context.

I welcome comments by the readers and would like to be guided on the ways of improving this report further. I am of the view that a more comprehensive empirical research is needed to determine the exact nature and extent of youth participation in cooperatives and also on the ways and means of furthering it. Such studies may be taken up at the State level, since the matters related to cooperatives are handled at that level.

I wish to place on record my appreciation to ICA (ROAP), for choosing to focus on a key issue like Youth Intergration in Cooperatives. I am especially indebted to Mr. Ruby Tulus, Regional Director, ICA (ROAP) and Mr. W.U. Herath, Regional Adviser (HRD), ICA (ROAP) for giving me this opportunity to take up the study. I appreciate the good work done by my research assistants, but would like to state that any limitations in the study are despite their work.

I wish this study would be the beginning of more concrete and meaningful work on the issues centering Youth and Cooperatives in India.

15th November 1997
MANGALAGANGOTRI

(YASHAVANTHA DONGRE)

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CHAPTER I
THE STUDY DESIGN

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Coverage of the study
- 1.3 Objectives of the study
- 1.4 Methodology
- 1.5 Lay-out of the Study Report

The present study is an attempt to locate the extent and nature of participation of youth of India, in the cooperative movement. This study is undertaken on the premise that youth development is possible through the cooperative channel and that the cooperative movement will get strengthened through greater participation by the youth. The researchers hope that this study would be of use both in terms of providing basic information and perspective on youth position in India as well as in designing appropriate policies towards integrating youth in to the cooperative movement.

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

Youth constitute the future of any nation. The extent of youth development and their participation in various segments of the economy is indicative of the direction in which the country is destined to move in the future. It is therefore, imperative that Human Resource Development of Youth is a priority item in the developmental agenda of any country.

There is a renewed interest among the academicians as well as the policy makers world over, about the potential of the Cooperative Movement to lead to sustainable development. In these days of the emergence of a unipolar world, humane and democratic modes are a necessity in any segment of the economy. There is a leading school of academicians who believe that the failure of the Centrally Planned Economies and the inevitability of opting for the Free Market Structures create lot of pressures on the less privileged. Cooperatives

are the only shelters which can reduce such pressures. There are also thinkers, who prefer to go a step forward, and advocate a Cooperative Socio-Economic System as an alternative to the competitive free market structures.¹ Hence it is a matter of great relevance to examine as to which type of human element is currently active in the cooperative movement, in any country. This has added significance for a transitory economy like India.

The present study is taken up with due consideration to the above trends. The underlying idea of this study is to focus on the state of the economy as a whole, through the medium of Cooperatives and Youth participation in cooperatives.

1.2 COVERAGE OF THE STUDY:

The scope of the study extends to the whole of India. It is an attempt to locate the macro level trends in the country, with regard to the extent and nature of youth participation in cooperatives. To facilitate a fair analysis, the Cooperatives in Educational Institutions and Youth Cooperatives are kept outside the purview of this analysis. In fact, the study attaches as much importance to the analysis of Youth Situation in general as it does towards youth participation in cooperatives.

¹ The concept of Economic Sociale is fast catching up momentum in France and other European countries. Japanese Scholars, Consumer Cooperatives and Workers Cooperatives have also been endorsing the Cooperative Socio-Economic System.

An attempt is made in the study to project the inter linkages between the overall situation of the economy (the socio-economic indicators), the position of youth in general (their status and problems) and their participation (the nature and extent) in cooperatives. The study has also tried to cover the reasons for non-participation, the impact of such a trend on the youth as well as on the cooperatives and the possible ways to improve the situation.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The specific objectives of the study may be listed as follows;

- a. To discuss the overall Socio-economic situation of India, as a prelude to examine the status of the cooperative movement and the position of youth.
- b. To locate the position of youth in the economy, in terms of their socio-economic status.
- c. To discuss the overall situation of Cooperative movement in the country.
- d. To analyse the nature and extent of youth participation in cooperatives, based on secondary as well primary data. and
- e. To suggest measures for enhancing the quality of youth and enable them to participate more actively in the cooperative movement.

1.4 METHODOLOGY:

The present study depends essentially on secondary data and the trends are projected for the macro level. The presentation is descriptive, since the objective of the study is to present the existing situation. In order to support the larger trends, empirical data gathered at the micro level is used. The primary data are gathered through a stratified random sampling of the cooperative organisations.

The studies conducted by institutions and individuals as well as the reports of the various cooperative promotional organisations form the source for secondary data. For demographic details, census reports for the year 1981 and 1991 are used. Official (Government) sources are relied upon for the data on various socio-economic indicators.

The observations of the Researchers have played an important role in the analysis presented in this study. Since the trends are identified through personal visits to some of the cooperatives and through informal dialogues with various people involved in the cooperative movement, such observations are considered to be very vital.

Even though the study has not used any extensive primary data bases, care has been taken to make the analysis unbiased and purposive. A good deal of oral cross verification of the trends were done during the process of dialogue with eminent cooperators and researchers in the field.

1.5 LAY OUT OF THE STUDY REPORT:

The Study Report is presented in Five chapters, as detailed below.

CHAPTER I deals with the technical details of the Study. The Objectives and Methodology of the study are explained in this chapter.

CHAPTER II gives a brief background of the socio-economic features of the Indian Economy. This is presented to enable the reader to have an understanding of the context in which the youth of the country are placed. This background is also supposed to be of help in understanding the position of cooperatives vis-a-vis other sectors of the economy.

An attempt is made in CHAPTER III to analyse the youth position in the country. The youth situation is analyzed in terms of their role, problems, institutions dealing with youth and their potential as future leaders in the economy.

The position of cooperatives in the country, the nature and extent of youth participation and the reasons for inadequate participation by youth forms the main theme of discussion in CHAPTER IV

CHAPTER V offers some suggestions towards youth integration in cooperatives in a more meaningful and purposive way. It also presents the conclusive observations on the findings of the study.

CHAPTER II
SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF INDIA

- 2.1 Geo Physical Features
- 2.2 Social Features
- 2.3 Administrative Details
- 2.4 Economic Factors

This chapter gives an overall outline of the socio-economic features of India. Such details serve as a background to understand the various movements and their potential.

2.1 GEO PHYSICAL FEATURES:

A brief discussion on the geo physical features of India, including Physical aspects, Climate, Flora and Fauna would facilitate understanding of the physical context of the economy. This would also facilitate understanding of the general nature of the resources in the economy.²

2.1.1 PHYSICAL FEATURES

India occupies a strategic position in Asia surrounded in the North-West by Pakistan and Afghanistan, in the North by the Sianking Province comprising China, Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan, in the East by Myanmar, in the South-East by the Bay of Bengal, in the South by the Indian Ocean and in the South-West by the Arabian Sea. The Himalayan Ranges separate the country from the rest of Asia. India lies to the north of the Equator between 8°4' and 37°6' north latitude and 68°7' and 97°25' east longitude.

² For a detailed account of the Geo Physical features of India- See:

- a) Manorama Year Book, Malayala Manorama, Kochi, 1997
- b) India 1995, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, GOI, New Delhi, 1995.
- c) Hugh Finlay et.al., "India: A Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit", Lonely Planet, Australia, 1996.

India measures 3,214 kms. from North to South and 2,933 kms. from East to West with a total land area of 3,287,263 sq. kms. It has a land frontier of 15,200 kms. and a coastline of 7516.5 kms. Andaman and Nicobar islands in the East and Lakshadweep islands in the West are parts of India.

India's major physiographic regions comprise of,

1. The Northern mountains including the Himalayas and the mountain ranges in the North-East;
2. The Indo-Gangetic Plain;
3. The desert region called the Thar Desert;
4. The Peninsular Plateau or the Deccan Plateau and
5. The Coastal Region.

The Main watersheds in India are, 1. Himalayan range with its Karakoram branch in the north. 2. Vindhyan and Satpura ranges in Central India. 3. Sahyadri/Western Ghats on the West Coast.

The main rivers of the Himalayan group are the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. These rivers are both snow-fed and rain-fed and have, therefore, a continuous flow throughout the year. The rivers of the Deccan denuding their beds for long geological ages have developed flat valleys with low gradients. Major rivers of the Deccan are Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery, Pennar, Mahanadi, Damodar, Sharavati, Netravati, Bharatapuzha, Periyar, Pamba, Narmada and Tapti. These rivers are entirely rain-fed and, therefore, many of them dry up in the hot season.

Out of the total land area, about 18,50,000 sq kms are cultivated and used for Agricultural activities. About 10 percent of the land area (328,726 sq.kms) is under wild forest and another 4 percent (131,492 sq. kms.) under national parks.

2.1.2 CLIMATE

India is a vast country with variable climate - broadly described as the Tropical Monsoon type. India has mainly 3 seasons a year - 1. Rainy Season, with the South-West Monsoon ranging from June to September and the North-East Monsoon ranging from October to mid December; 2. Winter Season ranging from November to February and 3. Summer Season ranging from March to May.

India's climate is affected by 2 seasonal winds -- North-East monsoon winds blowing from land to sea and South-West monsoon winds blowing from sea to land. The South-West monsoon brings most of the rainfall during the year. It starts towards the beginning of June in the South and covers the entire country by July. The rain just pours until September. The East-Coast experiences North-East monsoon during October to mid-December when winter has set-in in North India. In the Southern Coast, the winter season constitutes a hot day with a clear sky and a cool night. Summer sets in after winter. The weather in summer is very hot, humid, dry and dusty. In the South-Coast, there is not much variation in the temperature throughout the year. The variation is roughly

between 19°C to 28°C. The northern plains have temperatures ranging from 7°C during winter to about 45°C in summer.

2.1.3 FLORA

The vegetation of India is wide and varied due to the wide range of climatic conditions from the torrid to the arctic. India can be divided into 8 distinct floristic regions -- Western Himalayas, Eastern Himalayas, Assam, Indus Plain, Ganga Plain, Deccan, Malabar and Andamans.

The Western Himalayan region is the temperate zone and is rich in forests of chir, pine, other conifers and broad leaved temperate trees. The Eastern Himalayan region extends from Sikkim eastward and embraces Darjiling, Kurseong and the adjacent tract. This Temperate zone has forests of oaks, laurels, maples, rhododendrons, alder and birch, conifers, junipers and dwarf willows. The Assam region covering the Brahmaputra and the Surma valleys, has evergreen forests with occasional thick clumps of bamboos and tall grasses. The Indus region comprises of the plains of Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat which is dry and hot supporting little natural vegetation. The Ganga Plain covers the entire area from the Aravalli ranges to Bengal and Orissa. The greater part of the alluvial plain is under cultivation of wheat, sugarcane and rice. Small areas support forests of various types. Deccan region which is the entire table land of the Indian Peninsula, supports vegetation of various kinds from scrub jungles to mixed deciduous forests. Malabar region covers the excessively humid belt of mountain country parallel to the

West-Coast. It is rich in forest vegetation of the evergreen type. It also produces important commercial crops such as coconut, betelnut, pepper, coffee, tea, rubber and cashewnut. Andaman region abounds in evergreen, semi-evergreen, mangrove, beach and diluvial forests.

