No doubt, theoretical framework of Community Development Programme is an important aspect yet its actual practice is more important. In fact in order to find out the extent of actual practice one has to make a thorough investigation through empirical studies. In this respect a lot of segments of society have to be consulted and interviewed personally by the researchers. Community development is a very comprehensive subject and needs a lot of time, energy and of course huge funds. On account of these main factors one has his own limitations. Consequently, in this case, though an attempt has been made to cover up as many villages and as many people as was possible yet concentration has been put on a few selected (random basis) villages to find out the actual practice and impact of community development programme on the rural areas and rural people. In this context areas of Provinces - Buri Ram, Chiang Rai, Song-Khla, Kanchana Buri and Chantha Buri were selected for the field work. More than 100 each, real beneficiaries, government officials, social workers/ members of NGOs/ teachers/ students have been
interviewed to know their opinion regarding the practice and impact of community development in these respective areas. So far the questions were concerned almost the same questions with some variations were asked from the respective categories and the same have been analysed accordingly.

The following villages were selected for the study of actual practice of community development programme in their respective areas:

1. Name of the Village : Baan Khao Krok
   Sub-district ( Tambon ) : Khao Dok,
   District ( Ampour ) : Pra Konchai
   ( North-east Thailand )
   Province ( Changwad ) : Buri Ram

The village of Baan Khao Krok, located near the Khorat valley, is Inhabited by Thai Hindus-Buddhist living gracefully in communion with nature. The valley covers an area of 651 square kilometers of villages population around 3000 people of 340 families.¹

¹. The Royal Programme, The Green Northeast, I-San khew, Hand Book ( Bangkok : CDD, 1998 ), pp. 8-9 ( Translated from Thai )
According to village headman the population was 3500 upto March, 2000.
The following chart explains the activities and the extent of participation of the villagers in Community Development:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>People's Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1980 - and 1987-90 | The NGOs and people's participation to Social-Community Service on 3 step of village Baan Khao Krok:  
A. 1980 - Training of Educational social workers to combat illiteracy.  
C. 1990-1999 Neo literacy and long life Education programmes in the field of education continuing with adult education, voluntary-and vocational education, new life style. | 63 persons  
177 persons  
363 persons, 77 groups |
| 1990       | Sri Phen Buttri social worker of Sarvodaya, to promote the conceptualization of communal-harmony, for community development. Started in May, 1990. | 329 persons. |
| 1993       | Training to volunteers and students for social welfare towards:  
- Sustainable Agriculture,  
- Problem of Deforestation and the way of resolution,  
- Value of local Wisdom in respect of Natural Resources and Human beings, Local method of ecological balance. | 300 - persons  
250- up  
600 persons - up |

The highlight of the survey in this village was that here people understand the meaning of Gandhi's constructive programme and Sarvodaya. Moreover, Gandhian and Sarvodaya literature has been translated into Thai and the same has been distributed in a good number. Here people's response was considerably good and some of the persons interviewed were fully aware of the achievements and failures of the community development programme.

2. Name of the Village : Baan Kaw Jai
   Sub-district ( Tambon ) : Similah
   District ( Ampour ) : Rattaphum - Songkhla Lake
   Province ( Changwad ) : Songkhla

   ( Southern Region )

   Southern Thailand has a richly varied topography, including basin areas for cultivation of paddy and vegetables, wild jungles, mountains,
beaches, seaside resorts, waterfalls, caves, parks, lakes and many islands of all sizes, offering spectacular scenery throughout.  

Songkhla, a somnolent fishing town on the Gulf has a splendid beach, off-shore islands and an extensive inland, sea gull bird, and Khukhut waterfall sanctuary.

**Population** : The total population of Baan Kaw Jai, in 1998 was 1794 people, 963 males and 831 females, children below 10 years were 241, and over 10 years upto 15 years were 193, and over 15 years upto 18 years old were 74 and approximately 343 households.

Educational background of the family chief of Baan kaw Jai village is Primary Education of Class "Prathom 6" about 42.3 per cent, and Secondary Education of Class 12 "Mathayom 6" about 21.2 per cent, University Degree B. A. or B. Sc. Are 3.1 per cent, higher education M. Sc, M. A., Ph. D. about 1.2 per cent, Traditional Education and religious-moral education training about 3.5 per cent, diploma of polytechnique and

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vocational education certificate about 16.6 per cent, and Neo-literacy rate was 12.1 per cent, by this way Baan Kaw Jai village has no body illiterate.  

In this village the special and notable activity was seen that here Khadi has been used in an old system of Thai-Muslim traditional clothing production, and promotion of youth-student to learn and practice hand-made articles to promote local trade. 70 per cent of local youth-students have been learning Khadi production as trainees and between 40-50 persons are being trained every year.

Community Development of village Baan Kaw Jai, aims at primarily to generate the qualities of community life, promotion and development of agriculture, health and social service to promote prohibition, to remove illiteracy and ignorance, management of water-supply and other community services.

3 Name of the Village : Mata Bhikhun
Sub-district (Tambon) : Tung Benja
District (Ampour) : Thamai
Province (Changwad) : Chantha Buri

5. Shorlar, Manuan Madin Bin, Investigation Toward Education system at Baan Kaw Jai, Report presented to Song Khla teachers college, Raja Bhat, 9 November, 1999, p. 7. (Record verified from the village Headman)
Chantha Buri, commonly called "Muang Chan", meaning "City of the Moon", fully lives up to its beautiful name, for the town, which is clothed in a permanent mantal of green clings serenely to the banks of the gently meandering Chanthaburi River. It has long been famous amongst Thais for the quality of the gemstones which are both mined and cut in and around the city. Also, it is often referred to as the "Fruit Garden of the Siam and South-East Asia", for the long rainy season, which lasts for eight months which is ideal for the growing of such tropical delights as the "rambutan", "mangosteen", and that most delectable of fruits, "the Durian".6

Mata Bhikhun village of Chantha Buri Province is about 323 kilometers on Highway N0. 36 from Bangkok, and village-community centre of Mata Bhikhun is far around 31 kilometers from Chantha Buri town on Sukhumvhit Highway. It is wealthy and rich in natural resources, particularly gems in addition to the plentiful field of tropical fruits including Rambutan, Durian, Custard, Apple and, Longgan products from the seas are also available in plenty.

