ABSTRACT

Development, particularly in rural areas, is a product of a series of successful efforts. This is a lesson we have drawn from the implementation of various rural development programmes in the last three decades. How to provide productive employment on a permanent basis to the ever increasing labour force is the real problem facing rural India.

Community Development, as its name suggest is a combination of processes in which a community develops its capacity to make adaptations, achievements and adjustments with its environment and ensures progress from a lower level of functioning to a higher level. It involves increased utilization of resources, better participation of the members of the community and inculcating a spirit of co-operation among members for improving their standard of living through working for better amenities and facilities.

Indicators of Community Development

"Myrdal" (1968) in his classic study of development in several developing countries noted that economic growth has not helped the poor segment of the population within nation. It was than proposed that the future thrust of development projects should focus on improving the accessibility of common person in the economic development programmes. "The key indicators for such an approach were improvement in health, education and employment of people in general with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups such as minority population groups, women and other socially deprived groups".

Health: The well known indicators of health status are the expectancy at birth, child mortality rates, female mortality rates, birth amended by trained manpower, nutritional status, immunization coverage etc. The importance of access to clean drinking water which is one of the most important measures of
health can not be overemphasized. Market friendly development efforts have been promoting the sale of safe drinking water, soft drinks and alcohol pouch in their places to combat water borne diseases, responsible for more than 35 percent of the death of young children in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

**Education:** Access to quality education is considered an important aspect of Community Development in the developing nations. Literacy levels are taken as an indicator along with enrolment at school particularly female enrolment. For example, among the least developed countries, literacy rates average only 44.7 percent of the total population in 1997. The corresponding rates for all developing countries are approximately 64 percent and 99 percent respectively. Further, the impact of education particularly in the rural areas and among the women remains grossly under researched.

**Access to Employment:** Development specialists indicate that the labour force in the developing countries is under utilized on account of under employment- people, both rural and urban, working less than they could (daily, weekly or seasonally) and employment- people who are able and willing to work but are unable to join the labour force. Many experts have suggested better education facilities for promoting proper utilization of labour force.

**Political Development:** Political development aims at creating a system of distribution of power to take collective decisions which have implication for the society as a whole and to enforce them through a transparent, participatory and legitimate process. The legitimacy here means that people in general have participated in expressing their opinion about who should govern and how? In other words a system of democratic institutions is put in place, which is sustainable and functional.

Before considering the problems of community development, we must define what we mean by Community. “Arensberg and Kimball(1965)” defined that
“Community should be viewed as a process that involving social structure and cultural behavior”. Our own approach will start with the notion of community as a master system encompassing social forms and cultural behavior in independent subsidiary system (institution). As far community is concerned we deal primarily with rural communities - village and small towns – for two reasons. First, most community development projects have taken place in such communities and second the problems of urban communities are so distinct that they are best treated separately. What are the limits of community in terms of population size? “Frankenberg” points out that size on its own is not a distinguishing criterion. Most of the communities which have been involved in community development have ranged from a few hundred to a few thousand people; it is not possible to be more precise than this. In addition to absolute numbers, density of population is important, obviously the opportunities for development are greater where there is a relatively high density than where the population is thinly scattered one a wide area. “A detailed knowledge of the ethnological and demographic features of the population is an essential prerequisite for any community development project”.

Community development is an educational process which also owes something of its inspiration to the social work origins of the concepts and methods used in community development programmes and field practice. However, in the voluminous material on the subject, the nature of community development will be found described as a programme, a method, a movement, a philosophy as well as a process.

One useful lesson that emerged from the rural development experiences is that the various schemes, whether area oriented or target group oriented, fail to confer lasting benefits on the rural poor unless they form an integral part of the block plan which should be based on the resource endowments and constraints of the area concerned, failure to realize this in the past has resulted
in misfire of programmes and misutilization or non utilization of assets and infrastructure created.

