

Impact of Social Sector Programme

A programme, technically speaking, is supposed to be making its impact if its contribution on specified heads or on social, economic and psychological indicators become conspicuous. The impact of social sector programmes has been studied at two levels. In the first level, it has been comparatively studied on the socio-economic aspects of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Perception of older beneficiaries and non beneficiaries on the socio-economic parameters of the region. The impact, the social sector programmes was studied at the other level. The socio-economic indicators on which the impact of the programme has been studied are: (a) distribution of land holding pattern; (b) occupational pattern; (c) agricultural tools; (d) income level pattern; (e) literacy pattern; (f) quality of dwellings; (g) school going and non-school going trend among children; (h) medical facilities and their use.

Thus, by comparing the socio-economic conditions and perception of old age pension beneficiaries as well as non-beneficiaries, the overall impact of social sector programmes was studied. Further, the sample contained a total of 469 focus group of households of which 145 or about 31 per cent belonged to Varanasi and the remaining 324 households or 69 per cent to Saharanpur district respectively. Of the 145 households in Varanasi, the proportion of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries was worked out to be 61 percent and 39 percent respectively. It was 33 percent beneficiaries and 67 percent non-beneficiaries in Saharanpur district and in the total sample it was 42 percent and 58 percent respectively. Further, the subsequent breakup of beneficiaries category, into old and new ones, shows that the proportion of old beneficiaries was worked out to be about 27.5 percent against 14.0 percent for new beneficiaries in the total sample. However, the proportion of new beneficiaries in

Varanasi district was 40 percent against 21.9 percent in Saharanpur district, while the proportion of non beneficiaries in the total sample was over 58 percent, which is a clear indication of the magnitude of the problem and the social sectors programme's inability to tackle it. It may also be relevant to point out, here, that the analysis of the impact of social sector programmes has been studied only on those sets of households which have been identified as 'focus group' of households by the block officials.

Thus, the analysis of social sector programme, on social and economic parameters enumerated above, have been discussed subsequently.

9.1 Impact on Land Distribution pattern

Despite several attempts at land reforms, over successive plan periods, the basic structure of agrarian economy has not undergone any conspicuous change. The pattern of land holding is still highly skewed with high concentration of land in the hands of few owners, on the one hand, and the growing number of marginal and sub-marginal farmers on the other. Though agricultural tenancy was abolished in most of the states by various enactments in the post independence period, yet it continued unabated in the concealed form. The efforts to introduce land reforms have been continued in the eighth plan also, however, it has so far met with limited success.

The study of land distribution pattern, in the total sample, shows that the incidence of land-less households among the beneficiaries was higher than in non-beneficiaries class. However, as one moved from landless category to higher category of land holdings, the proportion of households sharply drops in both beneficiaries as well as non-beneficiary category. However, in the higher category of land holdings viz. 2.5 hectares to 5 hectare and above 5 hectares of holdings, the proportion of households among beneficiaries was 0.5 percent each whereas there was no household in non-beneficiary section. Further, the study also shows that the incidence of landlessness was higher among new class of beneficiaries in the total

sample and as one moved from landless category to higher category of land holdings, the proportion of household in higher land holdings was much higher in the old class of beneficiaries than the households in new class of beneficiaries. Thus, it could be said that distribution of land has become less skewed among old beneficiaries or there has been a positive impact of social sector schemes on old class of beneficiaries. Therefore, it could be said that the status of beneficiaries, in terms of land holdings, was better than that of non-beneficiaries in our sample. Further, the higher proportion of landless in the sample could be attributed to the following two factors.

- (a) in Saharanpur district, it was observed that, households, in possession of small holdings, had sold their land at higher remuneration price because their village and blocks was in close proximity to urban areas and they commuted to urban areas daily for employment, or for daily wages.
- (b) the higher incidence of landlessness in Varanasi district could be attributed to the higher incidence of poverty in the region and majority of these households were engaged in traditional handicraft business and other non-agricultural activities (Table - 9.1).

9.2 Impact of Social Sector Programmes on Occupational Pattern

The comparative study of occupational pattern among beneficiary and non-beneficiary households shows that the incidence of households, engaged in cultivators as well as agricultural labour class, was much higher in non-beneficiary households whereas their proportion, in other activities like wage earning, business and to some extent artisan class, was much lesser than beneficiary households which implies that occupational mobility in the beneficiary class of households was much higher. However, the inter district comparison shows that the proportion of households engaged in cultivation and agricultural labourers category was distinctly

higher in Saharanpur district which may be on account of intensive agricultural practices. The analysis also shows that the primary sector largely absorbed households from non-beneficiary class, thereby projecting its stagnating stature in terms of occupational movement.

Further, in beneficiary category, the study also shows that the proportion of households belonging to old category engaged in primary sector was much lesser than the new ones as around 20 percent of households depended on it against over 28 percent in the later case. Thus, it could be said that occupational diversity among old beneficiaries was more pronounced than the new ones, largely on account of their longer association, with social sector schemes.

The plausible reason for growth in non-agricultural sector has largely been on account of sample villages proximity to urban centres, which prompted the beneficiaries households to move out and commute to city daily for daily wage work. Further, the wage rate, was higher in the urban areas, than in the agricultural sector at sample villages encouraging the trend of rural to urban migration (Table - 9.2).

