CHAPTER 4

Research Framework and Methodology

The present study was conducted in two parts. Taking into consideration the basic objectives of study, the first part of the study tried to analyze the linkages and relationship between Rural Development Programme and Environmental Sustainability, Economic Growth & Social Development. The second part was the field investigation. This part of study was taken into consideration to substantiate and augment the first part of the study.

Research in common parlance refers to a search for knowledge. It is a systematic and objective attempt to provide answers to a certain questions. In fact social research is an art of scientific investigation. The purpose of social research is to discover and develop an organized body of knowledge. The Advance Learner’s Dictionary of Current English (1952) lays down the meaning of research as an “a careful investigation or inquiry especially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge”.

Research is an academic activity and as such the term should be used in a technical sense. D.Sleesinger and M.Stephenson I the Encyclopedia of Social Science (1930) define research as “the manipulation of things, concepts or symbols for the purpose of generalizing to extend, correct or verify knowledge, whether that knowledge aids in construction of theory or in
practice of an art”. Research is, thus, an original contribution to the existing stock of knowledge making for its advancement. Research inculcates scientific and inductive thinking and it promotes the development of logical habits of thinking and organization.

Research is carried out through certain procedures popularly known as the ‘research design’. The Oxford Dictionary of Sociology (1998) defines research design as “the strategic plan for a research project or research programme, setting out the broad outline and key features of the work to be undertaken, including the methods of data collection and analysis to be employed, showing how the research strategy addresses the specific aims and objective of the study, and whether the research issues are theoretical or policy oriented.

Thus research designs the logical and he systematic planning and directing of a piece of research. The design has to be geared to the available time, energy and money: to the availability of data: to the extent to which it is desirable or possible to impose upon persons and social organization which might supply the data. E.A. Suchman (1954) states that “There is no such thing as a single or ‘correct’ design … Research Design represents a compromise dictated by the many practical consideration that go into social research … also different workers will come up with different designs favoring their own methodological and theoretical predispositions… A research design is not a highly specific plan to be followed without deviations, but rather a
series of guidepost to keep one headed in the direction.” In other word a research design is tentative. As a study progresses, new aspects, new condition, and a new connecting links in the data come to light, and it is necessary to change the plan as circumstances demand.

The present study was both exploratory as well as descriptive in nature. In an exploratory study the researcher has to find new grounds, about which very little is known. Researcher do not and possibly cannot, have all the guide lines to help determine what to include or leave out of the investigation and what will follow at later stage of the investigation. Keeping these factors in view it was deemed appropriate to adopt exploratory research design for the present study. At the same time the study is descriptive in the sense that it tries to describe those well identified dimension systematically and precisely, which were the focal point of the study i.e. relationship between rural development programme and Environmental Sustainability, Economic Growth & Social Development.

Keeping in the view the nature and objective of the present study, different aspect of methodology are described under the following heads:

1. Locale of the study
2. The sample
3. Tools of enquiry
4. Collection of data
5. Tabulation, analysis and interpretation of data
Locale of the study-

Under the present study ‘Kalyanpur and Bilhaur Block of Kanpur District ’ were elected as the area of study. Four Hundred respondents were selected belonging to different caste, creed, class & Economic bracket.

The Sample-

“A sample as the name implies, is a smaller representation of a larger whole” (Goode and Hatt, 1952:209). For the practical and cost reasons it is often impossible to collect information about the entire population of people or things in which researcher is interested. According to Bogardus (1973) “Sampling is the selection of certain percentage of group of items according to a predetermined plan.”

Blalock (1960) categorized sampling methods (Type of sample) into two

a) Probability Sampling method

b) Non Probability sampling method

Probability sampling methods are those that clearly specify the probability or likelihood of inclusion of each element or individual in the sample.

Non probability sampling is one which there is no way of assessing the probability of the element or group of elements, of population being included in the sample. In other words, non probability sampling methods are those that provide no basis for estimating how closely the characteristics of sample
approximate the parameters of population from which the sample has been obtained.

The present study considered the ‘purposive sample’. The purposive sample is a kind of non probability sample. Non probability sample is one which is based on the typicality of the cases to be included in the sample. The investigator has some belief that the sample being handpicked is typical of the population or is a very good representative of the population. A purposive sample is also known as a judgmental sample because the investigator on the basis of his impression makes a judgment regarding the concerned cases, which is thought typical of the population. (SINGH, A K 1997:299).

The present study considered purposive or judgmental sample because the study included only those house hold that were benefitted by the chosen Rural Development Programme as it was difficult to use probability sampling method in such a case. The other point in taking the purposive sample was that it guaranteed only those individual who were relevant for the study. Those 400 respondents were selected purposely for the study.

TOOLS OF ENQUIRY-

The present study required both the primary and secondary sources of data. The first part of the study is based on the secondary courses of data which included various books and govt records available in various libraries and govt offices.
The second part of the study is a field investigation. In order to elicit reliable information regarding the objective of the study interview schedule was prepared. The interview schedule included questions concerning the socio-demographic background of respondents; quality of life and basic minimum needs indicator were discussed with impact assessment in-depth method.

A pre test of the interview schedule was carried out. After the pre test some changes were considered necessary with regard to the structure, sequencing and wording of some of the questions. Some new questions were also added in a bid to gain more information about a particular phenomenon. However, by and large no major changes were required after pre test.

**COLLECTION OF DATA**

The researcher himself collected the first hand data. Pre tested, structured interview schedule was administered on one head of family. The other family members of the household were also consulted informally for gathering certain information relevant for the study. Utmost care was taken that only reliable and valid information were noted down in the schedule. Along with the interview schedule, participant and non participant observation proved to be the effective tools for gathering valid and truthful information. Editing of the schedule was done to check any discrepancies in the data collected.
Tabulation and analysis of data -

First of all masters chart was prepared from the data collected. After giving code numbers to qualitative data all the relevant data were tabulated and processed. Aggregates and percentages were calculated. The analysis of the data included mainly two criteria, first, awareness regarding rural developmental programmes, secondly, benefits and understanding regarding rural development programmes. These two criteria were evaluated on four variables viz sex, caste, education, income group, land area and habitation. While interpreting the data observation made during the data collection were also incorporated.
REFERENCES

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2. India Rural Infrastructure Report 2011
   NABARD Annual Report 2003