Thirty-one kilometers far from the municipality of Muang district of Chantha Buri province is located Baan Mata Bhikhun village in Thamai district, where community development centre has been opened officially since 1962.\textsuperscript{7}

The villagers' houses have been built substantially in groups with village road and sub-road, or lanes cut locking the village into sections. In this village according to village headman there are around 508 people and 118 households. The first literacy survey in 1962 showed over a hundred illiterate inhabitants. The second literacy survey in 1982, including only the target population aged between 15-50 years; revealed only 47 illiterate residents to be included in the National Literacy Campaign Project (1980-1985). However, in this village in the third literacy survey in 1995, all villagers were recorded as literate. Furthermore, the villagers have been participating in socio-economic development programmes, and the villagers responded positively when they were contacted as volunteers of community development activities.

Here, majority of villagers make their living on agriculture. Traditional farming practices in Mata Bhikhun village and all over Chantha Buri province; revolves around the bush fallow system which has proved to be a very sustainable and ecologically sound system. The following practices are being used especially by small-holders. In general, the natural conditions are favourable for crops and animal breeding. It must be noted here that Mata Bhikhun village and all over Chantha Buri Province has developed a sustainable agricultural and diversified agriculture. Significant achievements which have been recorded in agricultural production especially in the production of food and other farm products for export; have met people's food demands.\(^8\)

The focus has been on the following activities, main features have been to realise the following:

1. Encompassing community education,
2. Awareness - raising,
3. Strengthening informal social net works,
4. Facilitating self - help development,

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5. Linking communities to external resources,

6. Working with attitudes that are self-defeating,

7. Organizing the grass-root delivery of specific services.

4. Name of the Village : Baan Mai Sri Swadi
   Sub-district ( Tambon ) : Sri Mongkol
   District ( Ampour ) : Sai Yoke
   Province ( Changwad ) : Kanchana Buri
   ( Central Region )

Baan Mai Sri Swadi village, located about 121 kilometer North-West from Kanchana Buri Province, and 209 kilometer Northwest from Bangkok, the name of Baan Mai Sri Swadi village was given by M. L. Pin Malakon, former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand between 1960-1964, and Minister of Education in 1960-1968, meaning that "New Local of Reconstruction village would give good luck, health and happiness to all village people." \(^{10}\)

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Baan Mai Sri Swadi village itself has a remarkably neat physical plan. It has 284 residential-houses, laid out along defined streets in roughly quadrangular pattern. It has a Wat-Buddhist Modern monastery at the western end of village with a resident abbot, and a newly built secondary school. The village is divided into three sections known as Baan Thai Swadi (South), Baan Thani (East), and Baan Som Jai (North).

The economy of Baan Mai Sri Swadi village rests basically on wet rice growing supplemented by dry agriculture, livestock raising, fishing, and searching of wild foods from the forest. Additional income is obtained from outside employment.

However, the living standard of the people in general is low but it is neither miserable nor desperate. No one is very rich, but at the same time none is completely destitute. Housing is of low quality but adequate. One-third of the houses have sheet-metal roofing. Sanitation is sub-standard.

In 1960 (1st October, 1960), Swami Satya Nanda Puri of Gandhi Peace Foundation (India) was invited to Kanchana Buri as a social worker to promote cooperation on the advice of the king of Thailand Royal Government. He was invited by Acharaya karuna Kushala Sai, advisor to
Royal Intellectual Institute, Head office. This NGO has been engaging itself in promoting the following activities:

1. Thai - Bharata Kasi Korn self-sufficiency (economy) of Gandhian and Buddhist ideology through people's participation.
2. Promotion of Swadeshi and village economic affairs.
3. Promotion of Local Self Government, "Sabha Tambon" (Sub-district organization council).
4. To support the concept of Sarvodaya-social service, welfare of all.
5. Constructive programme and village reconstruction
6. Village non violent movement

Other activities targeted in this area are:

- Provision of community education, formation of village volunteer force and village defence, use and marketing of village production, facility of mass education, upgrading of rural women's capabilities, promotion of khadi and village industries, creation of agriculture cooperatives, organising social groups and institutions etc. etc.

Further, recent activities may be described through the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year (s)</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>People's</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-2000</td>
<td>Promotion of Indo-Thai Technology through Thai-Bharata Kasikorn, Council. The committee of CITDASAA, and special group Indo-Thai Technology: Village Baan Mai Sri Swadi (on 1st October 1996) were launched to give a new focus to social work for development to empowering villagers at Baan Mai Sri Swadi. Main activities include: 1. Literacy: impart functional literacy to villagers. 2. Drinking water, supply of 40 litres per capita per day. 3. Immunization to reduce mortality due to diphtheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles among children and pregnant women. Achieve self-sufficiency in vaccine. 4. Oil seeds, production of 16 kg, oil seed per month, used in family. 5. Telecommunication, to bring up the call for local calls, both for telephones and telexes efficiency. 6. Dairy development, village cooperative, milk production 600-1000, liters per cow and per buffalo, per annum.</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Name of the Village :</td>
<td>Baan Phaan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-district (Tambon) :</td>
<td>Doi Vao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District (Ampour) :</td>
<td>Mae Sai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province (Changwad) :</td>
<td>Chiang Rai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chiang Rai, Thailand’s farthest Northern province, is about 785 Kms. away from Bangkok, and 580 meters above sea level. Its area, which mostly covered with mountains is 11,678 square kilometers. The most important river is Maekok, which is about 130 kilometers long.\footnote{11}


Chiang Rai, was founded in 1262, by King Meng Rai whose statue can be easily seen on the way to Mae Chan and Mae Sai, it used to be the capital of Lanna Kingdom and later was conquered by Burma.\footnote{12}

Village Baan Phaan is located at a small point of border and is at the top of the highest Chiang rai Mountain at eastern of Doi Tung, 2000 meters above sea-level. The unmatched panoramic view reaches out

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\footnote{11}{Nagara, Prasert Na, "Epigraphic and Historical studies of the Siam" in Bangkok : Journal of the Siam Society, 1996, p. 48.}

\footnote{12}{Tourism Authority of Thailand, Ancient City, Chiang Rai Mountain Regions (Bangkok : Information Section, 1998 ). p. 6.}
to Burma and Laos on the horizon is about 29 kms, of the north Chiang Rai Province's centre city and main towns. Baan Phaan is one of them in the group of Mae Salong the village founded is called "Santi Khiri" Mountain of peaceful and balance of natural life. By 1940, some of the Chinese refugees from Myanmar had come to stay here. It serves as a trading post of Akha and Yao ( Akha as Chinese-Indian Assam group, yao as Chinese-Thai Yonok hill tribes groups ) hill people who sell their goods and manufactured items, some silver, and other tribal handicrafts at local Baan Phaan cooperative market centre, by people's organizations and self-help system.

The process and activities of rural-community development here include : 1. Self-reliance, 2. Volunteer service, 3. People's participation, 4. Institution building, and 5. Inter-agency coordination between NGOs and some Departments of Thai Government to promote community development.

