CHAPTER I

Introduction
Introduction

1.1 The unequal endowments of natural and human resources have given rise to differences in the level of development. Different segments of the earth surface are unique by themselves, and they are quite distinct and differentiated from the neighboring units by physico-geographic parameters. The mosaic effect of complex geographic phenomena (physiography, drainage network, climate, vegetation and soil etc) coupled with natural resource endowment is reflected in regional (geographic) diversity. The overall development of any geographic region is a process and function of efficient utilization of the existing development potential engineered through some deliberate and forceful development policy actions (Routray, 1993). Hence, different planning programmes have been devised and implemented by different planning organs of the Government.

1.1.1 Indian policy makers have been emphasizing upon the need of rural development ever since the advent of planning process in the country. The ultimate objective of rural development was the eradication of poverty and thus improving the quality of life of the masses. Hence, the focus of planned development was on 'growth with equity'. However, despite a modest growth in the economy, rural areas have lagged behind in the process of development. The economic growth of the country has remained concentrated in a few sectors and regions of the country. This has created wide regional disparity and inequality.
amongst different regions and sections of the society, which has further aggravated poverty levels in the country.

As Prof. Amartya Sen said, "Much about poverty is obvious enough. One does not need elaborate criteria, cunning measurement, or probing analysis, to recognize raw poverty and to understand its antecedents. There is indeed much that is transparent about poverty and misery". Efforts have been on to remove the scourge of poverty since the very beginning. Poverty alleviation and raising the average standard of living have been the central aims of economic planning in India. Depending upon the experience and the circumstances the approach has been changing from time to time. The plan strategies to achieve these aims can be broadly divided into three phases. In the first phase the prime emphasis was on growth. In the second phase, beginning with the fifth plan, poverty alleviation came to be adopted as an "explicit objective" of economic planning. Several specific programmes for poverty alleviation directed towards selected target groups were launched. This addition was in response to a consensus that the benefit of fast growth failed to percolate significantly to the lower income groups and weaker sections of society. In the third and present phase, it is realized that a strategy based on growth or one on equality and poverty alleviation, could not be made effective in isolation. Thus, emphasis shifted to "growth" and "poverty alleviation" as two complementary factors.
1.1.2 Over the years, a number of poverty alleviation programs have been launched in the rural areas. The policy mechanism of these specific programs can be described as follows.

(i) Precise identification of the weaker sections or the target groups on the basis of assets, income and caste / category (ST / Handicapped etc.)

(ii) Investigation of their economic problems and formation of programs to raise their income and employment in the present as well as in new occupations.

(iii) Provision of special extension facilities so that the poor are not only informed about the existence of the programs, but also helped in participating in them.

(iv) Providing credit for undertaking the scheme in such a way that (a) it is available, (b) it meets all the types of credit needs of the schemes for the poor, (c) it is available at lower than the market rate of interest, (d) it is to be repaid in easy instalments.

(v) Providing a complete package of infrastructural facilities to the poor, to run the scheme successfully.

(vi) Evaluation of the programs from time to time and monitoring them effectively, to ensure efficient performance of the program.

The programs are mainly of two kinds. The first seeks to promote self-employment by providing the poor households with productive assets financed by subsidies and credit. The other seeks to provide wage employment and in the process, creates community assets.

1.1.3 It was envisaged that the overall growth in the economy would benefit all the sections of the society through the trickle down process. But it
did not materialize due to ever shifting focus of development. The launching of rural reconstruction was laid through the launching of community development program I the year based on the philosophy of peoples participation. It failed to achieve its desired results mainly because of the lack of people's initiatives and participation. A shift of focus in the rural development programs was witnessed due to food shortage during 1960s. More emphasis was laid on production oriented programs, like I.A.D.P and I.A.A.P. This was followed by the adoption of a new strategy of agricultural development based on the use of high yielding varieties of crops in the late sixties. During the fourth plan period the focus of development was shifted to the target groups, namely small and marginal farmers through the programs, like S.F.D.A and D.P.A.P etc. this approach was maintained during the fifth plan period also. During the sixth plan period a new strategy in the name of integrated Rural development Programme (IRDP) was devised, which aimed at providing poor families with income generating assets to enable them generate incremental surplus to cross the poverty line. The concept of decentralized planning was also introduced during the period. Later on, it was realized that the lack of employment opportunities in the country side is one of the reasons for rural poverty. Hence, during the seventh five year plan, two programs, namely National Rural Employment Programme and rural Landless /employment Guarantee Programme were introduced, which were later on merged to give birth to a new program, viz. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. During the Eighth five year plan the emphasis was laid on building up
rural infrastructure and participation of people in the rural development program.

