- Present Position
- Awareness About Plans & other Programmes.
- Sources of Awareness.
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FIVE YEAR PLANS, OTHER RURAL PROGRAMMES AND THEIR IMPACT.
CHAPTER - 6

FIVE YEAR PLANS, OTHER RURAL PROGRAMMES AND THEIR IMPACT

If the bulk of population lives in rural areas then no Government can afford to neglect rural development programme. Rural development, however, is not an easy task. It bristles with problems and difficulties. There tends to be heavy pressure of population on scarce land, facilities like irrigation and transportation are not adequate, health and education facilities are lacking, non-farm occupations are not well-developed, and institutions like banking and marketing are very small in number. Not only this, the situation gets accentuated and becomes worse by lukewarm and traditional attitudes of the majority of rural population towards the rural upliftment programmes. To initiate rural development programmes and their success, therefore, becomes crucial for the betterment of rural population. Certainly, merely the initiation of rural development programmes would not be sufficient, it is absolutely necessary that rural population respond to these programmes and are conscious and aware of the problems faced by them.

The basic objective of the Five Year Plans is to provide sound foundations for sustained economic growth, for increasing opportunities for gainful employment and improving living standards for the masses.¹

The plans were intended to secure rapid economic growth and expansion of employment, reduce disparities in income and wealth, prevent concentration

¹. Third Five Year Plan : Govt. of India, page 6.
of economic power and to create the values and attitudes of a free and equal society, through democracy and wide-spread public participation.  

After independence, near about 32 programmes for rural development have been introduced for the reduction of poverty and well-being of the rural weak. These programmes are in the First Five Year Plan, Community Development Programme (1952) and National Extension Scheme (1953); in the Second Five Year Plan, Khadi and village Industries (1957), Multi-purpose Tribal Development Blocks (1959), Package Programme (1960) and Intensive Agricultural District Development Programme (1960). In the Third Five Year Plan The Programmes introduced were, Applied Nutrition Programme (1962), Intensive Agricultural Area Development Programme (1964), High Yielding Variety Programme (1966), Farmer's Training Education (1966), Well Construction Programme (1966), Rural Work Programme (1967), Tribal Development Block (1968), Rural Manpower Programme (1969) and composite Programme for women and pre-school-going children (1969). In the Fourth Plan, Drought Prononce Area Programme (1970), Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (1971), Small Farmers Development Agency (1971), Tribal Area Development Programme (1972), Pilot Project Tribal Development (1972), Minimum Need Programme (1972) and Command Area Development Programme (1974) were started. In the Fifth Plan, Hill Area Development Programme (1975), special live Stock Production Programme (1975), Food For Work Programme (1977), Desert Development Programme (1977), Whole Village Development Programme (1979), Training Rural Youth for Self-Employment (1979), Integrated Rural Development Programme (1979) and In the Sixth Plan, National Rural Employment Programme (1980), and

Development of women and children in Rural Areas (1983) were introduced. The state of Haryana launched Rural Industrialization Scheme in Oct.1977.

The objectives of these programmes broadly fall into six categories namely (i) Income generation, (ii) Growth, (iii) Target Development, (iv) Area Development, (v) Education, and (vi) Welfare.

The people of rural engaged in different professions constitute the majority of the weaker section in our country. In this chapter, therefore, an attempt has been made to get an idea to how far the rural people have been affected by different development plans introduced by the State or Central Government from time to time. It has also been attempted to indicate how the people are associated with the workings of the plans and programmes. The analysis is based on the information gathered through the questionnaire schedules of households.

PRESENT POSITION:

In the preceding chapters the income and expenditure of the Rural Sample households have indicated the poor condition of the sample households. With a view to know the opinion of Sample Households about their present position and to assess the economic and social changes that have taken place in the households in the past decade, the sample households were asked to state if they were in a better economic position now than a few years ago or their conditions had remained the same, or had become worse.
The analysis shows that 3 percent households could not compare their economic position between two points of times. 28 percent of sample households have not experienced any change in their economic position from the past years. Nearly 46 percent of households feel that their economic position has worsened. Only 23 percent of households mention improvement in their economic position and say in definite terms that they have a better economic position today than they had a few years back.

The analysis of factors that have been responsible for making the economic position of the sample households better or worse reveals that out of 23 percent of households who mention a better economic position today than in the past, 10.73 percent of households have improved their economic position by requisition of land, 30 percent of households because some of their family members got the employment outside the agriculture, 20 percent of households due to the impact of rural development plans and 39.27 percent of households due to other factors.

Out of 46 percent of households whose economic position has worsened, 8 percent of households are of the view that their economic condition worsened because of change in occupation by some of the members, 70 percent of households feel that their economic position is worse at present than that of a few years back as a result of the high cost of living. According to them their position is bound to be worse as the terms of trade are unfavourable and loaded against them.
nearly 22 percent of the households treat other factors; the decrease in number of earning members, more unemployment and natural calamities, responsible for making their economic condition worse.

From the above analysis it may be observed that the development plans have not helped the majority of the sample households in improving their economic position. Most of the households, on the contrary, feel that their economic position has become worse during the plan periods.

**AWARENESS ABOUT PLANS:**

It was enquired from the sample households if they had knowledge of economic plans in the country and certain other programmes undertaken by Government. The number of sample households having knowledge of the different development plans and programmes is shown in table 6.1.

