

by carefully bringing up the rising generation" (Engels, 1977:124).

The experience of Segera, the first Kibbutz, which was built in 1908 on the land of the Arab village carrying the same name provides striking parallels to Owen's experience.

In 1908 a group of Jewish workers contracted the work in Segera for a period of one year and established the first Kibbutz. This group was collectively responsible for redistributing the work among all its members. No hired labour was employed. All decisions concerning production, marketing, organization and so on were carried out collectively by the group. This experience, proved to be economically successful. At the end of the contract the group was able to pay back all its dues and also make profits for itself (cited in Kayyali, 1966:24-25).

Although the group did not renew its contract and the Segera experience was short lived, it, nonetheless, left its imprint on the Zionist leadership and was considered an example to follow.

In the late 19th century the Kibbutz concept was also enhanced by the fact that many Jewish settlers during the time had fled economic difficulties and socio-cultural persecution practiced against them in Eastern Europe and Czarist Russia.

However, since on motivation alone, no socio-economic structure can be established, the dreams of the early settlers never materialized. Partly due to the fact that Jewish colonial companies at the time were not interested in this form of enterprise and partly due to lack of funds and political commitment on the part of the Keren Kayemet, the Kibbutz concept did not initially flourish.

As a matter of fact, it has been reported that the first attempt at establishing a Kibbutz which involved the Keren Kayemet in 1913 was