Natural resources include all-those things which have been bestowed by nature and upon which man works to produce goods for the satisfaction of his wants. The process of development implies a better and more efficient use of these resources by men with the help and aid of those resources which he has created himself for facilitating his work. Lack of natural resources does affect the growth process adversely unless the paucity of local based resources compensated by obtaining them from abroad. Among the important natural resources which a country needs to process or obtain are the land resources, the forest wealth, the water resources, the mineral resources etc. The extent or amount of resources is not united to only those which are known or discovered. It also includes undiscovered resources, which may come to be found out only with the process of development of knowledge and skill, and may these contribute to the future course of growth of economy.

Land is one of the important natural resources, which helps not only the national economic growth but also in the betterment of the community. It can be proved as an asset for the people’s upliftment if used properly. Land reform is essential to increase the productivity of the people.

In this work, I have attempted to identify and analyze the issues and problems associated with agriculture sector and land reforms in India’s most populous state Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Uttar Pradesh is a land locked state, mainly rural with an economy that is primarily agrarian. The industrialization pattern in the state is highly skewed with the western region of the state accounting for most of the industries of the state. The main agricultural crops in the state are wheat, rice, sugar, potatoes, barley, vegetables cotton etc. The sectoral break up of the states
GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) in 2002-03 was 32 percent from agriculture, of which merely 11 percent came from manufacturing, and 41 percent from services.

The Green Revolution followed the introduction of high yielding varieties of wheat and rice in the late 1960's and early 1970's and began in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh. The gains in agricultural production that went along with the introduction of new technology lifted India from the status of a food deficient country to a self sufficient one. Clearly, after a certain point, there is no way to increase land area under cultivation. The seed fertilizer technology that came about via agricultural research and development made it possible to dramatically increase yields, making the use of existing land more efficient. The increase in yields and agricultural productivity in rural areas has translated into development gains for the rural poor.

Land reform with various dimensions have been one of the major issues before the nation as a whole and remained sensitive among the states since pre independence period. A number of studies have been conducted on land reforms addressing the issues of equity and distributive justice, implementation and impacts. This study is also one among them with a difference that this study has been conducted not only to understand the status of implementation and its impacts on the society but also to explore the possibility and potential of this measure for promoting human development. Uttar Pradesh is one of the states where the issues of land reforms could attract leaders of freedom movement most. There have been expectations that the political will of the poor sensitive government in power could translate the expectation of the landless poor, particularly dalit through effective implementation of land redistribution in order to empower dalit in rural sense. Present study is an attempt to comprehend the ground reality of land reform.
and its contribution towards promotion of human development in Uttar Pradesh.

This study examines the developmental process through the land reforms measures in the rural India in the context of Uttar Pradesh with reference to Aligarh with a particular focus on economic infrastructure such as transport and communication, power, irrigation, credit, marketing, storage and processing and social infrastructure such as education, research, extension and health.

The results on linkages between infrastructural development and agriculture development clearly bring out the critical role of access of infrastructure such as transport, power, irrigation and research are critically important from the point of view of enhancing agricultural productivity. Transport and power seem to be complementary to each other in the sense that the accessibility to roads is normally followed by supply of power. With improvement in access to power, the irrigation infrastructure also improves particularly through energisation of pumpsets. In turn, improved irrigation facilities coupled with research input enhances agriculture productivity. The other infrastructure facilities like access to fertilizer sale points, market, credit infrastructure, extension services etc also gets developed with development of transport infrastructure.

Land policies need to deal with both production and distribution of produced goods and the productive assets to provide meaningful employment. Such policies affect various interests involved in land. Those who possess large chunk of land accumulate large amounts of surplus and hence make all efforts to preserve large amount of surplus and hence make all efforts to preserve their control over land, and thereby their power and status in a caste based and hierarchical society. On the other hand, those who have been deprived of
productive resources and production struggle to regain control over land and other resources.

It gives an opportunity to be exposed to the problems of land reforms and if these problems removed then how land reforms can be effective for the community development of the area. While dealing with the varied dimensions of the problem of land reforms, one thing has been developed that the land reform was necessary for emancipation of the rural poor, and for the upliftment of these poor people. Land reform in Uttar Pradesh is the area of the study, as it offers a more comprehensive and inclusive field for an analytic study of the problem.