Table - 9.1
Classification of Land Holding Pattern in Between Beneficiaries and Non-Beneficiaries in the Sample Districts

Category of Land	Varanasi				Saharanpur				Total			
	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total
	Old	New			Old	New			Old	New		
Land Less	51 (87.9)	29 (93.5)	45 (82.1)	126 (86.9)	53 (74.6)	29 (82.9)	152 (69.7)	234 (72.2)	104 (80.6)	58 (87.9)	198 (72.3)	360 (76.7)
Below 1 Hectare	06 (10.3)	02 (6.5)	10 (17.9)	18 (12.4)	11 (15.5)	05 (14.3)	51 (23.4)	67 (20.7)	17 (13.2)	07 (10.6)	61 (22.3)	85 (18.1)
1 to 2.5 Hectare	01 (1.8)	-	-	01 (0.7)	05 (7.0)	01 (2.8)	15 (6.9)	21 (6.5)	06 (4.6)	01 (2.5)	15 (5.5)	22 (4.7)
2.5 to 5 Hectare	-	-	-	-	01 (1.4)	-	-	01 (0.8)	01 (0.8)	-	-	01 (0.2)
Above 5 Hectare	-	-	-	-	01 (1.5)	-	-	01 (0.8)	01 (0.8)	-	-	01 (0.2)
Total Households	58 (100.0)	31 (100.0)	56 (100.0)	145 (100.0)	71 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	218 (100.0)	324 (100.0)	129 (100.0)	66 (100.0)	274 (100.0)	469 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey.

Table - 9.2
Occupational Distribution of Beneficiaries and Non-Beneficiaries in Sample Districts

Occupation	Varanasi				Saharanpur				Total			
	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total
	Old	New			Old	New			Old	New		
Cultivator	01 (1.7)	-	02 (3.6)	03 (2.1)	07 (9.8)	01 (2.8)	15 (6.9)	23 (7.1)	08 (6.2)	01 (1.5)	17 (6.2)	26 (5.5)
Agricultural Labour	-	01 (3.2)	01 (1.8)	02 (1.4)	18 (25.4)	17 (48.6)	85 (39.0)	120 (37.8)	18 (13.9)	18 (27.3)	86 (31.4)	122 (26.0)
Wages	45 (77.7)	27 (87.1)	30 (53.6)	102 (70.3)	44 (62.0)	17 (48.6)	116 (53.2)	177 (54.6)	89 (69.0)	44 (66.7)	146 (53.3)	279 (59.5)
Business	03 (5.2)	-	02 (3.6)	05 (3.4)	01 (1.4)	-	02 (0.9)	03 (0.9)	04 (3.1)	-	04 (1.5)	08 (1.7)
Artisan	09 (15.5)	03 (9.7)	21 (37.5)	33 (22.8)	-	-	-	-	09 (7.0)	03 (4.5)	21 (7.7)	33 (7.0)
Others	-	-	-	-	01 (1.4)	-	-	01 (0.3)	01 (0.8)	-	-	01 (0.2)
Total Households	58 (100.0)	31 (100.0)	56 (100.0)	145 (100.0)	71 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	218 (100.0)	324 (100.0)	129 (100.0)	66 (100.0)	274 (100.0)	469 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey.

9.3 Agricultural Implements

The study of the use of agricultural implements pattern in the sample shows that the use of modern agricultural implements, viz. tractor and thresher, etc. was, by and large, more intensive among the beneficiary households. However, in the use of pumpsets, they were evenly matched with the non-beneficiary households. The study also shows that among the beneficiaries, the proportion of households belonging to 'old class' was better equipped in agricultural assets than the new class of beneficiaries.

The inter-district comparison shows that the use of agricultural implement in Saharanpur district was much more intensive, than in Varanasi. Further, the study also shows that in both sample districts, the old beneficiaries were better equipped in agricultural implements than the new beneficiaries. Thus, it could be stated that the social sector programmes have largely benefited the beneficiary class of households in general and older class in particular (Table - 9.3).

9.4 Income Pattern

The study of income pattern of focus group of households provides an opportunity to access the movement as well as the direction of both groups of households viz. the beneficiary and the non-beneficiary. The study shows that while the proportion of households living below the poverty line, (income below Rs 11,000 per annum) in the non-beneficiary class of households it was over 93 percent. Its level was estimated to be about 82 percent in beneficiary category, which implies that the incidence of poverty was more acute in the non-beneficiary households. The subsequent classification of beneficiary households into old and new ones shows that while the incidence of poverty among new class of beneficiary was about 85 percent, its ratio worked out to be around 80 percent in old beneficiary households. Thus, it could be stated that the incidence of poverty among old households has been less acute than new beneficiary households, which may be one of the positive

fall out of social sector programmes. Likewise, the study also shows that the proportion of households among old beneficiaries having an annual income over Rs 11,001 was much higher.

The comparison of annual income pattern in both sample districts shows that over 31 percent of beneficiaries had crossed the poverty line of Rs 11,000 per annum in Saharanpur district, its proportions was merely 3.4 percent in Varanasi district. The study once again shows that it was the older class of beneficiaries who had benefited most. (Table - 9.4).

