CHAPTER-IV

RURAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM IN MANIPUR
4.0. **Introduction**

Majority of Indians live in villages. According to the census of 2001, the total number of villages is 6,38,588 in India. In spite of rapid urbanization in the country, the majority of our people (over 70 percent of the population) still live in villages. About 75 percent of these villages lack potable water facilities, about 50 percent lack proper roads and more than 25 percent do not have primary schools. Majority of them do not have primary health care arrangements and electricity. Moreover, 30 percent of rural population lives below poverty line. The literacy rate of rural people is also much lower than the all –India figure and most of them lack health awareness. There is also widespread unemployment and consequent migration of population.

Obviously, the country cannot move ahead keeping the major portion of its population in the dark. Rural development is, therefore, of immediate and prime
importance. Successive governments at the centre and in different states have made efforts to ameliorate the situation through introduction of various development schemes, which are being implemented by Panchayati Raj Institutions and non-government organizations, besides other government agencies. Even some international organizations have also lent their helping hand in this regard. But the picture is still not at all rosy even after half a century of our independence, which proves that the efforts so far made have yielded only limited results.

One of the major reasons for this is possibly lack of sufficient information support in rural development work. We neither have the entire needed information readily available, nor proper infrastructure to collect and disseminate such information⁴.

4.1. Identification of Problems

Of the numerous problems haunting the rural areas, poverty has been identified as the most critical. And poverty alleviation programmes developed around domestic information, healthcare system, education, agriculture, cottage and small scale industry and related marketing, employment opportunity, and geological and geo-morphological information etc. would help the rural poor to access various types of information from the databases. Such an information based system will increase their quality of life to a large extent and will pave the way for ‘real’ e-governance through transparency – the key gift of information science⁵.

4.2. Rural Development

Rural development has been defined as a strategy to promote the social life of village people in general and particularly to extend the economic and social benefits to the rural poor. Rural development specialists have defined the term rural development in many ways. According to Ensminger⁶:
“Rural development seeks to involve a process of transformation from traditionally oriented rural cultural towards an acceptance and reliance on science and technology”.

Lele refers to „Rural development as an improvement in the living standard of the masses of low income population residing in rural areas and making the process of self-sustaining”

Rural Development, according to a World Bank Paper, is a strategy to improve economic and social life of a specific group of people, viz., the rural poor including small and marginal farmers, tenants and the landless. Development of any community or residents of an area will involve:

4.2.1. Physical Development

Physical development in the fields of communication, transport, sewage, irrigation, energy, forestry, environment and conservation of natural resources and livestock;

4.2.2. Economic Development

Economic development in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, business and industry;

4.2.3. Social Development

Social development in the fields of education, culture, and political activities; and

4.2.4. Health and Sanitation Development

Health and sanitation development in the field of nutrition, sanitation, community health, prevention of water and air pollution.
Rural India is still lagging behind in almost all the above sectors. But exactly to what extent is it possible to have sufficient information, sometimes for lack of co-ordination among the concerned people. As a result development plans are often drawn either on the basis of presumptions, or on the basis of incomplete or outdated information. The outcome can be well imagined.\textsuperscript{10,11}

4.3. Objectives of Rural Development

The fundamental objective of rural development implies the standard of living of the rural population. The real rural development should have the following main objectives:

i) Improvement in the quality of life of the rural poor.

ii) Improvement of services of rural masses in the process.

iii) Improvement of know-how which is to be implemented to the rural people to infuse in them a sense of pragmatism in the process of development.\textsuperscript{12}

4.4. Community Development Programme and Rural Development

In order to give a fillip to the integrated approach to the Rural Development programmes, the community development programme was launched in October 1952 with the following objectives.\textsuperscript{13}

i) To secure total development of the material and the human resources of rural areas.

ii) To develop local leadership and self-governing institution.

iii) To raise the living standard of the rural people by means of rapid increase in food and agricultural produces.

iv) To ensure a change in mental outlook of the people, instilling in them an ambition for higher standards.
4.5. Information Support Infrastructure

For providing the necessary information support required for rural development a proper information infrastructure has to be developed. This includes development of appropriate:

1. Information products and services; and
2. Information dissemination mechanisms \(^{14}\).

4.5.1. Information Products and Services

Information dissemination is solely depended on the availability of information products and services (i.e. secondary information sources). In India we lack such products and services. Little efforts are made to collect the scattered primary information which are of vital importance in rural development (i.e. the first kind of information mentioned above) and prepare value added secondary information products and services.

4.5.2. Information Dissemination Mechanisms

Even if required information products and services are available, these cannot reach the end-users unless there is a good mechanism for disseminating such information. In our country, the information needed for rural development, are disseminated by various agencies either through formal publications through libraries and information centres. But the mechanisms are not well established and well developed. As a result, the available information often does not reach the end-users at proper time \(^{15}\).

4.6. Strategy for the Development of Rural Library System and Services

In view of the failure of the present public library system in the development of the rural libraries, a new approach to the issue is warranted. Experiencing the similar situation in America, the Community Information Needs/Library Service Guide delineating the new strategy was prepared for the
purpose. It consists of eight related sets of procedures to be executed in sequence. They are: "1 Getting Started; 2 Your Community; 3 Community Information Needs; 4 Community Service Agencies; 5 Library Programmes; 6 Library Materials; 7 Plans; and 8 Spreading to the World". The whole emphasis of the guide is to consider rural libraries as distinct entities deserving special attention, and not simply linking them to the public library systems of a complex of libraries.

4.7. Role of Rural Libraries in Rural Development

Libraries are, by their very nature, the centres for the spread of knowledge and information and as such, they can play a very vital role in the spread of rural development of India as well as in the state of Manipur. The rural library & information centres have identified the following aims:

i) To infuse awareness among the rural people of the sources of information and encourage them to make use of information which are available in the library.

ii) To take care of economic, educational, social, cultural and informational needs of the local people.

iii) To convert uneducated/illiterate and neo-literate into potential users and

iv) To provide information on all aspects, such as agriculture, financial, public hygiene, family planning, legal matters etc.

To help and assist in upgrading the economic conditions of the rural people and in rising their living standards, rural library can help better in this regard.

4.8. Plan Proposal of Rural Library Information Net-work in Manipur

The rural development programmes and policy makers in India particularly in Manipur have so far virtually left rural libraries out of their scheme of things.
India is mainly a country of villages. Most of the people live in rural areas. The Government and the NGOs are trying to develop rural areas in India. However, to develop rural areas in the state of Manipur with the help of libraries, the investigator would like to emphasize the following points for the rural areas of Manipur:

- A rural library should be established in all the villages.
- NGOs can take a vigorous and integrated programme jointly with the government to establish and maintain rural libraries and information resource centres. A favorable government policy relating to library may encourage NGOs in this regard.
- All the rural development libraries should be brought under a network.
- Separate budget should be allocated for libraries surviving under rural library programme funds. In this regard the government should give more funds for the development of rural libraries.
- Majority of our rural population depends on agriculture. Rural library service must be planned to complement rural development programmes.

To meet the information needs of rural Manipur, planners ought to:

- consider the physical and financial requirements of library in relation to the information needs of the rural communities;
- encourage co-operation of the rural libraries with other community agencies; and
- plan for a trained library professional staff for professional information seekers, co-coordinators and disseminators.
4.8.1. Need for Rural Library Information Network System

Rural library & information centre is a community centre around which the cultural life of the rural community revolves. Now-a-days the rural library and information centre is becoming a potential force in the social, economical and cultural life of the rural community and is playing a very significant role in building up a healthy and progressive rural community.

The Information Support System for Rural Development is a prerequisite for Integrated Rural Development in the State of Manipur and the necessary information support required for rural development, a proper information infrastructure has to be developed. In order to develop such rural development information, there is an urgent need of establishing ‘Network of Rural Libraries and Information Centres’ dealing with rural development research and its allied subject at the first instance. There is also a general need of co-ordination between different government agencies/departments, institutions, NGOs, libraries and information centres, rural populace with Gram Panchayat as its hub. The rural development programme and policy makers in Manipur have so far virtually left rural libraries out of their scheme of things.