1.1.4 Thus, a plethora of schemes came into being but poverty still abounds. We had started with the concept of poverty eradication and now we are talking of poverty alleviation. This is certainly an admission that poverty peruse will remain. In order to translate the 'bottom-up-approach' into reality, it is worth while to activity involving the people at large in the identification process of their needs and problems. The new strategy of development, known as 'growth models like traditional, socialist and New Malthusian. Advocates of the new strategy are convinced that there are limits to growth. Traditional reliance on growth of GNP will not benefit the poor in today's less developed countries or would not benefit them quickly enough. As an alternative to it the ILO brought forward employment generation/appropriate technology on the plea that the capital intensive technology created little employment and income from production went to capital owners. Hence, the ILO advocated that the key to growth with equity was to switch emphasis from growth of GNP to emphasis on employment generation. In view of the above paradigm, it is worth while to identify and argument the local resources, so that such plans and proposals might be formulated and implemented, which are really wanted by the poor in question.

1.1.5 As per recommendations of the committee constituted by the government of India in April, 1999 under the chairmanship of Prof. S. R. Hashim, Member, Planning Commission viz Jawahar Rojagar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme have been integrated and
renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna based on the recommendation of this very Committee, six programmes of self employment, viz. IRDP, DWDP, DWCRA, TRYSEM, SITRA, GKY and MWS have been integrated into the program known as "Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarajagar Yojana".

1.1.5.1 Employment Assurance Scheme: It aims at providing short duration employment (100 days) by engaging the rural manual workers in the adhoc work taken up by the village Panchayats. It is a centrally sponsored scheme on cost sharing basis between he centre and the states in the ratio of 75:25.

1.1.5.2 Jawarhar Gram Samridhi Yojana: It is the reincarnation of Jawahar Rozagar Yojana. Cost sharing ratio between the centre and states is 75:25. The primary objective of this scheme is the creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. The Secondary objective is to generate supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in rural areas. Funds are to be sent by the village Panchayat to another is not allowed.

1.1.5.3 Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana: This scheme came into being after amalgamation of IRDP, DWCRA, TRYSEM, SITRA, MWS, GKY. This is a credit-cum-subsidy scheme in which bankers have a significant role to play financing of the program in shared between the centre and the states in the ratio of 75:25. The objective under the
scheme is to bring every assisted family above the poverty line in three years.

1.1.5.4 The top down approach of development cannot be sustained for long as it ignores the question of mobilizing the vast masses for taking their destiny into their own hands. The remedy lies in transforming all such rural activities to the local people and their Panchayats which can perform these tasks in a more efficient and economical manner. Decentralization is the key to rural rejuvenations and resurrection which will unleash popular energy in an unprecedented manner provided it is genuine and through going. 1999-2000 has been declared as the year of Gram Sabha.

1.1.5.5 Many States have taken up strong and genuine initiatives in respective of the devolution of powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI). In such states, Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parisad are not deficient of development funds. Any kind of development activity is taken up only after full-length deliberations in these bodies. The degree of transparency and vigilance has definitely gone up with the involvement of these bodies. The degree of transparency and vigilance has definitely gone up with the involvement of these bodies in the developmental process.

1.1.5.6 District Rural Development Agency has been made the nodal agency at the district level to implement all the rural development schemes. On of its main tasks is to coordinate with the line departments, Panchayati Raj bodies banks other agencies. The DRDA is to take initiative right from the planning stage to the implementing stage of all the
developmental, programmes. Special care needs to be taken to maintain financial discipline.

1.1.5.7 Line departments like Agriculture, Animal Resource Development, Fisheries, Public Health, Irrigation, etc. have a vital role to play in the implementation of different rural development programs. They have to provide technical guidance and support taking into account local suitability and long-term viability of any scheme. They need to keep pace with the day-to-day technological innovation and to apply them at the field level so as to make all the rural development programs cost-effective.

