

## PREFACE

Abject poverty exposes the hollowness of our system. Teeming poverty with the developed nuclear power is not only a paradox of our time but a shame for the civil society of the 21st century. Alleviation of poverty has been the goal of our development strategy since the beginning. Initially efforts were made to alleviate poverty with trickle-down hypothesis of the mainstream of development efforts. The strategy has been supplemented/complemented with the policy of direct attack on poverty since late 1970s.

The most unfortunate aspect is that even the combined strategy could not achieve any significant result and the actual number of poor has risen. The regional variation in the poverty level is an added dimension of the dilemma. Bihar (undivided) represents the poorest among the poor.

A survey has been conducted on 752 selected beneficiaries of different poverty alleviation programmes from three selected zones, i.e., North Bihar, Central Bihar and Jharkhand to evaluate the efficacy of the policy of direct attack on poverty.

The report is divided into six chapters. An introduction in chapter -1 contains the description of problem, methodology and the Socio-economic condition of the beneficiaries as a whole in general and North Bihar, Central Bihar and Jharkhand in particular. This is followed by the evaluation of Self-Employment Programmes including IRDP, TRYSEM and DWCRA in Chapter - 2. Chapter -3 has highlighted the Wage Employment Programmes including JRY and EAS. IAY has been evaluated in Chapter-4. Chapter-5 has evaluated the National Social Assistance Programme which includes NOAPS, NFBS and NMBS. Broad conclusion has been presented in Chapter-6.

The survey has shown that a sizeable proportion of beneficiaries have income either above poverty line or in the upper income-slab below poverty line. Most of the anti-poverty schemes have been implemented on paper and the scarce financial resources have been grossly misutilised under the influence of the Crime-Syndicates and the speed money. Common masses are unaware and trivial about the programmes. Structural transformation is needed for a qualitative break in the system.

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