Table - 9.3
Use of Modern Agricultural Implements in Sample Districts

Assets	Varanasi				Saharanpur				Total			
	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total
	Old	New			Old	New			Old	New		
Tractor	-	-	-	-	02 (2.8)	-	-	02 (0.6)	02 (1.5)	-	-	02 (0.4)
Pump sets	01 (1.7)	-	01 (1.8)	02 (1.4)	05 (7.0)	02 (5.7)	15 (6.9)	22 (6.8)	06 (4.6)	02 (3.0)	16 (5.8)	24 (5.1)
Thresher	01 (1.7)	-	01 (1.8)	02 (1.4)	02 (2.8)	-	01 (0.5)	03 (0.9)	03 (2.3)	-	02 (0.7)	05 (1.1)
Total Households	58 (100.0)	31 (100.0)	56 (100.0)	145 (100.0)	71 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	218 (100.0)	324 (100.0)	129 (100.0)	66 (100.0)	274 (100.0)	469 (100.0)

Source : *Field Survey.*

Note : Figures in bracket denote column percentage.

Table - 9.4
Distribution of Income Pattern in Sample Districts

Income Categories	Varanasi				Saharanpur				Total			
	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total
	Old	New			Old	New			Old	New		
3,001.00 to 6,000.00 Rs.	03 (5.2)	01 (3.2)	07 (12.5)	11 (7.6)	-	-	09 (4.1)	09 (2.8)	03 (2.3)	01 (1.5)	16 (5.8)	20 (0.8)
6,001.00 to 8,500.00 Rs.	32 (55.2)	22 (7.0)	34 (60.7)	88 (60.7)	17 (23.9)	07 (20.0)	59 (27.1)	83 (25.6)	49 (38.0)	29 (43.9)	93 (33.9)	171 (36.5)
8,501.00 to 11,000.00 Rs.	21 (36.2)	07 (22.6)	15 (26.8)	43 (29.6)	30 (42.4)	19 (54.3)	133 (61.0)	182 (56.2)	51 (39.5)	26 (39.4)	148 (54.0)	225 (47.9)
11,001.00 to 15,000.00 Rs.	02 (3.4)	01 (3.2)	-	03 (2.1)	22 (30.9)	09 (25.7)	16 (7.3)	47 (14.5)	24 (18.6)	10 (15.2)	16 (5.8)	50 (10.7)
Above 15,000.00 Rs.	-	-	-	-	02 (2.8)	-	01 (0.4)	03 (0.9)	02 (1.5)	-	01 (0.4)	03 (0.6)
Total Households	58 (100.0)	31 (100.0)	56 (100.0)	145 (100.0)	71 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	218 (100.0)	324 (100.0)	129 (100.0)	66 (100.0)	274 (100.0)	469 (100.0)

Source : Field Survey.

Note : Figures in bracket denote column percentage.

9.5 Pattern of Illiteracy

The study of illiteracy pattern shows that the overall proportion of illiterates in the beneficiary households was over 33 percent against 30.9 percent in the non-beneficiary class. The inter-caste comparison shows that the incidence of illiteracy was highest among the scheduled caste in both beneficiary as well as non-beneficiary class of household. Further, the higher incidence of illiteracy among beneficiary households could be attributed to the presence of higher proportion of illiterates (over 35 percent) among old beneficiary households against 29.1 percent in the new beneficiary households.

The inter-district comparison shows that the proportion of illiterates in the beneficiary households in Saharanpur district was over 15 percent against 24.1 percent observed in non-beneficiary class. Similarly, the proportion of illiterates in Varanasi district was worked out to be over 54 percent whereas its ratio was 56 percent in non-beneficiary class of household. Thus, it could be stated that the incidence of illiteracy in Varanasi district was much higher than that in Saharanpur district. Further, the study also shows that in the beneficiary segment, the incidence of illiteracy among the older set of households was higher than that in the new households beneficiaries. Among the factors contributing to higher incidence of illiteracy among old beneficiary households could be their lack of interest towards education, inhibition due to their higher age, poverty, and poorly managed literacy programmes etc. (Table - 9.5).

9.6 Housing Pattern

The impact of social sector schemes also has a reflection on the focus group households dwellings, because it is assumed that as the socio-economic level or status of households rises, the conditions of dwellings in which he/she inhabits, also improves. The comparative study of the housing pattern shows that the proportion of beneficiary households having pucca houses in the total sample was over 95 percent

while its level was worked out to be just under 10 percent for non-beneficiary households. It also shows that around 4 percent of beneficiary households were in possession of Kachcha houses whereas its proportions was an overwhelming 56.5 percent in non-beneficiary category and another 0.5 percent of beneficiaries had moved to semi-pucca dwellings while none of the households from non-beneficiary class had semi-pucca dwellings.

In the beneficiary category, the study further reveals that the proportion of old beneficiary households had over 97 percent dwellings as pucca while its ratio in new beneficiary class was around 92 percent, which reflects their better socio-economic status. Likewise, the incidence of Kachcha dwellings among old beneficiaries was barely under 2 percent, it was around 8 percent in new beneficiary households. The comparison of dwelling patterns in the two sample districts shows that while the beneficiaries in the two districts evenly matched in pucca dwellings, the proportion of non beneficiary households in possession of pucca dwellings in Saharanpur district was distinctly high, which could be largely on account of their better socio-economic status than their counterpart in Varanasi district where the incidence of poverty was relatively higher (Table - 9.6).

