An all out attempt has been made for the upliftment of the rural society in free India since 1952, under the Community Development Programme and the projects thereof and the Panchayati Raj Institution. Initially the block headquarters were made the focal points of developmental activities in the rural scene of the country, and these were progressively conceived to be dispatched to wider areas covering the optimum mass of the rural folk. The primary aim of the Community Development Programme was to involve the people in general and to acquire maximum participation which later on dissipated slowly and retrogradely due to complacence of the officials and involvement of vested interest and party politics. At a later stage the policy of the Government was changed by which the authority of the block organisation as well as the panchayat institution was divested, and the developmental activities were handed over to the State's department. As a result, the noble aim of socio-cultural synthesis, integration and rapid rural development was found to be at a lower web. However, there was complete absence of evaluation of the progresses made during the decades of planning and development specially in Assam. It has been found expedient to exhume the cause and effects of the Community development movement and their impact on the rural folk during the last
planning regimes.

In order to achieve the above goal the author was disappointed to learn the lapses of record maintenance in the block headquarters and other Government departments regarding the improvements of the rural areas and consequently a detailed time consuming survey had to be conducted in the entire study area for a period of four consecutive years. The completion of the work under these circumstances was unduly delayed. The entire study project has been divided into four parts consisting of fifteen chapters. The specific development projects and their impact on the rural population have been dealt with in different chapters. In order to verify the empirical observations, the author took up three case-studies of divergent nature.

The author has put adequate emphasis on graphicacy and numeracy aspects of the analysis in order to give a vivid picture of the situations in the study area. There are forty-two maps, diagrams and graphs; and sixty-three Tables along with four Appendices in the Thesis.

Attempts are made through this study to evaluate not only the degree of transformation of the rural mass but also to unfurl the lacunae and lapses in the Community development movement. It is desired that this type of work will assist the planners for improvement and betterment of future planning process.

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