

CASE STUDIES OF SELECTED YOUTH CLUBS - 1967**1. The Study**

The Youth Club Programme, like other social programmes, was a constituent item of the overall Community Development Programme. The Youth Club Programme was conceived as an effective medium for changing the traditional attitudes of the village community and creating climate for widespread adoption of new practices. Accordingly, the CD Blocks were called upon to encourage formation of youth clubs in the villages. The rural youth programme received emphasis and gained momentum in many states-during the latter half of the Second Plan and early years of the Third Plan. As the programme was reported to have expanded considerably thereafter, it was felt that the time was ripe for an evaluation of the programme. Consequently, the study was undertaken by the programme Evaluation Organisation at the instance of Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation and Government of Mysore. It was designed to study the structure and functioning of the youth club organisations and the impact of such programmes at the field level.

2. objectives

The study was designed to study the following;

- i) The structure and functioning of youth club organisations and their accomplishments;
- ii) The extent to which the objectives of the programme have been fulfilled; and
- iii) The problems and difficulties that hampered the effective functioning of the clubs and to identify the factors that contributed to their successful functioning.

3. Sample Size/Criteria-for Selection of Sample

11 States were selected for the study where the youth programme had made some progress. Eleven youth clubs, one in each state, were selected in consultation with the State Governments and the Directorate of Evaluation. A club was selected purposively on the basis that it should have since economic programme and should have been functioning for the last two years.

4. Reference Period

The study was taken up in 1966 and the data were collected for the years 1961-62 to 1965-66.

5. Main Findings

1. It was observed that even during the initial years of the formation of these clubs or initiation of the youth club movement in the country, very little interest had been shown or attention given both at the Central and State Governments levels. One of the reasons might be the limitation of overall plan resources and renewed emphasis on intensification of agricultural development programmes.

2. Of the 11 cases, there were one or two youth clubs which had been functioning actively and having some impact on the rural community. These two clubs, one in Mysore and the other in Orissa, had been started only during 1962 and 1959 respectively. Both these clubs had a good number of members and the main activities of these clubs had been concentrated equally on economic and social aspects. These successful clubs had also shown the operation of democratic institution at the lowest level which had given its members some training in the working of local democratic institutions. Further, in these two clubs, the active cooperation, assistance & coordination between the clubs and the development agencies at the Block and Panchayat levels had been achieved.

3. One of the objectives in furthering the youth movement in the countryside was to reduce the social distance among different social economic groups. In most of the youth clubs studied, including the successful ones, these objectives had not been achieved to any significant extent. As a result, the membership of these clubs had been drawn mostly from higher caste groups and also from the comparatively richer cultivating classes.

4. The youth club of village Kothanahally, Mysore had succeeded in fostering community sense, helped in developing qualities of leadership, **inculcated** discipline among the youths, got the involvement of the local leaders and institutions and carried on numerous other activities. The State Govt. had played an important role in fostering youth movement in Mysore.

5. The Chittaranjan Youth Club in village Gonda, Sambalpur district, Orissa, was fairly successful youth club in that state. The major single factor which

contributed to the development of this village as also to the active functioning of the youth club was the leadership given by the 11 Ex-Governmental of the village.

6. The youth clubs studied in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh also functioned somewhat successfully and could be categorised as above the average type. The one at Yacharam village in Andhra Pradesh was successful and active only in social activities. It was mainly because the Panchayat village and the villager, actively participated and contributed.

7. Similarly, the Seon youth club in the Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh was fairly successful in its social and cultural activities and to some **extent, in** individual economic projects like kitchen **gardening**. In this case also, whatever success had been achieved, was mainly due to the interest taken by the President of the Club. Another factor which led to the active functioning of the club was the fact that the club got a major portion of its income from the share it got from individual economic projects taken up by the members on the initiative of the club. The rate of this cess was fixed at 1/8th of the total net profit from the project.

8. out of the eleven cases studied as many as five could be categorised as poor in terms of activities and achievements of objectives laid down for them.

9. The most important bottleneck appeared to be the absence of a clearcut programme regarding the involvement of the development agencies at the block and village levels and also of panchayat organisations at all the three levels. It had been found that in the case of comparatively successful youth clubs, the attention given by the above agencies and their involvement in the work of the youth clubs, was one of the primary reasons for the successful working of the clubs.

10. Even when some of the clubs were quite enthusiastic in undertaking economic projects either on a group or individual basis, they were not successful in such ventures because, in a few cases, the selection of worthwhile economic projects in a particular context was not properly made. Therefore, the role of the development officials at the block and village levels should come into play right from the beginning so that the creative energies of the enthusiastic members of the clubs were not misdirected.

11. Maintenance of essential records was not satisfactory in many clubs.

6. Major Suggestions

1. In the modern age, every individual or group of individuals requires sufficient incentive and *recognition for* putting in hard work. It is all the more true in the case of the youth community. Unless the successful work put in by some clubs is properly recognised and incentives given, it is no use expecting that the very same people would continue to show interest in such activities. Suitable forms of recognition and incentives would have to be devised either by the Government or by the village institutions so that a sense of competition and healthy rivalry is generated in the mind of the younger generation which would in turn be translated into dynamic, meaningful, social and economic activities.

2. Records should be maintained properly as these are essential for proper working of the club as well as for periodical assessment of its programmes.

3. There is also a need for giving suitable training in leadership, organisation and club projects to youth club leaders and selection of youth club members at the state level should be made in a systematic manner.

4. one word of caution, however, needs to be mentioned especially in the context of the present Indian political scene. In formulating a proper State policy, in involving the development officials at the block and village levels and in directing active participation of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the development of youth programmes, care has to be taken to see that political alignment and influence are kept out of the picture. Otherwise, very potential and healthy youth programme, if misdirected by political interests may pose a serious threat to the harmony of the village community.