India is floristically very rich. It is estimated that there are about 45,000 species of plants including shrubs in the country. The vascular flora, which forms the conspicuous vegetation cover comprises 15,000 species. Of these, more than 35 percent is endemic and not reported anywhere else in the world. The total plant wealth includes large flowering plants, flowering shrubs and non-flowering plants like ferns, liverworts, algae and fungi.

2.1.4 FAUNA

There is a great variety of fauna numbering a little over 65,000 species due to the diverse climatic and physical conditions, of which, Insects constitute 40,000; Mollusc a little over 5,000; Mammals about 372; Birds - 1,228; Reptiles - 428; Amphibians - 204; and fishes -2,546.

The Mammals include the majestic elephant, the gaur(Indian bison- which is the largest of existing bovines), the great Indian rhinoceros, the gigantic wild sheep of the Himalayas, the swamp deer, the spotted deer, the four-horned antelope, the Indian antelope or black buck, the wild pig, the striped hyena, the jackal, the fox and the Indian wild dog. Among the cats, the tiger and the lion are the most

magnificent of all. Other splendid cats are the clouded leopard, snow leopard, panthers, and marbled cats. The various monkeys found here are the rhesus macaques, bonnet macaques and langurs.

The most common birds which inhabit the forests and wetlands are serpent eagles, owls, peacocks, pheasants, geese, ducks, mynas, parakeets, pigeons, cranes, hornbills and sunbirds.

A large number of king cobras, pythons, freshwater tortoises, monitor lizards, and various other reptiles and amphibians are found.

Rivers and lakes harbour very many crocodiles and alligators. Salt-water crocodiles are found in the Eastern Coast and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The Great Himalayan range includes wild sheep and goats, markhor, ibex, shrew and tapir. The lesser panda and snow leopard are found in the upper reaches of the mountains.

10% of the country's geographical area is under forest cover. There are presently about 80 national parks, 441 wildlife sanctuaries and 35 zoological gardens in the country covering 4.5% of the geographical area.

2.2 SOCIAL FEATURES:

The demographic features and literacy levels are enumerated here, in order to explain the social context which is a significant contributor for youth development.³

2.2.1 DEMOGRAPHY

India is known for its diversity in terms of its social, ethnic and cultural identities. The presence of 16 official languages and about 200 vernaculars, 8 religions, 3 races and a host of ethnic and caste groups makes Indian social strata quite unique and complex. It is rightly addressed as a sub-continent, both as a reference to its size and diversity.

The population census in India is carried out once in ten years. According to the latest census estimates (1991) the total population of India was about 843.93 Million comprising of 437.60 Million male and 406.33 Million female populations. The estimates of 1995 had put the population figures at 904 Million and this is expected to go up to 990 Million by 2000 AD.

A large segment of the population (74.3 percent) live in the rural areas. The total working population of the country is estimated to be about 314 Million. Among the working population women constitute only 22.7 percent. With a per thousand birth rate of about 28.5 and death rate of 9.2 the

³ For more details on social features See-

- a) Census of India, 1981, GOI, New Delhi, 1984
- b) Census of India, 1991, GOI, New Delhi, 1994
- c) Statistical Outline of India: 1995-96, Tata Services Ltd., Bombay, 1996.

population is likely to grow sharply. Of the total population about 52.21 percent is considered literate. The female literacy is rather low with about 39.39 percent.

Social stratification of Caste Groups is a significant feature of the Indian demography. This stratification still has its impact in terms of access to different socio-economic privileges and makes it difficult to bring in any standard instrument of growth and development. The National Government as well as the States have been following the caste based reservation system both in education and employment, with the idea of giving adequate opportunity to the deprived castes and classes.

2.2.2 LITERACY AND EDUCATION

The Constitution of India makes a provision for free and compulsory education mainly at the primary level, for all children, upto the age of 14. This is in the nature of a Directive Principle rather than a Fundamental right. However, with an ever-increasing population, it has been difficult to achieve this goal. Even though Literacy has been loosely defined to include all those who could just be able to put their signature, the levels achieved so far, is far from satisfactory. The growth of literate population in the country can be made out from the census data given in the table below.

TABLE 1
Literacy Rates in India
 (percentage to total in the category)

Year	Male	Female	Total
1951	27.16	8.86	18.33
1961	40.40	15.34	28.31
1971	45.95	21.97	34.45
1981	56.50	29.85	43.67
1991	64.13	39.39	52.21

Source: Annual Report, 1994-95, Ministry of HRD, GOI, Dept. of Education, part-I, p.202.

We may notice from the table that the average literacy as per the recent census is about 52.21 percent. This is quite discouraging compared to the levels of literacy achieved by our neighbouring countries. A matter of concern is that the literacy rate among women is as low as 39.39 percent. This could have serious impact in terms of gender problems as well as the upbringing of the children. A low rate of literacy in general could also mean that a large segment of the population remains outside the mainstream activities.

This situation has risen despite a sizable growth in the infrastructure for education. For instance, the data in the following table is worth noting.

TABLE 2
Expansion in the Elementary Education Level

(in Millions)

		Year	
		1950-51	1993-94
No. of Instns.	Primary Schools		
	I-V	0.210	0.570
	Upper Primary		
	Schools VI-VIII	0.013	1.055
No. of Teachers	Primary Schools		
	I-V	0.538	1.703
	Upper Primary		
	Schools VI-VIII	0.036	1.080
Total Enrolment	Primary Schools		
	I-V	19.2	108.2
	Upper Primary		
	Schools VI-VIII	3.1	39.9

We may notice that the average growth of Primary Schools, Teachers and Enrolment of students has increased ten fold in the past five decades. The number of students enrolled in schools has also increased from 24 million in 1950-51 to 167 million in 1992-93. A study conducted by the Tata Services Ltd. shows the break-up of enrolment in schools into three, as depicted in the following table.

TABLE 3
Enrolment of Students in Schools
(in Millions)

	1990-91	1993-94
Primary Schools	97.4	108.2
of which- Girls	40.4	46.4
Middle/Upper Primary Schools	34.0	39.9
of which- Girls	12.5	15.7
Higher Secondary Schools	19.1	23.3

Source: Statistical Outline of India, 1995-96.

There is a steady increase in enrolment in all sections and a marked increase in the number of girls. This is a positive indicator of social progress.

In the field of higher education as well there has been a steady increase in the enrolment of students in colleges and in universities. It is estimated that the student strength was around 0.2 million at the time of independence but that it

was around 0.2 million at the time of independence but that it has increased to around 5 million by 1992-93.

As per the latest UGC statistics available, there are 216 Central and State universities as well as deemed to universities, 110 autonomous colleges and 7600 affiliated colleges. The number of teachers is around 300,000 and the student strength is five million which grows at a rate of 4.5% per annum.

The Annual Report 1994-95, Ministry of HRD, traces the growth of the higher education system. The initial period of 1994-95 saw the total enrolment in universities and colleges increase to 5.007 million, accounting for a growth of 0.202 million compared to the previous year. The enrolments in the university departments were 0.829 million and that in the affiliated colleges were 4.178 million.

At present, the GOI is laying thrust on vocational education and aims to divert 25% of higher secondary students into this stream by 2000 A.D.

The GOI also looked into the issue of imparting education beyond the formal system of imparting it. The National Policy on education, 1986 and Programme of Action, 1992 envisage a large systematic programme of education for those who cannot attend full day school. The National Literacy Mission was launched in 1988 with the object of imparting literacy to 0.800 million adult illiterates in the age group of 15-35 by 1995. This is now enlarged to cover 100 million people by 1997.

2.2.3 HEALTH:-

The general health conditions in India are far from satisfactory when compared to the global standards. There has been a notable improvement in various health indicators since planned development was initiated after independence. The following data gives us an estimate of the general health conditions in the country.

Life Expectancy (1994): 62.8 years, Infant and Child Mortality (1994):- 72 per 1000, Maternal mortality (per 1 Million live birth (1993):5700, Persons per hospital bed (1993): 1,333, Persons per doctor (1991): 2,437, Persons per nurse (1991): 3,333, Family planning users (1993): 45.4% of eligible population, Birth control methods (1995): Sterilisations performed-4.29 Million, IUD insertions-6.24 Million, CC users-17 Million OP users-4.75 Million, Total fertility rate (1994): 3.6, Crude birth rate per 1000 people (1995): 21, Crude death rate per 1000 people (1995): 9.8, Children dying before 5 years of age (1992): 3.1 million, Population above 60 years of age: 6.1 percent, Population without access to (1995):- health services: 13.52 million, safe water: 34.26 million, sanitation: 128 million, Disabled Persons (1995): 0.2 percent of the population, Aids cases (1996): 2 million, Calorie intake (average per person per day): 2,395, Malnourished children (1996): 53 percent of the child population, The number of hospital beds (both Government and Private)(1993): 0.7 Million, The number

of (1992):- registered doctors 0.4 Million and nurses 0.3.9 Million.

Primary health care to rural population is provided through a network of 21,254 primary health centres, 131,476 sub-centres, 2,328 community health centres by 0.61 Million trained health officials and 4.17 lakh village health guides as on 31 December 1994.

The major nutritional problems in India are protein energy malnutrition, Vitamin A deficiency and anaemia. Besides, goitre is widely prevalent and lathyrism is localised to certain regions. Malnutrition is widely prevalent in young children, pregnant and lactating mothers. The measures taken by the government include education on nutrition, distribution of Vitamin A, iron and folic acid through the primary health centres.

Family Welfare Programmes aiming to reduce birth rate to stabilise the population at a level consistent with the economy, are also implemented through the network of sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres.

2.3 ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

The details discussed in the following pages will help in understanding the political structure and the administrative divisions in India. This would help in understanding the

legal environment of the youth as well as the rights and duties of the young population.⁴

2.3.1 THE POLITY

India, a Union of States is a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic with a parliamentary system of Government. The Republic is governed by the Constitution, which was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949 and came into force on 26th January 1950.

The Indian Republic comprises of 25 states - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal and 7 Union Territories - Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nager Haveli, Daman and Diu, Delhi, Pondicherry and Lakshadweep.

Each state is administered by a Governor appointed by the President for a term of 5 years. Each Union Territory is administered by the President through a Lt. Governor or an administrator appointed by him. The head of the Republic is the President in whom all executive power is vested, to be exercised on the advice of ministers responsible to the

⁴ For details See:

- a) Manorama Year Book, op. cit.,
- b) Gazettiar of India, Ministry of I&B, GOI, New Delhi
- c) Basu, Dr. Aparna, Yojana, Towards ensuring Gender equity, Vol. 14, No. 6, Apr. 5-18, 1997, pp 138-39.
- d) Hunter, Brian., (ed.) The Stateman's Year Book (1996-97), The Macmillan Press Ltd., London, 1996.

