



# INDIAN COOPERATIVE REVIEW

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# Historical Evolution of Cooperative Movement in India

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## Introduction

Cooperation means, "working together", the principle of cooperation is as old as human society. It is truly based on domestic and social life. What is known as cooperative effort is ultimately the group instinct in man which enables him to live together, work together, and help each other in times of stress and strain. "Co-operation is the universal instrument of creation".

"The final destination  
Of the Cooperative movement is  
Not the differences but  
The harmony, enrichment, success  
And happiness  
Of the community"

— Mahatma Gandhi

The principle of cooperation is as old as human society and it forms the basis of domestic and social life. It is certainly a group instinct in a man which enables him to live together, work together and help each other in times of stress and strain. The history of modern civilization is in fact the history of cooperation, for without it social and economic progress would have been impossible. According to E.R. Bowen, "Cooperation is the universal instrument of creation." It is now acknowledged that civilization can not flourish unless competition is supplemented by cooperation. Human

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