Table - 9.5
Pattern of Illiteracy Among Beneficiaries and Non-Beneficiaries

Social Group	Varanasi				Saharanpur				Total			
	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total
	Old	New			Old	New			Old	New		
SC	132 (44.9)	37 (24.8)	31 (11.7)	200 (28.2)	42 (11.6)	17 (10.6)	112 (11.4)	171 (11.4)	174 (26.6)	84 (87.2)	143 (11.5)	371 (16.8)
OBC	39 (13.3)	30 (20.1)	94 (35.3)	163 (23.0)	08 (2.2)	05 (3.1)	32 (3.2)	45 (3.4)	47 (7.2)	35 (21.0)	126 (10.10)	208 (9.4)
Minorities	01 (0.3)	-	03 (1.1)	04 (0.6)	03 (0.8)	01 (0.6)	09 (0.9)	13 (0.9)	04 (0.6)	01 (0.3)	12 (1.0)	17 (0.8)
General	02 (0.7)	-	21 (7.9)	23 (3.2)	03 (0.8)	-	83 (8.5)	86 (5.6)	05 (0.8)	-	104 (8.4)	109 (4.9)
Total Illiterates	174 (59.2)	67 (45.0)	149 (56.0)	390 (55.0)	56 (15.5)	23 (14.4)	236 (24.1)	315 (21.0)	230 (35.1)	90 (29.1)	385 (30.9)	705 (31.9)
Total Population	294 (100.0)	149 (100.0)	266 (100.0)	709 (100.0)	361 (100.0)	160 (100.0)	978 (100.0)	1499 (100.0)	655 (100.0)	309 (100.0)	1244 (100.0)	2208 (100.0)

Source : Field Survey.

Note : Figures in bracket denote column percentage.

Table - 9.6
Classification of Housing among Beneficiaries and Non-Beneficiaries in the Sample Districts

Type of Houses	Varanasi				Saharanpur				Total			
	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total
	Old	New			Old	New			Old	New		
Kachcha	-	03 (9.7)	48 (85.7)	51 (35.2)	02 (2.8)	02 (5.7)	107 (49.1)	111 (34.3)	02 (1.6)	05 (7.6)	155 (56.6)	162 (34.5)
Pucca	57 (98.3)	28 (90.3)	04 (7.1)	89 (61.4)	69 (97.2)	33 (94.3)	22 (10.1)	124 (38.3)	126 (97.7)	61 (92.4)	26 (9.5)	213 (45.4)
Semi-Pucca	01 (1.7)	-	04 (7.1)	05 (3.4)	-	-	89 (40.8)	89 (27.5)	01 (0.8)	-	93 (33.9)	94 (20.0)
Total Households	58 (100.0)	31 (100.0)	56 (100.0)	145 (100.0)	71 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	218 (100.0)	324 (100.0)	129 (100.0)	66 (100.0)	274 (100.0)	469 (100.0)

Source : *Field Survey.*

Note : Figures in bracket denote column percentage.

9.7 Schooling Pattern

The study of school going pattern among 6 to 14 years of children in the focus group of households enables us to examine the extent to which social sector schemes have influenced the psyche and perception of the parents & elderly people in the sample households and motivated them towards education, because an educated society is considered to be an asset for any nation and is taken as a productive indicator for future development.

The study of schooling pattern among the sample households shows that while the proportion of school going children in the beneficiary households, in the total sample was over 88 percent, its level was reported to be merely under 53 percent in the non-beneficiary category. The proportion of children, not going to school, in beneficiary households, was reported to be about 13 percent, and it was over 47 percent in non-beneficiary households. Further, in the beneficiary class of households, the study shows that over 90 percent of children were going to school in the old beneficiary households whereas its level was lower at 85.4 percent in the new beneficiary households. Similarly, in the non-school going section, around 10 percent of children of the old beneficiary category were not going to school while its proportion was around 15 percent in new beneficiary households. The proportion of children not going to school in the non-beneficiary category was an overwhelming 47 percent. Thus, the analysis clearly shows that old class of beneficiary were, probably more motivated towards education than the new ones probably because of their long exposure and association with social sector schemes.

The inter district analysis shows that the proportion of children going to school among beneficiary households in Varanasi district was over 94 percent. Its level was around 71 percent in non-beneficiary class of households. Further, in the beneficiary households, the proportion of school going children was around 95 percent in old beneficiary households against 93 percent in new beneficiary class. In Saharanpur

district, the ratio of school going children in the beneficiary households was over 86 percent whereas in non-beneficiary households hardly 46 percent of children were reported to be going to school. The high level of children going to school in Varanasi could be attributed to the fact that formal education is better organised there than in Saharanpur (Table - 9.7).