Parliament. The President must be an Indian citizen; must be above 35 years of age; eligible for election to the House of People or the Lok Sabha. There is also a Vice-President who is an ex-officio chairman of the Council of States or the Rajya Sabha.

The Parliament consists of the President, Vice-President, and the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President. The Council of Ministers are formed by the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha). The Rajya Sabha or the Upper House, consists of not more than 250 members; in December 1995 there were 233 elected members and 12 members nominated by the President. The Rajya Sabha is a permanent body not liable to dissolution, but 1/3 of the members retire every second year. The Lok Sabha, or the Lower house, consists of 552 members of which 530 are from the States and 20 from the Union Territories. In April 1995, there were 529 elected members, 2 members nominated by the President to represent the Anglo-Indian community. The Lok Sabha continues for 5 years from the date appointed for its first meeting; in emergency, the Parliament can extend the term by one year.

For every state there is a legislature which consists of the Governor and Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as its head. The Council of Ministers are made up of 2 houses, the Legislative Assembly (Vidhana Sabha) and the Legislative

Council (Vidhana Parishad), in the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra and 1 house, the Legislative Assembly, in other states.

Like the Prime Minister who communicates all important decisions of the Council of Ministers to the President at the Centre, at the State Level, it is the Chief Minister who does this job. Every Legislative Assembly continues for 5 years from the date appointed for its first meeting; in case of emergency, the term may be extended upto one year. Every Legislative Council is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution, but 1/3 of its members retire every second year. The Parliament can abolish an existing Legislative Council or create a new one, if the proposal is supported by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly concerned.

The various subjects of legislation are enumerated in 3 lists in the 7th schedule to the Constitution. List I, the Union List, consists of 97 subjects (including defence, foreign affairs, communication, currency and coinage, banking and customs) with respect to which the Union Parliament has exclusive power to make laws. The State Legislature has exclusive power to make laws with respect to the 66 subjects in List II, the State List, (including police and public order, agriculture and irrigation, education, public health and local government). Cooperative Movement falls in the State List. The powers to make laws with respect to the 47 subjects in List III, the Concurrent List, (including economic and social planning, legal questions and labour and price control)

are held both by the Union and State Governments, though the former prevails. The Parliament may legislate with respect to any subject in the State List in circumstances when the subject assumes national importance or during emergencies.

Other provisions deal with the administrative relations between the Union and the States, interstate trade and commerce, distribution of revenues between the States and the Union, official language, etc.

2.3.2 THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of India offers all citizens, individually and collectively, some basic rights. They are;

1. Right to Equality, 2. Right to freedom of speech and expression, 3. Right to freedom of conscience and religion, 4. Right against exploitation, 5. Right to conservation of culture and language, 6. Right to constitutional remedies for enforcement of fundamental rights.

The Constitution also provides for some Fundamental Duties to be performed by every citizen. They include,

1. Duty to abide by the Constitution, 2. Duty to cherish and follow noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom, 3. Duty to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so, and 4. Duty to promote harmony and spirit of common brotherhood amongst all people of India transcending religious, linguistic, and regional or sectional diversities.

The Constitution lays down certain Directive Principles which though not enforceable through the Courts of Law are "fundamental in governance of the country" and it is "the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws". These lay down that the State shall strive to promote welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice - social, economic and political shall inform all institutions of national life.

2.3.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There were in 1989-90, 72 municipal corporations, 1,770 municipal committees/boards/councils, 663 town area committees, 337 notified area committees. The municipal bodies have the care of roads, water supply, drainage, sanitation, medical relief, vaccination, education, street lighting, etc.. Their main sources of revenue are taxes on the annual rental value of land and buildings, octroi and terminal, vehicle and other taxes. the municipal councils enact their own bye-laws and frame their budgets, which in case of municipal councils other than corporations generally require the sanction of the State Government. All municipal councils are elected on the principle of adult franchise.

For the rural areas, there is a 3-tier system of panchayati raj at village, block and district level, although the 3-tier system of panchayati raj may undergo changes in the State Legislation to suit local conditions. All Panchayati Raj bodies are organically linked and representation is given to special interests. Elected directly by and from among

villagers, the panchayats are responsible for agricultural production, rural industries, medical relief, maternity and child welfare, common grazing ground, village roads, tanks, wells and maintenance of sanitation. In some places, they also look after the primary education, maintenance of village records and collection of land revenue. They have their own powers of taxation. There are some judicial panchayats or village courts. Tenure of panchayati raj institutions range from 3 to 5 years. The powers and responsibilities are derived from the State Legislatures and from the Executive orders of State Governments.

2.3.5 JUDICIARY

One of the unique features of the Indian Constitution is that a single integrated system of courts to administer both Union and State laws is provided for, even though, we have adopted a federal system of Government and varied Central and State Acts exist. At the apex of the entire judicial system exists the Supreme Court of India with a High Court at the head of each State's judicial administration. There is a hierarchy of subordinate courts under the High Court.

Each state is divided into judicial districts presided over by a district and sessions judge, who is the principal civil court of original jurisdiction and can try all offenses including those punishable with death. He is the highest judicial authority in a district. Below him there are courts of civil jurisdiction, known as munsifs, sub-judges, civil judges and the like. Similarly, criminal judiciary comprises

chief judicial magistrate and judicial magistrates of first and second class. Generally, the subordinate courts deal with disputes of civil and criminal nature as per the powers conferred on them. Administrative Tribunals settle disputes regarding recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union Government and State Governments.

Family Courts aim at promoting conciliation and securing speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and related matters. A high-powered committee known as Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) has been in existence since September 1980 for formulating, implementing and monitoring legal aid schemes in different states and union territories in order to bring about social justice. Under this scheme, legal aid and advice boards have been set up in most of the states. Upto 31st March 1995, about 10,800 Lok Adalats were held in different parts of the country at which about 50,58,000 cases were settled.

2.4 ECONOMIC FACTORS:

Economic factors are the basic determinants of the potential of any economy. There is a close association between the roles of cooperatives and the state of development of the economy. The details given below will soften our way to understand the economic context in which the youth in India are situated.⁵

⁵ For more details and evaluation of economic trends See:
a) Manorama Year Book, Op. Cit.
b) Competition Success Review, Bombay.

2.4.1 INCOME LEVELS

India is one of the low income countries, when viewed in terms of per capita income. The total national revenue is quite high with the GDP for the year 1994-95, at current prices, reading at Rupees 8,541.03 Billion. However due to the enormous size of the population the per capita income in US \$ terms works out at around \$ 300.

It is estimated that about 40 percent of the population in the country still earns an income below the Poverty Line. It is extremely difficult for this group of population to make both ends meet. The gap between the top 10 percent of the population and the bottom 40 percent of the population is too wide signifying a wide inequality in income distribution. Since there exists a direct correlation between income levels and access to socio-economic privileges, this trend should be viewed with great concern.

2.4.2 COMMUNICATIONS

Postal service forms an integral means of communication. Postal service in India was first opened in 1837. Today, the country has a total of 1,52,786 post offices of which 16,804 are in the urban areas and 1,35,982 are in the rural areas. A post office serves on an average a population of nearly 5,527 persons and a distance of about 21.49 sq. km. The postal network consists of four categories of post offices viz., head post offices, sub post offices, extra departmental sub post

c) Dewett K.K. et.al., Indian Economy, 1996

offices and extra departmental branch post offices. Though there is no difference in the services provided by the different post offices, the head post office is the accounting office for all the other post offices under it.

The Express Parcel Service to provide reliable and time bound service has been introduced w.e.f. December 1, 1994 between the metropolitan cities. The Speed Post, introduced on 1 August 1986, is a service in which the mail is delivered within a definite time frame, failing which full refund of postage is made. The national network of speed post consists of 67 major towns of the country.

Under the ordinary money order, remittance upto Rs. 2000 can be made. Under the Satellite Money Order Scheme, available only at 7 centres, remittance upto Rs. 5000 can be made. Transmission upto Rs. one crore can be made under the Corporate Money Order Service, a service which is available to corporate houses.

Value Added Services are enhanced services which add value to the existing basic tele and bearer services. The following services have been identified as value added services:

1. Radio paging
 2. Cellular Mobile Telephone Services
 3. Electronic Mail
 4. Voice Mail
 5. Close User Group Domestic
 - 64 Kbps Data Network INSAT satellite using VSAT
 6. Audiotex Service
 7. Direct Access Code Dialling
 8. Bulletin Board Service
 9. Videotex Service
 10. Video Conferencing.
- Some of these services are available in select towns and cities only.

As on 31 March 1995, there were 87,543 STD/ISD PCO's 14,143,002 local PCO's, 2,010 highway points and 53,228 Telex Connections in the country. The international tele-communication services are provided by the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. Along with the other services, they also provide the internet services, available in metropolitan and cosmopolitan cities.

2.4.3 TRANSPORT

Transport industry has grown tremendously over the last few years in terms of output as well as the spread of network of the system. Railways provide the principal mode of transportation for freight and passengers. From a modest beginning in 1853, when the first train steamed off from Bombay to Thane, a distance of 34 km, Indian Railways have grown into a vast network of 7,050 stations spread over a route length of 62,660 km with a fleet of 7,202 locomotives, 34,088 passenger service vehicles, 5,955 other coaching vehicles and 3,12,405 wagons as on 31 March 1995. About 18% of the route kilometre, 27% of running track kilometre and 26% of total track kilometre are electrified. The passenger traffic in 1993-94 was 370.80 Million and passenger kilometre was 296.2 billion. Revenue freight traffic was 358.7 Million tonnes in 1993-94. Transport effort measured in terms of net tonne kilometres was 252.4 billion in 1993-94.

India has one of the largest road networks in the world, the total road length was 2.04 million kms. in 1994-95. The present national highway system includes a total road length

of 34,058 kms. Though the national highways constitute only 2% of the total road length, they carry nearly 40% of the road traffic. The Border Road Development Board, set up in 1960 has constructed 24,000 kms of roads and is also presently maintaining them.

The country has the largest merchant shipping fleet among developing countries and ranks 17th in the world in shipping tonnage. As on 31st August 1995 the operative tonnage consisted of 460 vessels totalling to 6.84 million GRT. There were 71 shipping companies in the country in operation as on 31 March 1995. Of these 39 are engaged exclusively in coastal trade, 22 in overseas trade and the remaining 10 in both coastal and overseas trade. India has about 14,500 km of navigable waterways which comprises of rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, etc. At present, however, a length of 3,700 km of major rivers is navigable by mechanised crafts but the length actually utilised is only about 2,000 km.

Civil Aviation provides domestic and international air services to passengers and cargo. It also provides services to ONGC in its shore operations and to access certain inaccessible areas and difficult terrains through helicopter services. There are 93 airports in the country open to civil operations. The passengers carried by Air Taxi in 1994 was 3.6 Million.