In view of the failure of the present Rural Library System in the villages of Manipur, it is suggested that one model, if the situation warrants in order to meet all the information requirements of village people and all round development of the rural community in the present information age.

4.8.2. Facilities and Network Services

The proposed model will facilitate for improving the existing system and services in building up a healthy and progressive rural community. It also help rural people to make use of information resources, acquire, store, assemble, retrieve, and disseminate the right information to the rural people and can access
the information at local, regional, national and international level if the system or centre have extended its network facilities abroad.

4.8.3. Plan Model of Rural Library Information Network System (RLINS)

On the basis of the existing infrastructures, and considering the needs of the rural communities, views and suggestions of the user communities a model "Rural Library Information Network System" (RLINS), has been proposed, the designing programme, as proposed will carry with the co-operative efforts of different and similar agencies who will be the participating members. In the proposed model of 'RLINS', Directorate of Library Services will act as the central hub, if the Manipur Public Library Act which was passed in 1988, may be implemented as soon as possible by the Government. The proposed model will have a phase wise manner for establishing, implementing, maintaining and evaluating the usefulness, functions and services and feed back from the rural community/user community will be determined.

The Director of Public Library Services is the head of the Organizational structure of the proposed network model and their hierarchical structure of the organization is shown in the following figure 11.

4.8.4. Policy Making and Administrative Bodies

The proposed model has separate division under the Director of Public Library Services. The division may have Deputy Director of Academic and Special Library Services, Chief Librarian, Rural Library/Rural Library Information Officer, District/Sub-Divisional Librarian and Rural Library Assistant may be the administrative body as noted below:

*Chairman:* Director of Public Library Services

*Convenor:* Deputy Director (Academic & Special Library Services)
Co-Convenor: Chief Librarian

Members: Director(s) of Health & Family Welfare, Education, Agriculture, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Science & Technology, DIPR, PHED, Art & Culture, PWD, NIC etc.

Permanent Invitees: Director of National Library/Central Reference Library, VCs of Central & State Universities, Librarian of Central & State Universities, Representatives from other important Bodies, Professional associations etc.

Executive Body: District/Block Librarian, Librarians of the College Library, Information Scientists, Documentation Officers, Village Library Assistant.

Besides, these, there are Advisory Group, State Coordinating Unit may guide and advice the determining plans and policies, fixing the norms and standards, rules and regulations, preparing budget and allocating funds, appointing team of experts if necessary, monitoring the process and outcome of the work, counseling and providing necessary advice to the subordinate staffs.
Figure: 10. Organizational Structure of Rural Library Information Network System
Proposed Model of RLINS

Figure: 11. Proposed Model for Rural Library Information Network System
4.8.5. Existing Library System in the State

The existing library system in the State is very poor, there is no separate Directorate. The State Central Library and District Libraries are run under the Department of Art & Culture, Govt. of Manipur with the small budget allocation. There is no Sub-divisional/Block level library and few rural libraries run by the Voluntary Organization in the State. The following figure has indicated the existing library system in the State of Manipur.

```
Dept. of Art & Culture

State Central Library

District Library (Hill)  District Library (Valley)

Rural Library run by Voluntary Organization  Rural Library run by Voluntary Organization
```

**Figure: 12. Existing Library System in the State**

4.9. Community Information Systems and Services for Rural Community Development

The term Community Information Centres/Services was first advocated by Durrance who called it an umbrella term which includes provision of information for everyday participation in the democratic process. Information demand/needs varies from community to community. Therefore, a survey of community information needs should be conducted to identify information needs categories.
4.10. National Level Organisation of Community Information

For a sound system of Community Information Needs, there should be a country wide community information service. Every town, city, and village with a population above 5,000 should have a Community Information Resource/Centre. The National Library and Information Policy must lay emphasis upon this provision. The community information service could be linked to the public library system, but with a mechanism of its own, in order to pay a special attention. The finances required for administering the community information service should form part of public library expenditure.

4.10.1. Structure

A structure for national level organization of community information service is outlined below on the analog of public library network:\n
- National Focal Point
- Regional CI Centres (four)
- State/UTI CI Centres
- District CI Centres
- Local CI Centres

**Figure: 13. National Level Organization of Community Information**

4.11. Plan Proposal of Community Information Service System under Government Welfare Scheme

Manipur Government strives hard to uplift the socio-economic status of its citizens. There are different departments set up to concentrate in this affair. The Manipur Government has employed staff to create awareness about the rural welfare and development schemes. So far no attempt has been made to suggest a "Rural Community Information Resource Centre (RCIRC)" for rural community development.

The investigator has suggested a model ‘Community Information Resource Service Centre’ for the benefit of the village community.

4.11.1. Policy Making and Administrative Bodies of the Propose Model

The proposed model has separate division under the Chief Secretary. The division may have Commissioner/Director, Deputy and Chief Information Officer/Chief Informatics Officer/Chief Librarian, District/Sub-Divisional/Block Information/Informatics/Officer/Librarian and Rural Information/Informatics Officer/Library Assistant may be the administrative body as noted below:

Chairman: Chief Secretary
Convener: Commissioner/Director
Co-Convener: Chief Information Officer/Informatics Officer/Librarian
Members: Director(s) of Health & Family Welfare, Education, Agriculture, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, PHED, PWD, etc.
Permanent Invitees: Director of National Library/NICNET, VCs of Central & State Universities, Librarian of Central & State Universities, Representatives from other important Bodies, Professional Associations etc.
Executive Body: District/Block Information Officer, Librarians of the College Library, CIC Project Coordinator/Instructor, District Information Officer, Information Scientists, Documentation Officers.

Besides, these, there are State Level Advisory Group, District Advisory Group and Rural Coordination Unit for guiding and advising for determining plans and policies, fixing the norms and standards, rules and regulations, preparing budget and allocating funds, appointing team of experts if necessary, monitoring the process and outcome of the work, counseling and providing necessary advice to the subordinate staffs.

4.11.2. Organisation of Rural Community Information Resource Centre (RCIRC)

The proposed network model will have the efforts of the State Government to formulate the outlines of plan, policies, establishment, implementation, monitoring the network programme. In this model the three major Department/Directorate viz. i] Department of Arts & Culture; ii] Department of Science & Technology; and iii] Directorate of Information & Public Relation of the State Government will act as the coordination to organized and configurations of the services and functions of the centres.

4.11.3. Facilities/Services and Configuration of RCIRC

The suggested model will facilitate to upgrade and modernization of the existing information infrastructure and maximum services and also extend its network at the village level, because, State Central Library and District Libraries are under the Department of Arts & Culture, likewise Department of Science & Technology has controlled the Community Information Centres with the coordination of NICNET State Centre and similarly the Directorate of Information & Public Relation has controlled the State and Districts Information Centres.
Since, the proposed model is under the State Government Departments, its network will be phase wise and consists of following sister organizations like State Central Library, State Information Centre and Community Information Centres in respect to Community Development Programme and Panchayat/Village Authority at first phase.

The District Libraries, District Information Centres, Universities, Colleges, Institutions related to Community Development and Rural Development, IT Centres would join the network in the second phase. The learned societies, professional associations, NGOs, rural youth centres would also join in this phase simultaneously and the network will extend at local, regional, national and international level.
4.12. Rural Development (IRD) and Information Support System (ISS)

A proper management strategy for ISS is a prerequisite for IRD. ISS could act as a catalyst in mobilizing and harnessing the information needs for rural populace. In fact ISS describes the areas of rural development and services for rural development activities. In order to understand ISS for IRD one must have to understand 23:

i) What is the relationship between the latest satellite technology and IRD?
ii) How satellites can provide social and economic opportunities to the million of people working in remote inaccessible rural areas?

iii) How to proceed for rural networking and system planning? And

iv) How to apply Geographical Information System (GIS) as a tool for the creation of information database at a micro-level in a rural sector for IRD.

ISS in such a society should leave it appropriateness when there would be [a] easy accessibility of IS to RD, [b] storage and use of IS, [c] software conservation as IS and [d] constant improvement of information base.

