

INTEGRATED RURAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING: A CASE STUDY OF PIPRASI BLOCK

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Abstract:

The proportion of persons dependent for their living on industries is small. The block has no important manufacturing towns. The manufacture of sugar is the only remaining industry of any importance in the block. Besides there are a few rice-mills working in the block. Agriculture is the main source of income of the people in Piparasi lock. Some agrobased industries have flourished here and are being run successfully. The last two units are closed at present. Some rice mills are also being run successfully and the produce is being marketed to different places outside the district. Cottage industries based on local available natural and agricultural produce catering the local needs such as Gur (raw-sugar), basket, rope, mat weaving etc are also popular. This research paper is to examines the issues of Rural Development Programmes under plan period. A number of studies addressed these issues and identified the relationships. The relationship is very complex and it varied from region to region. Accordingly, the development programmes implemented in the State are being restructured / reconceptualised to achieve sustainable development.

Keywords: I.R.D.P, Development, Sustainable development, Infrastructure, Community

Objectivity

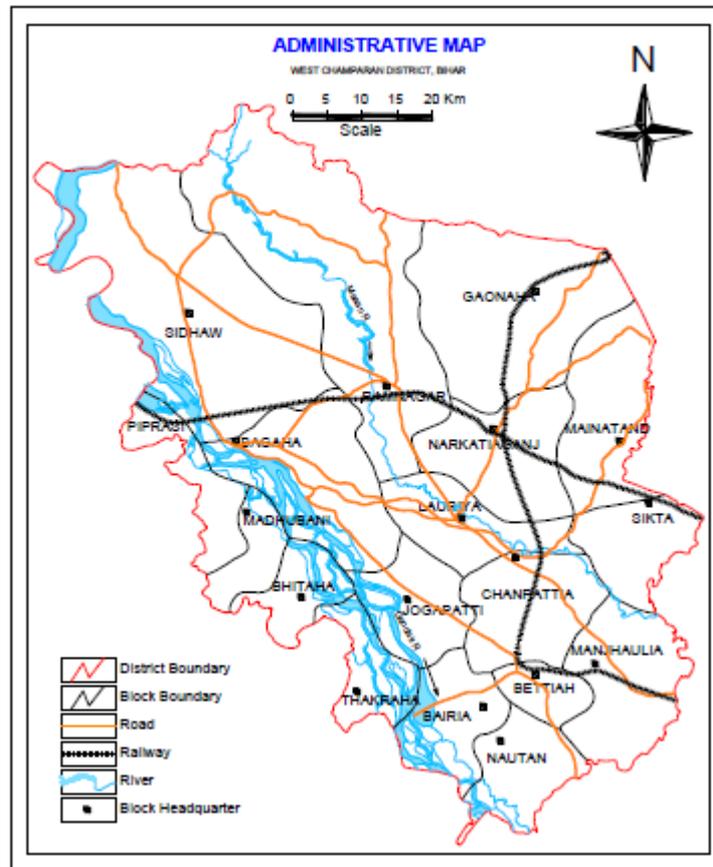
The main objectives of integrated rural development planning in India is to bring about a structural transformation of the economy so as to achieve a high and substantial rate of growth, progressive improvement in the standard of living, eradication of poverty and unemployment provide material basis for a self-reliant social economy and ensure social justice.

Methodology

The present research work based on the observational description and observational rational methods in order to decipher the theme of the research. Various statistical and cartographic methods has applied where ever needed. The present research study based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data collected through personal observation, interview, questionnaires schedule etc. Map and diagrams, graphs etc. have been widely used in this research papers. The Study is on the basis of empirical data accessed from different source like Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Economic Surveys, Planning Commission of India, GOI Websites and other relevant Websites. Research Journals, National and International Reports.

Introduction

It has been realised to examine the impact of the programmes on rural environment and rural households. Poverty is a complex phenomenon. It manifests itself in myriad ways. The poor not only suffer from low income and high unemployment, but also low life expectancy, low levels of literacy and poor health. Rural poverty is even more complex as it is reinforced by social factors. Social and economic factors operate differently in different regions. Specific targeted antipoverty programmes started in right earnest were taken up in the Sixth Plan. The poverty alleviation efforts in India have adopted a multi-pronged approach to alleviate poverty at individual level through programmes of direct attack on poverty.