It must be pointed here that the village people have the basic knowledge of Gandhian and Buddhist approach of non-violence ( sajja ) and truth for truthful living and raising the quality of life in the community.
Here the highlight was that under Chai Pattana Royal Projects, and institute of agricultural cooperation with local people organization, under royal patronage and other NGOs groups to approach village Baan Phaan, land Reform Project area was first diagnosed for its constraints and potential for agricultural improvement during 1985-1990.\(^{13}\)

Reorientation of the researchers to have understanding of farmers' circumstances was emphasized throughout the process, through regular farm visits, informal interviews, farmers' meetings and forms for feedback on results of on-farm experimentation. Local knowledge and farmer perceptions were respected and used to formulate on-farm experiments.

The activities mentioned below are some of the significant ones in this respect:

1. Improving of rainy season crops: village Baan Phaan Land Reform Project area revealed that the growing season lasted about 167 days in a year, starting from May 20 each year, single cropping of Soya bean was commonly practised and mostly grown late in the rainy season each

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year between August 20 to September 5. Several problems were identified, i.e., 1. Farmers had no experience in land use in limited growing period, where moisture was still high; 2. Unavailability of short maturity Soya beans for cultivation and market uncertainty of other early rainy season crops.

Therefore, a new alternative of double cropping was identified to give better results. The two alternatives during the rainy season were Peanut followed by Mung beans and Mung beans followed by Soya beans. Double cropping Mung beans-Soya beans was practically and socially acceptable, but with recent increases in on-farm and off farm wages, additional cropping in early season was not found economically viable. Therefore, Mono-cropped Soya beans became again the dominant crop.

Besides, the other issues which had considerable importance were crop-livestock intergration system, utility of natural manure, natural vegetation, increasing fruit trees, the problem of soil degradation and its improvement and conservation and land use, legume species and so on so forth.
Besides, some of the characteristics of legume species as observed when grown in a rainfed upland condition at village Baan Phaan, (Land Reform Area: 1985-1990) may be given below:\(^{14}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Cowpea (Vigna unguiculata)</td>
<td>Vigorous growth</td>
<td>annul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seed crop for cash</td>
<td>not tolerant to drought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Lablab bean (Lablab purpureus)</td>
<td>moderate growth</td>
<td>Late flowering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>good ground cover during December 1985 to January 1986</td>
<td>causes pod development to be affected by moisture stress which lead to low or no seed yield,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>animal feed</td>
<td>Could produce 50% ground cover in late February 1989.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sword bean (canavalia gladiata)</td>
<td>upright and fall plant type competes well with weeds</td>
<td>limited use for animal feed as the pods known to be some what poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>provide good ground cover</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Calopa (Calopogonium mucoides)</td>
<td>drought tolerant</td>
<td>late establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>high bio mass yield</td>
<td>not palatable to animal because of its hairy feature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>late establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Siratro (macroptilium atropurpureum) (V. Siratro)</td>
<td>drought tolerant</td>
<td>late establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>used as animal feed</td>
<td>host plant for wider range of insect pests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Centro (Centrosema)</td>
<td>drought tolerant</td>
<td>late establishment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The above description gives a brief picture of the background and main activities of the villages relating to community and rural development. However, to find out the actual practice one has to meet the real beneficiaries and the implementing agencies both Government and social workers and NGOs. Accordingly, it was thought to interview the people of different categories. Through the following Tables, an attempt has been made to know about the level of awareness, personal attitude, initiative/cooperation/coordination, standard and quality of life of rural people, financial position, role of NGOs/Social Workers, Political parties, use of latest agricultural implements, irrigation methods, areas of cultivated land, awareness of Gandhian and Sarvodaya approach and level of satisfaction.

Table V : 1
Level Awareness of Community Development Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fully Aware</th>
<th>Partially Aware</th>
<th>Not Aware</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Real Beneficiaries</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Government Officials</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Members of NGOs/</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community development is a multi-purpose and people's own programme which requires initiative of the people also. Basically, the real beneficiaries of this programme are those who are considerably poor, illiterate, unemployed or underemployed, ignorant and living in rural areas. They don't enjoy those facilities which are generally enjoyed by the urbanised people. For the success of any programme, the general awareness about the same is a must. Secondly, the assisting personnel should also be well-versed and trained so that their talent can be utilised fully. However, Table V : 1 clearly shows that there is a lack of awareness about community development in Thailand at different levels and among the different categories of people. Out of 100 so-called real beneficiaries, only 35 % admitted to know fully about the programme while 25 % accepted partial knowledge. During the personal interview conducted by the researcher, it was found that they were not coherent in their answers. Even 40 % plainly expressed their ignorance. Accordingly, awareness level is not much encouraging. However, 35 % people having the knowledge about the programme is not disappointing at all and this extent can be enhanced if
there is a proper management of awareness among the villagers. Similarly 80% of the Government officials replied in affirmative about their knowledge of the programme while 15% admitted partial knowledge and 5% were not aware. Besides, 65% of the members of NGOs/ Social Workers accepted to know the programme and 25% having partial knowledge and 10 were not aware at all. In this respect a good number of teachers and students, i.e. 75% claimed to be aware, 15% partially aware and 10% showed their ignorance. Therefore, there is an urgent need of awareness of the programme amongst the real beneficiaries, Government officials, members of NGOs/ Social Workers, teachers and students for better results.

Table V: 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Indifferent</th>
<th>No Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Real Beneficiaries</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Government Officials</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Members of NGOs/Social Workers</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Teachers/ Students and Others</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In respect of personal attitude to this programme it was noticed that 40% of the real beneficiaries showed their positive attitude, 25% admitted that they were indifferent and from 35% people, there was no response at all. Amongst the Government officials 60% told that they were quite interested in the programme and were always ready to provide all possible help to make this programme a success. However 25% were indifferent and 15% did not give any response. The above account shows that the proportion of 15% (indifferent) and 15% (no response) is a serious concern to think over since it is expected from the Government officials that at least they should not be indifferent because of their education and responsibility to carry out the programme to its destination. Amongst NGO members/social workers, 55% had positive, 25% indifferent attitude and 20% did not reply. Further, 45% teachers, students and others showed positive, 25% were indifferent and 30% did not give any response. Accordingly, the level of positive attitude of Government officials must be enhanced because they matter a lot in the success of community development.

Table V : 3

Level of Initiative/Co-operation/Coordination of the People
In respect of the Level of Initiative, Co-operation and Coordination it was observed that 25% was satisfactory, 35% not satisfactory and 30% almost nil in the context of the real beneficiaries whereas it was 30% satisfactory, 40% not satisfactory and 30% almost nil in respect of the Government officials. Regarding the level of members of various NGOs, social workers and others it was just 20% satisfactory, 35% not satisfactory and 25% almost nil. These figures are quite disappointing and need a definite change in order to raise the level of initiative, cooperation and coordination amongst the real beneficiaries, government officials, social workers, members of NGOs, etc. etc.. The success of any institution or for that matter even of any activity mainly depends upon the initiative and coordination among various organs at different levels.