The basic information system required to be developed for IRD are [a] Agriculture Information System; [b] Community Knowledge Sharing; [c] Information System Communication Services on Rural Poor Areas; [d] Labour Market Information System; and [e] Information System on Village Area Network 24.

4.13. Rural Development Information System in India

Integrated Rural Development as a holistic approach is a national commitment. The goal is to enrich the quality of life of the poor by improving the availability of the basic needs and generating employment through various processes. National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) is an apex, research, training and consultancy organizations under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is to work towards this goal. The mission of NIRD is to facilitate the rural development through governmental and non-governmental initiatives. It has a resource centre, the function of which is to cater to the information needs of not only the internal clientele but also the development community throughout India. For this purpose a network of Rural Development Information System is essential for resource sharing and exchange of information

25
Figure: 15. Rural Development Information System in India

[Source of Figure: RAJU (K A). Towards a Cooperative Rural Development Information Network. *ILA Bulletin*. 38, 3; 2002; 84-85]


Due to lack of information infrastructure facilities and lack of proper ICT network system, weakness of State Institute of Rural Development and Panchyati Raj as well as the lack of government initiatives for rural development information dissemination system in the State of Manipur, the investigator has strongly felt that, the needs of Information Network System is very much essential in view of rural development. So the investigator has suggested a plan model as describe below.

4.14.1. Objective of the Proposed Model “Rural Development Information System” (RDIS)

The objective of the proposed model will be to:
Monitor and pick-up, control and process all local/national rural development information, both conventional and non-conventional.

Build up a strong collection of rural development literature from within and outside the state to meet the reference needs of rural development researchers, policy makers and extension workers.

Compile and publish bibliographies, indexes and abstracts.

Act as a clearing house for exchange of RD information at the state, national, regional and international level.

Maintain computerized databases to compile subject bibliographies, directory of research projects and directory of social scientists etc.

Participate in national, regional and international information system and services like DEVINSA (Development Information Network for South Asia) and Computerized Library and Information Clearinghouse (CLIC) under NIRD, India.

Provide retrospective search, current awareness service, and selective dissemination of information service etc.

Maintain a State as well as Union List of Rural Development periodicals available in India.

Establish and maintain a document delivery service.

Collect, preserve and maintain microfilm, microfiches of documents.

Prepare and publish extension manuals, reports, journals, newspapers etc.

Prepare low cost teaching and training aids.

Select, plan and production of media package.
- Establish and maintain centralized audio-visual materials production ability in support of rural development information dissemination.
- Organize seminar, workshop, training programmes for information, documentation and library personnel.
- Establish and maintain a Development Support Information and Communication Network, and
- Conduct study/research in various facets of library and information science and services (relating to the rural development).

4.14.2. Needs and Coordination of RDIS

In order to develop such rural development information there is an urgent need of establishing a network of libraries, documentation and information centres dealing with rural development research and its allied subjects at the first instance. There is also a general need of co-ordination between different information systems so that information relevant to IRD can be drawn from a wide range of disciplines and also necessary co-ordinate between government agencies, institution, library & information centres, NGOs, rural populace with Gram Panchayat as its hub. A participatory approach to IRD information networking would ensure information sharing and better utilization of financial resources allocated to libraries and information centres in Manipur.

4.14.3. Facilities and Services of RDIS

The State Network on Rural Development is urgently required for the development of its facilities and services in the State. Besides, it is also necessary to pull information on environment and disaster management through the network approach, both at national and international level, as environment and disaster management are very much related to IRD in India as well as in the state too.
The proposed network system will foster interlibrary co-operation with SIRD Library which may lead to co-operative acquisition, bibliographic exchanges and control, centralized processing of materials, better interlibrary lending and photocopying services among the participating libraries, information centres, institutions, organizations and other government agencies in the state.

4.14.4. Policy Making and Administrative Bodies of RDIS

The proposed model has under the division of Commissioner of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj. The division may have Director, Deputy and Assistant Director, District/Sub-Divisional/Block Information Officer and Panchayat members may be the administrative body as noted below:

**Chairman:** Commissioner of RD & Panchayati Raj

**Convener:** Director

**Co-Convener:** Deputy Director/DRDA Chairman

**Members:** Director(s) of Health & Family Welfare, Education, Agriculture, Science & Technology, DIPR, PHED, Art & Culture, PWD, NIC etc.

**Permanent Invitees:** Director of NIRD/National Library/Central Reference Library/SIPRARD, VCs of Central & State Universities, Representatives from other important Bodies, Professional Associations etc.

**Executive Body:** District/Block/Tribal Development Information Officer, Information Scientists, Documentation Officers, Adhaksha of the Panchayat.

Besides, these, there are State Level Monitoring Cell, Advisory Committee, Finance Committee, Extension & Information Council for guiding and advising the determining plans and policies, fixing the norms and standards, rules and regulations, preparing budget and allocating funds, appointing team of experts if
necessary, monitoring the process and outcome of the work, counseling and providing necessary advice to the subordinate staffs.

4.14.5. Organisation and Configuration of RDIS

The State Government has needed to organize and conduct a consultative committee meeting to formulate the outlines of “Manipur Rural Development Information Network” Department of Rural Development as the focal point of the network. The network configuration or organizational hierarchy of network is an important specification because it affects the communication channels and the flow pattern of information.

It is suggested that the MRDI Network will be phase wise and consist of following sister organisations like State RD Monitoring Cell, DRDA, and Research & Training Centres in respect to RD, SIPRARD, T.D. Block, C.D. Block, and Panchayats during first phase.

The State Central Library (District Libraries), State Information Centre (District Information Centres), C I Cs, Universities, Colleges, Institutions related to R&D, IT centres would join the network in the second phase. The learned societies, professional associations, NGOs, rural youth centres would also join in this phase simultaneously.

The international/regional linkage with UNDP, Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, Department of North Eastern Region (DONER), Govt. of India, National Informatics Centres (NIC), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI), Centre on Rural Documentation (CORD) etc. at national level and other zonal organizations like North Eastern Council (NEC) etc would be established during the third phase.
Figure: 16. Organizational Structure of Rural Development Information System in Manipur
Proposed Model of RDIS


Figure: 17. Proposed Model for Rural Development Information System in Manipur
The proposed model also intends to meet the development support information and communication with the present increase in the number of universities and research institutes in India and with the present focus on rural development research, greater demands will be made by scientists on RD libraries and documentation centres in the future. Therefore, proper planning is necessary to harness RD information stored in machine-readable form by different international and regional rural development information systems and databanks.

It is, admittedly, an ambitious undertaking, however, if provided with necessary financial, personnel, technical, and infrastructural facilities for the creation and strengthening of RDIS will hopefully witness the free flow of Rural Development Information across its 2,391 villages.

4.14.6. Extended Network Generating Information on Rural Development

The extended network will have the facilities for generating information on rural development at various levels. The information generated by the various organizations, institutions, national, regional and international bodies, research and development organizations, ministries & departments, universities, associations, learned societies, non-governmental organizations, mass media etc. will receive the generated information at different forms of media and also extend the information at the nearest libraries, information centres to reach the grass root level i.e. rural people.
EXTENSION NETWORK GENERATING INFORMATION ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

UNESCO
WHO
UNDP
FAO
CIRDAP
SAARC

NIRD
ICAR
OSIR
CORD
Ministries & Agencies
Panchayat

Institutions
Research & Training in
R.D.
Universities engaged in
R.D.
I.T. Dept.

NGOs
Voluntary Organisation
learned Societies
Professional Association
Private Sectors.

Financial
Institution
Co-operatives
Print Media
Electronic Media

Print Information
(Materials)

Non-print
(Non-book)
Materials

Audio-Visual Aids/Materials

Web-based Information

Rural Library/
Rural Information Centre

Library/Information Centre Approach

Direct Approach

Web Approach

RURAL PEOPLE


Figure: 18. Extended Network Generating Information on Rural Development
4.15. Efforts made by NIRD for Rural Development Information Support System

National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) is an apex, research, and training and consultancy organizations under the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India is to work towards this goal. The mission of NIRD is to facilitate the rural development through governmental and non-governmental initiatives. It has a resource centre, the function of which is to cater to the information needs of not only the internal clientele but also the development community throughout India. It has launched a project called CLIC (Computerised Library and Information Clearinghouse) under which a gate-way of information on rural development is constructed using web technologies and a virtual library created with links to various organizations in India and abroad. If these information services of NIRD are to be made available throughout the country it has been found necessary to bring the State Level Institutions on Rural Development (SIRDs) into a network with NIRD for resource sharing and exchange of information 30.

