PREFACE

Rural development has today become an objective not only of the local and regional concern, but a pragmatic objective fully backed by national government and international organizations. Integrated Rural Development Programme is the most important poverty alleviation programme launched by Government of India after independence. It was started in 1978-79 in 2300 selected Blocks all over the country and was extended to all the remaining Blocks since October 2, 1980. It is a target group programme in which the persons belonging to BPL families are provided assistance in form of loan and subsidy to purchase potential assets and to generate extra income so that they can cross the poverty line. As the programme got high publicity during the 6th and 7th Plans, researchers could not remain unconcerned to it and various studies were conducted at various levels by the individuals and the institutions. But no comprehensive work has been done so far on this topic in the State of Haryana in general and District Bhiwani in particular. Hence, a modest attempt has been made through the present study to fill up the gap. The present study might provide information about various programmes of rural development under-taken by the Government of India with special emphasis on IRDP, profile of the area of study, administrative structure of IRDP, its process of implementation, actual implementation of IRDP and perception of Officials and Beneficiaries with remarkable findings and suitable suggestions. The basic assumptions of the study are: the success of any development programme like IRDP depends on the administrative structure responsible for its implementation; its process of implementation; Officials-
Beneficiaries perception and that of infra-structural support available.

The focus of the present study is on the administration of IRDP in Haryana in general and District Bhiwani in particular. The area of study is District Bhiwani in which nine villages spread over three Blocks- Bhiwani, Badhara and Loharu, have been taken for field survey. The data used in the study are up to 1996. The period of research is from 1980-1996 whereas for field work Beneficiaries assisted during the period 1990-95 have been taken for interview.

Broadly speaking the study is exploratory and analytic in nature and the conclusion are tentative which are primarily based on empirical evidences collected from respondent Officials and Beneficiaries with the help of specially prepared questionnaires for each group which consisted of both open-ended and close-ended questions. The techniques used in collection of primary data were interview, observation and discussion. For taking sample at each level, the following procedure was adopted. First of all, District Bhiwani was taken purposively for in-depth study. Secondly, three Blocks from the district were selected with the help of simple random sampling on the basis of total number of Beneficiaries assisted so far and the same method was applied for selection of villages from each Block. A sample of 240 Beneficiaries was taken from the District with simple random sampling of which 80 Beneficiaries were selected from each Block on the basis of their strength proportionate to sample size in each selected village. The other source of primary data was all the 20 officials of IRDP. The secondary data were collected from various guidelines of
Government of India, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD, manuals of poverty alleviation programmes, correspondence between Central and State Government with local Government agencies, books, journals, newspapers etc..

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