Table V : 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Not Satisfactory</th>
<th>Almost Nil</th>
<th>No Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Real Beneficiaries</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Government Officials</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Members of NGOs/ Social Workers &amp; others</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Level of Standard of Living and Quality of Life of Rural Community
Regarding the improvement in the level of standard of living of rural people after the implementation of community development programme, 15% rural people admitted that there has been very good improvement, 20% admitted the level as just good, 40% replied as no improvement and 25% did not comment in spite of several requests. According to 50% Government officials, the raised level of standard of living of the rural community was very good, 40% admitted as good, 5% were of the view that there was no improvement and 5% did not respond in this context. Regarding the view of social workers, members of NGOs and others only 30% were of the high opinion, 30% were moderate and 25% expressed no improvement and 15% did not comment about the upgradation of the standard of living of the rural people. As a result it was observed that there was a big difference about the level of improvement in standard of living and quality of the life of rural community among various categories of people and institutions. No doubt, a considerable
improvement has been noticed in some quarters, yet a lot is to be done to improve the level of the standard of living of these people.

Table V: 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Not Satisfactory</th>
<th>Very Poor</th>
<th>No Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Real Beneficiaries</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Government Officials</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Members of NGOs/</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Workers &amp; others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a matter of fact the success of any organization largely depends on its financial position. No doubt, man is equally important but the finance has its edge over all other matters. Here in respect of the financial position only 10% persons were satisfied, 50% were not satisfied at all, according to 20%, the position was 20% very poor and the rest 20% did not comment on the subject. Regarding the views of Government officials, 50% were satisfied, 30% were not satisfied, 10% expressed about the position very poor and the rest 10% did not give any response. So far the members of NGOs, social workers and others were concerned, the majority of them were very critical of the weak financial position. Only 15% were satisfied, 50% were not satisfied, 20% felt that the people were
extremely very poor and 15 % even did not comment. In this way, the local institutions and the real beneficiaries must be provided financial resources to perform well in this field.

Table V : 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quite Good/ Constructive</th>
<th>Superficial</th>
<th>No Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Real Beneficiaries</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Government Officials</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Members of NGOs/ Social Workers &amp; others</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regarding the role of social workers and NGOs, 20 % real beneficiaries were satisfied and expressed the view that their role was quite good and constructive one. However, 60 % of the people were not satisfied with the working of these organizations and termed them as superficial. Besides, 20 % did not comment. So far the Government officials were concerned, 35 % were of the opinion that their role was quite good and satisfactory, 35 % called their role as superficial and undesirable, while 30% did not give any comment-good or bad. However, majority of the social workers, members of NGOs and others (70%) were of the firm view that their role was quite constructive and very good, 15% thought it a
superficial, while 15% did not reply either way. On the whole it was observed that most of the real beneficiaries were not satisfied with the working and output of these organizations. Some of them had some bitter experience of vested interests and favourtism. Accordingly, it is presumed that their role must be selective and only those NGOs should be involved which are really interested in social work and rural development.

Table V: 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative/Indifferent</th>
<th>No Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Real Beneficiaries</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Government Officials</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Members of NGOs/Social Workers &amp; others</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a democracy political parties have to play a very significant role in the overall development of the country. So is the case so far leadership as a whole is concerned. In this case, 25% real beneficiaries were of the view that the role of leaders and political parties was positive. 35% were found indifferent and expressed their view that the role of political parties and leaders had been negative. However, the surprising fact was that 40% kept mum and did not comment without any logic and any
reason. On the other hand, 40% Government officials accepted that their role had been positive, 30% called it negative and 30% (a quite good number in this respect) did not respond. Similarly, 30% members of NGOs, Social workers and others were of the opinion that the political parties were playing a positive role in community development, 40% a higher number did not agree to 30% above category and 30% did not reply. Therefore, there is a need to look into the background of the output and the actual role of the parties and the leaders at national, province and local levels. The vested interests on partisan grounds should not come in the way of rural development and the leaders at all levels and the political parties must raise themselves above these things in order to make this programme a grand success.

Table V: 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Use of Latest Technological-Agricultural Implements, Fertilisers, Seeds, and Irrigation methods, Cattle Breeding etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Real Beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Government Officials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regarding the use of latest technological agricultural implements, fertilizers, seeds and irrigation methods, fish farming and cattle breeding, 40% real beneficiaries admitted of using the latest tools while 50% replied in negative. Some of them pointed out that they were aware of all these things but because of their poor financial position they were following the traditional methods of farming, irrigation and low quality of seeds. However, 10% showed their ignorance about the knowledge of the improved quality of seeds and latest implements. On the other hand the Government officials were of the view that according to their estimate 60% of the rural people were using the new implements, better quality seeds and adopting better irrigation methods and fully aware how to get the more crops in a year. On the other hand they were of the opinion that the rest 40% people were not using such facilities either because of their poverty or lack of knowledge. Therefore, there is an immediate need to make the farmers aware of such facilities to have the maximum benefit from the same.

Table V: 9

Promotion of Areas and Cultivated Land

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Higher Concentration</th>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Below Normal (Average)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The figures of the above Table show that farmers have higher concentration on rice-farming (80%), fruit, trees-Durian, Longan, banana, Gauva etc. (85%), moderate or normal concentration on upland crops, e.g., Peas, Kenaf etc. (45%) and coffee (35%) and below normal on coconut (but not the same at everywhere), corn 10%, Mulberry 15%, Para-Rubber 20%, Nursery plot 15% and so on so forth. However, there is a need to explain to the real beneficiaries about the utility of changing the crops according to seasonal changes and their yield.

Table V : 10

Level of Awareness of Gandhian/ Sarvodaya Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Real Beneficiaries</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Government Officials</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As far as Gandhian or Sarvodaya approach to community/rural development is concerned only 10% of the real beneficiaries admitted that they heard the name of Mahatma Gandhi of India who adopted non-violent approach to rural development through his constructive programme and gave much importance to the villages and village people. Surprisingly, 70% people showed their ignorance in this respect and the rest 20% did not respond. On the other hand 20% Government officials admitted to know Gandhi's contribution to rural development in India, 60% were not aware about it and the rest 20% did not respond. However, considerably 40%, a good number of social workers, teachers and the members of non-governmental organizations expressed that Gandhi's approach and his contribution to rural development was fully known to them but 45% people of this category denied having knowledge of specific contribution though they knew the name of Mahatma Gandhi. Out of this category 15% did not comment at all. Therefore, about Gandhi's approach a lesser number of rural people knew. This may be because of their illiteracy and lack of sources wherefrom they

| 3. Members of NGOs/Social Workers & others | 40 | 45 | 15 |
could get the information. However, the response of social workers, teachers and NGOs members were quite satisfactory. As already discussed Gandhi’s Constructive Programme for rural reconstruction is a unique, useful and very comprehensive and dynamic concept. It is neither rigid nor backward. As a matter of fact, it is a revolution in rural development and can be adopted and implemented in any country and especially in developing countries, it has a special meaning and relevance.