4.15.1. Centre on Rural Documentation (CORD)

Centre on Rural Documentation (CORD) functioning under the aegis of NIRD is collecting information on various aspects of rural development and developing different databases to satisfy the information needs of its faculty, and others in the development of a community. As a part of its activity, CORD has developed a clearinghouse on rural development information i.e. Computerized Library and Information Clearinghouse (CLIC). Different databases on aspects, like rural development programmes/project, who's who in rural development, rural development statistics, institutions, research and experts in rural development and data bank on themes like drinking water, housing, rural roads, panchayati raj, rural industries, newspaper clippings, watershed development, etc. were developed under CLIC. Now the CLIC is being transformed into a Gateway of Information
for Rural Development (GIRD). Databases are being developed for the effective functioning of the Gateway. It is aimed to act as a one-stop location for rural development information 31.

4.15.2. State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRD)

India has 28 states, administered independently under the federal system. Rural development is a state subject. For this the states have vast machinery at district, sub-district and village levels. To train these thousands of functionaries on implementation problems of rural development projects, the states have established state level training institutions which are called State Institute of Rural Development (SIRDs). Presently there are 25 SIRDs spread all over the country mostly at the state capitals. Additionally there are Extension Training Centres (ETCs) and other district level institutions.

NIRD, being the apex organization at Hyderabad and its regional centre at Guwahati has an informal system of networking with SIRDs whereby it advise the SIRDs in their functioning, gives faculty support, conducts off campus programmes, distributes training material, exchanges information and library facilities, apart from channelising funds from "the Central Ministry earmarked for training and infrastructural development 32.

4.15.3. Categorization of SIRD Libraries

A survey was conducted to identify the institutions (SIRDs) who are ready to become partners under SIRD consortia approach. Based on some basic parameters like building, infrastructure, collection, etc, SIRD libraries are classified into three categories viz [1] Strong; [2] Moderate; and [3] Weak as given below 33.
Table No. 4.1.

Categories of SIRD Libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong SIRD Libraries</th>
<th>Moderate SIRD Libraries</th>
<th>Weak SIRD Libraries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>Assam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Goa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>Manipur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>Nagaland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


4.16. Information for Rural Development

Rural development requires a variable mix of information generated by government, media, NGOs, rural development practitioners and experts, oral and written indigenous rural knowledge passed on to generations through largely informal means, statistical information, implementation data from previous projects and schemes etc.

4.16.1. Sources and Channels of Information

The information sources include published and unpublished, formal and informal, print and non-print etc. The significant constraints of facilitating information to rural people, according to the World Information Report, 1997-98, quoted by Dasgupta are:

- The bulk of the population is not information-dependent in day-to-day work and living.
• A large proportion of the population cannot consume information in written form.
• The vast majority of the population does not have the means to access information.
• People in general are not accustomed to pay, cannot pay or are unwilling to pay for information as it does not figure in their list of wants.
• The existing pattern of economic activities does not favour a growth in information consumption.
• The countries do not have sufficient capacity to invest in infrastructure development.

The second constraint raises enough justification for the necessity of information in non-written forms like audio, video, and multimedia. The advent of computer and information technology has yielded the availability of all these divergent forms into one computer amenable format. The coverage of subject matter must be of easy assimilation to people with less education and poor knowledge in the subject concerned.

4.16.2. Impediments for Accessing Information

The major impediments for the rural population in accessing necessary information resources are:

• Information Drought - Lack of availability of information resources in their level and style of interest.

• Literacy - Literacy rate and educational background are poor.

• Time - They are so busy with household and livelihood, that they do not get time for entertainment, reading, or accessing information.
• Language - There are many languages and even in one place more than
one language is spoken. Required information may not be available in the language
in which one is proficient. We need good translation mechanisms to get over this
problem.

• Culture - Due to the prevailing mindset and cultural barriers, rural people
are unable to seek and gather information for their livelihood unlike their
counterparts in urban areas. The situation will be more volatile in the case of those
termed inferior in caste and creed, minorities, women and children.

• Bad shape of public libraries and their alienation from the development
model.

• Poor use of ICT - Infrastructure limitations prevent the required
information to reach the needy. Televisions are not used to the desired extent for
community welfare and development programmes (radio is an exception to some
extent) as the popular medium is too biased towards sports and movie/serial based
entertainment, which gather more advertisement revenues.

4.17. Information Sources for Rural Development

Rural development is a mission. Unlike a discipline oriented system dealing
with subjects like economics, sociology, psychology etc, a mission oriented system
is interdisciplinary in nature and deals with information produced in the
furtherance of the mission i.e. development.

The major information sources for rural development are:

i] All India Radio and Doordarshan should broadcast rural development
programme regularly.

ii] Organisation of village clubs helps to know the welfare schemes. It helps to
create awareness.
iii] As the Block/Village Development Officer becomes mass sources of information about rural development schemes, village level extension networks should further its improvement. The village Development Officer should visit villages regularly to guide rural people on various development programmes.

iv] The Information and Public Relations Department is mouthpiece of the government policies and programmes.

v] Govt. agencies and other non-governmental organizations.

vi] Learned societies, professional associations, village development organizations etc.

vii] Mass Media including both print and electronic media, local newspaper etc.

4.18. Role of LIS Professionals in Rural Development

In the new environment, library and information professionals manning information centres at different levels will have to play an important role in handling conventional and electronic resources for rural development. They have to identify resources which are locally available and download these in local databases. They will have to initiate compiling of easy to access the database in local languages, which will provides bibliographic, numeric and textual information to the localities. Sufficient number of extension oriented training programmes should also be organized at regular basis with the following objectives

[i] To understand the peoples’ needs in a better way.

[ii] To bring out new strategies to be formulated for different activities.

[iii] To organize formal communication programmes among rural people.
The library and information professional have to quickly adapt themselves to the new environment to provide effective and efficient information technology based information service for rural development.

4.19. **Role of IT Professionals in Rural Development**

Information Technology is a powerful tool for rural development. Information technology professionals should aim at achieving sustainable and equitable development, with active participatory role for rural development.

i] IT professionals should establish the viability of technologies and development models which have tremendous potential in addressing the problems of rural poor.

ii] They have to create a situation in which every user has access to information, technology and resources to realize his/her full potential and the capacity to use it.

iii] They have to encourage the convergence of existing and new development initiatives to respond in holistic way to the community development plans and defined needs.

iv] They must lay much greater stress on the possibility of target groups contributing to the innovation and adaptation of technology.

4.20. **Role of NGOs in Rural Development**

The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are working very actively in different rural development and community development in their respective State or Country. In Manipur more than 200 NGOs have been working in different areas for rural development. They operate over a wide range of activities such as the governments anti-poverty programmes, training of rural youth, promotion of safe and good drinking water, rural housing, promotion of science and technology,
waste land development, health care and family welfare, education and women credit and thrift fund project etc.

Among the few selected prominent NGOs in Manipur, some of the NGOs like Youth Volunteers Union (YVU), Rural Development Organisation (RDO), and Citizen Volunteers Training Center (CVTC) etc are the leading agency for the welfare of community and rural development in different areas of Manipur covering remote villages.\(^{39}\)

4.21. Role of Panchayat/Village Authority Members in RD

The Manipur Government has entrusted the Panchayats with implementation of various rural development programmes such as rural reconstruction programmes, rural water supply, rural housing schemes, etc.

Panchayat members are to look after the following activities:

[i] Public health, community disease prevention, public health campaigns.

[ii] Monitoring of literacy campaigns continuing the progress of increasing literacy and ensuring universal school attendance.