2.4.4 AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian economy. At present this sector contributes about 20% of the GDP and employs 50% of the population. In the last 35 years, food production has risen steadily due to the increase in irrigated areas and widespread use of high yielding varieties of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. India is now an exporter of food grains.

The main crops are rice (78.97 Million tonnes/yr), wheat (59.13 Million tonnes/yr), Jowar (11.52 Million tonnes/yr), Bajra (5.02 Million tonnes/yr), Maize (9.48 Million tonnes/yr), Gram (4.94 Million tonnes/yr), Pulses (13.10 Million tonnes/yr), Cereals (169.02 Million tonnes/yr), Groundnut (7.76 Million tonnes/yr), Rapeseed and Mustard (5.39 Million tonnes/yr), Sugarcane (227.06 Million tonnes/yr), Cotton (10.72 Million bales of 170 kg each/yr), Jute (7.38 Million bales of 180 kg each/yr), Mesta (1.10 Million bales of 180 kg each/yr).

India is the world's largest producer of tea with an annual yield of 740 million kg of which 200 million kg is exported. India holds around 30% of the world's spice market and exports amount to 120,000 tonnes per year. Rubber production amounts to 400,000 tonnes and coconut production amounts to 12,355 million. India holds the first position in the world in the production of banana, onion and cashew besides other fruits. It stands second in vegetable production amounting to 71 Million mt during 1993. Animal Husbandry plays a vital role in supplementing family income and generating additional

gainful employment for the agricultural labourers and other backward sections. As a result of the concentrated efforts of the Central and State governments, the growth in milk production was tremendous and in 1994-95, the milk production amounted to 63.5 million tonnes. Livestock provides for industrial use, raw materials like hides, skins, bones, fat, blood and casings. Farm manure is used for power generation and to fertilise the land. Animals are also used in agricultural operations and for transportation. The gross value of output from livestock sector alone at current prices was about 642 million in 1993-94 which is about 26% of the value of total agricultural output. According to livestock census, the country has about 195.87 million cattle, 76.77 million buffaloes, 44.84 million sheep, 99.41 million goats, 10.76 million pigs, 2.9 million pack animals and 258.34 million poultry birds.

Fisheries help in augmenting food supply, generation of employment, raising nutritional level and earning foreign exchange. The fish production has increased by more than six times in the last 45 years. The fish production during the year 1994-95 amounted to a total of 4.80 Million tonnes with marine constituting 2.75 Million tonnes and inland constituting 2.04 Million tonnes. The export of marine products amounted to 3,273 crore in 1994-95.

2.4.5 INDUSTRY

The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 marked the beginning of the industrial revolution in the country. Today, India has achieved self-reliance in most of the basic and capital goods. There are diverse industries catering to different aspects of the economy.

As on 31 March 1993 there were 245 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), comprising of eight in the construction sector, 72 in services and remaining 165 in the manufacturing sector. The total capital employed in the 245 CPSU's amounted to about 1,399.33 billion rupees and the overall rate of return on capital employed was 2.43%. The number of small scale units as at the end of 31 March 1994 were 2.38 million comprising of 1.77 million registered units and 0.61 un-registered. The overall production in the small scale sector during 1993-94 was rupees 2,416.5 billion. The total value of exports of these units has been rupees 177.85 billion in 1993.

The new Industrial Policy announced on 24th July 1991, envisages liberalisation and competitive environment. As a major step for implementation of the Policy, the Government of India has disinvested varying percentage of its share holdings in some PSUs in favour of financial institutions, banks, mutual funds, foreign institutional investors and the public. The shares of these companies are listed in the Stock Exchanges. The chronically sick units have been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). So far, 54 sick enterprises have been referred for revival to

the BIFR. During 1993-94, the investment in public sector has increased to rupees 1,81,077 crore registering an increase of 11.35% over the last year.

The industrial sector recorded a growth of 5.1% during 1993-94 as against a marginal growth of 2.3% in 1992-93. Mining and quarrying sector showed an increase of 3.2%, manufacturing sector 4.9% and electricity generation 7.5% during 1993-94. 13 out of 17 industry groups recorded positive growth rates. The growth rate of beverage, tobacco and tobacco product industries was 21.3%; of basic metal and alloy industry was 20.9%; jute, hemp and mesta textile was 18.6%; chemical and chemical products was 7.6%; leather and fur products was 7.4%; paper and paper products was 6.6%; cotton textiles was 6.6% and transport equipment was 5.2%.

2.4.6 EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

India has had trade connections with most parts of the world since time immemorial. With the new trend of globalisation taking place, India has taken initiative to diversify its export base as well as its destinations. Exports cover over 7,500 commodities to about 190 countries while imports from about 140 countries account for over 6000 commodities. Exports include a wide range of items of agricultural, industrial as also various handicrafts, handloom and cottage sectors. Project exports include consultancy, civil construction and turn-key contracts. Electronic, hardware and software exports have increased, mainly to advanced countries. Imports have also increased

substantially, bulk of which comprises items like petroleum and petroleum products and fertilizers, etc.; precious and semi-precious stones for export production; and capital goods, raw materials, consumables and intermediates for industrial production and technological upgradation. The total value of foreign trade during 1994-95 was rupees 171,043.03 crore. During 1994-95, India's total exports amounted to rupees 82,338.01 crore registering a growth of 18% over the previous year. At the same time, imports amounted to rupees 88,705.02 crore registering a growth of 21.1% over the previous year. In rupee terms the trade deficit was 3,352.16 crore.

OBSERVATIONS

The socio-economic profile of India, clearly shows that the country is a typical Dual Economy. This vast and diverse economy has some of the 'world's best' coexisting with the 'worst'. It is not for nothing that India is described a 'Tiger in the cage'. India exhibits a lot of potential but the rate of realisation of this potential is not up to satisfaction. This situation can tell heavily upon the quality and vibrancy of the youth as well as their participation in various economic and social movements. With the opportunities and problems for participation being plenty it would be of interest to examine the youth situation in the country.

CHAPTER III
YOUTH IN INDIA

- 3.1 Size of Youth Population
- 3.2 Literacy Among Youth
- 3.3 Employment
- 3.4 Political Participation of Youth
- 3.5 Cultural Environment and Youth Issues
- 3.6 Background of Unemployed Youth
- 3.7 Problems of Youth
- 3.8 Institutions Dealing With Youth Issues

Youth constitute about 30 percent of the Indian population. Their number as per 1991 Census is well over 250 Million. Since the break-up of population in detail is not available for the present period, the 1981 census data is used for the purpose of analysis.

The definition of youth is a difficult question in the Indian context. In its broadest sense people in the age group of 12 to 40 have been considered as youth\adult by various users of the concept. Going by some of the Government sources, an individual crossing the age of 12 ceases to be a child. The consideration of voting right and contractual right puts the starting age at 18 while there are also arguments that the age of youth starts at 21. In terms of the maximum age also there is enough variation from the age of 30 to 40. This study has therefore, tried to consider the productive capacities of the individual and the presence of the youth psyche in the individuals as the criteria for classification. Thus people in the age group of 15 to 35 are considered as youth in this study.

3.1 SIZE OF YOUTH POPULATION:

The details of the size and composition of youth population as per 1981 census may be had from the following table.

TABLE 4
AGE WISE CLASSIFICATION OF YOUTH IN INDIA
(millions of persons)

AGE GROUP	PERSONS	MALES	FEMALES
15-19	64.04	33.89	30.15
20-24	57.35	29.00	28.35
25-29	50.75	25.75	25.00
30-34	42.44	21.60	20.84
TOTAL	214.58	110.24	104.34

It is clear from the Table that the youth population in India has almost equal share of male and female population. It is also important to note that the maximum share of youth population is in the age group of 15-19. This speaks of the potential of youth population to blossom in to more active citizens in the future.

3.2 LITERACY AMONG YOUTH

Literacy level is an important indicator of the strength and position of youth. We may expect better leaders and citizens in the future if youth are better educated. Illiterate population among youth could pose serious problems

for the future. The details of youth illiteracy are presented in the following table.⁶

TABLE 5
ILLITERACY AMONG YOUTH

Age Group	Illiteracy Level (Percentage)
15-19	44.63
20-24	47.98
25-29	52.44
30-34	57.84
Total 15-34	49.99

Source: Census of India, 1981, Part II (Special part IV (A), Social Cultural Tables for the States

The illiterate population among youth as a whole is about 50 percent of the total. Considering the average level of illiteracy in the country, this is fairly lower. However, the

⁶ For More Details See:

- a. Distance Education System, Yojana, Vol. 41, No. 4, April 1997, pp 34-35.
- b. Mehta, Arun C., " The status of education for all", Yojana, Vol 40, No. 1, Jan.1996.

fact that half the share of youth are illiterate could be a matter of great concern. Illiteracy is quite high (44.63 percent) among those in the age group of 15-19. This also calls for immediate attention.

With a view to achieve the target set up under the constitution, the government made successive efforts under Operation Blackboard to improve basic infrastructure for primary schools until 1989-90. A National Literacy Authority was also set up in 1988 to achieve 80% literacy in the 15-35 age group by 1995. The same resolve was spelt out by the National Policy on Education, 1986 and the Programme of Action (POA), 1992.

3.3 EMPLOYMENT:

It has been observed that the rural youth migrate to urban areas for better employment opportunities. About 12% of the workforce of marginal workers is comprised of persons in the age group 15-34.

The table in the next page shows the categorisation of main workers and marginal workers in the age group 15-34.

TABLE 6
Main Workers and Marginal Workers

Age	Main Workers			Marginal Workers	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total					
15-19 3137022	17332960	5570926	229003886	729679	2407343
20-24 3152786	2227399	5760363	28034361	631892	2520894
25-29 2794239	23451015	5629597	29080612	390572	2403667
30-34 2329183	20652757	5123945	25776703	222118	2107065

Source: Census of India, 1981, Series I India, Part II (special)

The census of India, 1981 lists about 31 million as non-workers in the age group 25-34 comprising about 22 million in the rural areas and 9 million in the urban areas. Of these over 2 million were males and about 30 million, females.

The above table shows that males comprise the majority of main workers whereas females form a major chunk of marginal workers.

A list of registered work seekers in December 1984 is shown below. Those registered need not be unemployed and all unemployed need not be registered. But this table gives an idea about the extent of unemployment among youth.

TABLE 7
Registered Work- seekers
(in 000's)

Age group	Women	Educated	Total (all categories)
Upto 14	604	1700	2588
15-19	8552	27395	47220
20-24	15178	50068	90398
25-29	9800	31360	61341
30-34	3993	10964	23576

Source: Director of General Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour, Statistical Summary of Employment Service Operations and Vocational Training Schemes, December 1984.

Registered work seekers seem to be high in the 20-24 age category. The next highest registration is in the category of 25-29. Those would perhaps indicate a relationship to education and employment wherein educated youth get registered after a particular stage in their studies.

