Chapter-7
WEAKNESS OF VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

7.1 Selection of Wrong Beneficiaries
7.2 Unrealistic Target Based Coverage Norms
7.3 Regular Environmental building exercise
7.4 Untrained Status of the Programme Functionaries
7.5 Prevalence of the Mal Practices
7.6 Near absence of Monitoring and Support Services
7.7 Lack of Co-Ordination Between Various Departments
7.8 Low Level Participation of higher level functionaries
WEAKNESS OF VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Indian Planners and Policy makers have been emphasizing upon the need of Social Development ever since the beginning of planning process in the country. The final objective of social development in the country is to eradicate poverty and thus improving the quality of life of the people. However, despite a model growth in the economy, rural areas remained behind in the process of social development. The development of the country has remained concentrated in few sectors and in specific regions, which has created regional disparities and inequalities. The Government spearheading the frontal attack on rural poverty and endeavored to reach out to the last and most disadvantaged sections of society through its various programmes, schemes Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Mahatama Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) etc.

As it has been discussed in previous chapter the ultimate objective of the VDS is to improve the living conditions of the poor and the various disadvantaged section of rural society. The focus of these schemes has been stressed on environment sustainability of the development process.
through social mobilization and participation of people at all levels, empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged, groups such as SC, ST and OBCs.

It has been observed that despite acquiring a high rate of success, VDSs to a large extent, are not responsive to the needs of the poor. The priorities are frequent ignored. The nature of the exact needs are not assessed properly and the requirements are not met within a comprehensive time frame.

Throughout the study some major weaknesses emerge out that put the village development in the back gear. These drawbacks can be analyzed here as under:

7.1 SELECTION OF WRONG BENEFICIARIES

The success of any scheme lies on the right selection of the actual beneficiaries for the chosen Schemes. It is found that the selection process of beneficiaries lacked element of transparency. There is no physical verification of selected beneficiaries at the village level. There is no process for the beneficiaries to explained/informed the reason for non selection. There is presence of high proportion of non genuine beneficiaries, on account of interference of Pradhan, village level beneficiaries and middle men in the process of selection of beneficiary.

Involvement of pradhan at village level make influential people,
middle men prominent in the selection process of beneficiaries which deprived many genuine beneficiaries from availing the benefit under the scheme and lack transparency in selection process.

The process of selection of beneficiaries is too bureaucratic which provide space for Panchayats level functionaries, pradhans and secretaries to influence the selection process as a result of which the involvement level of genuine beneficiaries is low. The too bureaucratic process complicates and linkage between the programme functionaries and middlemen discouraged many prospective beneficiaries to participate. This reflects the casual manner in which the programmes were being handled.

Thus it is quite clear that the success of the programme depends on the right selection of the beneficiaries. Irresponsibility on the part of the administration is also a cause of concern for the schemes.

7.2 UNREALISTIC TARGET BASED COVERAGE NORMS

Target based coverage norm is unrealistic. It is found evenly in each village development scheme. Target based coverage norm is unrealistic as it encouraged non genuine beneficiaries (who had close proximity with problems or Panchayat people) to use their influence in selection process. Target based approach is not realistic and failed to address the problem. Target based approach of the programme is acting
against its scope and encourages involvement of unscrupulous elements.

The current target based approach should be discontinued as it is quite unrealistic and non compatible with the ground realities. The ritualistic or target based approach of the programme functionaries on the account of their heavy work load also attracted many dubious elements to take advantage of the situation. The main motto of the programme functionaries is to achieve the target only by any method. Their attention is not on the purpose of the programme but only to achieve the target.

Target based approach is conducive for the village development schemes but the unrealistic target is not beneficial for the programmes. It can be easily seen in the poor performance of the many village development scheme that the set target is not achieved at all. The allocate fund for the programme is not fully utilized at any year but the target is set again at the unrealistic point. At the front of physical progress we can see the phenomena same as the allocation of the fund.

So it is the high time to come out from the process unrealistic target norms. This is the main and prominent weakness of the village development schemes.

7.3 REGULAR ENVIRONMENTAL BUILDING EXERCISE

It is generally seen in village development schemes that there is no regular environment building exercise. Proper environmental building
If the higher level functionaries actively involved in the programme, we can get the very good result. The only Block development officer elusively involve in the physical verification.

There are very few physical verifications conducted by the higher level programme functionaries. The programme is only run and operated by the village level programme functionaries.

The level of participation is low for higher level functionaries. Higher level functionaries should inspect the programme and verify the work personally. They should know the ground realities of the programme.

