

P R E F A C E

This work was undertaken in the year 1965 at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, as a Research Fellow at the Institute. The approach to the problem underwent a change in 1966 with the change in guiding teacher from Professor N.V. Sovani to Professor V.M. Dandekar. The change in guiding teacher coupled with time taken for the field survey and for analysis of huge primary data overshoot the period of fellowship at the Institute and the research project could not be pursued for quite sometime since the exigencies of the situation dictated taking up a job outside the academic world which left little time for academic pursuits.

In fact, this work would never have seen the daylight had I not met Professor S.R. Hashim, the present guiding teacher, who not only revived my dormant interest in the topic but also constantly encouraged me in all possible ways to complete the work. Words are indeed insufficient for conveying my sentiments towards Professor S.R. Hashim and the extent of debt I owe to him is beyond any quantitative or qualitative measurement. All that I can say is that I am perhaps singularly lucky in having him as my friend, philosopher and guide. The

quality of this work has immensely improved as a result of his studied comments, astute sense for brevity in expression, and above all, sharp analytical mind.

The focus of the study, as its title suggests, is on the analysis of factors which determine choice of a cultivator, among different alternatives, in favour of electricity as a source of motive power for lift irrigation. The selection of topic for research derived inspiration from emphasis laid on the development of agricultural use of electricity by the State Electricity Board in Maharashtra while implementing rural electrification programme as at the time of study. However, over the years, the emphasis has remained more or less the same, nay has grown sharper as evident from policy prescriptions contained in subsequent plan (IV, V & VI) Documents. On the other hand, the financial position of State Electricity Boards has not shown improvement, presumably on account of non-realisation of anticipated agricultural load of electricity. Thus, the findings of the study, though concern to the year of field enquiry, would be found even relevant today.

Further, as could be seen from the discussion in the following chapters, the study has brought out inherent weakness in the agrarian structure with diffused ownership pattern

in sources of irrigation, fragmentation of holdings and socio-economic conditions of farming community which inhibit wide scale adoption of electricity on its part for an important agricultural operation, viz., irrigation. These conditions have not changed significantly over the years, and at the same time, are not specific to the areas chosen for the study.

Perhaps, the recent oil crisis and shortages of diesel reported from different quarters of the country might help electricity to turn the corner against its alternatives, but still it will be interesting to study the extent to which it will be able to surmount the weaknesses in the agrarian structure and forge ahead. Unfortunately, the recent literature on the subject matter has neglected this vital aspect of load development in rural electrification programme.

Apart from the immeasurable contribution of Professor S.R. Hashim, there are a few others who have lent their helping hands at various stages of this study. I am immensely grateful to my father, Shri V.B. Parulkar, for providing help from various government quarters which was possible due to his long standing in the service of Government of Maharashtra. Towards the field enquiry of this study, Shri J.D. Jadhav (then Assistant Collector, Poona, and now, Joint Secretary,

Government of Maharashtra), extended all co-operation in arranging for my stay in different selected villages and making available information from revenue records. I am also thankful to Shri R.G. Salvi, the then secretary to Government of Maharashtra for making available data on assistance to farmers from District Cooperative Land Development Bank and Block Development Offices. Also, I acknowledge the help of Shri Kamruddin, then Settlement Commissioner, Maharashtra, for providing me with land survey maps of selected villages, thus facilitating selection of wells in electrified villages where oil engines and bullock lifts were operated.

Shri A.V. Ramana of Union Bank of India (more appropriately, a product of Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta) helped me in understanding bi-variate analysis and thus in classifying agricultural wells on two parameters simultaneously, which was essential to bring out the influence of certain factors on choice of electricity analysed in the latter part of this study. Shri M.A. Deshpande, Economic Advisor, Union Bank of India, also contributed in completion of this study in as much as he entrusted relatively lighter official assignments towards the final stages of the study and ungrudgingly granted leave as and when required.

I must sincerely thank Mrs. Hashim and other members of Professor Hashim's family who made my stay at Baroda pleasant

and did not mind my encroaching upon Professor Hashim's time, which I did so extravagantly. I also cannot forget the contribution of my wife and mother, who patiently bore my irritating behaviour arising out of agonies of unfinished work.

Miss. G. Morris, Shri G.M. Sawant and Shri R.D. Solanki typed some of my illegible manuscripts, while Shri C.N. Kachhia has taken great pains to type the final version of the study in record time and decorating the same. Shri Anant Narayan, Union Bank of India, willingly drew graphs incorporated in the study.

In the end, I cannot but help remembering the Almighty in the form of Sadguru (Supreme Soul) who tickled me from within of the unfinished work all through these years of despair and bewilderment and ultimately showed me a ray of hope in Professor S.R. Hashim.

BARODA

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A.V. PARULKAR