3.4 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH:

The period of freedom struggle saw the participation of youth for the attainment of a common goal- independence. The post-independence scenario, characterised by a multi-party democracy, shows a different form of youth involvement in politics. Almost all the major political parties- national and regional- have their own youth wings and many of them have

their own student wings as well. It seems to be a clear indication that the youth today, is a force to be reckoned with in politics.⁷

The following table gives a list of prominent youth organisations affiliated to political parties-

TABLE 8
Youth and Student Wings of Various Political Parties

Political Party	Youth Wing	Students Organisation
Indian National Congress	Youth Congress	National Student union of India
Bharatiya Janatha Party	Janatha Yuva Morcha	Akil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad
Janatha Dal	Yuva Morcha	Yuva Janatha and others
Communist Party of India	All India Youth Federation	All India Students Federation
CPI(M)	Democratic Youth Federation of India	Student Federation of India
Socialist Unity Centre of India	All India Democratic Youth orgn.	All India Democratic Student orgn.

⁷ For an interesting analysis of political participation of youth See:

Shalini M., " Youth as an Autonomous Political Constituency in India", Unpublished M.Phil Dissertation, Mangalore University, 1996.

In addition to these, regional political parties have their own youth organisations. Powerful student organisations like the All Assam Students' Union, The Bodo Students' Union and All India Sikh Students' Federation take an active interest in politics. Dalit Youth Organisations also have started taking interest in the political field.

3.5 CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT AND YOUTH ISSUES:

Youth has emerged recently as a distinct social category, not because they form the majority of a national population but due to reasons of their specific characteristics, needs, psycho-social traits and pattern of behaviour. Youth are the human property of the nation; they represent strength, vitality, vigour and are the hope for the future of a nation. "Youth are the carriers of culture, custodians of national honour and trustees of the freedom of the country".⁸ They occupy a vantage position from where they immensely influence the government as well as the society at large.

Indian youth, inspite of all their energy, enthusiasm and courage, have continuously been losing a balanced perspective of and orientation towards social reality. The lack of proper personality development and striking imbalance in the modern social order are to be held accountable for this situation.

The problem of unemployment among the educated youth is one of the greatest that the nation is facing today. This has invited the anger of our youth and they are increasingly

⁸ Trasy Yashavanth, Dynamics of Youth Unrest, New Delhi: People Welfare Council, 1987.

indulging in illegal, anti-social and other violent and criminal activities day-by-day and tend to destroy public property very often. This is the expression of their distrust of the system. The attempt to get preferential treatment in the matters of recruitment, further generate some socio-economic problems like corruption, nepotism, casteism, regionalisation and linguistic confrontations. Therefore, determined efforts are needed and appropriate policies are to be made, so that our young men and women can become job creators and not remain job seekers.

In India, we have no authentic and fool-proof system to know the gravity of the problem of unemployment. Varied kinds of apprehended data is available but is absolutely unreliable due to many in-built structural factors and technical fallacies. Even the qualitative studies and other kinds of research though necessary, are, at present, insufficient and scanty. Blang (1969, 1973 and 1977), Leonar (1985) and ILO have tried to assess the problem of unemployment in developing countries and particularly in the Indian context but their focus has been on economic repercussions rather than socio-economic consequences of unemployment.

The work participation rate assessed by NSS indicate that unemployment among youth is more in urban areas than in rural areas. Further the migration from rural to urban areas for employment and search for white collar jobs contribute to higher rate of unemployment in urban compared to rural areas. A sizable number of youth population is neither employed, nor unemployed. The data can be summarised into following table.

TABLE 9
Youth Labour-force and Unemployment
 (15-29 years)

Educational Level	Percentage of Share		
	Labour Force	Unemployment (on Weekly status basis)	Rate of Unemployment
Illiterate	48.9	25.0	03.97
Primary & Middle	39.6	41.0	08.17
Secondary	08.8	23.8	21.05
Graduate & above	02.7	09.4	26.97
	100.0	100.0	07.75

Source: GOI, Sixth Five Year Document, Economic Intelligence Service.

Though the total educated youth constituted 11.5% of the corresponding labour force, they accounted for 33.2% of the total unemployment, 23.8% at the secondary level, 9.4% at the level of graduates and above. About three fourth of the total educated unemployed youth were men and about 45% were in rural areas. The table given above shows a larger share of uneducated youth in the labour force but a higher rate of unemployment among the educated youth.

3.6 BACKGROUND OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

The nature of family background forms the values and norms of the individual. Unemployed youth are no exception to this rule. Income gives an insight into the economic status of the family that is instrumental in forming the external

behaviour pattern of the unemployed youth in the society.

The table given below depicts the nature of family and family income level among the unemployed youth.

TABLE 10
Family Type and Income

Monthly Income (Rs.)	Family Type			Total	Percent
	Joint	Nuclear	Semi Nuclear		
0-500	35	43	17	95	31.67
500-1000	19	31	56	106	35.33
1000-1500	3	27	18	48	16.00
1500-2000	-	16	13	29	9.66
2000-2500	-	13	6	19	6.34
Above 2500	-	1	2	3	1.00

Source: Pramod Kumar Bajpai, Youth Education and Unemployment, New Delhi: Asia Publishing House, 1992.....

It is observed from the table that 31.67% of unemployed youth come under Rs.0-500 income group, 35.33% in Rs. 500-1000 income group and so on. It appears from the table that most of the unemployed youth belong to the lower income groups.

3.7 PROBLEMS OF YOUTH:

Illiteracy and Unemployment are the two dreaded problems for the youth in India, today. Having thrown light on these issues, it may be pertinent to look at a few other problems

which are either the off-shoots of illiteracy and unemployment or of other social and economic maladies.⁹

The youth in the rural areas are clearly the greater sufferers. Inaccess to education and other social infrastructure is making these groups become a part of the urban slums. The rural youth are increasingly losing direction because their native setup is breaking up due to modernisation but they are not equipped to live in the new setup.

The urban youth are distinctly of two categories - those who are in slums and are poor; they often end up becoming less productive and even anti-social at times and those having better living conditions, but are fast troubled by problems such as drug addiction, alcoholism etc., on the one hand, and uncertainty of the future and indecisiveness, on the other.

A distinct problem of youth in the country is the increased politicisation of this group of population. Since the Indian citizen gets his electoral right at the age of 18, the youth have become a handy instrument in the hands of the politicians. So much so that political parties are actively involved even in the campus\student elections in the universities and colleges. This is indeed a negative growth reaching to alarming heights in the past decade..

⁹For some interesting analysis on youth problems See:

a. Maclever R.M. (ed) "Dilemmas of Youth", America Today, New York, Harper & Harper.

One may easily notice that the youth in the country are not properly directed and their energy not fully utilized. The political and social leadership in the country seem to have failed to motivate the youth and imbibe confidence in them. The seriousness of the issue is well appreciated by the Government of India. In fact, the GOI has launched a good number of programmes for youth development and welfare.

3.8 INSTITUTIONS DEALING WITH YOUTH ISSUES:

Youth is considered to be the most vital human resource of the nation on whom the present and the future of the country depend. The Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, one of the four departments of the Ministry of HRD, is implementing a number of schemes of youth development. Several initiatives taken in the past have given a new thrust to the youth programmes for channelising the abundant energy of the youth into constructive activities.

a. National Youth Policy:

The GOI had adopted the National Youth Policy which was formulated in 1988. The policy is comprehensive and deals with a wide variety of programmes of youth welfare and development and seeks to provide the youth with new opportunities to participate in nation building activities. Various schemes and organisational activities of youth development have been initiated under the framework of this policy.

b. Committee for National Youth Programmes:

The GOI has constituted a committee for National Youth Programmes as per the guidelines of National Youth Policy in 1994. The committee has 50 members with the Prime Minister as its chairman. The functions of Committee are to-

1. suggest policy measures and programmes for the youth
2. advise government on measures for implementation of the plan of action of the National Youth Policy.
3. review the coordination between various departments of the Central/State governments and voluntary organisations and other agencies involved therein; and
4. provide a feedback on the implementation of the national youth programmes.

c. Promotion of Adventure:

Promotion of adventure aims at inculcating a spirit of risk-taking, team-work, ready and vital responses to challenging situations and endurance among the youth. Financial assistance is provided for undertaking activities like mountaineering, trekking, hiking, study of flora and fauna in mountains, forests, deserts and sea, coastal sailing, raft expeditions etc. Assistance is also provided for training as well as establishment and development of institutions to facilitate such activities. Indian Mountaineering Foundation, New Delhi and National Foundation are important institutes in this field. Under this scheme the National Adventure Award has been introduced.

d. Promotion of National Integration:

Exchange of visits of young persons from one part of the country to the other is organised to help them familiarise with different environments, life styles, social customs etc., and to inculcate a feeling of basic oneness which would foster among participants a pride of being Indians. Besides, national integration camps for student and non-student youth are arranged through Nehru Yuva Kendra's (NYK), voluntary agencies and educational institutions. During such camps they are exposed to inter regional traditions, customs, literacy and cultural heritage and are also made aware of matters of national importance. It also helps in inculcating nationally accepted values namely democracy, socialism, secularism etc.

e. National Service Scheme:

The NSS aims at involving the students of colleges and plus two level schools, on a voluntary and selective basis, in the programmes of social service and national development. Today, NSS has over 1.26 Million student volunteers on the roll spread over 158 universities. Emphasis under the scheme has been on programmes of rural and urban slums reconstruction and activities for improvement of conditions of economically and socially weaker sections. Besides undertaking programmes like construction and repair of roads, school buildings, village ponds, tanks and tree plantation, NSS students participate in programmes like environmental enrichment and conservation, health, family welfare and nutrition, improvement of status of women, social service in welfare

institutions, education and recreation including adult and pre-school education programmes and awareness campaign against AIDS and drug abuse.

f. National Service Volunteer Scheme:

The National Service Volunteer Scheme was started in 1977-78 with the objective of providing opportunity to youth, particularly those who completed their first degree course for full time involvement on a voluntary basis, in National building activities for a specified period. It seeks to provide the youth, avenues for creative and constructive work. Depending on their educational background and aptitude, volunteers working in the field are attached to NYKs, NSS, Scouts and guides, selected voluntary agencies and state governments.

g. Training of Youth:

Financial assistance is given to youth sponsored by states/union territories, NYKS, educational institutions and registered voluntary organisations for training in various fields such as animal husbandry, dairy/poultry farming, agriculture, cooperatives, health education, food nutrition etc..

h. Financial Assistance:

Financial assistance is given to voluntary youth organisations for organising programmes of vocational training to help improve functional capabilities of young persons

enabling them to take up self-employment or subsidiary employment. Such assistance is also provided for organising camps for promoting national integration and also taking up social service activities, conducting surveys and research work, holding of seminars etc.

i. National Youth Awards:

National youth awards are given annually by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports as part of the observance of National Youth Week to persons in the age group of 15-35 years and voluntary organisations. For 1993-94 awards were given to 13 individuals and two NGOs.