Area development programmes introduced at community and regional level for enabling the poor and enhancing opportunities for the poor in rural areas. To address the compelling needs of time, the existing programmes have been revamped and restructured to make them more people friendly and trigger the bottom-up initiatives. After attaining independence, the main concern of the Planners was to pay adequate attention to the rural development sector. Thus in 1950, the Planning Commission was set up in order to prepare the development plan of the country and several Five Year Plans were formulated for the most effective and planned utilisation of the country's resources. Beginning with the First Five Year Plan in 1951, we are now passing through the XII Five Year Plan. During this period, several changes have taken place in the policy framework of rural development. In the beginning of our development planning, it was sought to initiate a process of all-round balanced development to ensure a rising national income and a steady improvement in living standards of the people over a period. The aim was not merely to plan with the socio-economic framework but change it progressively through democratic methods. It was to be achieved through full participation of the people. The consecutive Five Year Plans and their major development are briefly described below:

The First Five Year Plan (1951-56)

When India attained freedom, it presented a picture of poverty, malnutrition, poor standards of public health and mass illiteracy. This was the background against which the First Five Year Plan was formulated and there was a resolve to reconstruct the country socially and economically. Since majority of the population lived in rural villages, special attention was given to rural development programmes in the First Plan itself. The programme had a two-fold objective to correct the disequilibrium in economy caused by the Second World War and partition of the country and also to initiate simultaneously a process of all-round balanced development. The First Plan emphasised that the central objective of planning in India is to raise the standard of living of the people and to open out to them opportunities for a richer and more varied life. For achieving the desired changes in the social and economic life of the rural areas, a comprehensive programme known as Community Development Programme was launched through which emphasis was given to the development of agriculture, irrigation, power, transport, communication, education, health and employment. The Second Five Year Plan extended the community development activities all over the country with the inception of Panchayati Raj in 1959. The main objectives of the Plan were: i. An increase of 25% in the national income, ii. Rapid industrialisation with particular emphasis on the development of basic and heavy industries, iii. Large expansion of employment opportunities, and iv. Reduction of inequalities in income, wealth and more even Distribution.' The Khadi and Village Industries Programme, Village Housing Projects Scheme, Tribal Area Development Programme, Package Programme, Intensive Agricultural District Programme were the major programmes of rural reconstruction during this Plan Period.

The Intensive Agricultural District Programme

The intensive Agricultural District Programme (IADP) was introduced in 1962 with all the essential elements for increasing production to the extent needed, such as supply of fertilizers, pesticides, improved seeds and implements and composite scientific demonstrations. More liberal credit and agricultural extension were also provided under this programme. The objectives of IADP were: i. To emphasise the necessity for government policies that could provide farmers incentives, assure needed inputs such as fertilisers, improved seed varieties, essential financial resources and competent staff to the betterment of the programme, ii. To put together a package of practices with the resources and competence of all cultivators that were to be field-tested and adopted to farm conditions and then recommended through extension workers for the farmer's adoption, iii. To transform existing or create new institution-oriented to and capable of providing all the cultivators with the services and inputs related to the recommended package of practices, iv. To provide markets that were farmer-oriented and trustworthy.'

6.3 The Third Five Year Plan (1961-66)

The Third Five Year Plan laid emphasis on reduction in poverty and promotion of economic prosperity by way of self-employment. During this period, the Planning Commission initiating the process of involving the States in Plan preparation. The States were asked to compile data in respect of their developmental performance, priorities, resource position and suggest the ways for minimising the gap between the developed and underdeveloped regions. All these plans thus emerged were intended to be suitable to the geography, climate, traditions and customs of the concerned States. The important rural development programmes during this period were: Applied Nutrition Programme, The Rural Industries Projects, Intensive Agricultural Area Programme, High Yielding Variety Programme, Rural Works Programme, Tribal Development Block Programme etc.

Panchayati Raj

The formation and introduction of Panchayati Raj system is a major development during this Five Year Plan period. Panchayati Raj is an important feature of the Indian political system which ensures the direct participation of people at the grassroots level. Though Panchayats have been in existence in India since ancient times, they suffered a set back during the British rule. After independence the framers of the Constitution decided to give them importance and directed the States to organise Village Panchayats as units of rural self-government. Accordingly in 1956, the National Development Council appointed Balwant Kai Mehta Committee to suggest measures for the better working of the community development and National Extension Service. The Committee submitted its report in 1957, in which it recommended: i. the formation of a hierarchic three-tier system of rural local government to be called Panchayati Raj. The three tiers are the Grama Panchayat at Village level, the Panchayat Samiti at intermediate level and the Zila Parishad at District level ii. genuine transfer of power and responsibility to these institutions, iii adequate resources to all bodies to enable them to discharge their responsibilities, iv. that all social and economic development programmes be channelled through these agencies, v. that the system be evolved to effect further dissolution and dispersal of power.