Table - 9.7
Pattern of Schooling Among 6-14 Years Children in Sample Districts

District	Category of Children		School Going		Not School Going		Total	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Varanasi	Beneficiary	Old	54	98.2	03	5.3	57	38.5
		New	26	92.9	02	7.1	28	18.9
	Non-Beneficiary		45	71.4	18	28.6	63	42.6
	Total		125	84.6	23	15.5	148	100.0
Saharanpur	Beneficiary	Old	126	88.1	17	11.9	143	38.1
		New	56	82.4	12	31.6	68	18.1
	Non-Beneficiary		75	45.7	89	54.3	164	43.7
	Total		257	68.5	118	31.5	375	100.0
Total	Beneficiary	Old	180	90.0	20	10.0	200	38.2
		New	82	85.4	14	14.6	96	18.4
	Non-Beneficiary		120	52.9	107	47.1	227	43.4
	Total		382	73.0	141	27.0	523	100.0

Source: *Field Survey.*

9.8 Morbidity Pattern

The study of morbidity pattern in the sample households shows that there were around 19 percent of total households affected with morbidity of some kind. It also shows that the major diseases in the area were Malaria, T.B., Polio and one the classified under 'others' head. Together these diseases accounted for over 16 percent of total households. The analysis also shows that about 18 percent of households among the beneficiaries were affected with incidence of morbidity while this proportion was worked out to be over 20 percent in the non-beneficiary class of households. Thus, it could be stated that incidence of morbidity in non-beneficiary households was more than beneficiary households. Further the study, also shows that in the beneficiary class of households, hardly 9 percent of old beneficiary households were prone to morbidity. Its level was worked out to be over 36 percent in the new beneficiary category, which clearly explain that the level of morbidity declined in those beneficiaries whose exposure to social sector schemes has been for long time.

The inter-district comparison shows that the incidence of morbidity in the beneficiary households in Varanasi district was much less than the non-beneficiary households. The situation in Saharanpur district changed altogether where around 14.2 percent of households, in non-beneficiary category, were prone to illness against 22.6 percent in beneficiary class of households.

Further, the study also shows that the incidence of malaria in Varanasi district could be traced back to the chronic local sanitary problems like poor drainage, which resulted in frequent water logging, spread of dirt from open drains etc. All this provided ideal grounds for mosquitoes breeding while in Saharanpur district, the proximity of sugar factories and the discharge of their affluent in the open areas, sugarcane field etc., were the breeding grounds of mosquitoes. Likewise the cause of second larger disease viz. T. B. in both the sample districts had different reasons and

sources. In Saharanpur, for instance, it was pollution, excessive intoxication etc. whereas in Varanasi, its roots could be traced back to the problem of malnutrition, high incidence of poverty, and prevalence of unhygienic conditions at looms where a majority of labour force was engaged. Further, the sample also contained high proportion of beneficiaries who were suffering from diseases specified under 'others' head. The incidence of this disease or group of disease was also higher in non-beneficiary households than that in beneficiary households. Thus, it could be said that exposure of households to social sector schemes, in the long run, tends to decrease the incidence of morbidity (Table - 9.8).

Table - 9.8
Classification of Morbidity Pattern in Sample District

Name of Diseases	Varanasi				Saharanpur				Total			
	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total
	Old	New			Old	New			Old	New		
Deafness	-	-	-	-	-	-	01 (0.5)	01 (0.3)	-	-	01 (0.4)	01 (0.2)
Stone	-	-	-	-	01 (1.4)	01 (2.9)	03 (1.4)	05 (1.5)	01 (0.8)	01 (1.5)	03 (1.1)	05 (1.1)
Malaria	02 (3.4)	04 (12.9)	08 (14.3)	14 (9.7)	03 (4.2)	08 (22.9)	07 (3.2)	18 (5.6)	05 (3.9)	12 (18.2)	15 (5.5)	32 (6.8)
Filaria/Hathipaon	-	-	02 (3.6)	02 (1.4)	01 (1.4)	01 (2.9)	02 (0.9)	04 (1.2)	01 (0.8)	01 (1.5)	04 (1.5)	06 (1.3)
T.B.	-	01 (3.2)	04 (7.1)	05 (3.4)	01 (1.4)	03 (8.6)	07 (3.2)	11 (3.4)	01 (0.8)	04 (6.0)	11 (4.0)	16 (3.4)
Blindness	-	-	-	-	01 (1.4)	-	-	01 (0.3)	01 (0.8)	-	-	01 (0.2)
Polio	-	01 (3.2)	03 (5.4)	04 (2.8)	-	02 (5.7)	05 (2.3)	07 (2.2)	-	03 (4.5)	08 (2.9)	11 (2.3)
Abscess/bal/Gilti	-	-	01 (1.8)	01 (0.7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	01 (0.4)	01 (0.2)
Others	01 (1.7)	02 (6.5)	06 (10.7)	09 (6.2)	01 (1.4)	01 (2.9)	06 (2.8)	08 (2.5)	02 (1.6)	03 (4.5)	12 (4.4)	17 (3.6)
Total Population	58 (100.0)	31 (100.0)	56 (100.0)	145 (100.0)	71 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	218 (100.0)	324 (100.0)	129 (100.0)	66 (100.0)	274 (100.0)	469 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey.

9.9 Distribution of Medical Facilities and their Utilization

The distribution of medical facilities and their utilization forms an important base for evaluating the impact of social sector schemes because it is assumed that only through these schemes and programmes, the perception of households towards modern means and methods of treatment would be reflected in their pattern of using these available resources and facilities.

The study of distribution of health institutions and their pattern of utilization provides an interesting account of their usage by beneficiary and non-beneficiary class of households. CHC was accessible to about 51.4 percent of households followed by private hospitals, which accounted for over 38 percent of households. Together, these two catered to the needs of over 89 percent of households in the total sample, which projects and establishes their complete monopoly. However, only 32.8 percent of beneficiary households were utilizing PHC/CHC facility against over 64 percent in the non-beneficiary household section. The beneficiary households, on the other hand, depended on private hospitals where their dependence level was worked out to be over 56 percent while it was merely 25 percent for non-beneficiary set of households. Further, in the beneficiary households, the analysis shows that the proportion of new households availing sub-centre and private hospital facility was much higher than old beneficiary households who preferred the services of PHC/CHC.