Land reforms have been major instruments of social transformation in a post colonial and backward economy based on feudal and semi-feudal productive relationships. The main objective of the programme has been to increase agricultural production and build an egalitarian social order as envisaged in the constitution social order as envisaged in the constitution of India. Land reforms occupied a central place in the political agenda of the country during the 1950’s and the 1960’s, but this has no longer been the case in the 1990’s, since, India has entered an era of globalization and liberalization. Land reforms have now been pushed to the backstage of government policy, academic research and the agenda of action groups. Several scholars, policy makers and activists feel that land reforms need to be restored to its prime position in the political agenda of the country.

The present study stresses on the role of land reform in bringing out human development and social development that is why the present study is different from other studies in various ways. Through land reforms, community development can be brought about in the proper way; land reform is an important area to channelize the betterment of the area and community. This would be necessary not only for bringing about equality and social justice, but
also for laying sound foundations for viable growth, so that India could compete in the global market. It would also be necessary to take stock of the land reforms programme—its success and failures the challenges that it is facing and new issues that have emerged during the last 50 years.

“Land to the tiller” was the slogan given by Indian peasantry during freedom struggle of India. In post independence period land reforms measures have been considered as a vital element in the anti poverty thrust for increased agricultural productivity. Late Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi (1970) at the Chief Ministers conference suggested that “land reform is the most crucial test which our political system must survive. It is also an essential pre requisite for self sufficiency in food grains.” Since then a number of positive steps have been taken by various state governments in this direction. The recent decade is known for the far reaching changes made in various sectors of economy under the banner of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) as well as stabilization process. The changed economic environment has raised several controversies regarding nature of reforms needed in agricultural sector. There is much space for state intervention to provide protective measures for landless, marginal and small farmers through legislation and regimentation of society, when the stalwarts of reform process recommend the solution based on dialogue and peoples participation.

OBJECTIVES

(1) To study the community development and land reform as a theoretical concepts.

(2) To study the evolutionary aspect of land reforms.

(3) To study the role of land reforms in raising community development.
(4) To study and analyze the governmental efforts, initiatives and programmes pertaining to land reforms and community development.

(5) To study the impact of land reforms measures on productivity, employment and income distribution.

(6) To examine the inter-regional inequalities in the state of UP and analyze the pattern of concentration of land holdings therein.

RESEARCH PROPOSITION (HYPOTHESIS)

Keeping the objectives in mind, the following research propositions have been formulated and tested in this study.

(1) As the level of awareness and literacy rises, it has a direct and positive impact upon the community life.

(2) As the people participation takes place in large number, the programme becomes more successful.

(3) There are inter-linkages between land reforms and overall community development.

(4) As land is the basic necessity of the human life, it has a positive impact on other aspects of the human development.

(5) There is an impact of land reforms on agrarian structure and production.

(6) There is an impact of land reforms on income distribution and employment.

(7) Land Reform is helpful in achieving social justice by attributing measures.
It is hypothesized that rural poor are neglected in the society.

It is hypothesized that government machinery is negligent on their part to implement the schemes properly.

It is hypothesized that the participation of voluntary organizations may help the government to achieve the desire result.

CASE STUDY

The district Aligarh has been selected as the case study for two important reasons, first, the researcher having being in the job in Aligarh District had been interacting and observing the phenomena of social change. Social problem, social structure, social organization and the community development in the district since long. Hence, it is considered worthwhile that for deep analysis the researchers experience could usefully be utilized and secondly, the district itself provides a fascinating field for research because of its heterogeneous composition and due to the impact of Green Revolution

METHODOLOGY

Aligarh District has been selected for the purpose of present study and its case history has been prepared for the purpose of this study. The development trend of the villages from area to area has been calculated in term of simple percentage and growth rate. The spatial distribution of villages has been analyzed by nearest neighbor analysis and rank-size rule has been applied to understand the rank and size relationship of district and villages.

To study the changes in functional structure of villages, the method of functional classification has been applied.

To study the infrastructural development, centrality score and composite index of the selected indicators has been calculated.
To analyze the inter linkages in terms of socio-economic facilities like education, medical etc. simple percentages have been calculated.

