

REPORT ON EVALUATION OF RURAL MANPOWER PROJECTS, 1967**1. The Study**

For better utilisation of the unemployed and under-employed rural manpower, comprehensive works programme was proposed in the year 1960-61. A beginning was made with 32 pilot projects in early 1961 and this number in the course of time increased to 820 blocks by December, 1962. It was expected that the works programme would provide increased employment opportunities & also in the process create productive assets to strengthen the rural economy. The evaluation study of the works programme was undertaken by the Programme Evaluation organisation at the instance of Planning Commission to review the progress of work, examine the organisational and administrative set up and assess the impact of the programme.

2. Objectives

To examine the organisational and administrative set up and to review the progress of work and assess the impact of the programme.

3. Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample

The schemes relating to roads, minor irrigation, soil conservation etc. were selected on the basis of allocation of amount. The schemes were arranged in the descending order of the amount of allotment and the number selected were such that the selected schemes accounted for at least 75% of the target grant. The list of sites where work was going on was arranged in descending order of the number of mandays of employment expected to be provided during the slack season and the first two sites from list so prepared were selected.

50 respondents were selected at random from among the workers on all the work-sites. The number of projects and labourers selected for study during different years was as under:

Year	No. of Projects	No. of labourers Canvassed
Mid-1961	17	
End of 1961	29	
1962	15	623
1963	23	999
1964		1,117

4. Reference Period

The study was initiated in the year 1961 and completed in 1964. The data were collected for the years 1961 to 1964.

5. Main Findings

1. Rural works programme had been assigned an **important** role in the Third Plan. It had been proposed to provide employment for an annual average of 100 days to about 1 lakh persons in the first year and to about 2.5 million persons by the end of the Third Plan Period. The Plan outlay indicated an allocation of Rs.150 crores for this programme. Due to the limitation and of resources as a result of unexpected developments, the scale of efforts was drastically curtailed and only a sum of Rs.19 crores was made available during the whole Plan period. This naturally created uncertainties about the continuation and extension of the programme. Thus, the State Government at times, could not plan and service the projects systematically.

2. The study of the programme, spread over four years, though indicates certain improvements over the years in respect of the selection of areas, selection of the schemes, association of panchayats, procedural arrangements etc, still much remains to be done to improve matters in respect of all these aspects. Selection of certain areas like* Muktsar(Punjab) in the second series seemed not to satisfy the selection criteria. Regarding schemes to be operated upon under the programme, it was seen in States like Madras, Kerala, A.P, Gujarat and Rajasthan, that even if the productive scheme predominated, the selection had been made without adequate examination of the problem as such and not taking adequate note as to the possibilities of implementing the schemes. At times shortage of technical and experienced staff and rising cost of the schemes were experienced.

3. Association of panchayats in most of the areas were reported to be satisfactory as far as execution and supervision of schemes were concerned. However, their association in planning and selection of schemes was reported only from Babulgaon (Maharashtra), Kunihar(HP), Dharamgarh (Orissa) and Gannavaram (AP). In certain projects like Parasala (Kerala), Yadgir (Mysore), Kamarole (AP) and Santrampur (Gujarat), association of panchayats in the programme execution was adequate. As regards Labour Co-operatives, the role assigned for these in the programme, had not been satisfactory.

4. In terms of employment generated it was found in 1962 study that, on an average, a project Provided annual employment for about 34,507 mandays or 100 man-days of work for 345 persons. In the next year's study this average was found to be 39600 man-days. On the whole, an expenditure of Rs.100 generated 53 days of employment.

5. Data collected from selected labourers showed **an average** employment on the project for 33 days during July, 1961 to April 1962 and 32 days during 1963.

6. **Major Suggestions**

1. In order to have adequate impact, the project should increase the scale of their operations considerably. If the tempo of work and creation of employment in project area are to be systematically build up, administrative and executive methods and procedures will need considerable modification and streamlining. Decentralisation of authority, changes in the methods, manuals and procedure are the other pre requisites for successful planning and implementation.

2. Selection of area to be covered by the programme. should be based on regular survey of unemployment and under-employment. This survey should furnish details regarding the period of extreme unemployment and underemployment and the execution of the works programmes should be timed accordingly. To subserve its main objectives, the timing aspect of work execution should receive due consideration. For the areas so selected, a master plan of works should be drawn up. The master plan should be comprehensive and its scope should not be restricted by consideration of only rural manpower projects and the funds flowing because of it.

3. Necessary machinery to formulate the master plan may be created at the district level and it could proceed with its work from one block to another. Association of Panchayati Raj institutions in programme planning and its execution should receive greater emphasis in areas where th'ese are not fully associated yet. This type of active association is particularly desirable at the village level, where adequate guidance, encouragement and supervision should be ensured.

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