The study also shows that in Varanasi, over 85 percent of beneficiaries were availing private hospital facility. While a small proportion of around 12 percent were utilizing PHC/CHC facilities. In the case of non-beneficiaries, almost similar pattern was observed except that their level was relatively lower and about 4 percent of the non-beneficiaries also relied on traditional mode of therapeutics which may also be related to their poor status and poverty of the region. In Saharanpur districts on the other hand, the beneficiaries were availing both the PHC/CHC as well as private

hospital facilities. Similar trend was observed in the non-beneficiaries case except that around 1.4 percent of the households were also relying on traditional methods of therapeutics.

The analysis also shows the use of PHC/CHC in Varanasi by both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries was lesser than that in Saharanpur largely because PHC/CHC were better organized in Saharanpur while in Varanasi, it was observed that many a times, the non-availability of doctors, medicines and centres irregular operational timing contributed to its poor performances (Table - 9.9).

9.10 Perception of Beneficiaries and Non-Beneficiaries Towards Prevailing Facilities

The impact of social sector schemes on the state of physical structure facilities and amenities prevailing in the sample villages has also been attempted by analyzing the views and perception of elder people, largely drawn from old age pension scheme. The main purpose of inviting these senior citizen was because it was believed that they have been witness to the earlier situation prevailing there and would, therefore, be in the position to recollect and compare the position of physical infrastructure, facilities and amenities prevailing now and in the past. In all, the sample contained a total of sixty four focus group of households of which thirty three or over fifty one percent belonged to the beneficiary household category and remaining forty nine percent to the non beneficiary household category. Further, in the beneficiary class of households, out of the total of thirty three households, nine households, accounting to over twenty seven percent belonged to 'new' class of beneficiary and the remaining twenty four or seventy two percent were from old beneficiary households.

The respondents were invited to elicit their views at the three levels viz. whether the state of infrastructure, facilities and amenities prevailing in the sample village has improved, remained same or has further deteriorated, over the time. The responses of the households have been scaled down in three broad category, as better, poor and as the same. The study of the responses of the households shows that

Table - 9.9
Distribution of Utilization of Medical Facilities in Sample District

Particulars	Varanasi				Saharanpur				Total			
	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total	Beneficiary		Non-Beneficiary	Total
	Old	New			Old	New			Old	New		
Sub-Centre	02 (3.4)	-	06 (10.7)	08 (5.5)	09 (12.7)	08 (22.9)	18 (8.3)	35 (10.8)	11 (8.5)	08 (12.1)	24 (8.8)	43 (9.2)
PHC/CHC	09 (15.5)	02 (6.5)	18 (32.8)	29 (20.0)	40 (56.3)	13 (37.1)	159 (72.9)	212 (65.4)	49 (38.0)	15 (22.7)	177 (64.6)	241 (51.4)
Private Hospital	47 (81.0)	29 (93.5)	30 (53.6)	106 (73.1)	21 (29.6)	14 (40.0)	38 (17.4)	73 (22.5)	68 (52.7)	43 (65.2)	68 (24.8)	179 (38.2)
Others	-	-	02 (3.6)	02 (1.4)	01 (1.4)	-	03 (1.4)	04 (1.2)	01 (0.8)	-	05 (1.8)	06 (1.3)
Total Households	58 (100.0)	31 (100.0)	56 (100.0)	145 (100.0)	71 (100.0)	35 (100.0)	218 (100.0)	324 (100.0)	129 (100.0)	66 (100.0)	274 (100.0)	469 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey.

Note: Figures in bracket denote row percentage.

there has been an all-round improvement in the basic infrastructural facilities at the village level. However, the pace of change has not been uniform throughout but in fact uneven. So, in order to, identify the areas where growth or change has been exceptional or moderate, the responses of the households have further been graded. Thus, the exceptionally good change refers to the level of over seventy five percent and moderate change to below seventy five percent in fifty percent and least with less than fifty percent.

The perusal of responses shows that a majority of households, which included sizeable proportion of households from non-beneficiary class also agreed that the situation or position has, by and large, improved exceptionally in the following areas viz. baby care, delivery facilities, health services, primary education facility, drinking water facility, irrigation facility and rural road connectivity. However in areas like treatment of diseases, quality of teaching, drainage pattern, employment opportunities at the village level, the change has been of moderate level whereas in areas like working of panchayats, respect of women, living standards of the people etc. the change was observed to be the least (Table - 9.10).