Research methodology used, are historical through which I tried to trace the historical perspective of land reforms in Uttar Pradesh, analytical, which helped to analyze various data and comparative which helped to compare the various issues and, data related to community development and land reforms in India, particularly in Uttar Pradesh.

FINDINGS

“Land reforms mean such institutional changes as make properly relation favorable to the tillers of the soil and which raise the size of units of cultivation to make them operationally viable”. In broad sense, land reforms mean all the changes which are deliberately introduced to overcome the institutional and motivational hurdles which keep agriculture in a state of backwardness or stagnancy. Land reforms aim at altering the property relations in land to the benefit of small farmers and tenants. The term land reform includes the measures adopted with a view to enlarging the size of unit of cultivation to make it economically viable. In another words land reforms mean only the redistribution of property rights in land for benefits of small farmers and agricultural workers. It would be proper to include in land reforms any change in agricultural relations and agricultural organization aimed at the improvement and modernization of agriculture. “F.A.O” has defined it, “Land reform means not only redistribution of land but also other measures directed at better tenancy systems and more efficient land management”.

It can be concluded, that the experience of many countries shows the crucial role of land reforms in providing not only a source of income, security and status for the non-landowning rural poor, but also as a foundation for broader
rural development and political stability. Accumulated experience also provides responses to the current challenges of land reforms that are highly likely to be both affordable and politically feasible over the coming years. Land reforms in many setting thus appear both necessary and achievable.

However, the success in the land reform movements has not been up to the mark. Land reform movements have been failure in many ways. The most dismal failure of the land reform programme has been in respect of the land ceiling and redistribution. There were courts proceedings, political problems and benami land holdings. And large parts of the land deemed surplus was declared unsuitable for cultivation. Regarding tenants, in practice, there were very few recorded tenants. Progress regarding consolidation of holdings was regionally uneven. Where this took place, it worsened the position of small tenants. In the economically backward areas the notion of a Civil Society where the state machinery is at least formally neutral between the contending classes, is absent. There is a De facto fusion of economic and political power, where the landlords and rich peasants use the repressive apparatus of the state to compel peasants to conform to custom. Peasant’s struggles are inevitably accompanied by violence, which is preceded and provoked by the violence of the landlords and their Senas (private armies) with the backing of the state apparatus. A number of reports of the Delhi based peoples unions for democratic rights during the 1980s and 1990s bring out this aspect quite vividly. “A new democratic land reform can not be delinked from what is integral to a new democracy and in this light the land reform should hasten the democratization of production, relations as regards ownership rights in productive property, the determination and form of remuneration of labour, the balance between material and non material incentives, sensitiveness to the gender and caste questions and the relationship between political cadres, scientists and the technologists, administrators and the actual tillers of the
land”. The land reform should be based upon mass support and therefore, if necessary gradualist.

In sum, secure and stable access to land provides a foundation for better livelihood and living conditions. It also helps the rural poor to benefit from broad-based economic growth.

In the last decade, the number of Indian living in poverty has come down from 35 percent to 26 percent. But, as there has been little forward movement on key development indicators, India is stuck, for the second year in a row, at its ranking of 127 (out of 177 Countries) on the Human Development Index (HDI) as indicated below in the following table.

**TABLE**

**Key Indicators of Human Development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key indicators</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Bangla Desh</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>U. S. A.</th>
<th>Norway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDI Overall Ranking (out of 177)</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Poverty (Rank)</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Equity (Rank)</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Expectancy Index</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Index</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality Rate (Per 1000)</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Human Development Report- 2005*

In the present study I have attempted to analyse the issues and problems associated with agriculture sector of Uttar Pradesh, particularly regarding the role of land reforms for agricultural development. It also focuses on the impact of land reforms on the community development in the district Aligarh. The following study also makes a comparative analysis of intra-state (Eastern
U.P. and Western U.P.) study indicating the social and economic aspects of the state and compare U.P.'s performance relative to some of the other major states of India.

