

**SEVENTH EVALUATION REPORT ON COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND SOME ALLIED FIELDS, 1960**

1. The Study

The study was undertaken by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) to evaluate the operation of the Community Development (CD) Programme. The study threw light on the important problems with which the C.D. programme was concerned. The data were collected on all important aspects of the programme, such as, agriculture, village industries, health, education, social education, democratic decentralisation and people's outlook and attitude. This volume contained the summary of current evaluation of 18 selected blocks as well as summaries of the Reports on Rabi crops campaign in Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh'. case studies of 'Successful Panchayats and Co-operatives and a brief study of Rural Unemployment'. only the summaries of the evaluation study of Community Development and some aspects of rural unemployment are presented here. The details of study on evaluation of the 1958-59 Rabi crops campaign and the case studies of some successful panchayats and co-operatives have been dealt with separately under PEO study Nos. 33, 34 & 35 respectively.

I. Community Development Programme

1. Objectives

- i) To throw some light on important problems with which the C.D. programme is concerned;
- ii) To evaluate the functioning of the C.D. programme; and
- iii) To find out the factors responsible for the success of Panchayats and cooperatives.

3. Sample Size

18 Community Development Blocks spread over 13 States were selected. Three blocks were chosen in Bombay, two each in Bihar, Punjab and Rajasthan and one each in the remaining States. The blocks were equally divided between Stage-I and Stage-II.

4. **Reference Period**

The data were collected for the years 1958-59 & 1959-60

5. **Main Findings**

1. The number of agricultural problems considered most important by the **people and the officials** in all the selected Block areas had been found to be 21. The number and nature of problems vary from Block to block.

2. Lack of irrigation facilities had been cited as a problem in most of the blocks.

3. Soil Conservation measures were adopted in 14 blocks of which 5 blocks reported adoption of scientific measures like contour bunding, drainage works. etc.

4. The improved seeds and fertilizers were distributed in 1958-59 in almost every block for one or more crops. Fertilizers were being used in these blocks in 1958-59 on 0.7% to 53.5% of the area of the principal crops. Among agricultural practices line sowing was the most widely accepted practice; the Japanese method of paddy cultivation came next.

5. The popularity of artificial insemination had been on the increase.

6. In some blocks notable progress had been in the innoculation and vaccination of livestock.

7. Attempts had been made to popularise poultry keeping in almost all the blocks under study. Most blocks had done fairly intensive propaganda and publicity.

8. Only eight blocks had taken specific steps for the development of fisheries in their areas.

9. Programme for development of piggery and the improvement of quality sheep and goats had been undertaken in only three blocks. The overall progress had been very slow.

10. It was observed that distribution system in respect of fertilisers, insecticides, improved seeds and improved implements had considerable scope for improvement in almost all the blocks in one or more respects.

11. Among the existing cottage and village industries, handloom weaving found in 15 blocks was the most common craft, smithy found in 12 blocks came next, followed by tanning (11), carpentry (11), bamboo work (10) and pottery (9).

12. The training of artisans was a very common activity of the blocks in this field.

13. Some steps had been taken to facilitate the supply of raw materials and equipments needed by the village industries.

14. Among the important health problems reported from the selected blocks, inadequacy of suitable drinking water was considered the most important in 10 blocks. The second in order of importance was the existence of in-sanitary and un-hygienic conditions in the villages, followed by the absence of latrines and inadequacy of medical aid.

15. Programmes for improving the rural water supply were taken up in all the selected areas and the position of water supply was fairly satisfactory as a result of the construction and renovation of an adequate number of drinking water wells during the project period.

16. Hospitals, dispensaries, primary health centres and sub-centres were the principal types of health institutions found in rural areas. but the number, type and standard of health institutions varied widely among the blocks.

17. **Maternity and child welfare centres existed in two-third** of the blocks.

18. Attempts were made in all the blocks to popularise improved latrines by educating people in the advantages of such latrines and extending financial or other assistance to individuals for their construction.