Table - 9.10
Pattern of Perception Among Focus Groups of Households

Particulars	Beneficiary						Non-Beneficiary			Total		
	Better than Past		Poor than Past		As Same		Better than Past	Poor than Past	As Same	Better than Past	Poor than Past	As Same
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New						
Treatment of Diseases	12 (50.0)	5 (55.6)	9 (37.5)	4 (44.4)	3 (12.5)	-	17 (54.8)	12 (38.7)	2 (6.5)	34 (53.1)	25 (39.1)	5 (7.8)
Baby Care	16 (66.7)	6 (66.7)	6 (25.0)	2 (22.2)	2 (8.3)	1 (11.1)	29 (93.5)	2 (6.5)	-	51 (79.7)	10 (15.6)	3 (4.7)
Delivery Facility	22 (91.7)	8 (88.9)	2 (8.3)	-	-	1 (11.1)	29 (93.5)	1 (3.2)	1 (3.2)	59 (92.2)	3 (4.7)	2 (3.1)
Health Service Facility	20 (83.3)	7 (77.8)	2 (8.3)	1 (11.1)	2 (8.3)	1 (11.1)	30 (96.8)	-	1 (3.2)	57 (89.1)	3 (4.7)	4 (6.2)
Primary Education Facility	23 (95.8)	9 (100.0)	1 (4.1)	-	-	-	28 (90.3)	2 (6.5)	1 (3.2)	60 (93.7)	3 (4.7)	1 (1.6)
Quality of Teaching	14 (58.3)	5 (55.6)	10 (41.7)	4 (44.4)	-	-	24 (77.4)	7 (22.6)	-	43 (67.2)	21 (32.8)	-
Availability of Drinking Water Facility	20 (83.3)	7 (77.8)	4 (16.7)	1 (11.1)	-	1 (11.1)	24 (77.4)	5 (16.1)	2 (6.5)	51 (79.7)	10 (15.6)	3 (4.7)
Irrigational Facility	20 (83.3)	7 (77.8)	4 (16.7)	1 (11.1)	-	1 (11.1)	25 (80.6)	3 (9.7)	3 (9.7)	52 (81.3)	8 (12.5)	4 (6.2)
Rural Road Connectivity	18 (75.0)	7 (77.8)	4 (16.7)	2 (22.2)	2 (8.3)	-	24 (77.4)	5 (16.1)	2 (6.5)	49 (76.6)	11 (17.2)	4 (6.2)
Village's Drainage Pattern	13 (54.2)	5 (55.6)	9 (37.5)	3 (33.3)	2 (8.3)	1 (11.1)	21 (67.7)	7 (22.6)	3 (9.7)	39 (60.9)	19 (29.7)	6 (9.4)
Village's Sanitation Pattern	12 (50.0)	4 (44.4)	12 (50.0)	5 (55.6)	-	-	20 (64.5)	11 (35.5)	-	36 (56.3)	28 (43.7)	-
Opportunity for Employment	16 (66.7)	6 (66.7)	6 (25.0)	2 (22.2)	2 (8.3)	1 (11.1)	20 (64.5)	10 (32.3)	1 (3.2)	42 (65.6)	18 (28.2)	4 (6.2)

Contd...

Particulars	Beneficiary						Non-Beneficiary			Total		
	Better than Past		Poor than Past		As Same		Better than Past	Poor than Past	As Same	Better than Past	Poor than Past	As Same
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New						
Electricity	12 (50.8)	4 (44.4)	10 (41.7)	4 (44.4)	2 (8.3)	1 (11.1)	16 (51.6)	12 (38.7)	3 (9.7)	32 (50.0)	26 (40.6)	6 (9.4)
Housing Facility	16 (66.7)	6 (66.7)	7 (29.2)	3 (33.3)	1 (4.2)	-	18 (58.0)	10 (32.3)	3 (9.7)	40 (62.5)	20 (31.3)	4 (6.2)
Living Standard of People	14 (58.3)	5 (55.6)	7 (29.2)	3 (33.3)	3 (12.3)	1 (11.1)	16 (51.6)	12 (38.7)	3 (9.7)	35 (54.7)	22 (34.4)	7 (10.9)
Respect for Widows	17 (70.8)	6 (66.7)	4 (16.7)	2 (22.2)	3 (12.5)	1 (11.1)	23 (80.7)	7 (16.1)	1 (3.2)	46 (71.9)	13 (20.3)	5 (7.8)
Respect for Handicapped	14 (58.3)	5 (55.6)	7 (29.2)	3 (33.3)	3 (12.5)	1 (11.1)	19 (61.3)	9 (29.0)	3 (9.7)	38 (59.4)	19 (29.7)	7 (10.9)
Respect for Women	14 (58.3)	5 (55.6)	8 (33.3)	3 (33.3)	2 (8.3)	1 (11.1)	16 (51.6)	12 (38.7)	3 (9.7)	35 (54.7)	23 (35.9)	6 (9.4)
Working of Panchayats	12 (50.8)	4 (44.4)	11 (45.8)	4 (44.4)	1 (4.2)	1 (11.1)	17 (54.9)	13 (41.9)	1 (3.2)	33 (51.6)	28 (43.7)	3 (4.7)

Source: *Field Survey.*

Conclusion and Suggestions

The study covers two districts of the state of Uttar Pradesh, one from the western region and other from the eastern region. These districts have been considered to be socio-economically developed. After the selection of the districts, care was taken to select only those two blocks where maximum number of social sector schemes were in operation. Five villages from each the of identified blocks of two districts were randomly selected. The first village of these five villages of the block, belonged to Ambedkar gram, and the second one to Gandhi gram the third village was headed by the female Gram Pradhan. The remaining two villages belonged to the general category.

It may be mentioned here, that, the primary aim of selecting Ambedkar Gram and Gandhi Gram was to cover the maximum number of social sector schemes and also maximum number of socially deprived section of the society. The Government's guideline make it mandatory on the state authorities to provide maximum schemes to villages, with the concentration of socially backward classes.