Table showing number of sample households having knowledge of various development programmes introduced by the Government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Programmes/Plans</th>
<th>No. of Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Five Years Plans in the Country</td>
<td>120 (24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Rural Development Programme</td>
<td>308 (61.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Industrialisation Scheme</td>
<td>30 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Planning</td>
<td>500 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>210 (42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indira Awas Yojana</td>
<td>20 (4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey.
The data of Table 6.1 clearly indicates all the households of this area are aware of family planning programme launched by the Govt. The second maximum number of households were found having knowledge about Integrated Rural Development Programme. Only a few households have the knowledge of rural industrialisation scheme and Indira Awas Yojana. So, there is a great need of propagating rural industrialisation scheme specially, so that the maximum rural youth may avail the facility of the scheme.

**Sources for having knowledge about plans:**

With a view to ascertain the impact of various modes of propaganda on the people of rural areas, the sample households were asked to give the source from which they came to know either about the plans or other programmes. An analysis of the same is given in Table 6.2.

**Table 6.2**

Table showing the sources of the Sample Households for knowing about planning:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification of Sources</th>
<th>Number of Sample Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>360 (72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Cinema Vans</td>
<td>100 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Dramas</td>
<td>150 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speeches of leaders</td>
<td>300 (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Papers</td>
<td>90 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions or Conversation</td>
<td>400 (80)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source: Field Survey.

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to sample household knowing about the plans and programmes.

This table shows that out of those who are aware of the programmes and developmental schemes, 72 percent came to know about the plans through radios, 20 percent through mobile cinema vans, 30 percent through community dramas, 60 percent through the speeches of leaders, 18 percent through newspapers and 80 percent of sample households came to know through their personal discussions. Since radio has been found to be one of the good sources of providing knowledge to the people in rural areas regarding various Community Development programmes, more and more advertisements of development programmes must be given on radios, specially in reasonable languages.

It will be further seen that the sources have been more than one in providing knowledge to the respondents. The analysis shows that the personal discussion among themselves in the villages has been greatly responsible for popularising the plans and other programmes.

**BENEFITS OUT OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN RURAL ECONOMY:**

As we have already discussed that so many programmes with a view to improve the economic and social life of the rural people have been launched by the Central and State Government after independence. Their objective was to bring about multi-sided development of the rural society. The programmes were intended to cater to the needs of all the sections of the rural society.
An attempt was made to get an idea as to how far the rural sample households had been affected by the development of rural economy. 64 percent of the rural sample households have not derived any benefits out of rural economy. Thus, the benefits have been derived by only a small number (36 percent) of the rural sample households under study.

Out of those who are benefited from the rural development programme, 31.11 percent of households are benefited due to programmes in agriculture, 16 percent due to increased irrigation, 1 percent due to progress of the village, 30 percent due to transport facilities, 40 percent due to sanitary and medical facilities, 20 percent due to spread in education in the village, 2 percent due to housing schemes, 1 percent due to land ceiling act, 3 percent due to adult education, 50 percent due to village cooperatives, 30 percent due to integrated rural development 4 percent due to rural industrialisation scheme and 60 percent are benefited due to the facilities of postal services.

But sadly enough, even programmes have not been able to change significantly the lot of the villagers. The people in the villages which are near the town area have derived some or the other benefits out of rural programmes. The majority of the people, however, are not benefitted by rural programmes.

Many households were found not even aware of the various development programmes run by the Government. It is to be admitted that not enough efforts have gone into making these programmes effective.
and viable. These are not properly and adequately managed. No substantial and serious efforts giving real attention to the problems of the villagers particularly the landless, small farmers and poorly educated persons have begun in the village. No doubt, the scarce financial resources to implement these programmes have drained down.

It would be interesting to present the conflicting views and reactions of different strata of the people in the sample villages in relation to these rural programmes. It was discovered that more than one-half of the households remained unaffected by the various development programmes run by the Government. Many respondents were critical to the running of several programmes meant only for the backward and scheduled castes. They, further, contested that these discriminatory programmes failed to bring about any improvement to their lot. Some other argued that benefits arising out of these programmes had gone only to the influential and rich persons and not the common persons. Even the many scheduled castes were not found quite satisfied with several programmes launched for them. Only a few admitted the usefulness of these programmes.

It may safely be concluded that the rural programmes were not found very successful in meeting the objectives of rural development. It is alleged that the targets have been achieved only on papers and real beneficiaries were not the targets groups and the poor. It was also reported by several beneficiaries of the programmes that subsidies for the creation of their productive assets involved a system of brokerage
and corruption. In many cases the asset creation approach in the programme failed in its objectives of income generation. The symbolic relationship between bureaucracy of the development administration, credit institutions and the leaders of the villages are their own ways responsible for the failure of these programmes.

Naturally, the question is: What should be done to improve the situation so that the percolation effect of these programmes becomes more significant in the villages? The only answer lies in starting the field agencies and the rural institutions by competent people - educated, well trained with requisite qualification, skills and background. Special incentives are also necessary to attract competent personnel to the field of rural development. Such personnel need to be properly trained not only to impart requisite knowledge and skill but to develop proper attitudes. Thus, proper manpower planning should form an integral part of the plan for rural development and its progress.

The task of rural development can not be accomplished by the field agencies of administrative departments alone. This should be linked with a vast network of rural institutions, co-operatives, rural banks, farmer's association and women associations etc.