[iii] Monitoring the IRDP, public distribution system for food, checking ration card use and abuse, and keeping watch on the activities of fair price shops.

[iv] Organizing the repair and expansion of rural roads, the cleaning of water tanks and ponds.

[v] Raising own resources for development and enthusing local people to contribute for community infrastructure.

[vi] Focusing on and prioritizing less privileged groups such as scheduled castes, schedule tribes and women in all general activities, as well as in special programmes designed for them.
All these to be carried out with sensitivity to the specific needs of the local people.

Out of all, the activities relating to health and sanitation, education, water resource management and women’s empowerment are at the top of the agenda. 40

4.22. Affords made by State Government for Rural Development/Community Development

Various affords are made by the State Government for the welfare and development of rural areas.

4.22.1. State Budget and Plan Size

The size of the State’s Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) as approved by the Planning Commission in Rs. 2804.00 crores which is about 15.55 percent higher than the size of the Ninth Five Year Plan. Out of the total outlay of Rs. 2804.00 crores, the amount allocated to economic services, social services and general services were Rs. 1767.44 crores, Rs. 940.12 crores and Rs. 96.45 crores respectively. Under this Tenth Five Year Plan, the utmost emphasis is given to economic services. In this sector, the highest priority is given to General Economic Services followed by Irrigation and Flood Control. General Economic services sector is bestowed with 15.39 percent of the total Five Year Plan outlay whereas Irrigation and Flood Control sector settled at 13.14 percent. The approved outlay by major sector of the Tenth Plan in comparison with those of the Ninth Plan and outlay and expenditure of annual plan of Manipur is presented 41 in Table No. 4.2 & 4.3 respectively.
Table No. 4.2.
Growth of Plan Outlays over the Five Year Plan periods by major sectors at current prices

(Rs. in lakhs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outlay</td>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>P.C. to total Expenditure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agriculture &amp; Allied Activities</td>
<td>18317.00</td>
<td>12572.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rural Development</td>
<td>8820.00</td>
<td>2650.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Special Area Programme</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>1733.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>IFCD</td>
<td>32060.00</td>
<td>24662.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>33534.00</td>
<td>20403.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Industry &amp; Minerals</td>
<td>12651.00</td>
<td>9540.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>39968.00</td>
<td>24303.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Science, Technology &amp; Environment</td>
<td>900.00</td>
<td>614.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>General Economic Services</td>
<td>3667.00</td>
<td>5953.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>61964.00</td>
<td>58375.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>General Services</td>
<td>4423.00</td>
<td>4971.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Externally Aided Projects</td>
<td>14600.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>T.F.C.</td>
<td>9765.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>242669.00</td>
<td>165783.01</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-Not available

Source: Statistics supplied by Planning Department, Govt. of Manipur
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agriculture &amp; Allied Activities</td>
<td>1844.69</td>
<td>684.27</td>
<td>1844.00</td>
<td>1844.00</td>
<td>1224.44</td>
<td>1770.92</td>
<td>1770.92</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rural Development</td>
<td>2905.94</td>
<td>1089.75</td>
<td>3469.00</td>
<td>3469.00</td>
<td>1874.21</td>
<td>4472.35</td>
<td>4472.35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Special Area Programme</td>
<td>646.00</td>
<td>719.48</td>
<td>416.00</td>
<td>624.00</td>
<td>277.00</td>
<td>808.00</td>
<td>808.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>IFCD</td>
<td>8194.00</td>
<td>3898.63</td>
<td>8340.00</td>
<td>8340.00</td>
<td>4330.63</td>
<td>5931.00</td>
<td>5931.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>6555.00</td>
<td>1078.15</td>
<td>7162.00</td>
<td>7162.00</td>
<td>1003.37</td>
<td>6202.63</td>
<td>6202.63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Industry &amp; Mining</td>
<td>7033.26</td>
<td>372.00</td>
<td>5142.00</td>
<td>5142.00</td>
<td>4696.53</td>
<td>5667.00</td>
<td>5667.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>3718.00</td>
<td>2433.27</td>
<td>3130.00</td>
<td>3230.00</td>
<td>2192.65</td>
<td>9276.00</td>
<td>9276.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>1176.00</td>
<td>221.21</td>
<td>602.00</td>
<td>602.00</td>
<td>247.94</td>
<td>528.64</td>
<td>528.64</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>General Economic Services</td>
<td>1064.69</td>
<td>623.92</td>
<td>3122.00</td>
<td>2692.27</td>
<td>1558.83</td>
<td>4787.50</td>
<td>4787.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>1995.08</td>
<td>8172.98</td>
<td>21509.00</td>
<td>21581.47</td>
<td>10542.49</td>
<td>35928.67</td>
<td>35928.67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>General Services</td>
<td>1418.34</td>
<td>828.75</td>
<td>3004.00</td>
<td>3077.50</td>
<td>532.16</td>
<td>1879.50</td>
<td>1879.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>390.00</td>
<td>16.13</td>
<td>1160.00</td>
<td>1165.76</td>
<td>165.76</td>
<td>872.79</td>
<td>872.79</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>55000.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>20238.54</strong></td>
<td><strong>59000.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>59030.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>28646.01</strong></td>
<td><strong>78125.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>78125.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Not available

Source: Statistics supplied by Planning Department, Govt. of Manipur
4.22.2. Agriculture and Allied Sectors

Since the attainment of Statehood in 1972 the state made tremendous progress in the field of agriculture. In fact agriculture is the backbone of the State economy still to-day and the farming community has been the backbone of the State agriculture. The economy of the State being primarily dependent on agriculture, emphasis has been given on augmenting agricultural production of the State. Agriculture still occupies the most prominent position in the State’s economy.

4.22.2.1. Agriculture

Agriculture being the main occupation of the people’s of Manipur. Agriculture sector contribute a major share to the total State Domestic Product and provides employment to about 63.95 percent of the total working force in Manipur. In fact, the state domestic product fluctuates depending on the performance of agricultural sector. Thus from the view point of employment and income, agriculture plays a very crucial role in the State’s economy.

Table No. 4.4.
District wise Area under Rice by varieties of seeds used during the Agricultural years 1999 to 2004
(Areas in ‘000 hectares)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Senapati</td>
<td>24.53</td>
<td>23.23</td>
<td>23.88</td>
<td>23.55</td>
<td>25.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tamenglong</td>
<td>9.54</td>
<td>9.19</td>
<td>10.64</td>
<td>7.45</td>
<td>10.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
<td>13.73</td>
<td>12.60</td>
<td>13.78</td>
<td>22.88</td>
<td>20.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chandel</td>
<td>6.17</td>
<td>9.41</td>
<td>8.82</td>
<td>5.61</td>
<td>7.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ukhrul</td>
<td>13.84</td>
<td>13.53</td>
<td>14.50</td>
<td>13.27</td>
<td>13.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hill Total</td>
<td>67.81</td>
<td>67.96</td>
<td>71.62</td>
<td>72.73</td>
<td>77.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Imphal East</td>
<td>33.65</td>
<td>31.17</td>
<td>31.37</td>
<td>25.83</td>
<td>25.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Imphal West</td>
<td>15.46</td>
<td>15.87</td>
<td>16.48</td>
<td>20.23</td>
<td>17.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
<td>18.36</td>
<td>18.66</td>
<td>19.02</td>
<td>17.05</td>
<td>16.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thoubal</td>
<td>21.77</td>
<td>23.33</td>
<td>24.08</td>
<td>17.27</td>
<td>22.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Valley Total</td>
<td>89.24</td>
<td>89.03</td>
<td>90.95</td>
<td>80.38</td>
<td>80.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>157.05</td>
<td>156.99</td>
<td>162.57</td>
<td>153.11</td>
<td>157.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics supplied by Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Govt. of Manipur
4.22.2.2. Veterinary and Animal Husbandry

Amongst the allied sectors of agriculture, livestock/poultry is another important sector. Agriculture is the mainstay of the people but development of animal husbandry is an essential feature as livestock plays a pivotal role particularly in the State’s rural economy. A large number of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and other economically weaker sections depend upon livestock for gainful employment.\(^{42}\)

The infrastructure facilities available in Manipur for Veterinary and Animal husbandry services during 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 are given in Table No. 4.5.