The present study is an attempt to understand the impact of land reforms on structure of agricultural holdings, agricultural production, employment and income distribution. It is expected that those who receive the surplus land would be able to use the same as a base for improving their economic and social status, and that land would be intensively cultivated with family labour which would reduce the unemployment and underemployment faced by these sections in rural areas. It is therefore, necessary to study in depth the structural changes in agricultural holdings, utilization of surplus land by the allottees, their production, employment generated and income distribution.

The main purpose of this work is to look upon the social and economic consequences of land reforms which have had implications for structural changes, mainly in the agrarian society at the level of family, kinship, marriage, *Jajmani* system, share cropping and labour system. The land reform measures aimed at abolition of institution of intermediaries, rent receivers, security of tenure to tenants, ceiling on land acquisition, distribution of surplus land among the landless, regulation of wages and supply of modern agricultural inputs.

It has been observed that agriculture had become a problem of relationship between man and man than between man and land. As such the term “Land Reform” symbolizes by itself a certain degree of maladjustment in the distribution of land both owned land and cultivated land, that necessitated some ameliorative measures to bring about a more just and /or egalitarian redistribution of land among the cultivating class.

The present study has examined the social and economic consequences of land reforms in District Aligarh of Uttar Pradesh. While examining the social
and economic consequences, emphasis has been laid upon in the following indicators of social and economic development, Literacy, Life expectancy, Health, Drinking water, Happiness, Employment etc.

Land reforms provided a necessary condition in itself for quick alleviation of rural poverty and social injustice. However, they will have to be supplemented by measures like removal of illiteracy, and various other infrastructural and institutional constraints to development. Also, they should be integrated with other anti poverty programmes like IRDP, and NREP for yielding better results.

The planners, administrators and the leaders of the people at the national and state levels, as well as at the village levels, have to put “their shoulders to the wheel” if we have to see results in the near future. Old landlordism has to be abolished, and for that reforms have to be carried out. But the importance of administrator cannot be overemphasized in the whole scheme. The political leaders at different levels together with the active participation of people are an integral part of the entire scheme.

Thus the principal components of an effective land reforms strategy seem to be-

(1)- Political commitment at the top.

(2)- Administrative preparedness, including the improvement of the technical design of enactments, the provision of financial resources and the streamlining of the organizational machinery of implementation.

(3)- Creation of necessary support services for the beneficiaries.

(4)- The organization of beneficiaries themselves as land reforms cannot be properly enforced without popular cooperation and support at all levels.
Finally, it is also important that potential beneficiaries are made aware of the land reforms programme.

The existing socio-economic order in which power base lies with the rural rich needs to be radically changed to a new order in which power balance with favour the rural poor. In the ultimate analysis, land reforms would improve the future prospects in relation to raising farm productivity, income and employment through the creation of new incentives and opportunities for increased work and investment.

Based on the discussion and analysis of this study following findings are thrown up for consideration of the implementing agencies and functionaries in order to achieve effective targets of land reforms:-

1. A poor peasant Land Management Committee (LMC) at village level should be formed to verify the implementation status.

2. Poor peasants cooperative should be formed and follow up packages, access to credit, etc. should be rooted through cooperative.

3. Undistributed scattered land parcels should be consolidated and redistributed through cooperative ownership.

4. Poor peasant committee should be provided legal support to identify *benami* transfer of land. The *benami* land should be declared surplus and those surplus lands should be redistributed among poor households on the recommendation of poor peasant land management committee.

5. Wasteland should be acquired and transferred to landless through their cooperative ownership and follow up assistance should be rooted through cooperative in reference.

6. Ban on individual purchase of redistributed land should be executed effectively.
7. Assured irrigation cooperatives of landless peasants should be formed to provide irrigation on distributed and other lands.

8. Effective insurance cover on crops should be extended through micro finance cooperative of land beneficiaries.

9. A provision for direct institutional loan on land should be extended to the beneficiary of land directly on producing kisan passbook.

10. Subsidized inputs should be provided to the beneficiaries of land.

11. Indifference and negligence in implementation of land redistribution and possession by functionaries should be treated as cognizable & non-bailable offence.

12. Administration and policy implementing agencies should be made accountable directly for non possession and should be punished in terms of career of service.

13. Best implementing functionaries should be given incentives.