Table V : 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Highly Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Not Satisfied</th>
<th>No Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Real Beneficiaries</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Government Officials</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Members of NGOs/ Social Workers &amp; others</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under level of satisfaction it was supposed to know whether the real beneficiaries were satisfied with this programme or not. In this respect only 10 % of the beneficiaries expressed that they were highly satisfied, 20 told that they were satisfied in some extent, 40 % were not satisfied and even 30 did not comment. So far the satisfaction level of Government officials was concerned, 20 % were highly satisfied, 35 %
were satisfied, 30% were not satisfied at all and 15% did not give any comment as they were undecided. Similarly, amongst the NGO members, social workers and others only 20% were highly satisfied, 25% were normally satisfied, 35% were not satisfied and 20% were undecided.

Furthermore, there are some other important issues which deserve a lot of discussion in respect of actual practice of community development programme.

In this respect, health could rightly be considered one of the most important population-related development sectors as changes in health conditions have a direct and effective impact on rural population growth rates having a direct impact on almost all other factors related to rural development across the board. However, betterment in overall health of villagers also significantly has reduced the position of country’s financial resources which had to be applied to provide for the sick, the poorer, who additionally could not contribute fully to the country’s economic and social progress. In spite of its fertility decline over the last three decades, Thailand's population growth actually is still considered relatively high. No doubt health related programmes became more successful and mortality rate decreased in rural areas mainly due to
increased effectiveness of medical treatment, prevention, and more readily available drugs and treatment centres. Besides, there have been some good efforts to stabilise or reduce the birth rate also. The analysis and evaluation reports have given their positive reports in this context and are of the opinion that a lot of more has to be done for better results as majority of rural population is ignorant and illiterate and they need a lot of boosting and education in this respect. To some extent death and birth rates concern the availability of health facilities in the regions. Such services or facilities, although are very important in the overall Government service package to the people, yet are difficult to classify specifically as community development or integrated rural development mechanisms even though their contribution to the overall development effort is very genuine and very real one.

The data collected during the study shows that the general health situation of the Thai people has been improving significantly over the last 30 years. Similarly, one of the most revealing health indicators that is quite sensitive to changes is social, economic and health situation at various levels is infant mortality rate. Based on surveys carried out by the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand and also by a few NGOs, infant
mortality rates have decreased significantly. Besides, the earlier regional differences ranging from 10 per cent to 40 per cent in infant mortality rates have been reduced to less than 10 per cent implying better health equity among the regions. This development indicates the success of the area development focus of Fifth National Development Plan which attempted to focus special attention on the obviously disadvantaged area. It also speaks high of the success, to some extent of the integrated approach to community development which the Ministry of Health attempted to take in its overall approach since the impact on infant mortality reflected a wide range of initiatives including nutrition, health care and sanitation. In addition life expectancy at birth in rural areas also improved satisfactorily including females. Accordingly, it may be better to examine changes in the additional measure of malnutrition to get a broader and clearer picture of community based health care.

It was observed that the health personnel were not sure of total participation of the community in health matters but in certain activities such as drug cooperative and dissemination of information, their involvement was forthcoming. Health personnel provided the initiative, leadership and a decision-making role on the basis of guidance or
directives provided by the District Health Officer, and the VHV and VHCs depending upon their capability, supported them as helpers or as providers of information. Health officials, however, hardly made any effort to actively promote the team-work of the VHV and VHCs, though the drug cooperative has been successful mainly due to their efforts to help the people. The primary health care programme operated independently without much coordination with other governmental organizations. Only during special campaigns such as drug cooperative and latrine construction programmes, were VHCs directly supervised; otherwise they were mostly looked after by VHV. The VHV and VHCs were generally satisfied with the health personnel but requested for more personal benefits such as vehicles for transportation and better curative care for them at the district hospital. It was also observed that knowledge and understanding of people about primary health care was very low. Most of them were not aware of terms such as "primary health care" and "VHV" and "VHC".

The case study in villages with a low level of primary health care achievement reflected a low profile of health-related activities. The main activities were water-seal latrine installation, making appointments for child immunizations, child weighing and supplementary
feeding under the nutrition programme. All these projects were not taken up enthusiastically by the health officials as well as by VHVs and VHCs, and community participation was limited. There were no specific policies, plans or implementation guidelines provided by the provincial health administration for primary health care work except for the selection and training of VHVs and VHCs.

No management support was specifically provided regarding practical guidelines, control, follow up or supervision as was the case with the high achievement PHC villages. Even coordination with other agencies and organization remained weak except in the nutrition. Supervision was mostly done through informal or casual meetings of District Health Officers with health officials. Conflicts between the male health worker and the midwife in regard to their duties and responsibilities and indulgence in private practice had a negative effect on team-work while the District Health Officer did nothing to improve the situation. Further, none of the Tambon primary health care team members knew of primary health care goals. In practice, it was noticed that there was no cooperation between health officials and VHVs and VHCs. Even communications with VHVs and VHCs were sent to them by health officials through the village
headman. The records and reports of the Ministry of Health were inflated in terms of activities performed in these villages. Despite the absence of team-work in these villages, VHV's and VHC's felt satisfied with their jobs as they had the incentive of free medical aid.

**Job allocation - roles and responsibilities:** In the organizational framework of primary health care, the role of health workers is to be analysed in terms of linkages provided by them between the formal health service system and the community. In case of many health workers, their roles and responsibilities are not well defined. It is also observed that there is overlap of supervisors' area and function in the case of some health workers and this leads to role conflicts of varying nature. Most of the health workers entrusted with different jobs are not informed of the roles of each other. They have learnt about the same either through actual observations in the field or during monthly review committees. All these factors are likely to affect team-work. However, one may ascribe various reasons for the diffused and conflicting roles of health workers. First, it may be that the functions expected of health workers at the initial stage of implementation of a new health care delivery system were different from the original ones for which they were trained and with the additional stress
on primary health care, and the implementation of different health activities, modified duties and functions have not been brought home clearly enough to health workers. Thus their inadequate preparation or training might affect their role in involving the community in health programmes. Further, the time period for which they have been working might not have been sufficient for them to internalize their new roles fully. Thirdly, they may not themselves be adequately motivated to internalize their various roles because of the lack of interest, aptitude, job security, or avenues of promotion etc. Finally, in the absence of any team training, the shared function of providing health care may not be fully realized.