**Table No. 4.5.**

**Infrastructure Facilities available in Manipur for Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Veterinary Hospital</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Veterinary Dispensaries</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Regional A.I.Centre</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A.I.Sub-Centre</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Central Semen Collection cum A.I. Centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Milk Plant</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chilling Centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cattle Breeding Farms</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Poultry Breeding Farms</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pig Breeding Farms</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Not Available.

Source: Statistics supplied by Directorate of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Services, Govt. of Manipur.
4.22.2.3. Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

Manipur lives in villages. Improvement in the quality of life of the economically weaker section of the society is also one of the basic objectives of development planning. In order to achieve this goal a number of programmes viz., SGSY, JGSY, EAS, IAY, PMGY, PMGSY etc. have been under implementation in the state. These programme insure minimum wage to rural workers and enable them to acquire assets and income through self-employment ventures. In this context, it would be appropriate to evaluate various developmental schemes and programmes launched in the state to uplift the standard of living of the rural population of Manipur 43.

4.22.2.3.1. Development of Panchayati Raj in Manipur

The Panchayati Raj Institutions were first set up in Manipur in 1960, by adopting the U.P. Panchayat Act, 1947. The first General Election to Panchayat was held in the year 1964, Manipur Legislative Assembly passed the Manipur Panchayat Act 1975 and this Act came into force on 10th January 1978. Under the Manipur Panchayati Raj Act 1975, the first election to Panchayats was held in May 1978. The 73rd Constitution Amendment Act 1992 on Panchayati Raj was passed by the Parliament and received the assent of the President of India and enforced in all the states w.e.f. 24.4.94. The first General Election to Panchayat under this new Act 1994 was held on 31.1.1997 and the second General Election was held on 30.8.2002 44.
Table No. 4.6.
Statement Showing Reservation of Seats of Zilla Parishad and Gram Panchayat Member, 2002 (2nd Simultaneous General Election of GPs & ZPs held on 30-08-2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of District/Block</th>
<th>Zilla Parishad Members</th>
<th>Panchayats</th>
<th>Gram Panchayat Members</th>
<th>Total Col.7, 12 &amp; 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>W/R</td>
<td>S.T</td>
<td>S.C</td>
<td>Un-reserved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Imphal East (III) District</td>
<td>1. IE-I C.D. Block</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. IE-II C.D. Block</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Imphal East C.D. Block</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Imphal West (IV) District</td>
<td>1. IW-I C.D. Block</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. IW-II C.D. Block</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Thoubal District</td>
<td>1. Thoubal C.D. Block</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Thoubal C.D. Block</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Bishnupur District</td>
<td>1. Bishnupur C.D. Block</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Bishnupur C.D. Block</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[W/R= Women Reserved, S.T = Schedule Tribe, S.C= Schedule Cast, Wom= Women, Gen= general]

Source: Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Govt. of Manipur
4.22.2.3.2. State Institute of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development (SIPRARD)

One State level training institute namely, the State Institute of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development is functioning for imparting training to various officials and non-officials/panchayat functionaries in the fields of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. The Institute started functioning since the year, 2000 by converting the erstwhile Manipur Panchayati Raj Training Institute (MPRTI) into State Institute of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development (SIPRARD) vide Government of Manipur order No. 7/7/90-Dev dated 04-01-2000. At present the institute is running with central assistance from the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India. In fact, it is a departmental institute funded by the Ministry of Rural Development as well as the State Government.\(^{45}\) The major activities/services of SIPRARD are: [i] training activities; [ii] seminar/workshop; [iii] research activities; [iv] publication; and [v] library services.

4.22.2.4. Industries

At present, there are no industries, worth mentioning except traditional oriented ones such as khadi and village industries, handlooms and handicrafts. Manipur continues to remain as an industrial backward State. The contribution of the manufacturing sector to the total state domestic product is found to be 8.4 percent and 7.4 percent of the total working force population were found engaged in this sector.\(^{46}\)
Table No. 4.7.
Number of Registered Industrial Units, Employment in Manipur.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Year/District</th>
<th>No. of Units</th>
<th>No. of Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SIDO</td>
<td>Non-SIDO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Senapati</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Tamenglong</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Chandel</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Ukhrul</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hill Total</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Imphal East</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Imphal West</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>Thoubal</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valley Total</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Not Available

[SIDO - Small Industries Development Organization]

Source: From the data supplied by Directorate of Commerce and Industries, Govt. of Manipur.

4.22.3. Economic Infrastructure

Infrastructure is defined as the physical framework of facilities through which goods and services are provided to the public. It is an umbrella term for many activities referred to as ‘social overload capital’ which results in facilities and services and are usually provided free (as in the case of roads) or at reduced charges (as in the case of electricity). The economic infrastructure supports primarily the economic activities and its components being utilities such as power, irrigation, transport and communication etc.⁴⁷
4.22.3.1. Power

Through power plays a vital role in the development of the state, Manipur is facing the problem of power shortage. The State continues to be deficit in electric energy.

4.22.3.1.1. Rural Electrification

Manipur is a small state with an area of 22,327 sq. kms. And population about 23 lakhs people. Over 70 percent of the population lives in rural areas comprising 2,391 inhabited villages, 2001 were electrified ending 2001-02 and other are expected to be covered during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Accordingly, the state has made a good progress in rural electrification achieving 91.98 percent of the total village up to the end of 31st March, 2003. The numbers of villages electrified during 2002-2003 are indicated in Table No. 4.8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Inhabited Villages</th>
<th>Village Electrified</th>
<th>% of electrified villages to total villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>2,182</td>
<td>2,001</td>
<td>91.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>2,182</td>
<td>2,001</td>
<td>91.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>2,391</td>
<td>2,001</td>
<td>91.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>2,391</td>
<td>2,007</td>
<td>91.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics supplied by Electricity Department, Govt. of Manipur.

4.22.3.2. Transport and Communication

Transport and Communication is the basic infrastructure needed for generation of economic activity and for bringing about prosperity and well being in the State. A well developed transport and communication system plays a vital role in ensuring sustained economic growth.
4.22.3.2.1. Communication

Allied to the transport system is the communication system. The communication system comprises of postal services, telegraph services, telephone services etc. There has been a steady growth in the postal and telecommunication facilities in the State. Besides, the government communication system, there are nos. of private business farm/companies have established recently in the State to facilitate the telecommunication services of the State.

Table No. 4.9.
Number of Postal Institutions by Districts during 2002-2003.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>District/State</th>
<th>No. of Telegraph Offices</th>
<th>No. of Telephone Exchanges</th>
<th>No. of Combined Offices (Post &amp; Telegraph)</th>
<th>No. of Telephone Working (DEL)</th>
<th>No. of P.C.Os (Local/ST D/Trunks)</th>
<th>L.D.P.C. Os (VIPS) Connecti on to VIPS, GPs, or MARR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Senapati</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1750</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tamenglong</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2383</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chandel</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ukhrul</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hill Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6079</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Imphal East</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1118</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Imphal West</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>29255</td>
<td>1335</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2611</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thoubal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2405</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valley Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35389</td>
<td>1433</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>41468</td>
<td>1606</td>
<td>889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Not available

Source: From the data supplied by Office of the General Manager, Telecom Dept., Imphal.

4.22.3. Social Infrastructure

The extent of development of social infrastructure is the major yardstick for the overall welfare of a State. Government has been taking up several development works of improving of sectors like education, public health, water
supply, social welfare, and employment etc. for the upliftment of the quality of life of the people of the state ⁴⁹.

