

COMMUNITY PROJECTS - FIRST REACTIONS (A PRELIMINARY SURVEY), AUGUST, 1954

1. The Study

This was the first enquiry conducted by the organisation and was a preliminary enquiry in many ways. The main purpose of the survey was to give Evaluation officers, an opportunity to study the working of development programmes at the village level and to prepare themselves for the more comprehensive and detailed enquiries to be conducted by the organisation later.

2. Objectives

To assess the initial reactions of the rural population towards Community Development and Extension Projects.

3. Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample

The survey was conducted in 16 of the 19 Evaluation Centres. In each centre, one village was chosen for the survey. Criteria adopted for selection of sample village were nearness to project Headquarters, accessibility, work having started and representativeness of the conditions in the projects area etc.

4. Reference Period

Field work for the survey was started in June, 1953 and completed in most areas by September, 1953.

5. Main Findings

1. After a period of over six months since the initiation of the programme of development, a fairly large percentage of cultivators and a very much larger proportion of non-cultivators were substantially unaware of the whole effort. Even, those who evinced some knowledge of the programme had often hazy notions about its contents as well as about its-basic principles.

2. The limited measure of achievement was due to the essential slowness and gradualness of the process of educative extension.

3. The developmental staff could not establish a rapport with the small cultivators, the agricultural labourers and the non agricultural class of village artisans.

4. An impression gradually formed itself and went on deepening as the enquiry proceeded that there were a few traces of any attempt to rouse local leadership to an appreciation of the basic principles of the programme and to an overall village scale effort to achieve its ends.

6. **Major Suggestions**

It was felt that for the success of the programme some attempt should have been made to rouse local leadership to an appreciation of the basic principles of the programme and to an overall village, scale efforts to achieve its ends.