**Training:** Closely linked with roles and responsibilities of personnel is the relevant training to build up the necessary knowledge and to develop appropriate skills and attitudes for discharging the functions expected of them. The basic training of health workers such as sanitary inspector, public health nurse or auxiliary nurse midwife takes place in individual group settings and often results in conflicts when a team-work approach is emphasized. New entrants to the health service may have different training and orientations as compared to old entrants and in the absence of any refresher course for the latter, a role conflict could arise between the two.
Further, a team-work approach for the delivery of primary health care would necessitate training programmes on a team basis for all personnel involved in the implementation of primary health care activities.

**Supervision:** It has been observed that supervision of workers by the supervisory staff could not be provided either because of their heavy involvement in administrative and technical work or due to the lack of funds for travel. In some cases, the lack of commitment of the supervisors to health programmes may be a demotivating factor. Some health workers expressed their resentment at the methods of supervision adopted by the supervisors. This also demoralizes the health workers to a large extent. Supervisors, on the other hand, reported that the health workers had been given their jobs by allocation and they did not have the proper aptitude for health work.

**Coordination:** It is observed that by and large, the coordination of functions of health workers with that of workers of other government or voluntary organizations has been a weak link. This has adversely affected the delivery of primary health care and underscored the concept of team-work. But wherever the district general administration and district health administration showed leadership, coordination with other agencies became
effective at different levels from village through intermediate to district level, and this resulted in better delivery and acceptance of primary health care by the members of the community. Health workers at village and intermediate levels should develop liaison with workers of other agencies but this is possible only if the district health administration has been able to establish good working relationship with different departments at the district level.

**Communication**: The communication pattern in health services designed to deliver primary health care is observed to be one way, from top-downwards. There are not many opportunities for interaction of health workers and supervisory staff except during monthly review meetings. Even on such occasions, orders are passed down, instructions are given and routine problems discussed. Official circulars, letters and verbal messages are the usual channels of communication from district health administration, health workers through health functionaries posted at intermediate levels. Communication among workers of different categories is also reported to be limited and confined mostly between workers of a similar category. There is a need to encourage vertical communication from bottom-upwards and horizontal communication between health
workers of different categories so as to develop a "we" feeling and cohesiveness among team members.

**Community Participation**: Community participation has also been observed on a limited scale. Community participation related mostly to the creation of a cadre of health volunteers in the village setting and their involvement in primary health care activities. However, the community has yet to take upon itself the task of accepting greater responsibility for its own health. "Planning with people" remains a slogan. It is often difficult to associate oneself with all segments of the population because of the difficult and non-cooperative attitudes of some and the existence of various schisms and factions within a community. No community is ever fully organized. Some people in a community may be predisposed to the types of health activities introduced in the village but quite a large number of them may well be indifferent. Necessary technical support, money and material resources and requisite information have also to be made easily available to people to promote community participation.

It is observed that establishing rapport with the community identification of the right type of problems, bridging the gap between its real and felt needs, mobilization of resources, neutralizing factors that act
as barriers, promoting factors that induce change, developing suitable motivational strategies and sustaining the interest of people through follow-up services are some of the measures that would result in a better acceptance of health activities at the field level.

**Service System:** Effective delivery of health services is an important aspect of community satisfaction. No doubt, a large number of diseases are preventable and health education services in this direction can help in the promotion of health, yet the efficacy of health care services in curing disease determines the credibility of the health team with the community.

A health care service system should basically be community-based, supported by a technical health delivery system and managed by community resources for equitable distribution of services. But there are many problems in reaching this ideal. Lack of educated, dedicated and committed voluntary and governmental health workers; erratic and inadequate supply of medicines and other material; logistic problems, lack of adequate means of communication; personal rivalries and conflicts between health workers since those who provide curative services enjoy a better status in the community; misuse of service facilities by some health workers or volunteers; corrupt practices; favouritism shown by community
leaders towards some health workers and volunteers, are some of the factors commonly reported to adversely affect the delivery of primary health care services. These will have to be taken into consideration in designing a more viable, feasible and acceptable service system.

**Professional, Social, Structural and Political Constraints:** Team-work is based on the principle of free collaboration and cooperation among the members of a group sharing a common perspective and goal, whereas conventional health care is the legacy of a well-developed medical education and associated technology which carries the sanction and "attributes" of a profession. This dialectical situation poses great challenges to the health care delivery system where services pose great challenges to the health care delivery system where services have to be provided to the community through the collective and collaborative activities of professional and para-professional workers. This re-emphasizes the need to restructure medical education and to reorient physicians to the concepts and methods of community health.

Further, achieving active informed community participation is a difficult task. The participation of community members would imply their organization and motivation to commitment for action, and their collective
concern for the welfare of all irrespective of caste, class, ethnicity, age or sex distinctions. Stratification systems in most societies preclude the full participation of all community members from all strata and this poses the problem of equitable distribution of health. Besides, there are the vested interests of individuals and groups in the community which do not encourage greater participation of people. Values and belief structures of people also limit their interaction with outside agencies. These factors promote the formation of cliques, schisms and factions within the community and are detrimental to full community participation.

Regarding nutrition, as a part of development approach in rural Thailand, basic nutrition was made an initial concern. The position of the Ministry of Health has been that though sanitation and other development related issues are important, basic nutrition and related programmes have had to remain the major focus on the immediate and short term. As a result a considerable attention has been paid to nutrition as other health, agriculture and community development programmes have been promoted in the villages. The Ministry of Health itself has been most active in the establishment of ‘nutrition funds’ in the form of foodstuffs and food processing equipments. Furthermore, activities around nutrition have
been integrated into the wide variety of programmes which the health units run at the Tambon levels as a way of reducing basic nutritional hardships and solving many of the health related and social problems, chronic to villagers arising from this. The projects have been providing subsidised supplemental food packets for the malnourished and poorer children with beans and rice grown by the Agriculture Youth Group, or contributed by village households. Some funds have also been producing soyabean milk for the malnourished and for sale to village day-care centres and schools. It has been seen that there has been good extent of reduction in the most serious categories of malnutrition. From the data collected it appears that work of various ministries like Ministry of Interior led by the Ministry of Health in this case, achieved substantial impact on the quality of life in rural Thailand as already reflected by the improvement in measurements of health factors. The present approach in some extent has shown good and encouraging results.