4.22.4.1. Education

Education is a life long process by which an individual acquires and accumulates knowledge, skills, attitudes and insights. It starts from the cradle and ends at the grave for an individual. And life experiences are given to child through the informal agencies like family, social groups (clubs, associations, political parties, literary circles, debating societies), library, mass media (radio, television, cinema, museum, tour etc.) and also through the agencies of formal education such as schools, colleges, universities etc. However, education is one of the principal factors influencing the quality of the State’s labour force. It has an important role in the socio-economic development of the State.
Table No. 4.10.
Number of Recognized Educational Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Year/ District</th>
<th>Pre-Primary/Primary/J.B/ UJB schools</th>
<th>Middle/Jr.High/ Sr. Basic Schools</th>
<th>High/Hr. Sec. Schools</th>
<th>Schools for Professional &amp; Other Edn.</th>
<th>Colleges for General Education</th>
<th>Colleges for Professional &amp; Other Education</th>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>All Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>2572</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>3169</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>2572</td>
<td>784</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2001-2002 (P)</td>
<td>2574</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Senapati</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Tamenglong</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Chandel</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Ukhrul</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hill Total</strong></td>
<td>1310</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Imphal East</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Imphal West</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>Thoubal</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Valley Total</strong></td>
<td>1264</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2239</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P – Provisional
* Nil

Source: i] Statistics supplied by Directorate of Education (S), Govt. of Manipur.
  ii] Statistics supplied by Directorate of Education (U), Govt. of Manipur.
  iii] Manipur University, Canchipur
  iv] Central Agricultural University, Iroisemba.
4.22.4.2. Science & Technology

Science and Technology plays a vital role in the process of development and transformation of a traditional agrarian economy into a modern industrial economy. Development in the fields of Science and Technology in Manipur is carried out under the auspices of the State Government. The Government has been consistently laying emphasis on the development of Science and Technology as a major instrument for achieving national goals of self-reliance and socio-economic development.

Altogether, 16(sixteen) schemes were implemented by the department under 3(three) major schemes viz (i) Scientific Research, (ii) Development of Non-conventional Sources of Energy and (iii) Integrate Rural Energy Planning.

4.22.4.3. Health & Family Welfare

Medical facilities in the State were mainly provided by the State Government. It is the basic social input for healthy and efficient human resources. The State is wedded to the programme of carrying health and family planning services. Therefore, the Health and Family Welfare Department is providing services such as public health, control of communicable disease, health education, family welfare, maternal and child health care through a network of 13 Civil Hospitals 72 Primary Health Centres, 420 Primary Health Sub-Centres, 16 Community Health Centres, 20 Dispensaries and 7 Drug-de-Addiction Centres as on 31-3-2003-04. Special attention was also given from time to time to eradicate diseases like malaria, leprosy, T.B., Iodine Deficiency and aids control.

Some of the important Health and Family Welfare programmes carried out in the State as given below:

Table No. 4.11.  
District –wise number of Hospitals, Dispensaries and Patients treated in Manipur for the year 2001-2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Districts/ State</th>
<th>Hospitals</th>
<th>PHC’s &amp; CHCs</th>
<th>Dispensaries and PHSC’s</th>
<th>Beds Available</th>
<th>Patients treated (in 000 nos.)</th>
<th>Personal employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td>Outdoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sensipati</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>55413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tamenglong</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>22345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>4235</td>
<td>164783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chandel</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td>44503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ukhrul</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>29345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>8378</td>
<td>316389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Imphal East*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Imphal West</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>1433</td>
<td>38929</td>
<td>586657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>3378</td>
<td>130781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thoubal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>4636</td>
<td>176753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>1667</td>
<td>46943</td>
<td>894191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>2360</td>
<td>55321</td>
<td>1210580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pooled figures of Imphal East and Imphal West are shown against Imphal West.

Source: i) From the data supplied by Directorate of Medical & Health Services, Govt. of Manipur

ii) Statistics supplied by Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Lamphalaphat.
Table No. 4.12.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Senapati</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tamenglong</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chandel</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ukhrul</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hill Total</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Imphal East</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Imphal West</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bishnupur</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thoubal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valley Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: From the data supplied by Directorate of Medical & Health Services, Govt. of Manipur
4.22.4.4. Water Supply and Sanitation

Rural Water Supply facilities are provided to the people in rural areas under centrally sponsored Minimum Need Programme (MNP) and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The total number of habitations in rural areas in Manipur as on 1st April 2001 was 2815. During the ninth plan the rate of the target was to cover 593 habitations against which there is a shortfall of 43 inhabitants. By the end of 31st March, 2001, 2461 habitations were fully provided with drinking water facilities.

4.22.4.4.1. Sanitation

Rural Sanitation has been one of the most neglected sectors. In this regard rural Manipur has remained as primitive as ever. According to the revised guidelines of Government of India, the facility for rural sanitation programme (construction of pour flush low cost latrine) is to be extended to the people below the poverty line (BPL) with equal contribution from the State Government and the Central Government.

4.22.4.5. Social Welfare

In a welfare State, the Social Welfare Programme aims at the welfare of the weaker sections of society like destitute, infirm, physically and mentally handicapped etc. To protect them from injustice and all forms of exploitations, Government is running various institutions such as Anganwadi Centre, Destitute Homes, Children Homes or Orphanage etc. The Social Welfare Department has taken some major programmes for the welfare of the people in the State viz [i] Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS); [ii] Welfare of Aged & Infirmed; [iii] Welfare of the Women; [iv] Welfare of Disable Women; and [v] Correctional Services etc 50.
Table No. 4.13.
Number of Organizations/Institutions engaged in Social Welfare activities
1999 to 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Balwadi Centres</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>Urban Centres</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>Rural Centres</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>ECWP Centres</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Anganwadi Centres</td>
<td>4181</td>
<td>4300</td>
<td>4461</td>
<td>4501</td>
<td>4501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ICDS Projects</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Blind School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Deaf &amp; Mute School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Children Home/Orphanage</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Destitute Women Home</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Vocational training-cum Rehabilitation Centres</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>Handicapped</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Destitute women</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Bal-Bhavan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>Children Park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Observation Home &amp; Special Home</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Anganwadi Training Centres</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Not available

Source: From the data supplied by Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of Manipur.

4.22.4.6. Art & Culture

The Department of Arts and Culture, which came into existence in January, 1990, is engaged in activities of (i) preservation of cultural heritage, (ii) promotion of art and culture. To promote and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the State, the department has been organizing a number of cultural programmes inside and outside the State such as Fine Art Education, Promotion of Arts and Culture, Archives, Library, Archaeology, Museum etc.
4.22.4.7. Youth Affairs and Sports

Apart from organizing departmental programmes/schemes of physical education, sports and youth services at the state and district levels, the Directorate also extends financial assistance to voluntary youth organizations, state level sports Associations, Adventure clubs, youth welfare programmes. The Youth Affairs and Sports Department extend various youth programme and services. They are:

[i] State youth centre provide facilities for training of youth and launching the different youth service programme; [ii] Anti drug abuse programme; [iii] Youth leadership training; [iv] Entrepreneurship training for educated unemployed youth; [v] Youth festival and integration camp; [vi] Youth exchange and tour of youth leaders; [vii] Youth afforestation camps; and [viii] Work camps of youth for community services etc.

4.23. Special Employment Generation Programme

To address the problems of unemployed youths in the State particularly among the educated unemployed youths an innovative special programme known as “Special Employment Generation Programme” has been launched by the Manipur State Government from 2004-2005. Salient features of the programme are:

- To provide employment opportunities to the youths of Manipur to cover a minimum target of 15,000 beneficiaries during three years.
- Must be in the age group of 20 to 45 years.
- Schemes/Trades under the programme cover Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary & Animal Husbandry, Medical, Industries, Transport, Sericulture, Fisheries, Trading, IT etc.
- The scheme will be implemented by Manipur State Co-operative Bank, Ltd (MSCB) with the involvement of the Deputy Commissioners of Districts and the State Planning Department.

This is a three year programme with the funding arrangement of Rs. 30 crores for 2004-05, Rs. 70 crores for 2005-06 and Rs. 50 crores for 2006-07. For 2004-05, 2592 beneficiaries have been selected under different trades. Loan/assets to the selected beneficiaries have been distributed.

4.24. Technology for Rural Development

Knowledge and information are essential for people to successfully respond to the opportunities and challenges of social, economic and technological changes. But to be useful, knowledge and information must be effectively communicated to people.

