CHAPTER- IV

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS OF STUDY
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OBJECTIVES: Although the Integrated Rural Development Program was launched by the Government of India from the 6th Plan Period to alleviate the economic standards of living of the Rural poor who are below the poverty line and more than 25 years have passed by, there has been no marked improvement in the standard of living of the rural poor and poverty still looms large. More importantly, although the program has been under implementation for about 25 years, no systematic study has been conducted to assess the performance of different schemes extended under it and its over all impact on the beneficiary families in particular and on eradication of the overall poverty. In fact, such studies have been done in quite large number elsewhere in different States of the country, but there is no systematic micro studies done in Orissa to know empirically the status of the IRDP schemes extent of success or failure and its corresponding effect on the beneficiaries.

Keeping this fact in view, a systematic empirical study has been made in a thickly concentrated Scheduled Caste dominated Block (Balipatna) of Khurda district of Orissa covering 10 villages and 500 beneficiaries under it with the following specific objectives:
I. To find out the extent of success or failure of each of the IRDP Schemes in operation in the area of study.

II. To find out the impact of each of the IRDP Schemes on the beneficiaries among different ethnic categories.

III. To identify the Schemes which have not succeeded in yielding the desired objective of alleviating poverty in case of the beneficiaries.

IV. To identify the Schemes which have proved to be successful in alleviating the Poverty in case of the beneficiaries who have been covered.

V. To identify the reasons or factors of failure of the IRDP Schemes, scheme wise in the area of study.

VI. On the basis of the empirical findings of the study, to suggest modified strategy for successful implementation of the IRDP Schemes, which have thus far found to be largely unsuccessful.

VII. On the basis of the findings of the study, to identify the IRDP Schemes which can be replicated elsewhere in the State or in any part of the Country.

VIII. On the basis of the findings of the Study, to suggest ways and means of effective implementation of the
already existing schemes for sustainable development of the IRDP beneficiaries.

METHODS USED FOR THE STUDY: For the present empirical study which is basically a diagnostic study, a large number of Anthropological and Sociological techniques have been employed and some of them are as follows:

I. Sampling Method: On the basis of most concentration of Scheduled Caste population, Balipatna Block was chosen as the area of study in Khurda District. At the second stage, 5 most thickly concentrated Gram Panchayats of the Block were selected from where the IRDP beneficiaries for the study will be selected. At the third stage, 10 villages (2 most thickly concentrated Scheduled Caste villages of each of the 5 Gram Panchayats) were selected the study.

Finally, on the basis of random sampling method, 500 House Holds (50 from each of the sample villages) who had availed some type of IRDP assistance were selected for detailed study.

II. Scheduled Method: For the present study, mainly four types of Schedules were prepared for capturing empirical data from different levels. The 4 types of schedules are: House Hold Census Schedule, Impact Assessment Schedule, Schedule for the functionaries implementing the IRDP Schemes and the Village Schedule
for eliciting information about the village. To be precise, Schedule Method was used as the key methods for data collection in the present study.

III. **Interview Method:** Interview method was also followed in the present study for data collection at different levels. This method was mainly used for data collection from the key functionaries of IRDP and a number of Key Stakeholders of poverty alleviation programs in the area of study.

IV. **Focussed Group Discussion (FGD) Method & Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Method:** Focussed Group Discussion as well as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods were also used as key methods for data collection. Besides, Social Mapping was also done in the course of data collection to make the data free from bias.

V. **Case Study Method:** Since in Social Sciences there are element of bias in respect of field data, to ensure that the data collected remains free from bias and are captured in its true form, Case Study Method was used in the study. In fact, due to the use of Case Study Method, element of bias could be avoided in this study.

Besides the above methods used for data collection, simple statistical methods were also used for analyzing the data for meaningful analysis.