The Interim Plan Period (1966-69)

The mid-sixties were also years of severe drought so that the Country had to settle for Annual Action Plan for three years (1966-69) The adverse economic situation in the Country occasioned largely by the severe drought of 1966 and 1967 made the Government declare a 'Plan Holiday' and in the place of the Five Year Plan, India had three annual plans for 1966-'67, 1967-'68 and 1968-'69. Also the sixties witnessed the Green Revolution consequent to the introduction of new chemical fertilisers and high yielding seed varieties.

The Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74)

Growth with Stability' was the main objective of this Plan. The Plan expected to increase the national income at the rate of 5.5 per annum through the growth of agriculture and industries. The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment, Drought Prone Area Programme, Small Farmers Development Agency, Tribal Area Development Agency, Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme, Minimum Needs Programme and Command Area Development Programme were the major rural development programmes during this period. All these programmes helped to accelerate the overall development of the country but their contribution to reduce the rural poverty or to generate employment was not much.

The Drought Prone Area programme

The Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) is an area development programme, Initiated in 1970 to mitigate the severe scarcity conditions in the selected chronically drought affected areas in the country. The main objectives of the programme were: 1. Restoration of ecological balance, 2. Development and management of irrigation resources, 3. Soil and moisture conservation and afforestation, 4. Restoring of cropping pattern and pasture development, 5. Changes in agronomic practices, 6. Livestock development, 7. Provision of drinking water supply, and 8. Development of small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers.

The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment

The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE) was launched during the IV Five Year Plan period. This is a centrally sponsored scheme initiated in 1971 to provide employment to at least 1000 persons in each of the selected Districts for a period of 10 months in a year.

Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project

The Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme (PIREP) was an adhoc scheme and as such could not result in stable gainful employment in the real sense of the term. Subsequently in 1972, a central sector scheme the Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project (PIREP) was started and implemented in areas having different socio-economic conditions on a pilot basis."

The SFDA and MFALDA

The Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA) and the Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency (MFALDA) were introduced in the Fourth Five Year Plan to improve the economic conditions of small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers

The Tribal Area Development Programme

The Tribal Area Development Programme (TADP) started in 1970-71 with 8 pilot projects in selected tribal areas in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar (one each) Madhya Pradesh and Orissa (two each) were implemented through the Department of Rural Development.

The Minimum Needs Programme

The Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) introduced in 1974, during the Fourth Five Year Plan was to raise the standard of living of people below the poverty line. The objectives of the programme include: i. The provision of elementary education for children up to the age of 14, ii. Providing availability of public health facilities which would include preventive medicines, family planning, nutrition and the detection of early mortality and adequate arrangements for referring serious cases to appropriate higher authority.

The Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79)

Hill Area Development programme, Special Livestock Production Programme, Food for Work Programme, Desert Development Programme and Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment. The Janata Government reconstituted the Planning Commission and announced a new strategy in planning. The objective was changed as 'Growth for Social Justice' instead of 'Growth with Social Justice'. The new pattern was the 'Rolling Plan', which meant that every year the performance of the Plan would be assessed and a new Plan would be made for the next year. The Rolling Plan started with an Annual Plan for 1978-79 and as a continuation of the terminated Fifth Plan.

The Special Livestock Production Programme

The Special Livestock Production Programme (SLPP) was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1975-76 on the basis of the recommendations of the national Commission on Agriculture. The programme aims at providing greater employment opportunities to the weaker sections and the rural masses. The programme intended to provide financial assistance to small or marginal farmers and agricultural labourers for setting up of poultry, piggery and sheep production units and for rearing of cross-bred heifers.

The 20-Point Programme (Announced on 1 July 1975)

With the imposition of the Internal Emergency in June 1975, the 20-point programme was announced by the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

The National Rural Employment Programme

In 1980, during the Sixth Five Year Plan the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) was launched. It replaced the erstwhile Food for Work Programme incorporated the same characteristics under which it was envisaged to integrate the development projects and target group oriented employment generation projects NREP aims at providing supplementary employment

opportunities to rural workers particularly during the lean periods of the year when they are not able to find gainful employment.

The Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas

The Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is a centrally sponsored scheme started in 1982. It was formulated as a subscheme of IRDP so that income-generating activities could be provided to women and enable them to become organised participants in social development and economic self-reliance. The target group of the DWCRA is the same as IRDP while the methodology of reaching it is through group strategy rather than individual beneficiaries. The women are expected to come together for an activity of mutual Interest to all. Its primary skill is the formation of groups of 15-20 women from poor families, preferably from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes for delivery of services like credit, skill training, cash and structural support for.

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme

The Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced in 1983 with the objective of providing employment opportunities for at least one member of every landless household for a period up to 100 days in a 48 year. RLEGP aimed at creation of tangible community assets for strengthening rural infrastructure, which will lead to rapid growth of rural economy. Among these are, construction of link roads, digging of field channels to improve utilisation of the irrigation potential

The Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90)

The Seventh Plan envisages the continuance and expansion of the antipoverty programmes. The programmes like National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) constitute the major elements of the anti-poverty drive. However, an expanding economy and dynamic agricultural sectors are the pre-conditions for the anti-poverty programmes to succeed. Apart from the rural poor, this Plan also paid attention to the poor in the urban areas. The Seventh plan strategy focused attention on employment generation and poverty alleviation.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was launched on 1 April 1989, &er merging the two earlier employment schemes namely, NREP and RLEGP." The objectives of the programme are: i. to provide additional employment for the unemployed and under employed in rural areas, ii. to create sustained employment by strengthening the rural economic infrastructure and assets and improvement in the overall quality of life in rural areas Under this programme

Indira Awas Yojana

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) which was an important component of RLEGP aiming at construction of dwelling units, free of cost for the poorest of the poor belonging to SCs, STs and freed bonded labourers continues

The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97)

The Eight Plan has recognised the need for a re-orientation of planning in keeping with the process of economic reforms and restructuring of the economy.

The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

The objectives of the Ninth Plan evolved from the Common Minimum Programme of the Government and the Chief Ministers' Conference on basic minimum services. The suggestions are as follows: i. Priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generate productive employment and eradication of poverty, ii. Accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices, iii. Ensuring food and nutritional security for the vulnerable section of the society.

Twelfth Plan Objectives for Growth

Trends Alternative Investment Scenarios for the 12th Plan (Rs in Crore) To attempt for a high growth rate (7%) in Agriculture and allied sectors by adopting the strategy of the Rainbow Revolution. Growth Prospect in the 12th Plan Period It is important to note that the gap between the per capita income of Bihar and the national per capita income has kept on widening since the beginning of the planning era (1950-51). Due to exemplary growth shown by the state, it hinted at a sign of recovery in recent years but in reality, the rate of recovery is quite low. In fact, at the beginning of the planning era the Per Capita Income of Bihar at Constant Prices (2004- 05) was Rs. 4707 which had a gap of 31.37 % with respect to average per capita income of India. This gap has continued to widen in each succeeding plan period up to the Ninth Plan. From the 11th Plan period the gap has started narrowing down, but at a slow rate. In the year 2011-12 the gap has narrowed down by 2.5 percentage points over the 2010-11 figures. During 12th Plan (2012-17), not only this wide divergence between per capita incomes has to be addressed but a conscious effort needs to be made to bridge the gap effectively and efficiently. It is, therefore, imperative that the investment is substantially stepped up both in public and private sectors. There has been a commendable rise in rate of investment during the period from 2006-07 to 2010-11. The Planning Commission has explored two alternative targets for economic growth in the Twelfth Planone for 9 percent growth rate and the other for 9.5 percent average growth for the 12th Five Year Plan.

Conclusions

The main objectives of integrated rural development planning in India is to bring about a structural transformation of the economy so as to achieve a high and substantial rate of growth, progressive improvement in the standard of living, eradication of poverty and unemployment provide material basis for a self-reliant social economy and ensure social justice. T'o mention a few, there were achievements of self-sufficiency in food, stagnant changes in the structure of economy such as fall in the shares of non-agricultural sectors, the expression and diversification of the industrial sector and growth in scientific and technical manpower. In spite of this, performance with regard to rural development had not been very impressive with a population growth rate of 2.2% per mum, there has not been qualitative improvement in the standard of living of people. Also there has been a little change in the overall income inequalities and majority of the population still live in the state of poverty. But with the help of current strategy for rural development through poverty alleviation programmes, a variable acceptance of principle of growth with social justice and the adoption of decentralised planning process, it is expected that the country would progressively eliminate poverty.

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