1.1.5.8 Banks and other financial institutions like NABARD are equal particulars in the development process taking place in the rural areas. Credit disbursement and financing of the schemes should be done with an intention to really help the rural masses cross the poverty line. Part financing and under financing of any scheme should in no case be resorted to.

1.1.5.9 Now-a-days, NGOs have increasingly been taking active interest in developmental process. Some of them have emerged as an alternative channel for helping the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the society. Some of the most important functions which NGOs provide include mobilizing resources for development, generating public awareness through network of information and communication, developing professional skills in respective areas, providing opportunities for significant endeavors and personal development.
Introduction through involvement in group activities and facilitating feedback to policy decision makers.

1.2 The Agro Climatic Regional Planning Project

The Agro Climatic Regional Planning Project was launched by the planning commission, Govt. of India to improve the economic condition of the rural poor, especially small and marginal farmers by upgrading water logged areas affected by adverse climatic condition and high salinity of the soil, where Kharif cultivation was not possible. The project area is located close to Puri Town in command of the "Samanga pat" and "Sarapat" covering 45 villages in 11 Gram Panchayats of Puri Sadar Block. The river and small tributaries and rivulets passing through this project are clearing water to sea and again carrying back tidal waves inside about 2ms.

1.2.1 Water Logging: This is the most serious problem of the alluvial soils of the total 4,65,289 hectares of cultivated area in the district about 51,200 hectares constituting 11% of the area suffer from water logging. In Puri Sadar Block during 4 months of rainy season (July-October), areas remain water logged up to 1 to 3mts. Besides, the area suffers from salinity and sand dunes of the problematic area of 5082.50 hectares. About 51.98% of the area, consisting of 2642.00 hectares are water logged.

1.2.2 Salinity is an interesting problem:

The problems in the area are two fold:

I. The soils remain water logged during the Kharif season from July to November. The average depth of standing water reaches its peak of
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75cm during the months of August and September. This condition is not congenial to the growth of H.Y.U. Paddy and as such only deep water traditional rice varieties can be grown.

II. Salinity during the Rabi and summer season restricts crop growth. During summer the EC of the soils increase to 8d/m from a low of 0.5ds/m during monsoon. This is due to dilution of salt present in the soil with the rain water during the monsoon season. The ground water table is also quite shallow saline.

III. Depth of ground water is maximum 1m below ground level during the month of May (fluctuations of water table for the period from December to June as also of depth of standing water from July to November. The salinity of the ground water during the months of April and May is 6ds/m and can not be used even for irrigation. There is no there sources of good quality irrigation water in the locality.

Table 1.1
Problematic Area in the Project Site (1996-97)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Nam of Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Total Cultivated Area (Ha)</th>
<th>Area under Water Logging (Ha)</th>
<th>Area under Salinity (Ha)</th>
<th>Area under Sand Dunes (Ha)</th>
<th>Problem Area (Ha)</th>
<th>Total Area (Ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gopinathpur</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kendipur</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bira Harekrushnapur</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Malati Patpur</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Balabhadrapur</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Samanga</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1254</td>
</tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Sasan Damodarpur</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Baliguali</td>
<td>1565</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>2384</td>
<td>3449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chalisbatia</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gada Mrungasira</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>358</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Rai Gorada</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>6303</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>1635</td>
<td>4229</td>
<td>10532</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DRDA, Puri (1996-97)
1.2.3 To improve the productivity of soil and water resources, a number of activities were proposed under the project.

1. Soil and Water Management.
2. Soil Management
3. Field Crop Improvement
4. Animal Resources Development
5. Horticultural Development

1.3 Need of the Study:

Removal of poverty and improvement in the quality of life is one of the primary objectives of planning in India. Over the decades, rural development programmes have been studied and analyzed by academicians from different angles. Till the end of eighth plan the planning commission alone has conducted nearly 170 evaluation studies. A broad look at the available literature reveals that the focus of study has been on structural aspects of development administration implementation details of various programmes and their impact on beneficiaries. Basic approach of rural development, and deeper behavioral and attitudinal issues have rarely been the subject of our analysis. In order to understand why our rural development endeavors have not succeeded in achieving the desired and expected results, it is essential to look below the surface to dig out real problem areas and take corrective measures accordingly. In implementation of programmes all attention has been given to the fulfillment of physical and financial targets of the programmes. In many anti poverty programmes, though the targeted numbers of families/beneficiaries/districts/villages have been covered and the
allotted money spent, such programmes have failed in making the desired impact on the well being of the beneficiaries.

