

BENCH MARK SURVEY REPORT ON BHADRAK BLOCK, ORISSA, 1956

The Study

The Bhadrak Community Development Project was one of the 18 projects selected for the main Bench Mark Survey. This project was initiated in October 1952 in 172 villages falling in the Agarpara Block of Bhadrak project. of these 167 villages were inhabited and 5 were uninhabited. In the remaining 404 villages of the above block, project programmes were taken up from May, 1953. The Bench Mark Survey related to 167 out of 576 villages of the block in which the programme first began. The word 'Block' as used in the report referred to these 167 villages only.

2. Objectives

- i) To assess the extent of adoption of improved practices advocated by the Community Development and National Extension Programmes; and
- ii) . To obtain an insight into the impact of these programmes upon the economic and social life of the rural people.

3. Sample Size/Criteria for selection of sample

Two stage sampling design was adopted. In the first stage the sampling unit was the village and in the second the house-hold. The six selected Bench Mark Survey villages were (i) Apanda-Barkona-Rampur, (2) Bangarpodi, (3) Babarchikayan (4) Barhat Trilochanpur, (5) Maltira, and (6) Podikuandra-Raintira.

4. Reference Period

The B.M.S. was conducted between February and June, 1954 and data relates to the period May, 1953 to January, 1954.

5. Main Findings

I. Literates in the block were estimated to be 23.1 per cent of the population. Literacy among the males was 38.1 per cent and among the females 7.8 per cent.

2. The average size of cultivated holding worked out to 5.4 acres.

3. Only 11.2 percent of the total cultivators reported to have used improved seeds of paddy.

4. Of the various improved methods of cultivation recommended by the project, only five out of **565 cultivators** in six villages had taken up one or the other of these methods.

5. The average cultivator in these villages manured his field by farmyard manure, compost or silt while preparing the land for sowing the paddy. 73.3 per cent of the cultivators reported the application of farmyard manure in their fields.

6. 24 per cent of the population was estimated as offering for employment. Most of the persons offering for employment were earners in the households. In the total earners offering for employment, 43.6 per cent were employees and 56.4 per cent non-employees.

7. Medical facilities were not adequate and the sanitary conditions also were far from satisfactory.

8. As regards community participation, 273 households (about 39 percent) participated in construction of Roads, Schools, and other community activities and contributed 1494 man-days of labour and Rs. 886 in cash.