j. Special Scheme for Tribal Youth:

The scheme was initiated in 1990-91 in order to give special attention to the tribal youth of the country. Under this scheme financial assistance is given to various registered voluntary organisations for conducting programmes meant for tribal youth in the field of vocational training, exhibitions, national integration and update their skills, so that they are in a position to seek self employment.

k. Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development:

The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of youth development has been setup at Sriperumbudur (Tamilnadu). The institute functions as an apex body for coordinating and monitoring youth related activities throughout the country. It is also the model agency for training the youth.

l. Youth Development Centres:

The youth development centres would be the main hub of all youth activities in the villages covered by them. Normally, one centre may cover 10 villages. The primary objective of the centre is to work as an intermediate tier between the youth clubs and district Yuva Kendras. The scheme will be operated entirely through NYKS. Government will provide Rs. 30,000 for each centre as one time assistance for its establishment.

m. Youth Hostels:

Youth Hostels are built to promote youth travel within the country. The construction of such hostels has been conceived as a joint-venture between the central and the state governments. While the central government bears the cost of construction, the state government provides fully developed land free of cost with water and electricity, approach roads and staff quarters. They also bear the initial operation cost of the hostel. A sum of Rs. 1.6 Million is sanctioned by the central government for furniture/furnishing. The completed youth hostels are handed over to the state governments for management on a token rent of Rs. 1 per annum. Normal maintenance of these hostels is the responsibility of the state governments, but major and special repairs are carried out by the central government. So far 41 youth hostels have been constructed and commissioned.

n. Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK):

The Scheme of Nehru Yuva Kendra which came into operation in 1972 aims at serving non-students and rural youth to improve their personality and employment capability. From a modest beginning of 30 odd NYKs there are at present 476 NYKs. They organise activities like youth leadership training, national integration camps and community singing. They also organise social services like work camps, setting up of bio-gas plants, vocational training centres, youth clubs and coaching camps and tournaments for rural and indigenous sports. They have trained youth in construction, maintenance and operation of bio-gas plants, bee-keeping, para military training, popularisation and construction of smokeless chulhas in villages, construction of community assets like roads, community centres etc.. At many places the scheme of Training Rural Youth for Self employment is being implemented by them. From 1987, an autonomous body, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sanghatan has taken over these Kendras to monitor and administer their activities.

o. Scouting and Guiding:

Scouting and Guiding, an international movement, aims at character building of boys and girls. It inculcates in them a spirit of loyalty, patriotism and thoughtfulness for others. Bharat Scouts and Guides is the major organisation in the country which promotes this activity, while All India Boy Scouts Association works largely among non student youth.

p. Sports:

Sports is a state subject under the constitution of India and the role of government is mainly promotional which is sought to be achieved by laying down guidelines to national sport federations for their improved functioning, rendering financial assistance for organising coaching camps and for participation of the teams in international tournaments, sanctioning grants to state sports etc..

The University Grants Commission (UGC), Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports (NSNIS) promote sports and games in universities. The UGC provides financial assistance for development of sports infrastructure in colleges and universities. AIU oversees organisation of coaching camps and sports competitions among college and university students and preparation of Indian University contingents for international competitions. 300 scholarships of Rs. 600/- per annum each are awarded through NSNIS to the outstanding college and university sports persons. Scholarships are also renewed in subsequent years subject to holders maintaining or improving their performance. The scheme has been revised which includes enhancement of the ceiling of assistance for creation of sports infrastructure apart from covering new infrastructure facilities like sports hostels.

q. International Cooperation:

During 1994-95, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports had international cooperation in the field of physical

education, sports and youth affairs through cultural exchange programmes with 28 countries.

r. SAARC Youth Policy:

After the establishment of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, youth issues have been addressed at the regional level also. India has taken the lead in formulating the SAARC Regional Youth Policy. This policy aims at initiating comprehensive measures for the overall youth development in the region.

OBSERVATIONS

Youth in India, like any other country, are an active group in the population. The analysis carried out above, shows that there have been a good number of concrete measures initiated for youth development in the country. However, the reality is that the youth as a social entity is not developed enough to blossom into ideal citizens and leaders for the future. The problems haunting them seem to degenerate their potential. Many of the trend setting movements in the country, could not reach their ultimate destination because the level of youth participation was not forthcoming to the desired levels. The cooperative movement is no exception to this. The data on youth situation in India clearly establish a need for comprehensive programmes of youth development, as a priority towards effective Human Resource Development.

CHAPTER IV
YOUTH AND COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN INDIA

- 4.1 The genesis of Cooperative Movement
- 4.2 Present position
- 4.3 Youth Cooperatives
- 4.4 Major Achievements
- 4.5 Problems of Cooperatives
- 4.6 Youth in Cooperatives
- 4.7 The Empirical Analysis

This chapter intends to survey the nature and extent of youth participation in cooperatives and the reasons for such levels of participation. The chapter has two major divisions - the first, dealing with the cooperative movement in general and the second, discussing the central issue of youth in cooperatives.

4.1 THE GENESIS OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT:

Economic activity dates back in India to very ancient times. Naturally, therefore, cooperation too. The ancient Indian Vedic philosophy succinctly expressed "Vasudaiva Kutubakam" (the whole world is a single family). The concept of familyhood at the global level is possible only through cooperation. The socio-economic fabric of Indian ancient village primarily based on the Hindu Joint Family, fostered a spirit of self-sacrifice and mutual cooperation. Even, present day village life in many parts of the country should convince an objective observer that a deep-seated spirit of cooperation permeated all economic activities.¹⁰ This deep rooted spirit found in the present day village societies could not have sprung overnight. It must have been acquired over the years and had its roots in ancient times. But historical circumstances and a long spell of alien rule cut off India from her past. This made people believe that cooperative

¹⁰ Eleanor M. Hough, *The Cooperative Movement in India*, Calcutta: Oxford University Press, 1966, p.8.

movement like so many other things, has a western origin and is of recent growth.¹¹

The British government which ruled India for over two centuries found that the farmers were very poor and that they were heavily indebted. As a measure of relief the then government passed Deccan Agricultural Relief Act and Taccavi Laws in the last quarter of 19th century.¹² These legislations were found ineffective to solve the credit problems of farmers. Growing indebtedness of the bulk of population brought the rural economy to a grinding halt. The perturbed government, obviously, was on the look out for a suitable measure, as a long term solution to the problem. The need for adopting new methods for meeting the exigencies of the situation was realised. In 1892 the Madras Government deputed Sir Frederick Nicholson who submitted a report in two volumes in 1895 & 1897. He strongly recommended "Raiffeisen" model (Then prevailing in Germany) of credit cooperatives to India.¹³

Another committee under the presidency of Sir Edward Law, setup by GOI in 1901 also recommended the organisation of credit cooperative societies on the Raiffeisen model. Around 1900, Mr H Duperneux, ICS after much study of the question began to experiment with village banks in the United Provinces and published a little book "People's Banks -for- Northern

¹¹ R. B. Tyagi, Recent Trends in Cooperation, Bombay Asia Publishing House, 1968, p.2.

¹² Ramalingam Chettiar, "Cooperation and the Present Day Possibilities," The Tamilnadu Journal of Cooperation, Vol.73, No.11, May 1982, pp.610-611.

¹³ R. B. Tyagi, p.3.

India" in 1900.¹⁴ This also came under the notice of GOI. Mr Maclagan who did his pilot work in the north eastern part of the country recommended the requirement of the cooperative organisation. As a result of all these the Cooperative Credit Societies Act - No.X of 1904 was passed (March 25, 1904).¹⁵ This marks the first milestone in the cooperative movement of modern India. With this the cooperative movement was expected to play an important role in the socio-economic transformation by providing relief to the poor agriculturists.¹⁶

A more comprehensive central enactment, The Cooperative Societies Act of 1912 (Act II of 1912) was passed to overcome the deficiencies of the earlier act.¹⁷ The Act provided constitution of limited liability societies both as primaries and as federations. This Act marks the beginning of the second phase in the progress of Indian cooperative movement.

The cooperative movement in India received a rude jolt from the economic crisis of 1929-33 on account of the depression.¹⁸ As a result, the movement was faced with a huge burden of overdue. Many societies were caught in extraordinary financial difficulties. A large number of them had to close down. The movement got a fillip later during the second

¹⁴ H. Calvert, The Law and Principles of Cooperation, Calcutta: Thacker Spink and Co., 1959, p.4.

¹⁵ R. B. Tyagi, p.3.

¹⁶ Elenor M. Hough, p.xiii.

¹⁷ R. B. Tyagi, pp.9-10.

¹⁸ B. P. Sinha, Cooperation: Instrument for Socio-Economic Justice, Bombay: Himalaya Publishing House, 1992, p.59.

World War(1939-45). As a result of the rise in the prices of agricultural commodities and the increased incomes of the farmers, overdue of the societies began to be cleared up. Non credit cooperatives such as consumer, marketing etc.. cropped up. They also received an impetus due to the shortage of essential goods, black marketing and other such factors operating during that period.¹⁹

After independence (Aug 15, 1947) the situation changed. Then the national leaders were decidedly in favour of a strong cooperative movement to transform the rural economy. The Congress Party firmly believed in the relevance and potential of the cooperative movement.²⁰ Cooperation was visualised as a way of life for the people, the foundation of economic democracy, the training ground for political democracy.²¹ The cooperative form of organisation was not treated as only a species within the private sector. They are considered as an indispensable instrument of planned economic action in a democracy. Pandit Nehru considered the cooperative way to be a civilised way of working. His outlook was to convulse India with the cooperative movement and finally to make the cooperative approach the common thinking of India.²² The successive Five Years Plans assigned to these agencies a vital

¹⁹ B. P. Sinha, p.59.

²⁰ G. K. Sharma, "Indian Cooperative Movement," The Tamilnadu Journal of Cooperation, Vol.81, No.43, October 1989, p.188.

²¹ G. K. Sharma, p.189.

²² N. N. Trehan, p.9.

role to bring about economic development with social justice. The constitution of India, all the Plan documents and Policy Resolutions and also reports of various expert committee and conferences, have emphasized that there is no other instrument so potentially powerful and full of social purpose as the cooperative movement.²³ Many facilities were provided to the cooperatives in line with the general policy of GOI to encourage cooperation. Certain activities were reserved for them so that they could become economically viable in a short time. Government supported cooperatives with liberal financial assistance on the recommendation of the All India Rural Credit Survey Committee Report (1954) and Vaikunth Lal Mehta Committee (1960). Government officials were nominated to the managing committee and many were deputed to assist fast expansion. Targets were assigned for organising new cooperatives under the plan.

In 1956 the Government of India passed Industrial Policy Resolution to reinforce and reiterate the policy on development of cooperation as the principal instrument for the growth of the economy on the socialist pattern.²⁴ During the same period the government formed the National Warehousing and Cooperative Development Board with a view to Promoting and

²³ S. L. Goel and B. B. Goel, Administration of Personnel in Cooperatives, New Delhi, Sterling Publishers, p.xxiii.