The low level participation of the higher level functionaries is the main drawback of the programmes.
exercise, preferably by some professional body be carried out at the village level, both prior to commencement of the programme and also at regular intervals. This process is not found in the VDS.

There is not found any professional body which carried out the environmental building exercise at the village level. Also the programme functionaries of VDS do not carried out of the environment building exercise. Near or complete absence of environment building exercise prior to the commencement and also at regular intervals is limiting the scope of the programme and also do not induce people participation.

It is also found that there is no environment building exercise or mass India campaign is carried out prior to the launching of the programme.

Lack of education among the rural people is also a main factor that responds to this weakness of the schemes. In the very remote areas people are apprehensive of many schemes and do not co-operate the programme functionaries to carry out the project successfully. This negative approach affect heavily the progress and development.

Physical growth of any programme rests on the favourable response from its beneficiaries and when the beneficiaries are on a marginalized state due to lack of information the success remains a mirage to any programme. Therefore, it is obvious that this may be count
the major drawback of the village development schemes.

7.4 UNTRAINED STATUS OF THE PROGRAMME FUNCTIONARIES

Various schemes regarding rural development are handled by inexperienced and untrained functionaries and locals that negatively affects the performance of the programme.

The absence of the trained status and support services and indifferent attitude of programme functionaries has provided space for middle men, Panchayat secretaries etc, to influence the selection procedure. The untrained status of programme functionaries also proved to be a handicap for the programme.

Administration also plays the devastating role by not appointing any skilled, experienced and well trained functionaries to implement the programmes. Due to such negligence the programme, does not operate moderately causing unnecessary concern and discomfort.

7.5 PREVALENCE OF THE MAL PRACTICES

The performance of the village development schemes is badly affected by the prevalence of the mal practices like bribe, subjectively etc. The mall practices of the programme functionaries limited the scope of the programme.

Due to this reason the genuine beneficiaries are a not benefited by
the schemes. Proxy and non serious beneficiaries spoiled the scope of the programme. Such influential people claimed the most benefit of the schemes through unethical means.

Despite a huge campaign carried out by the government explaining the benefits of the schemes, an ignorance among the rural people is still prevalent that is the main hindrance for any development programme. This lack of information gives way to prominent people of the local area to capture the huge amount of benefits and the genuine candidates remain far away from the reach of the actual profits.

It is also found that there are many proxy beneficiaries. It is only on the paper. If there is physical verification of the selected beneficiaries at the village level we find the surprising result. The work done is seen only on the paper not on the real ground. It is due to the mal practices. There are almost all the schemes in which the non genuine beneficiaries are getting the benefit of the programme. The genuine beneficiaries are behind the programme. The process the bureaucratization also encouraged room for mal practices and lured the unscrupulous element to make percy into the process of selection.

7.6 NEAR ABSENCE OF MONITORING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Near Absence of monitoring and support services is general phenomenon in every village development schemes. The level of
participation of both the beneficiaries as well as programme functionaries is of poor level due to this factor.

The continuous monitoring of the programme enhances the performance of the village development schemes. An year wise details of the performances of many schemes under the study of this thesis indicates that some schemes perform excellent in a particular and then massively falls on the next year. This is on account of the indifference of the government's mode of operating the programmes. No set up of monitoring agencies or support services has been hitherto conceived by the government. These irregularities definitely lowers the graph of success and it is poor people who ultimately suffers.

It is also seen that the higher authorities are unaware of the ground realities. They are totally dependent upon the block level officers for physical verification and evaluation of work.

Lack of supervisions and monitoring have emboldened the local mafia group to temper with polices. Poor supervisory and support services provided room for pradhans, influential group of people to manicure and exert pressure on functionaries at the time of selection of beneficiaries. This is the main weakness of the village development schemes.
7.7 LACK OF CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

There is lack of coordination between various departments with respect to village development schemes. The relationship between the block and Panchayat is not good, each and every department which involved in the village development schemes are doing their work without coordinating other departments.

It is found that one beneficiaries of a programme, again get the same benefit from the other programme. So the genuine beneficiaries were out of the beneficiaries' list. There are so many programmes which can be more successfully coordinating with other departments. The outcome of the village development schemes badly affected for the lack of coordination between various departments. This is a prominent weakness of the village development schemes.

7.8 LOW LEVEL PARTICIPATION OF HIGHER LEVEL FUNCTIONARIES

In the village development schemes the participation of the higher level functionaries is low. The higher level functionaries only play the role of supervisor. There is no physical verification by the higher level functionaries. The work is done by the low level programme functionaries.