

CHAPTER – IV

Methodology

After creation of Jharkhand. Bihar has been left with only 9 administrative divisions and 37 districts. For the purpose of our study, we have selected one district on simple random sample basis from each division. Thus 9 districts namely Banka, Bhojpur, Gaya, Gopalganj, Katihar, Khagaria, Saharsa, Samastipur and Sheohar have been selected for this study.

A map showing location of these nine sampled districts is enclosed with this report. Banka is in extreme South East of the state. It adjoins Deoghar and Dumka districts of Jharkhand. Bhojpur is south west of the river Ganges. Gaya is in extreme south of Bihar and is the head quarters of Gaya Division. It adjoins Chatra and Hazaribagh districts of Jharkhand. Its area adjoining Chatra is under influence of MCC activists. Gopalganj is in extreme west of Bihar and is in north of Ganges. Its area touches Uttar Pradesh also Katihar is on the eastern boundary of North Bihar. It adjoins West Bengal. Khagaria is in North of Ganges but is under Munger Division. Saharsa is in North of Khagaria and its north west boundary adjoins Darbhanga. Saharsa is headquarter of Kosi Division. Samastipur is in central North of Ganges and its northern boundary adjoins its divisional Headquarters Darbhanga. Sheohar is in north of its divisional headquarters Muzaffarpur. Its boundary adjoins East Champaran and Sitamarhi districts. In this way these 9 sampled districts represent the boundaries and central portion of the Bihar State. All the 9 sampled districts for this study have been identified as most backward and most poor by the Sarma Committee. This Committee

had identified Sitamarhi and Bhagalpur in these categories. These two districts have since been divided. Sheohar which was subdivision of Sitamarhi has now become a full fledged district. Similarly Banka which was a subdivision of Bhagalpur district has also become a district now.

After selection of sample district one from each administrative division, this study necessitated selection of two community development blocks from each of these 9 districts. Selection of these 18 blocks have been done on random sampling basis. Subsequently two villages from each of the two community development blocks have been chosen on random sampling basis. Village studies have been conducted through intensive interviewing of individuals and in groups through a questionnaire spanning 237 questions to ascertain the extent of development interventions in these villages. In this study, it has been assumed that the spreadover effects of planned efforts of past 50 years might have been nearly equally distributed among the villages. Therefore the data collected, tabulated and analysed from these questionnaires covering 36 village schedules can be assumed to represent the total outcome of development interventions in Bihar.

The listing of each house of these 36 villages was done. From these house-lists operation, ten households have been sampled in each of these 36 village for detailed study of the development interventions on various sectors of growth spanning over last 50 years. After having selected 10 households in each of the 36 villages, intensive survey through a detailed questionnaire covering 432 questions have been done through personal interviews of the head of these sampled ten households in each village. Data thus collected have been compiled, tabulated and analysed. These data

revealed information concerning economic, social transformation, infrastructure, law and order, extension, services sector indicators. These figures reflect the state of development in village of Bihar. They also generate insights through which loopholes can be plugged and the gaps among highest and lowest developed pockets/regions can be bridged.

We have analysed the development interventions prevailing at the district, block and village level individually and separately. And integrated approach on development intervention in Bihar has also been subsequently built up.

With a view to prepare mode development plan for villages, one village in south Bihar and one village in North Bihar have been studied. This study referred to the availability of physical and manpower resources in these villages. Problems facing the economic growth of these villages have been ascertained. Villagers of these villages have been taken into confidence in framing of development activities for the well being of the people, of these villages. Readiness of people to share the cost of development had been ascertained. Attempt have been made to ensure participation of local people from the formulation to the execution of village development programmes.