²⁴ S. K. Dey, Sahakari Samaj, Bombay, Asia Publishing House, 1967, p.28.

developing cooperative marketing, processing and storage and other non-credit cooperatives.²⁵

The development of the cooperative movement during the Nehru period (upto 1964) may be characterised as a period of self-introspection, vertical and horizontal expansion of cooperative institutions, diversification and decentralisation of various activities and authorities, acceptance of cooperative ideology as an integral part of planned development of the country and promotion of genuine federal structure of the movement at various levels.²⁶ In addition to these the government persuaded organisations like Central Warehousing Corporation, Industrial Finance Corporation, nationalised banks, Department of RBI and similar other organisations to support the cooperative movement in their own ways.²⁷

Due to all these, India has witnessed a splendid development of cooperative enterprises. The movement which had remained credit oriented for over 50 years, now covers fields like industrial production, agricultural marketing and processing, distribution of consumer goods, fisheries, housing, dairying, education and so on, covering the most

²⁵ C. S. Rathod, "Role of Supportive Organisation in Cooperative Development," *The Cooperator*, Vol.27, No.22, May 15, 1990, pp.585-586.

²⁶ B. K. Sinha, *Cooperatives in India*, New Delhi: NCUI, 1968, p.54.

²⁷ C. S. Rathod, p.586.

remote parts of the country and making contributions to the national economy.

4.2 PRESENT POSITION:

The cooperative movement in India at present, is easily the world's largest in terms of number of institutions and membership. The table below gives a cursory view of the present position of cooperatives in the country.

TABLE 11
Indian Cooperative Movement at a Glance (1994-95)
(Value Rs. in Million)

Number of Cooperatives (all level)	411,123
Primary Cooperatives (all type)	396,175
Membership at all levels (Million)	197.801
Membership of Primaries (Million)	186.455
Share Capital (Rs.)	93501.8
Participation of Govt.	20.68%
Participation of Govt. in Agri. Credit	12%
Working Capital (Rs.)	1313,843.8
Assets (Rs.)	826,201.0
Deposits (Rs.)	391,030.84
Rural Households covered	67%
Villages covered by Coops.	99.5%
Number of National Level Coops.	21
Number of State Level Coop. Federations	284
Number of District Level Coop. Federations	2,331

Source: National Resource Centre of National Cooperative Union of India, Indian Cooperative Movement: A Profile, New Delhi: NCUI, 1997, p.9.

As it is seen from the Table the growth of the cooperative sector both vertically and horizontally has been quite impressive. But as a whole the movement has been identified as weak. Except a few notable cases, most of the cooperatives are not working effectively and have not

succeeded in achieving their goals. The whole movement has experienced continuous growth and expansion over a period of several decades, though halted by severe set-backs on many occasions.

There is no doubt that the strongest of the cooperatives are still seen in the area of agriculture and allied activities. It is note worthy that though small in number, cooperatives in India have made inroads into the most unconventional areas. By the end of 1995 cooperative movement had accounted for 58.97 percent of Agricultural Credit, 59.1 percent of sugar production, 50 percent of Oil Marketing, 55 percent of cotton procurement and marketing, 55 percent of handloom textiles, 61 percent of village level storage facility, 30.5 percent of fertilizer disbursement, and 36 percent of wheat procurement.²⁸ This is indeed an impressive achievement. However, it is also true that the sectoral spread of cooperatives is quite uneven in the country. The figures in the following table reveal the spread of cooperatives in different sectors of the economy.

²⁸Indian Cooperative Movement: A Profile, NCUI, New Delhi, 1997 P.10

TABLE 12
SECTORAL SPREAD OF COOPERATIVES IN INDIA

Sl. No.	Category	Number	Membership (Million)
1.	Primary Agricultural Coops.	91,910	90.60
2.	Cooperative Banks (All Types)	2,855	45.32
3.	Non-Agri. Credit Coops.	40,858	19.88
4.	Marketing Coops. (All Levels)	9,402	5.71
5.	Consumer Coops. (All Levels)	24,000	11.75
6.	Students Cooperatives	12,277	2.00
7.	Sugar Cooperatives	244	3.22
8.	Coop. Spinning Mills	313	0.56
9.	Dairy Cooperatives	72,744	9.31
10.	Fisheries Coops.	10,363	1.12
11.	Poultry Coops.	4,646	0.51
12.	Labour Construction Coops.	24,457	1.32
13.	Forest Labour Coops.	3,738	0.63
14.	Artisan Coops. (Weavers+other)	56,852	4.06
15.	Housing Coops. (All Level)	72,065	6.00
16.	Women Coops.	7,197	0.59

It is clear from the above table that Agricultural Coops. continue to be the dominant sector within coops., both in terms of number and membership. These cooperatives, followed by Dairy Cooperatives, Housing Cooperatives and Artisan Cooperatives constitute the bulk of cooperative enterprises. Others are rather small in number.

4.3 YOUTH COOPERATIVES:

The concept of Youth Cooperatives is almost unknown in India. Apart from a fairly large number of thrift and consumer cooperatives working in educational institutions, (generally called student cooperatives) cooperatives with youth as core members are not found. In fact, such cooperatives, so far, have not been listed under a separate head in the official cooperative statistics.

However, there are a very large number of youth groups and collectives both in rural and urban segments, which operate on cooperative lines. These are generally known as the youth clubs, and are registered organisations. However, they do not take up any business activities. They are essentially organisations of social activities for the youth. They become registered bodies, since the financial support from the Government is available only for such registered clubs.

4.4 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:

The following issues may be considered as the major achievements of the cooperative movement in the country.

1. The development of the cooperative movement has always been on a priority list of the government.
2. The cooperative movement contributed a great deal in changing for the better many out-moded traditions and customs of the people, in helping to curb their wasteful expenses and also furthering the habit of keeping their expenses within the limit of income.²⁹
3. The cooperative movement has been able to provide relief to the rural poor in various sectors.³⁰
4. The movement has been able to provide to the urban populace, services in the field of thrift and credit, housing, transport, consumer goods, consumer protection and other general services.
5. The movement has been able to train the people in the methods and techniques of operating democratic institutions to whatever extent it was possible.
6. The cooperative movement has been able to respond to the demands of advanced technological advancement in the fields of management, production, distribution and information.
7. The cooperative movement has been able to provide some support to the weaker sections of the society in generating additional incomes, family welfare programmes and improving the personal environment.

4.5 PROBLEMS OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT:

Cooperation in India is said to be bogged down with innumerable problems. Despite its wide coverage, the movement has not been able to contribute to the social and economic well being of the people, mainly because of these problems. The major problems of the movement are listed below.

²⁹ B. P. Sinha, p.69.

³⁰ Achievements 3-7 compiled from Daman Prakash, "Getting Set for 2000 A. D.- The Indian Cooperative Scene," Indian Cooperative Review, Vol.XXVI, No.4, April 1989, pp.352-353.

1. The movement has not gained the position it deserves in the eyes of the people at large. People have not yet developed full faith in the movement. They still regard it as a governmental agency for the grant of loans and other services and they do not come forward to promote it and treat it as their own.

2. Because of its pre occupation with the supply of credit, the cooperative movement has not made much progress in non-credit spheres.

3. The position of the movement is not uniform throughout the country. In some parts, it is fairly strong while in other parts, it is ineffective.

4. The principle of self-reliance, which is basic to the movement has not been promoted. For a considerable part of their finance, cooperative institutions depend upon outside sources. Their own internal resources viz. share capital and deposits are insufficient.

5. Cooperative movement has been misused by politicians for political purposes at the expense of the principles and purposes of cooperation. Cooperative leaders do not have accountability to the members and their desire for responsibility is blocked by the government interventions.

6. By and large, cooperatives have not fulfilled the social objectives. They seem to have taken for granted the weaker sections of the society. Cooperatives have mainly benefitted the middle and the rich classes in the society, rather than the small farmers, rural labourers and artisans.

4.6 YOUTH IN COOPERATIVES:

At the outset, it is important to mention that we have not been able to have access to any specific data about the extent of youth membership or youth participation in any form in the cooperatives in India. Discussions with cooperatives' leaders reveal that generally cooperatives are manned, managed and administered by elderly people. An impressionistic analysis reveals that youth are generally not attracted towards cooperatives, either in terms of taking up a job or in terms of becoming active members. Of course there is a good chunk of youth members in the cooperatives, but in most cases it has just happened. It is not that the younger lot is consciously entering the cooperative movement. The overall hypothesis could be that the youth are generally detached from the cooperatives and hence are losing an opportunity of democratic practice and participation in decision making. On the other hand, the cooperatives are detached from the youth, without making any specific attempt to attract them, and are losing the membership which could add vigour and dynamism to the movement. Youth apathy towards cooperatives is both a loss to the youth and also to the cooperative movement.

4.7 THE EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS:

Since we experienced paucity of secondary and macro level data to establish the above hypothesis, we embarked on a stratified random sample survey to ascertain the level of youth participation in cooperatives at the micro-level. This empirical data is analysed and the results are used for the

generalisation at the macro level. The details of the sample survey and the findings are given in the following pages.

a. **The Sample Design:** For the purpose of micro level investigation, 22 cooperatives of varying sizes, representing four states in South India were selected. It is to be kept in mind that these cooperatives are not selected as representative samples, but only to project the trend from out of a cross section of the cooperatives. In order to make authentic claims of exact level of youth participation, a separate sample survey across the country may have to be conducted. The details of the sample design are given in the following table.

TABLE 13
SAMPLE DESIGN

Region	Type of cooperatives						
	PACS	Consumer	Artisan	Urban Banks	Dairy		
Goa	1	1	-	1	-	3	
Kerala	2	1	1	-	1	5	
Karnataka	2	1	1	1	1	6	
Tamilnadu	2	2	1	2	1	8	
TOTAL	7	5	3	4	3	22	

The basic data gathered from these cooperatives was regarding the total size of the Members, Board of Directors and the Workers and the share of persons in the age group of 18 - 35. The 22 cooperatives had a total of about 53,220 members, 188 Directors and 132 full time employees. The part-time/temporary staff are quite sizable but they have not been considered here.

b. **Composition of Youth:** The major trends regarding the composition of youth in the sample units may be listed as below;

* When all the 22 societies are taken together about 26 percent of the Members, 12 percent of the BOD (including the nominated members) and 34 percent of the workers fall under the age group of 18-35.

* Youth members are the highest in the Consumer Coops. (38 percent) and the lowest in the Artisan Coops. (9 percent).

* State wise analysis shows that the youth membership is the maximum in Kerala (32 percent) and the least in Karnataka (14 percent).

* It is of significance to note that among the elected members of the Board only 10 percent are youth.

* The youth composition in the BOD is the maximum (22 percent) in the Dairy Cooperatives and the least (nil) in the Artisan Cooperatives.