Another important aspect of community development is the eradication of poverty by providing employment to rural people in general and rural youth in particular. In this respect, provision had been kept in National Economic and Social Development Plans for better
programmes. It was well thought for the successful utilization of Thailand's natural and human resources in ways which affect the multitude of community development problem at the village level. It must be explained here that in Thailand agricultural development has been traditionally considered to be the important strategy in the process of rural development. Agriculture has traditionally been the main source of income and also employment in Thai economy. For some time its share in the GDP declined. However, still it accounts for more than 25% of the total GDP. The share of the agricultural labour force is approximately 70% of the total labour force in the country. However, if people engaged in agriculturally related activities for instance agro-business, transportation business, wholesale and retailing services, export trade etc, are considered, the employment rate of the agricultural sector could be higher, perhaps as high as 80 to 90%. Anyhow, increase in employment has been noticed in agricultural sector through the expansion of farming areas and crop diversification. The possibility of land expansion for agriculture, however, have now reached their physical limit but one had to rely to a large extent on the intensive use of existing farm land.
Besides, the change from extensive to intensive farming systems has required an additional amount of investment both in the public and in the private sector. Furthermore, the private sector on the other hand, has been responsible to a large extent for investment related to on-farm development and for the increased use of modern inputs. Although the new idea now sees the government machinery making increasing inputs into what might be termed "modern inputs" to change production patterns, the share of government expenditure in providing these services to farmers on the part of the four main Ministries concerned with rural development work is very small, less than one per cent of the total public capital expenditure. It has been observed that on the part of the farmers too, access to such modern inputs has been often difficult and sometimes even impossible due to their lack of investment capital. If the comparative measurement of crop yields is used as a measure of the impact of development in this area, results do not tend to be much encouraging since the picture which these provide, shows a somewhat stagnated crop yield pattern. However, it has been noticed that learning process for both villages and development agencies alike was that ongoing infrastructure building activity could not take the place of intensive practical level in the villages. However, the Government
did involve in the provision of rural credit for development and production activity. This occurred through the provision of credit allocation to commercial banks and through the operations of the Bank for Agriculture and co-operatives. Besides, the Government also took interest in the development of co-operatives, local saving groups and other village groups. In respect of community, the availability of credit at the village level did start to have an impact on both the willingness and ability of villagers to involve themselves in developmental activities. It was estimated that over 2,000 villages instituted saving groups between 1981-86 and it continued further increase. The latest data available shows that now the cumulative savings are more than US $ 850,000 in such savings groups and the same represent a form of local resources which opens up the door for a variety of village level production activities on a small scale. It must be noted here that agricultural credit provided by the commercial banks has also increased sharply. However, these policies have resulted more from the increasing demand at the village level for credit than from a pre-designed government policy decision. Without the increasing demand for credit, it is doubtful that the government would have taken the proactive stance it has adopted in relation to this issue. The increasing demand for
credit, especially in the agriculture and related fields, may be seen to have resulted from the integrated work of the various players at the village level including villagers themselves, the administration and NGO workers and the private sector to explore the possibilities of development and seek solution to village level issues. However, much work remains yet to be done in this field. The actual percentage of funding going to rural credit as a portion of overall government expenditure in the area of agricultural development still represents very low percentage of expenditure. Furthermore, the current position remains such that those who have resources can have the credit much more easily than those who are poor. As a measure of the impact of community development, this fact indicates a major ongoing weakness in the overall programme up to date. In addition, many farmers are unaware of this facility which requires a proper publicity also.

In respect of employment it has been noticed that though a large number of youth are running to Bangkok city and other cities for employment yet the agricultural sector is still providing jobs for more than two-thirds of the labour force. A serious problem of migration of youth from the villages to the big cities is being experienced. The focus of
community development activities on the agricultural sector through the efforts of almost all participants in one way or the other was to have an impact on both the level and quality of employment in rural areas. In some extent this development did occur and employment in agriculture increased by 4.5% per year during the wet season on the one hand and on the other a negative growth was noticed during the dry season. As a result, the villagers have to involve in a variety of alternate activities during this period. Although statistics point out that the largest percentage of rural households engage extensively in agriculture, the very concept of community development requires to expand beyond this limited sphere to larger economic activities if the total natural and human resources of the village are to be utilised properly. Though the rural sector is basically agriculture-based, yet non-farm activities are taking considerably important part in the generation of income. In fact, prior to the Fifth National Plan, the promotion of non-farm activities for the rural people had not been paid much concentrated attention by economic planners and policy makers. As per practice, non-farm enterprise in the villages had been seen as a supplementary or secondary employment of villagers. Consequently, these activities were undertaken at a large scale during the slack season from
agriculture. Accordingly, village industry has not really developed partly because of this reason. However, some studies have shown that non-farm activities in this rural areas of Thailand seem to provide a source of income for 30 to 50% of the rural labour force. As the economy around agriculture products has changed and the support has become more available for non-farm activities, villagers have been quick to move to alternate sources of income. As a matter of fact some of the villagers spent from 40 to 82% of their working time on non-crop activities, most of which consisted of non-agricultural work. It may be mentioned here that in relation to community development initiatives, regions with the most difficulties in crop production, i.e., the North-East and the South had a higher share of non-farm income. This has been consistent with the fact that there is more need for alternative sources of income for basic survival. The trend in increased capability of the villagers in non-farm activities, however, also reflects that most of the rural development activity undertaken by the Thai Government in "poverty stricken areas" has also focussed on these areas. Activities by the Department of Community Development to generate small-scale income generating projects at the village level, by the Department of Agriculture to develop village fisheries, woodlot sericulture, inland fishing
activities, fruit tree projects with associated local refining of manufactured fruits products and by the Ministry of Industrial Promotion to generate a whole spectrum of small scale non-farm industry tells of a recognition on the part of the Government that this area of activity is crucial to the rural development effort.

Further, household non-farm production, to this point, is a small item as compared to wages and salary earnings in the non-farm sector. Over the last several years, it has been seen that several projects have been undertaken notably by the Department of Community Development to encourage villagers to capitalise on producing local products for sale and consumption at the village and district levels. In addition, national marketing agencies, such as, Naraiphan in Bangkok, have undertaken campaigns to gather data about availability of locally produced goods in order to facilitate their marketing. However, in-home production of goods remains an underdeveloped mechanism in the overall strategy of rural development.

