

Indian Framework of Rural Development — an Overview —

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インドにおける農村開発の基本的特徴

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Preface

It is well known that after the Independence the Government of India had applied the Five Year Plan system on her national socio-economic development. Through successive Five Year Plans, the government has applied various types of rural development schemes and programmes. Thanks for those development plans, her national index of growth presents clearly a certain development since Independence. Ministry of Planning(1989) presents the index of growth (with 1950-51 = 100) at 1980-81 price as follows: ① Net national products at factor cost:3.72 times at 1987-88, ② Per capita income:1.70 times, ③ Net demestic capital formation:4.83 times.

The purpose of this paper is to make a overview of the framework of rural

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development in India since Independence, particularly since the beginning of 1980s.

I .A chronological review of major development programmes since 1950 till the end of 1970s

This section shall be summarized mainly by the statements of Research and Reference Division ed. (1990) : *India 1990 - A Reference Annual*.

1) Community Development Programme (CDP) lunched in 1952

This programme adopted a systematic, integrated approach to rural development. Over the years community development concepts led to delinking of sectoral departments from community development blocks. The Block Development Offices located all over rural India are the key institutions for the CDP.

2) Panchayat Raj system in 1957

With the recommendation of the Balwantray Mehta Committee in 1957, the panchayat Raj institutions came up in the following decade. Efforts was paid mainly to strengthen the decentralized administration particularly in rural areas.

Panchayat Raj institutions are in existence almost in all states and union territories with variations in structural pattern. Generally speaking, *Panchayat Raj* system involves a three tier arrangement : village level, block level and district level. The first tier at village level is commonly known as *Gram Panchayat*, the second tier at block level as *Panchayat Samiti* and the third tier at district level as *Zila Parishad*, except in some sates/union territories.

3) Drought – Prone Areas Programme(DPAP) in 1973

It was started as an integrated area development programme which was a long term measure for restoration of ecological balance and optimum utilization of land, water, livestock and human resources and to mitigate effects of drought.

It aims at : (a)promoting a more productive dryland agriculture on the basis of soil and water resources and agro-climatic conditions of areas with suitable cropping pattern ; (b)development and productive use of water resources ; (c)soil and moisture conservation including promotion of proper land use practices and water harvesting ;

(d) afforestation including farm forestry and pasture development, and (e) livestock development including pasture and fodder resources.

DPAP is being implemented in 615 blocks in 91 districts of 13 states from 1985-86 covering about 536,000 sq km area. It is about 19 per cent of the geographical area of the 13 states. It also covered about 70 to 75 million people which is about 12 per cent of the population in such states.

4) Desert Development Programme (DDP) in 1977-78

It was started with objective of controlling desertification, restoring ecological balance and creating conditions to improve economic level of the people in desert areas. These objectives are sought to be achieved through activities such as: (a) afforestation with special emphasis on shelter-belt plantation, grassland development and sand dune stabilization; (b) development and productive use of water resources, and (c) construction of water harvesting structures and development of agriculture and horticulture, etc. It covers both hot and cold desert areas in 131 blocks of 21 districts in five states. The programme covers a total area of about 362,000 sq km constituting 42 per cent of total population of these states.

5) National Scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) in 1979

It was launched as a centrally-sponsored scheme. Its main objective is on equipping rural youth in the age of 18-35 years with necessary skills and technology to take up vocations of self-employment in agriculture and allied activities, industry, services and business. About 1.794 million rural youth have already been trained till 1989.

II. Major development programmes since 1980.

1) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in 1978-79

IRDP launched in 1978-79 and extended all over the country in 1980-81 is a self-employment programme to raise the income generation capacity of target groups below poverty line.

This programme is a major instrument of Government strategy to alleviate rural poverty. Main objectives of IRDP are to raise families of the identified target group

above poverty line and create substantial additional opportunities of self-employment in rural sector.

It is a centrally-sponsored scheme with funds shared on 50:50 basis between the Center and states. The programme is being implemented through District Rural Development Agency(DRDA) and block level functionaries (Block Development Offices) at the grass roots.

Till the middle of 1980s, the poverty line was an annual income of Rs.3,500 per one family of five persons. The annual income of Rs.6,400 is being applied for poverty line since the latter half of 1980s.

2) National Rural Employment Programme(NREP) in 1980

It was launched as a centrally-sponsored scheme on 50:50 sharing basis between the Center and states with the three fold objectives of generating additional gainful employment opportunities, creating durable community assets and improving overall quality of life in rural areas.

3) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme(RLEGP) in 1983

This programme was launched as a cent per cent centrally-sponsored scheme. The objective was to improve and expand employment opportunities particularly for rural landless labourers and provide guarantee of employment to atleast one member of every rural landless labour household upto 100 days in a year.

4) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana(JRY) in 1989

This programme was launched after the merge of NREP(1980)and RLEGP(1983).

Primary objective of the programme is the generation of additional gainful employment for unemployment and under-employed persons in rural areas. Besides, secondly objectives are : (a) creation of productive community assets for direct and continuing benefits to poverty groups and strengthening rural economic and social infrastructure which will lead to rapid growth of rural economy and steady rise in income levels of rural poor and (b) improvement in overall quality of life.

Not less than 80 per cent of funds allocated to each district after earmarking six per cent for *Indira Awaas Yojana*(pertaining to construction of houses for SC/ST and

freed bonded labourers) are to be distributed to village *panchayats* in the district.

Distribution of resources to village *panchayat* from the district is made on the basis of population of each village *panchayat*.

Village *panchayat* is free to choose any item of works which is identified by it in consultation with village assembly and is of use to the village community. Preference is given to works which create economically productive assets.

III. The progress of development works at the village level

In the above sections, the brief characters of the national level of rural development schemes and programmes since Independence of India were examined in the chronological order.

Evaluation of the progress of development works at the village level is somewhat difficult due to the availability of the informations.

However, it might be possible to grasp the rough idea about the progress of rural development works from the following data. This data was collected from the field survey conducted in a village located in the eastern part of the State of Uttar Pradesh. The data was offered by the Block Development Office which was the grass root level of government institution for rural development works.

Table 1 Major development schemes implemented in Khardaha between 1971 and 1991

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme (<i>Yojana</i>)	Expenditure in Rupees	No. of Beneficiers	Remarks
1	<i>Nirval Varg Awas</i> (House construction)	28,000	4	
2	<i>Indra Awas</i>	64,000	8	
3	Water Supply	15,000	50	Hand pump
4	<i>Jawahar Rojgar</i>	67,000	6,308	
5	Canal <i>Kulava</i> Reparing	9,000		9 <i>Kulava</i> (field intake)
6	<i>Panchayat</i>	50,000		Office build. constructed
7	Cooperative Loan	261,000	115	
8	Bio-Gas Plant	18,000	3	
9	IRDP	234,000	32	

Source: From The Block Development Office,Cholapur(Oct.1991).

Table 1 shows the major development schemes implemented in Khardaha village for last 20 years from 1971 to 1991. It is noteworthy that the progress in the village was not significant.

Remarkable improvements are the installation of 50 hand pumps, four houses for low income family and the construction of *Panchayat* building, which might be used for *Panchayat* meetings and for community activities.

Table 2 The Progres of *Jawahar Rojgar Yojana* in Khardaha

1. Year of allocation	Time of Instalment	Amount
1989–90	One time	45,000 Rupees
1990–91	Two times	14,000
1991–92	One time	5,000
Total for 1989–92		64,000
2. Works completed:		
1) Repairing of primary school building		8,000 Rupees
2) <i>Kulava</i> (field intake) repairing		8,000
3) Road repairing works		10,500
(Link road repairing 1		3,000)
(Link road repairing 2		5,000)
(Link road repairing 3		2,500)
4) Well repairing works		8,000
(One at primary school)		
(One at <i>Gupta</i> settlement)		
5) Hand pump installation		10,000
(Each one at <i>Yadav</i> settlement,		
at <i>Harijan</i> settlement,		
at <i>Bhar</i> settlement.		
and two at other places)		

Note: Information not completed.

Source: The Block Development Office, Cholakpur. (Oct. 1991)

The break down of *Jawahar Rojgar Yojana* is shown in Table 2. It clearly presents that most of the fund was used for generating the labour work for repairing school building, field intake of cannal, village link road, community well, and hand pumps.

IV. Concluding remarks

India is having a variety of rural development plans under the Five Year Plans. It is said that IRDP and JRY have been twin basic instruments of direct attack on poverty as

well as rural development as a whole in recent time of India.

Summerizing the characters of these two basic rural development instruments, IRDP is much oriented in developing programmes based on the financial policy, and JRY is based on distribution of kinds and daily salary through the creation of employment chances in rural areas.

Such development works in villages as improvement of village road, construction of houses for Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes, construction of minor irrigation channels, and construction of *panchayat* buildings are the major products under the main developing programmes commonly applied in the rural India.

It might be said that many villages in India today is certainly experiencing slow but steady development of infra-structure as well as socio-economic standard of village life. It is worth to note that the amount of development resources is inefficient for the total improvement of village infra-structure. Only small sections of a village is enjoying the benefit from developing works, due to the limited amount of funds distributed to one village from the government.

References

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