19. In 1959, in the 18 selected blocks on an average, there were 0.6 primary schools per village and about 1.16 schools of all types covering every thousand of the population (1951).

20. The effective number of vacancies among the SEOs in the selected blocks was of the order of 19 per cent of the posts throughout 1959.

21. By far, the largest proportion of cooperatives (46 percent) consisted of credit societies, followed by multipurpose societies. These two together accounted for about two third of the cooperatives in the blocks.

23. By 1959 all States had not only passed Panchayats Acts but also set up panchayats in most of the villages.

24. Reports from a few blocks revealed that the panchayats in these areas were taking an active interest in planning.

25. People's reactions in most of the blocks studied were not generally favourable to the growth of self reliance in village Communities, which was the primary aim of the C.D. Programme.

II. **Some Aspects of Rural Unemployment**

1. **The Study**

The note on 'Some Aspects of Rural unemployment was prepared by the Programme Evaluation organisation on the basis of the data thrown up by the study conducted in some development blocks in different parts of the country which had the benefit of the C.D. Programme for number of years. originally 20 blocks of Bench Mark Survey and 35 new development blocks were taken for the study. However, due to administrative reasons, adequate information could not be collected in 7 old blocks where the first BMS was carried out. Hence the note was based on the information collected from 13 blocks spread over 10 states and one Union Territory.

2. **Objectives**

- i) To find out the changes that may have taken place in the old blocks.
- ii) To widen the geographic coverage of the enquiry in preparation for the next survey; and
- iii) To find out the seasonal variation in employment.

3. Sample Size

The study was conducted in 13 old Blocks spread over 10 States and one Union Territory. In all, a total of 3407 households in 86 villages were covered.

4. Reference Period

May-June and Mid-September-Mid-October of 1959.

5. Main Findings

1. Of the 92 to 94 days out of every 100 days available for gainful work, the cultivators found employment for 69 days in the busy and 58 days in the slack season. The corresponding mandays for artisans and labours were 66, 59 and 65, 52 respectively. In the busy season, the agricultural labourer was slightly less employed than cultivators or artisans; but in the slack, they suffered from more unemployment than others.

2. Unemployment both perennial and seasonal was more prevalent among women than men.

3. Pure cultivator was engaged in farm-work for most of his working days. Again work on one's own farm accounted for 90% of the days devoted to farm work and 10% of total days were spent on farms of other persons either by way of exchange or on hire. There was little scope for the cultivator to employ his time on non-farm activities. This was also true for the cultivator-cum-labourer.

4. An artisan-cum-cultivator spent a little more than half of his time on non-farm, specially in slack season than the pure cultivator or the cultivator-cum-labourer.

5. 74 per cent of the workers found some work in both the periods, 16% in the busy fortnight and 7% in the slack season only. About 4% were unemployed in both the seasons.

6. The percentage of adult males and females taken together offering for hire had gone up from 34 per cent to 41 per cent between the two enquiries i.e. BMS and Repeat. The rise was more or less the same order for both the sexes but proportion of women offering for employment was much lower.

7. The proportion of cultivating owners who offer for employment on hire was less than those of other categories. While the percentage of persons in all the categories offering to work for hire had increased since the first enquiry, the increase had been very significant among the non-cultivating owner. This possibly might be due to the impact of recent land reforms on their economic position.

8. In addition to open unemployment, there had been a good deal of disguised unemployment in the country side. The study of disguised unemployment revealed that half the man-days of work ostensibly spent on the farms could be considered unwanted and made available for other purposes. The degree of disguised unemployment did not, however, vary much between the two seasons, the busy and the slack.

9. Although the proportion, of workers who offered to work for hire increased from 34 per cent to 42 per cent between the two enquiries, the proportion of persons describing themselves as agricultural labourers had remained constant.

6. **Suggestions**

Since the artisans constituted only 2% of the total population, rural arts and crafts should expand greatly to absorb even a fraction of the unemployed among cultivators and agricultural labourers.