CHAPTER III
DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF KAITHAL DISTRICT

The importance of identification and assessment of needs of the people before formulation of a developmental programme has been emphasized repeatedly by policy planners. It also cannot be denied that needs of the people vary according to their Socio-Economic and Social personal characteristics.

In fact the term "Need" can in a simple way be defined as a gap between the existing situation and ideal situation. Needs can be broadly categorised under two subheads as mentioned below:

Audience perceived needs: Such needs are directly perceived by the people. It is quite possible that these needs are utilitarian and most urgent in nature. Source perceived needs: These needs are not directly perceived by the people. In fact, the process of development is guided process and the development workers, implementers, social reformers and politicians quietly frequently offer guidance. They draw indices of development according to their expected standard. The needs assessed in this manner by such group of people may or may not differ with the audience perceived need.
ascertainment and equalization of objectives form a basic enquiry and responsibility of the planners, especially if they wish to ensure a modicum of success in their program. But for any such development planning, the issue of special needs identification and assessment of the inhabitants of the area under study is also very significant. It is, in fact, necessary in planning. It is also a widely accepted phenomenon that objective and needs are inextricably inter-related. The needs imply the surviving of objectives. Something is "Needed" for some further state of affairs—a new state, maintenance of existing state or avoidance of a probable state.

The significance and optimum value of the concept of needs in development planning has been recognised by the scholars in development planning from time to time. The policy planner have been stressing time and again a people centred approach in the process of development planning. It has been established that an effective development programme should consider the needs and related interests of people and attainment to discover and meet their special and real needs as well as the needs of their social order. The concept of "Need" is an attractive one in the area of development planning because
it seems to offer an escape from argument about value by means of straightforward appeal to the facts empirically determined by the expert. On the other hand, it is also a fact that value and need have overlapping and interrelated function and roles. Values are the precursors to peoples’ needs. Values are used by the people to define and express their needs. Values are bases of all development endeavours. As development planner, our knowledge, our opinions and our motivations are naturally guided by our underlying psychological, subjective thought assumptions and values.

On a more intricate level of analysing the concept of need, definitional problems and the issue of utilization have attracted the attention of some researchers. First of all the term "Need" indicates a deficient situation that initiates a motive on the part of an individual or none-observable or inferred bid psychological situation very similar to a "Drive". The concept of need is most commonly used in the sense of "Want" or "Desire" or "Felt need", for example, a person’s need to learn carpentry. In this context, need suggests a means of gratification (For Example, a course in carpentry) and implies an ultimate goal (For Example, to
A need may be called normative when it constitutes a deficiency or gap between a desirable standard and the standard which actually exists. The person or the group that falls short of the desirable standard is said to be in need.

Need is also assessed by comprising the characteristics of those in receipt of service with others who are not if these others exhibit the same characteristics and are not receiving the service they are said to be in need. Comparative need is, however, not an adequate measure of real need. Therefore a need is not simply a desire or want but rather a quantifiable, measurable gap in achievement between the ideal and the real. The issue of a gap implies either a discrepancy or a definite state that initiates a motive on the part of the individual. With such systematic analyses of the concept of need, it is surprising that Pennington and Green would emphasize that, "Most planners give lip service to importance of needs assessment, but very few follow through."

In its simplest form a needs assessment may be thought of as a process for ranking goals for importance and setting priorities on them for programme development.
and attainment. A need in the context of development must qualify the following features:

1 ) It must be necessary for the deserved state of affairs.

ii ) It must be lacking or deficient.

iii) It must have a legitimate claim about which something must be done.

iv ) It must be capable of being satisfied by means of development programme.

Before any developmental programme is launched it is necessary that systematic data be collected about community in order to make the development scheme effective. It is also necessary from the point of view of the implementors and supervisor of the development schemes. It is, therefore, essential that, at the district level, the Deputy Commissioner must identify and assess the special needs of the people of his district so that the programme could be devised in such a manner that development could be ensured by carefully attending to the needs of the people.

There is conceptional, theoretical and functional difference between the needs and problems of the same people, whereas need respresents a deficient
situation, problem implies the obstacle in fulfilment of the need through available mechanism. There are two clear situations that is the 'deficiency' and the 'obstacle' in the way of removing that deficiency. The development planners must indentify the problems which may, if not attended properly, hinder the optimum achievement of the goals.

On the basis of the three questionnaires administered to the samples (General public, sarpanches of the villages and officers of Kaithal district) and their responses as well as on the basis of personal observation (the researcher has been working as an employee in the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Kaithal district), the researcher has identified and assessed the following developmental needs and problems of the people of Kaithal district :-

A - Needs:
1. Regular and uninterrupted supply of electricity for the agriculture sector.
2. Regular drinking water supply.
3. Health care centres in all the villages and posting of spirited doctors and paramedical staff in such health care centres.
5. Adequate arrangement for domestic fuel.
6. Proper sewerage system in all the villages.
7. Flood relief programmes.
9. Proper distribution of loans to actual claimants.
10. Participation of the general public in developmental schemes.

B) PROBLEMS:

1. Illiteracy of adult age groups mostly living in the villages of Kaithal district.
2. Widespread corruption.
3. Lack of awareness in the people especially in rural areas.
4. Lack of proper funds.
5. Indifference of the administration towards full participation of the people in developmental schemes.

In relation to the above developmental needs and problems in the Kaithal district, the researcher has collected data to critically examine, assess and suggest improvement for the role of the Deputy Commissioner in development at the district level. The data has been
organised in the tables ahead and the same will be analysed and interpreted in the following chapter.
References:

Atwood & Ellis, The Concept of Need, p.211.

Pennington & Green, Comparative Analysis, p. 20.