* Among the 22 societies 19 had elected bodies. Out of the 22 Chief Executives only Three are within the youth age. Among the 19 presidents there is no one in this age group.

* Among the workers, maximum youth (30 percent) are found in the Urban Coop.Banks and the least is found (5 percent) in the Artisan Cooperatives.

The above trends are indeed far from satisfactory. Even though the trend is not drawn from a comprehensive representative sample, there are enough strengths in the trends that have emerged. Considering that the sample trends represent some of the most literate, economically more developed regions with fairly vibrant cooperative movement, we may safely deduce that the national level trends may not be better than this.

There could be a few technical reasons for poor youth membership in some of the cooperatives. For instance, those becoming the members of PACS are generally the ones in whose name the ownership of the land lies. In most cases the official owner of land is the head of the family, who would be generally above the age of 35. In the case of Artisan Cooperatives, it is inevitable that the membership constitutes older people, because the younger generation is fast giving up these traditional crafts.

Even after accommodating such reasons, the trend of youth involvement is discouraging. Even where their number is satisfactory in terms of membership, their involvement in the day to day activities of the cooperative is not much. This situation calls for serious consideration by policy makers on cooperatives, cooperative leaders as well as promoters.

c. Opinion Survey: A good number of cooperative members, executives, Govt. officials concerning cooperatives, researchers and university students were asked to give their views about the participation of youth in cooperatives. A significant fact that emerged through this opinion survey was that, the issue of youth participation in cooperatives was not given any serious thought by majority of them. There are however, some of the views which cite too much politicisation of cooperatives, lesser salaries and remunerations, insignificant place of coops in the economy and lack of awareness on the part of elders as well as youth as reasons for lack of participation of youth.

Many cooperative leaders interviewed during this study, felt that there is a need for youth participation in cooperatives. They all seem to be on a consensus that cooperation should be taught as a part of the curriculum at the high school level, in order to create awareness among the youth. Some of the elderly cooperative leaders felt that the cooperatives depend on integrity and sense of sacrifice and since these things are missing among the youth today, it is unlikely that they would be interested to take active part in cooperatives. There was also a view that too much bureaucratization and government intervention is the single most important reason that keeps youth away from cooperatives.

4.8 REASONS FOR LACK OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION:

A close observation of the trend of membership and their participation in the management of the cooperatives as well as the discussions with the cooperators and researchers, helped us to arrive at the following as the reasons for inadequate participation of youth in the cooperative movement.

a. Socio Economic background of Youth: It has been established earlier in the study, that the average socio economic status of Indian youth, pushes them to a disadvantageous position. Low level of education, poor economic status and long drawn unemployment comes in the way of being active in any social or economic movement. Since majority of the youth in the country are bogged down by their

personal or family problems, they may not find enough energy to concentrate on activities such as cooperatives.

b. Government Intervention: The cooperative movement in India is essentially a Government sponsored movement. The youth in the country are generally of the view that the cooperatives are a part of the government machinery. They do not find any necessity of, or meaning in, participating in such forums. This could be the fate of any movement that fails to evolve as a peoples movement.

c. Politicisation: Cooperatives are undoubtedly one of the highly politicised segments of the Indian economy. A large number of youth whom we questioned during the course of this study, felt that cooperatives are meant only for the budding politicians. There is a mixed feeling that the cooperatives are, either for those who wish to become politicians, or for those who do not have better things to do. Such a perception indeed speaks of the extent of unwanted politicisation of the movement.

d. Lack of Awareness: It is important to note that a good majority of the youth are not really aware of the process and potential of cooperatives. They will always have a cooperative next door, but are not curious to know about it. This is partly because of the absence of a clear orientation about the cooperative movement and partly because the

cooperatives have failed to attract public attention, through their services.

e. **Lack of attraction:** Cooperatives in India have faded amidst the dominant Public Sector and a competitive Private Sector. They are generally not considered mainstream organisations. To identify oneself with a cooperative, is not seen as much of a credit. A multinational corporation or even a private corporate body is of a greater attraction than a cooperative. It is very common for many young people working in cooperatives to say that they have joined these organisations, because they failed to get a job in better organisations.

f. **Weak status of cooperatives in educational institutions:** A very important reason for lack of participation by the youth is that they have not been getting an exposure to cooperative possibilities through cooperatives in schools and colleges. Though India can boast of the largest number of cooperatives in educational institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, these cooperatives are too small in size to make any real impact. Compared to the size of educational institutions and students, these cooperatives are small in number. More than this, the cooperatives in educational institutions are not perceived to be the learning centres. They have not been used to develop among youth a sense of cooperative culture and cooperative way of living. This seems to be the most wanting lacuna in the cooperative promotion in India.

CHAPTER V
SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Suggestions

5.2 Conclusion

Facilitating and strengthening youth participation in cooperatives, is the most compelling need of the cooperative movement in India. This calls for a conscious and determined effort both, in terms of promotional activities and strengthening the business activities of the cooperatives.

5.1 SUGGESTIONS:

To save the cooperative movement for the future and also to save the youth of today, an integration of these two elements should be taken up as a priority agenda. The following are some of the suggestions towards this end.

1. Strengthening Cooperatives in Educational Institutions:

Schools and Colleges are the places of learning. There is no better way of learning than learning through practice. This was well understood by the National Leaders of early independence period in India. But this element is not given enough importance at present.

Cooperatives in schools and colleges should be strengthened both horizontally and vertically. There should be a national level policy on such cooperatives and a national forum to promote such cooperatives. It is not only that the cooperatives should exist in all schools and colleges, but that the students should be taught to participate in running such cooperatives.

This is very much possible in India. If the adolescent and young group of our people are made to understand the cooperative values and advantages through cooperatives, they

would get a motivation to enter cooperative movement in a more meaningful and purposive way.

2. Youth Policy and Cooperatives:

The national youth policy should specifically consider cooperatives as one of the thrust areas. In fact, the government policy on youth development makes a mention of cooperatives also, but higher emphasis is not given to this segment. If the national youth policy recognises cooperatives as one of the instruments of youth development, there would be a lot of impetus for the youth to participate in the cooperatives.

The youth clubs and youth forums are given many incentives from the government. Since cooperatives undertake business activities they do not get such incentives. It is important that the policy makers perceive cooperatives as self help and community help initiatives in the first instance, and business houses only later. This approach will facilitate a lot of support to the cooperatives, and naturally there would be more young people wanting to join the movement.

3. Upgrading the Socio economic status of Youth:

It has been a fact that the ideas of self help and democracy survive and thrive only when the basic necessities of the people are properly met. A hungry youth can not be a vibrant member of the cooperative. Along with the upgradation of the socio-economic status, there would be higher possibilities of participation by the youth.

In fact, cooperatives themselves should take up the activity of facilitating better socio-economic status to the youth. They should consciously strive to make more youth as members and address their problems through cooperative efforts. In other words, if cooperatives start catering to the social and economic requirements of the youth, they would be automatically attracted to be more active in cooperatives.

4. Curriculum Development:

There is a need for appropriate curriculum at the school/college level, to introduce cooperatives to the youth. This is not just in terms of theoretical orientations nor in terms of offering subjects on Cooperation to the students of social sciences. What is required is to have a curriculum plan where all the youth, irrespective of their areas of special study, will become familiar with cooperatives.

There has been some attempts of curriculum development on cooperation taken up by ICA and ILO Coop Net. These attempts have made the teachers of cooperation revise what they have been teaching on cooperatives. However, there is a need to concretize these attempts in terms of evolving specific outlays of the curricula and the levels at which they have to be taught. Attempts are also needed to include this curriculum to serve the requirements of students of all areas of study. Such a design of curriculum is pretty difficult to push through, but it would indeed facilitate greater awareness and hence greater participation by the youth.

5. Involving Women Members:

One of the very important ways of making more youth get into cooperative movement, is to concentrate on the female segment of the youth. The literacy rate and the potential to participate is on the increase among women, especially in the urban and semi-urban segments. The women members, where ever they are involved, have demonstrated that they can work with greater commitment. Since the percentage of women members taking up jobs is quite less, the spare time of young housewives or young graduates, should be diverted towards cooperatives. This again calls for a proper orientation to this group of youth.

6. Exchange of Ideas and Persons:

Youth in India have not been exposed to the cooperative movements, where the youth are relatively more active. It is therefore, necessary to keep them informed, both by supplying information, bringing youth of other countries to India and similarly making Indian youth have a first hand experience of youth integration in other countries. To learn by seeing and experience sharing is very vital. But due to their socio-economic condition the youth in India can not afford to make visits and learn things from other countries. There is a need for a mechanism which makes such visits possible. There may have to be multilateral or bilateral programmes worked out to facilitate the youth to visit other countries and share information with the youth of other countries.

7. Role of Coop.Promotional Bodies:

The cooperative promotional bodies both at the national and state level need to give special emphasis on attracting more and more youth into the cooperative movement. It is heartening that the National Cooperative Union of India through National Council for Cooperative Training has taken a policy decision to conduct training programmes for the teachers , staff and students involved in cooperatives. Similar moves are needed to encompass the youth who are outside the purview of cooperatives of the educational institutions.

There is a need for special programmes addressing the youth in the country. The national level coop.promotional bodies could take up various youth activities, not necessarily in the name of cooperatives, but even as addressing their general problems. This is the first step to attracting young people to the cooperative field.

It is important to note that many movements in the country, be it movements of social development or even anti social movements, have succeeded in attracting, and are dependant on the youth. It should therefore, be possible to attract a good number of youth in to the cooperative movement, if the promotional bodies take up the matter with all earnestness.

5.2 CONCLUSION:

Youth integration in cooperatives is the need of the day, for the cooperative movement in India. Youth as a segment of Human Resource is considered the most significant, the world over. India is in dire need of effective development of this resource, which no doubt would be facilitated by the voluntary and democratic institutions like cooperatives. On the other hand, the cooperatives stand to gain substantially, if more youth move into them. They get cleansed, depoliticised and strengthened. At a time when the world is discussing the new cooperative possibilities and at a time when the Indian cooperative movement is looking for a rejuvenation, youth could add vitality to the movement.

It has been rightly pointed out by the Indian Planning Commission long ago, that Cooperation in India has failed - but it must succeed. Cooperativising the economy is an essential requirement. The new spaces created and old spaces now falling vacant due to the pace of privatisation and globalisation, have to be occupied by the cooperative enterprises, in order to make the process of liberalisation more humane and less painful. It is a great responsibility, which probably, only cooperatives could shoulder. Needless to say that shouldering such responsibility calls for proper equipping on the part of the cooperatives. Youth are the ones on whom the cooperatives should depend on for their future and youth are the ones who should depend on cooperatives for their own self development.

We earnestly hope that the suggestions made in this report will attract the attention of the policy makers and coop. promoters. We believe that the implementation of the suggestions as a package, will go a long way in realising the wish of effective youth integration in cooperatives in India.