Regarding unemployment and underemployment, the study indicates that the open unemployment rates for the whole of Thailand during the last decade have never exceeded more than 3 per cent. In regions
outside Bangkok, where more traditional employment is still the norm, the rates of open unemployment have not reached even 2 per cent. Moreover, during the dry season when the demand for labour in agriculture declines, the rates of open unemployment are still low and not much different from those in the rainy season. On the surface, then, open unemployment does not appear to be a serious problem to be addressed by community development programme. The rates of seasonal and rainy season unemployment both have been increasing every year and present rate of unemployment at an aggregate level does not appear to exactly reflect the nature and gravity of unemployment problem in Thailand. This is specifically true in rural areas where the traditional agricultural cycle, reduced landholdings, and problems of reduced agricultural productivity per unit of land combine to make the problem more serious and complicated. As community development efforts are directed to improving the overall quality of life in rural areas, it would seem that if open unemployment is considered an one measure, the community development programme upto now seems to be losing ground in this area or at least not having significant impact in generating additional employment at the village level.
Similarly, an additional important issue related to the subject of employment in Thailand is the concept of underemployment. In development efforts to fully utilise the human resources available in the community, underemployment represents a particularly serious problem because it tends to disguise the actual results of programme efforts. In fact, as observed during this study, in rural Thailand, it was felt that there is a high and increasing level of underemployment caused by the seasonal nature of employment in the villages, and that this problem is more important than the open unemployment in Thailand. Besides, there is a considerable seasonal fluctuation which is getting more severe. No doubt, the peak season demand for labour have been different one from year to year depending on the monsoon, but the trend to increase in the fluctuations is quite clear.

In this respect, it may be pointed out that despite the efforts of both Government and NGO workers, significant results are still awaited in order to reduce the extent of underemployment in rural areas. In fact the problem appears to be increasing as villagers have to work to increase income in ways which bring in marginal wages through part-time activity. Much of the income in the villages is now being generated by non-farm
activity indicates to some extent the beginning of some change in this context. However, it is too early to pass any final judgement in respect of the progress and success of the story of community development in Thailand.

Another important aspect of community development is the income-distribution of financial assets with relation to rural incomes, particularly the part of income based on the agricultural sector, the trend towards declining incomes is quite evident. According to the Bank of Thailand's annual Economic Report and Highlight publication, starting in 1980, though statistics on cultivation and yield show across the board increases almost every year, in terms of real income generated for the rural producers, the trend has been towards lower returns. Results of this have been significant seasonal migration in off-season periods to increase income from non-farm sources. As a result in areas where production has been significantly increased by improvements in infrastructure and skill training, prices have tended to drop in proportion to the increase in productivity led by a constant or falling market demand. Accordingly, the factor of markets has not yet been sufficiently integrated into those aspects of the community development programme which focus on the agricultural
sector and that the rest of the programme has suffered. However, the agricultural sector continues to have a significant impact on overall income.

Moreover, in addition to the financial returns which accrue from successful rural development programmes, trends in land tenure represent a separate factor which is often taken into consideration in measuring impact of development programme or projects. This is so because there is the generally accepted assumption that the unequal distribution of land ownership is both one of the sure signs of rural poverty and of its ongoing causes. If one of the underlying objectives of the community development programme was to influence the pattern of land holding away from consolidation, it would appear that the programme, at least in Thailand, has not been able to achieve its goal in the past, with future trend moving even more in the direction of more landlessness among rural people. The past experience indicates that if the absolute landless would begin to acquire new skills and adopt non-farm job opportunities, they in fact, would become better endowed in relation to an ability to generate income than the landed ones, especially the near landless and to some extent the marginal who found themselves caught in the middle as the
dilemma of the near-landless has been that they could not really leave their farmers altogether and seek new job openings while at the same time, their farms were economically unviable. In relation to community development many of the activities which have been instituted relate to enhancing non-farm employment skills. However, in a way, then, the administration and NGO programmes which have focussed on building skills among the landless to help them compete on the off-farm job market have had a positive impact on the ability of this class of villagers to compete successfully for jobs or create limited job opportunities for themselves at the local level. Although this does not concern directly with the problem of landlessness and land ownership distribution, projects which tend to help villagers examine the available employment market and build skills in them to help them compete clearly improve the quality of life in the villages. And, this after all is the main objective of community development programme.

After going through the analysis of community development programme in Thailand, it may be expressed that so far the theoretical framework is concerned, it is a moderate programme whereas Gandhian and Sarvodaya models are far more comprehensive, touching the soul of
each poor villager, desiring the last man - the weakest in the society to be the first priority of both Government and the community in respect of all-round development. However, it must be clarified here that in Gandhi's constructive programme and in Sarvodaya philosophy and in Vinoba's approach to 'Antodaya' - the rise of the last man (weakest) in the society, though the focus on the individual as a whole has never been neglected. Constructive programme is both a complete philosophy of rural development and human development. It starts from communal unity and goes through removal of untouchability, prohibition, promotion of Khadi and other village industries, village sanitation, basic education, adult education, development of women, education in health and hygiene, language, economic equality, farmers, labourers, tribes, handicapped, lepers, students and any other item found suitable and helping in rural development.

Vinoba Bhave also follows the same route. Basically, there is no difference between Sarvodaya (welfare or rise of all) and Antodaya (the rise of last man in the society). It means that first of all we must care for the poorest in the community because all others are already in better conditions. The extent of poverty in rural areas all over the world in general
and in developing countries in particular, is much higher than those living in the urban areas. That is why Gandhi in Indian context was compelled to say "if village perishes, India will perish too." Similarly, Vinoba's message was if someone wants to serve the country, one must go to a village for sometime, should stay with the poor villagers and experience the same pain, the same sorrow, the same day-today problems, the same hard realities of life which the villagers have been experiencing from the time immemorial. Accordingly, their approach is very much relevant not only in India but Thailand also. The actual practice of community development in Thailand shows that in spite of some serious efforts by the Government, the desired results are still awaited. Similarly, so far the role of political parties and social workers, members of non-governmental organizations is concerned that has not been upto the expectations of the Mahatma. He wanted that vested interest of individuals, political leaders, political parties, social workers and voluntary organizations should not come in the way of all-round development of community process and their participation should be completely free from all kinds of alloys and taints of self-interest. However, in actual practice the role of the above mentioned segments of community has not been satisfactory or on Gandhian lines. For instance,
many voluntary agencies or non-governmental organizations are working on the line of their self-interest. Similar is the case so far political parties or political leaders are concerned. Moreover, the people have also not shown expected enthusiasm, zeal and initiative. The coordination and cooperation between government officials and the people has not been much encouraging. Financial constraints have also attributed to the slow progress. Accordingly, Thailand's community development programme must be reoriented in order to make it stronger, more useful and viable in the prevailing circumstances. Being a multi-purpose and people's programme, it needs a serious thought and better planning, full cooperation, coordination and initiative of the real beneficiaries in the whole process of implementation.