"If information and knowledge are central to democracy, they are the conditions of development" - Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, opined in an address to the World Bank Conference ‘Global Knowledge’; 1997.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is one of the key components of modern society which facilitates the rapid growth & development of a country. With globalization and liberalization of the world economy, people from every corner have got the opportunity to communicate among each other and made the concept of global village a reality. Various programmes from Central and State governments and Non Governmental Organizations are involved in the development of rural areas with the help of ICT tools.

Advances in ICT, however, have brought about an immense change in the way we acquire, store, search and disseminate information. With voice and
pictures added to the information content, better learning resources could be
developed which generated more interest in information use55.

4.24.1. What is ICT?

ICT refers to “a broad spectrum of technologies that allow users to get,
produce, and share ideas and resources. It is useful to keep this concept in mind as
we begin to strategize ways to use technology as a tool for “leapfrogging” stages of
development”56.

Information and Communication Technology is an integrated set of
technologies used not only to code and process data, but also to manage
information and processes to achieve more efficient and effective results by
optimizing the management of resources, the flow of information and know how
57.

4.24.2. Rural Prosperity through ICT

To fulfill the dream plan of our President of India, His Excellency, Dr.
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, i.e. RUPCON “Rural Prosperity through Connectivity”. We
should develop our rural areas by giving them exposure regarding communication
system like phone, computer, internet etc. From village panchayat network should
start by linking Panchayat Unions, District Head Quarters and State Capitals.
Before this we should computerize the data relating to land, water resources,
government schemes and day to day marketing rates for agricultural products. So
that we can achieve the status of running an “Online Government” and information
can be accessed faster by avoiding red taps with more transparent by any one from
rural area to any where in India as well as in World58.
4.24.3. ICTs for Development

Information and Communication Technologies for Development is an increasingly popular, general term referring to the application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) within the field of socio-economic development. ICTs can be applied either in the direct sense, where their use directly benefits the disadvantaged population in some manner, or in an indirect sense, where the ICTs assist aid organizations or non-governmental organizations or governments in order to improve socio-economic conditions. In many impoverished regions of the world, legislative and political measures need to be taken to facilitate or enable application of ICTs, especially with respect to monopolistic communications structures and censorship laws 59.

4.24.4. Emphasis and Importance of ICT in Rural Development

General awareness on computer is being created through various efforts by governmental and non-governmental agencies. The National Informatics Center (NIC) was set up for this purpose. In a separate programme called Computerized Rural Information Systems Projects (CRISP), the Rural Development Ministry and NIC collaborated to deploy ICT in each District Rural Development Agencies. The emphasis was on social sectors, such as health, education and rural development 60.

National Information Infrastructure has been evolved now as a network of networks including nation-wide computer networks known as NICNET under the Planning Commission. The Government of India is now encouraging voluntary initiatives to spreads computer education to the needy and rural poor.

4.25. Conclusion

Rural development does not mean construction of pucca roads and bridge in rural areas, sinking of deep tube-wells in unirrigated lands, setting up of new rural health centres or bringing in electricity for the rural people, only. Rural
development obviously includes all these, but development of human resources still living below poverty lines is the main, formidable task. This is something, which troubles the nation.

Even 57 years after independence, a large number of the total population in our country daily grapples with poverty owing to uneven distribution of wealth. The question that it would have linked to answer is: how to raise their standard of living? For this, an all out effort is required so that the social opportunities available to them are expanded.

Expansion of social opportunities for the majority of our people living below the poverty line can be visible through a rise in the level of income and employment greater access to education, sanitation, health care services and nutrition, and better scope for participation in the socio-political process.

As we see it, providing information support for rural development is a very tough task because of many factors. It would like to stress only the primary factors: the huge information gap existing between the planners and the executive on the one hand, and the target group on the other. There are many government schemes, which aim at uplifting the quality of life of the poor, but many of those people are simply not aware of these facilities.

Among the three tiers of the panchayats (two tier system of panchayat in Manipur) only gram panchayat comes closer to the people in real term. Even at that level, people associated with the panchayats are so busy with their day-to-day functioning that there is little scope for devising some means for dissemination of this kind of information among the target group of people that we are talking about. In fact, there is a perceptible feeling that if anything is to be done for the poor let everybody does it. In any case, the poor themselves cannot improve their
lot. What good can some pieces of information do in this respect? So providing information always becomes neglected.

To know, a lot of discussion will be made about the use of computer, satellite etc. for the central idea of providing information support. There is no doubt that with judicious expansion of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to the far-flung villages it is possible to make accessible to the common people the data relating to the status of individual land records, the format of application for a Scheme on one of the rural development programmes of the Government, the nearest official to be contacted for redress of some grievances, availability of beds in a hospital or requirements for admission into an academic institution. But the kind of information it need to bring and make available to the rural people is the openings and opportunities that the government has devised for the people still living below the poverty line. So far, nobody has yet made an arrangement for informing these people what the planners have thought for them, and what the executive have lined up for them.

All the details of the poverty-alleviation schemes like Annapurna Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana etc. can be made available in the village based public libraries. The success stories of the self-Helper Groups of women should also be available there. We the library professionals can add endless instances to this list of mine. Except its neo-literate members, a rural library and information centres generally serves the educated middle-class. The kind of poor people that, we are talking about is yet to come to a library because, for them, it is a luxury, and not a necessity. Can’t we invite them to the libraries or information centres? With the promise of what the government has in store for them? It is here that the significance of linking the libraries and information centres with the movement of literacy, continuing education and sarba siksha abhijan attains utmost importance.
Providing the basic information that can affect the quality of their lives for the better must be the job of a library and community information services at this level. For this, on the one hand the libraries and other library staff/professional have to be more responsive to their environment, both at the macro as well as micro level. On the other, it is our (library professional) job to equip them with printed material and, if possible, with audio-visual material, and train them so that they can provide this information service to the needy people around them.

The concept of the library as a community information resource centre is inherent in the basic scientific philosophy guiding library services as a whole. Without this, rural development will have no meaning.\(^\text{61}\)

The need for integrated approach becomes clear still when it is realized that for a group of persons displaced from its present occupational and living pattern, a well conceived viable alternative may have to be comprised of mixed agriculture i.e. containing components of agriculture, horticulture, irrigation, animal husbandry, forestry, even cottage industry. For such backward communities as under consideration, inputs of social services like education, health, etc. would require to be added. In fact, provision of the basic or minimum needs would become an imperative necessity. The entire programme is to be executed as one systematic package, requiring project approach. We suspect that many earlier programmes for tackling the problem suffered due to lack of integrated multidisciplinary approach.

Finally, the development problem of the rural areas of Manipur lay in the continued use of traditional methods and technologies of production and services rather than in any intrinsic in egalitarian socio-economic setting. The shortage of labour call for introduction of labour saving devices in agriculture and allied sectors and therefore development of appropriate technologies should be the main
plank of rural development strategy in the rural areas of Manipur State. This needs to be supplemented with the promotion of decentralized primary and secondary activities using new technologies of production, processing and marketing by involving the people in the development process directly.

References


3. GHOSH (A). NGOs and Information from Below. All India Conference of IASLIC. 24th Dehradun. 2003. IASLIC Special Publication. 43; P. 345-346.


8. DAS (B B) and KHAN (S). Role of Libraries of Public Libraries as one of the grass roots functionaries in Rural Development. The present
scenario in West Bengal. All India Conference of IASLIC, 24th, Dehra Dun, 2003. IASLIC Special Publication. 43; P. 345-346.


15. Ibid, p.3.


38. Ibid.


42. Ibid, P. 23.

43. Ibid, P. 25.

44. DIRECTORATE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ. Annual Administrative Report 2002-03. P. 13-14


46. SHANTA MEITEI (L) and PURNIMA DEVI (TH). Information Needs of Small Scale Industries: Prospect of E-Commerce in Manipur. ILA Bulletin. 43, 1; Jan-Mar. 2007; 5-12.


48. Ibid

49. Ibid

50. Ibid
52. POKNAPHAM DAILY NEWSPAPER, 1st June 2006; 4.
57. HUSSAIN (R). Op. cit. 143