

EVALUATION REPORT ON SECOND YEAR'S WORKING OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS, 1955

1. The Study

This report is a continuation of the First Report which was published in 1954. The adjustments of policy and administration on the one hand and of practices and institutional conduct on the other were things which had to be studied so as to make them more & more effective instruments of cultural and material change, which was the objective of the Community Project Movement. This report concentrates on spotting and elucidating significant features revealed by recent experience.

The report was brought out in two volumes. The volume.I gave the collective picture offered in the overall evaluation and volume.II contained detailed reports on individual projects.

2. objectives

- i) To indicate the broad trends of progress of Community Development Projects; and
- ii) To appraise the tendencies revealed by current experience.

3. Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample

Not available in the Report.

4. Reference Period

Second year of the working of Community Projects i.e. 1953-54.

5. Main Findings

Some of the main findings of the report (vol.I) are given below:

1. The progress which had taken place in several spheres of activity would not have been possible without a real appreciation by the people of the need and possibility of improvement through knowledge and practice of better ways. Better cultivation, better education, better industrial techniques were almost enthusiastically welcomed.

2. The principal field of economic activity which was influenced by community projects and national extension was that of agriculture. The measure of **added** production had risen considerably by means of better seed, fertilizers, better tillage, 1 insecticides, better implements, irrigational aids etc.

3. As regards greater employment, no data on a wide scale was available. The extent of newland brought under cultivation, added employment created by more intensive and more continuous cultivation, improvement in some village industries in a few places, employment in extension activities themselves and the indirect effects of all these would add up to a considerable total.

4. The reports for the year 1953-54 received from the Evaluation officers revealed that some headway had been made in the organisation of co-operative societies, but judging from the **Bench Mark data** for ten blocks it would appear that the membership had still remained at a low level.

5. The general situation in regard to public participation was very encouraging. The extent of participation in local works varies considerably from one evaluation block to another and also from one selected village to another -within any particular evaluation block. Several factors including nature of works, nature of contribution, people's attitude and official leadership were responsible for these variations. Subject to these, there had been a uniformly favourable response from the people to all schemes of betterment in which the burdens and the benefits were equitably distributed.

6. There was a very encouraging degree of acceptance in almost all areas for the use of improved seeds. For instance, the percentage of cultivating households using improved seeds to total cultivating households was highest in Batala (93 percent) followed by Kolhapur (66 percent), Rajpur (54 percent) and Bhadson (46 percent).

7. Specific programmes for women and children were undertaken only in a few blocks. In most places, lack of clear cut programme for women was the main reason why they remained more or less untouched by these activities. Except the area where women were still somewhat secluded, they had shown a distinct awareness and appreciation of the general programme of improvement and of health, hygiene and education in particular.

6. **Suggestions**

1. As regards the more institutionalised forms of co-operation e.g. co-operative societies, there was no **great emphasis** on the . form of extention of organisation yet. This is one of the directions in which further progress of extension must be guided.

2. The experience gained over the last two years suggested the need for further modifications in design and in execution and more systematically planned programme should be undertaken to encourage the participation of women.