

EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY PROJECT WORK IN KOLHAPUR *

(From the Report of the Evaluation Committee)

THE factual data presented in the foregoing pages regarding the villages in the community project area in Kolhapur speak for themselves. The community as a whole consisted largely of Marathas and Scheduled Castes, and could be said to be a homogeneous one. Information regarding income, housing, sanitary conditions, clothing and household things of persons and families in the project villages showed that the level of living in these villages was quite low. We have of course no comparative data from non-project villages, but the knowledge we have in regard to the rural conditions outside the community project area in Kolhapur, leads us to believe that the picture of conditions here was not different. The community project had not brought about any marked increase in the levels of living.

It is, however, to be noted that 70 per cent. of the people in our sample expressed their opinion that the quality of living had improved since the

* At the request of the Programmes Evaluation Organization, Planning Commission, the University of Poona appointed a committee, in May 1954, to evaluate reactions of the people to health, education, co-operation and such other items of the development programme of the Community Development Project in Kolhapur. The following persons constituted the committee :

Prof. V. K. Kothurkar, Head of the Department of Experimental Psychology, Poona University, (Convener); Mrs. Iravati Karve, Head of the Department of Sociology, Deccan College Post-Graduate Research Institute, Poona; Mr. N. V. Sovani, Joint Director, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona; Dr. B. M. Desai, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Poona University; and Prof. V. N. Vankudre, Professor of Economics, Rajaram College, Kolhapur.

This committee carried out an extensive survey in the Kolhapur project area, analysed the collected data, and submitted a report in 1957. The publication of the report, however, has been delayed for some unavoidable reasons. It is in press and may be published in the next six months or so by the Poona University. We thought that the concluding chapter of the report may be made available earlier to the public and to research workers, and were fortunate in securing the kind permission of the Vice-Chancellor of the Poona University to publish it in this issue.

Many points made by the committee are by now generally accepted in the evaluations of the achievements and results of the community projects made both officially and non-officially; but, it may be noted, that these points did not find such general recognition, in 1957, when the committee submitted its report.

We express our gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor of the Poona University for kindly making this chapter available for advance publication in our journal.

—Editorial Committee.