

**BENCH MARK SURVEY OF 34 COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS - Notes and Tables, 1966**

1. The Study

The Programme Evaluation **organisation conducted a** fresh survey with a view to provide wider sample for subsequent re-surveys in order to assess the impact of development and other programmes on the economic and social life of the rural people in the selected areas.

2. Objectives

To assess the impact of development and other programmes on the economic and social life of the rural people in the selected areas.

3. **Sample Size/Criteria for selection** of Sample

The 34 blocks spread over 14 States (excluding Jammu & Kashmir and Nagaland) were selected for the study. Two blocks from each of these States except Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and U.P. in each of which 1, 4, 1, 3 & 7 blocks were covered. Stratified sampling was adopted for selection of blocks. Stratification was done on the basis of States & geographical region. For the selection of blocks, the universe was restricted to pure stage I blocks which were started not later than October, 1957. For selection of households, the households were classified into six occupational groups based on the occupation of the head of the households. These groups were as under:

- i) Pure cultivators
- ii) Cultivator-cum-agricultural labourers
- iii) Cultivator-cum-artisans
- iv) Landless labourers v) Artisans
- vi) others

The number of households selected in each category were 5514, 23620 440, 1594, 342 and 1235 respectively. The total number of households selected was 11,487.

4. **Reference Period**

The survey was conducted in four rounds between July, 1959 to June, 1960.

5. Main Findings

1. All the 34 blocks reported the facility of primary schools. Of the 34 blocks, only 8 blocks reported the facility of Secondary Schools.

2. It was reported that 30 blocks had pucca houses, while the remaining 4 blocks had no pucca houses. Electrified houses existed only in five blocks, smokeless chulhas were reported in sample villages of 9 blocks.

3. A person was considered to be in the labour force if he was available for gainful work in the fortnight. The concept of labour is not tied down to age limits like 15-60 **years**. Even those who were below 15 or above 60 but actually did gainful work, were considered inside the labour force. The proportion of population in the labour force was 36.6 per cent for pure cultivator households, 25.8 per cent for cultivator cum-agricultural labourer households and 37.5 per cent for cultivator-cum-artisan households. About 52 per cent of adult males & 26 per cent of adult females had offered himself/herself for employment any time during the reference period of 12 months.

4. 58.1 per cent of the total geographical area was Ader cultivation in all the blocks taken together.' The proportion of net sown area to net area under cultivation was 94.8 per cent. 12.7 per cent of the net cultivated area was irrigated. The average size of cultivated holding worked out to 7.9 acres per household.

5. 25.8 per cent of the cultivating households in all the selected blocks reported use of improved variety of seeds.

6. Only 10.1 per cent of the total cropped area **was reported to be under improved** seeds.

7. Majority of the households (31 per cent) purchased improved variety seeds from open market. Only 4.8 per cent and 9.1 per cent of households reported the purchase of improved variety of seeds respectively from cooperative sources and govt.' sources.

8. 83.2 per cent of the cropped area for cotton was under improved seeds, where as this proportion worked out to 78.7 per cent for sugarcane, 44.2 per cent for wheat, 14.1 per cent for paddy & 2.5 per cent for Jowar.

9. The overall value of gross agricultural produce per capita worked out to Rs.231 for all the blocks together.

10. 2.1 per cent of population reported artisan crafts as their principal occupation. Majority of the artisan households i.e. 20.5 per cent were engaged in carpentry followed by handloom (10.4 per cent), cobblery (9.6 per cent) & village pottery (8.9 per cent).

11. 91.7 per cent of sample villages were covered by panchayats.

12. 20.5 per cent of the sample households reported their participation in one or the other community works.