The present project being an experimental pilot project in nature, its impact study is very important. The impact of the various projects on the quality of life of the people; both the beneficiaries as well as others have to be assessed, so that, this programme can be replicated in other areas. Hence in the light of the above the need of the study is very significant for rural development in the true sense of the term.

1.4 Objective of the Study:

1. To have a detailed analysis of the different developmental strategies adopted under the Agro-climatic Regional Planning Project.

2. Study the impact of the project on the life on the direct beneficiaries

3. To study the impact of the project on the quality of life of the people living in the project area by having a comparative study of the present condition with that prior to the implementation of the project.

4. To find out suitable alternatives so that the impact percolates to the masses.

1.5 Review of Related Literature

Before initiating an investigation into the present problem, let us analyze some of the studies related to developmental aspects.

L.S. Bhatt (1982) has highlighted the need of spatial perspectives in rural development planning in India. S.L. Kayastha and R.B. Singh (1980) has given emphasis to integrated rural development, taking into consideration the target population, technology, investment, agriculture industry, health, education, transport, price, fiscal policies etc. On the
basis of 37 indicators related to agricultural, industrial and mining
development, as well as infrastructural and socio-economic amenities,
S.N. Mishra and A. Chopra (1978) have measured the inter-regional
disparities in the levels of development in 43 districts of Madhya
Pradesh. A.K. Tamang (1982) has identified existing disparities in the
levels of development in Nagaland.

Chaudhury and Rajakuthy (2000) have done a detailed analysis of half
a century of India's Rural Development, which provides a good
overview of the rural development efforts in the country. Routray (1997)
has studied the disparity in levels of development in Orissa from a
Geographical perspective.

G. Uma and M.S. Swaminathen (1997) et al have calculated a
sustainable livelihood security index based on socio-economic impact
assessment of 15 hamlets in and around Pichavaram improve forest.
Routray (1984) studied the level of development in a backward district
like Boudha-Kandhamals. Mishra (1987) has studied structure of
backwardness and development in different districts of India giving a
temporal view point taking mainly workers data into consideration. Sen
(1998) has studied from a geographical perspective the rural socio-
evermic inequality in West Bengal where he is of the opinion that in
the context of modern development in India, there is no reason why the
state of West Bengal remain in a process of decay and recession in the
rural socio-economic scenario.

Bera and Basu (2000) have studied relation between natural resources
and rural development in a block of West Bengal. According to them
rural development can be accomplished by accelerating agricultural productivity, rural industrialization, and marketing of rural products. Sreekumar (2001) after studying rural development in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is of the opinion that creation of employment opportunities should be given priority for development.

Crlan (1993) has studied rural development of a State Sokoto in Nigeria, where also unemployment, agricultural development, and integrated approach are important observations.

Sharma, et al (1995) have studied micro-regional disparities in levels of Social Development of Gandak Command Area, Uttar Pradesh. According to them, development is lopsided in the area and the disparities have to be cleared. Lakshmi Sivarama Krishna (1999) has studied the impact of rural development programmes in some villages of Ambasamudram Taluka of Tirunelveli District of Tamilnadu. According to her, the benefits of these programmes have had a greater impact on the developed and most developed villages, because these villages have better and more amenities and infrastructural facilities, more developed agriculture with better irrigation facilities and change over to cultivation of commercial crops. These villages also have a more diversified occupational structure. Kapadnis (1998) has studied the impact of IRDP in Nasik district of Maharashtra. He is satisfied with the achievement level but suggests necessity of proper planning to see that at least 50% of the assisted families cross the poverty line.

Majumdar (2000) has studied development in Punjab.
John (2000) has studied the impact of decentralized planning on employment generation taking a village Panchayat in Kerala as a case study. Joshi (2001) has studied the impact of decentralized planning on rural development in Uttarakhal. Bal Krishan and Surjit (2000) have studied the positive impact of peoples plan in Kerala.

