

Indira Awaas Yojana – A Quick Study

1. The Study

With a view to provide houses to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Freed Bonded Labourers living below poverty line, Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) was launched in 1985-86, as a component of Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). The RLEGP and National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) were merged into Jawahar Rozgar Yojana on April 1, 1989. Six per cent of the total resources under JRY were earmarked for construction of houses under IAY. Thus IAY was implemented by the State Government through the District Rural Development Agencies/Zila Parishads.

The general experience had been that the benefits of most of the development schemes did not fully accrue to the target groups. In view of this, it was felt to ascertain the situation regarding provision of houses to the poor. In view of this, at the instance of Planning Commission, the Programme Evaluation Organisation undertook a quick study of IAY to assess the agencies involved for construction of houses, the quality of houses constructed and the level of satisfaction of the allottees.

2. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study were as under:

- i) to comprehend the processes involved in the selection of household for allotment of houses, construction of the houses as such, and the agencies responsible for their construction,
- ii) to assess the quality of houses constructed,
- iii) to analyse the extent to which the houses are occupied by the target groups, and
- iv) to examine the level to which they are satisfied with the houses provided.

3. Sample Size/Criteria for Sample Selection

14 states, where 97.5 percent of the houses under the Yojana were constructed, were selected for the study. From each of the selected States, one district, two blocks and four villages were selected. In all 14 states, 14 districts, 28 blocks and 56 villages were selected

for the study. In addition, 1195 allottee households were actually canvassed out of 1224 selected.

4. Reference Period

The field work was conducted from April 15 to May 21, 1992. The secondary data were collected for the period 1985-86 to 1991-92.

5. Main Findings

1. The selection of households for allotment of houses was done in an open meeting of the Gram Sabha in the selected villages of Uttar Pradesh while in the remaining 13 states involvement of official agencies was reported to be in varying degrees.
2. The construction of houses under IAY followed in almost all the selected villages were as per guidelines. However, involvement of Contractors in the construction of houses was reported from 8 selected villages falling in four states.
3. The average cost of construction of a house, taking all the selected villages together, worked out to about Rs.9,000.
4. About 90 percent of the houses in the selected villages were constructed in clusters and about 80 percent of them were in and around the main habitation.
5. Of the total houses constructed in 14 selected states, about 50 percent were only in three states of Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
6. In majority of the selected villages the material component was higher as compared to wage component.
7. The quality of more than 50 percent houses were reported to be good.
8. More than 80 percent of the houses were occupied and lived in. Most of them were kept vacant due to inadequate accommodation as reported by the beneficiaries.

6. Major Suggestions

1. It would be better to identify and select the households in open Gram Sabha meeting in order to ensure shelter to the poor.
2. The practice of involvement of Contractor for construction of IAY houses should be stopped.
3. The voluntary organisations may be involved for the construction of houses as also for motivating the beneficiaries in the use of smokeless Chullahs and sanitary latrines.
4. A system for identifying the housing needs and its fulfilment in a phased manner may be developed to enable the rural poor to meet their requirements.
5. There is further scope for improving the quality of construction of IAY houses.

Steps should be taken for construction of houses with sufficient accommodation as well as infrastructural facilities may be provided also.