PREFACE

The main motivation for writing this thesis is a profound interest in Rural Development Programme and Sustainable Development Approach. The question of how to address the impacts from Rural development is a challenging and important area of theoretical and applied research. 80% of the population of India still lives in the villages. India has been trying to develop its economy, policy and cultural conditions through five year plans. India has a full fledged Planning Commission which has different departments which look after the planning and implementation of the various programmes prepared by the full Planning Commission. So far India has implemented twelve 5 year plans in a period of 63 years. At any given stage of society, therefore, the intelligence and moral character of its individual members limits social organization. Only by raising the intelligence and character of the individual members of society can a higher type of social life permanently result. The importance of communication in mobilizing people and seeking their willing participation in the development of a country is well recognized. In India, this concern above reaching people, communicating with them and equipping them with new skills has been emphasized over and again in successive five year plans which provide the blue print of the country’s planned development. No one would question the fact that India has made substantial progress since independence. The development and communication infrastructure has been enormously expended. No programme
should be imposed forcibly on the rural people. The programme should always be formed on basis of the felt needs of the people. Further, rural people must be motivated properly to take an active role in the programme.

The Environment Sustainability Index (ESI) links environmental sustainability and economic growth and social development. It gauges the performance of a state in multiple dimensions. It is a relatively new concept and a pioneer effort with regard to Indian states. The Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI) provides a gauge of a society’s natural resource endowments and environmental history, pollution stocks and flows, and resource extraction rates as well as institutional mechanisms and abilities to change future pollution and recourse use trajectories. From a sustainable development perspective it is essential to examine environmental sustainability in relation to economic and social development.

The emphasis is on what impact has been on rural livelihoods, as well as on already existing and on-going development programmes, projects and planning efforts. Additionally, it is explored how new rural development programme can be considered in the context of general development efforts in order to ensure sustainable development paths. With my background in rural development, the thesis is the result of a blend of sociology and the study of humans interface with government system. The Ph.D. thesis has been prepared under DAV PG College Kanpur, where I have studied for my sociology post graduation. Throughout the long process of writing the Ph.D.
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