1.6 Area, Data and Methods of the Study

1.6.1 Area:
The study region extends from 19° 46'N to 19° 57'N and 85° 45'E to 86° 0E. It is located near Puri Town in the Puri Sadar Blocks, in the district of Puri in Orissa. The total area of 10966.00 hectares lies on the marine drive from Puri to Konark on one side and Puri to Bramhagiri just on the opposite side. It comprises of 45 villages in 11 Grama Panchayats. The villages covered in the project area within a radius of 15Kms. from Puri Town.

1.6.2 Data
The present attempt is an empirical study and hence data based. Data is nothing but information. The Chambers' Dictionary defines data as information from which inferences can be drawn. The outcome of any particular inquiry is dependent on the accuracy, and completeness of data available. However sophisticated the techniques used may be for analysis of the data obtained, the geographers' interpretation will be dependent on the original information. Usually there are two main sources of information from which the required data have been collected.

1. Field investigation for primary data.
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2. Library references for secondary data comprising books, journals, reports, maps, charts, statistical abstracts, from government and non-government sources.

The present study involves both primary secondary data.

1.6.2.1 Source of Data

An investigators' control of the quality and relevance of data depends as the scale of his study, and as the resources available to him. At whatever level a research study is conducted, the quality of analysis will be limited by the nature of the information available. Fieldwork provides the primary data for research. There are two basic procedures for data gathering. 1. Census and 2. Sample. In case of census information is gathered from all the units of the "Population" or "Universe". Whereas in the case of sample only selected units are observed. It is rarely that a researcher uses census method unless his object/problem of research is too localized and micro and he can handle all the units without difficulty. The sample study is followed here. The primary data has been collected by questionnaire survey.

1.6.2.2 Processing

The data collected by the above way have been analyzed using different quantitative and qualitative methods. The different statistical techniques like standard deviation, co-efficient of correlation, construction of composite index etc. have been used as and when required.
1.6.3 Methods of Study

Traditionally in Geography much stress has been laid on the art of observing the landscape and looking for relationships. It is not sufficient to go into the field with the aim of absorbing the landscape through the "all-seeing eye" without understanding the meaning of "landscape" and without being aware of the most suitable methods for exploring and expressing its character. Accurate observation and description are certainly fundamental to geographers' awareness of the environment, but they are not ends in themselves. They are the means to an end. Geographers are concerned with the distribution of physical and human and are stated scale. Methods have been evolved and are evolving to study such distributions. There are mainly two approaches for answering the "hunch" about relationships and distributions, i.e. hypothesis testing and searching reality. Here we have opted for hypothesis testing. The word hypothesis was derived from the Greek, hypo (under) and tithe ness (to place) and suggests that when the hypothesis is placed under the evidence as a foundation they tend to support one another. It performs this function by providing a proposal explanation which will have certain consequences, then may be confirmed or refuted by testing. Webster defines hypothesis as "a tentative theory of supposition provisionally adopted to explain certain facts and to guide in the investigation of others. The word hypothesis in science generally refers to a definite interpretation of a given set of facts, which is put forth as a tentative suggestion and remains partly or
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wholly unverified. Hypotheses are propositions which have not been verified.

1.7 Hypotheses:

1. The qualities of life of the beneficiaries have improved after the implementation of the Agro-climatic Regional planning project.

2. The Agro-climatic Regional Planning Project has been successful in improving the quality of life of the people of the study region.

1.8 Methodology

The following methodology has been adopted for completion of the study.

1. The Socio-economic and physical resources of the area have been assessed.

2. The different components of agro-climatic regional planning has been analyzed,

3. The beneficiaries have been identified and the quality of their present life has been compared to the period before the ACRP project was implemented. The base year is 92-93 and the current year is 2002-2003.

4. The quality of life of the people of the region as a whole has been studied. It has been tried to assess whether the developmental efforts has percolated to the masses or not.
Fig-1.1 Schematic Diagram of Research Design

Agro-climatic Regional Planning and Quality of Life

Assessment of Physical Resources

Assessment of Socio-Economic Resources

Agro-climatic Regional Planning Project

Impact on Quality of Life

1. Beneficiaries
2. Whole Area

Conclusion
References