Two selected districts (Saharanpur and Varanasi) were considered as most developed districts of the state where good rapport and efficient networking between the district level functionaries down to the village level functionaries was also expected. Efficient management and delivery of social sector schemes were expected in the selected districts.

The study covers a number of social sector schemes under implementation at the district level through various departments. These schemes ultimately reach to the people at the villages, through respective block offices of the district. Thus, block is considered to be the lowest but most important administrative unit, responsible for monitoring implementing and executing the schemes.

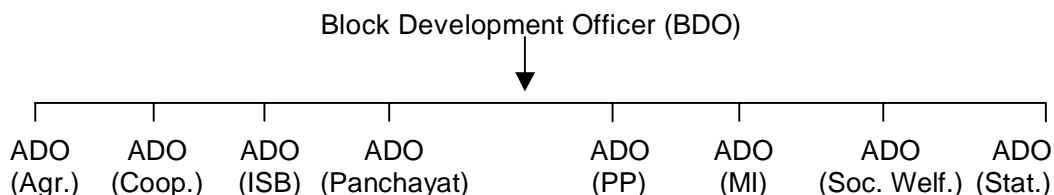
The findings of the study suggest that the performance of the social sector schemes improved with increase in the level of participation by the relevant programme functionaries at all the three level viz. village, block and district. The results further suggest that due to poor involvement of functionaries, the performance of the programme is negatively influenced.

Some of the salient factors identified for influencing participation of the programme functionaries, are summarized below:

- (i) there were many social sector schemes that were being sponsored by different departments. The perusal of these schemes showed that not only their objectives were different but also their scope, coverage and criteria for selection of beneficiaries was also different. Thus, the lack of uniformity in approach created difficulties and confusion. It was also observed that the functionaries associated with the programmes participated in the scheme perfunctorily and all this contributed to the poor performance of the programme;
- (ii) it was also observed that at the district level, there was a proper coordination among different departments from where social sector schemes were being sponsored. It was found that the functionaries regularly participated in the meetings where the progress, achievements, targets and future strategies of each department was discussed and many times joint collective measures were also considered. The probable reason for this could be the presence of nodal officer like the District Magistrate (DM) or his deputy viz. Chief Development Officer (CDO). However, the coordination process was found to be in poor shape at the block level.

Therefore, in order to understand and identify factors responsible for poor level of coordination at the block level, the lacunae in the organisational structure of blocks

should be understood. The salient features of the structure at the block could be summarized as:



These ADOs represent the various departments at the block level. Besides this, one village development officer (VDO) and one gram panchayat officer (VPO) are deputed for approximately ten village panchayats where they are responsible for executing all block level functions at the village level under the guidance and supervision of relevant departments ADOs. In addition, the government also provides multifunctional workers in each of the village vide government order. In some places the recruitment has also taken place. These functionaries are drawn from different departments like agriculture, irrigation, health, sugarcane etc. and they are not well trained with the execution of rural development programmes.

In addition, there were functionaries/officers of other departments who looked after various social sector programmes such as an SDI to look after formal education, a coordinator for informal education, a CPDO or a programme officer for ICDS etc. Further, it was noticed that the participation of these village and block level functionaries, at the meeting called either by the BDO or on his behalf by some one else was being poorly attended. The plausible factors for their low participation could be summarised as:

- (i) The block finds its difficult to accommodate and execute the social sector programmes sponsored by different departments, largely because of its own heavy departmental work load. However, being a lower or subordinate unit, it does not refuse and, therefore, have to accept the assignment. The block, in turn, assigns the responsibility one of the ADOs to look after the programme. These ADOs, represent

various departments and, therefore, do not come, directly under the administrative purview, of BDOs. In addition these offices, also have to look after the programmes of their parent department for which they could be held responsible. This additional work load, naturally lowers their interest and involvement which adversely affects their participation level.

- (ii) Poor level of coordination among various departments at the block level also affects the participation level of programme functionaries and also fails to provide consensus on resolving the problems encountered in the course of implementation of programmes.
- (iii) It was also observed that the block offices, in general, were short of staff and many of the posts have remained vacant for quite some time. The lack of interest shown by district level authorities towards filling of these posts contributed to the lowering of participation level of programme functionaries.
- (iv) A large number of village level functionaries were found to be untrained. Their heavy workload, absence of supervision and support services often discouraged them and adversely affected their level of participation.

Involvement of Beneficiaries/Functionaries

The analysis of involvement of beneficiaries in the social sector programme shows that, in a majority of programmes, their level of participation was found to be low. The study revealed that in many schemes, the selected beneficiaries used their privileged position or approached the influential people or of spent money. They therefore, could not be termed as genuine beneficiaries. The interaction with non-beneficiaries and analysis of their perception revealed that there were many factors at the village level that forbade those genuine class of beneficiaries to avail the

benefit of these programmes. The ensuing process, if allowed to continue unabated, would be marginalising a sizeable section of genuine beneficiaries. Some of the other factors of poor involvement of the genuine beneficiaries are presented below:

- (i) absence or lack of information about the various social sector programmes, to the people, at the village or grass root level;
- (ii) the selection procedure for selecting the beneficiaries to the programme also lacked coherent, specified and uniform guidelines;
- (iii) it was also observed that the panchayats, in generally, were under the influence of privileged class of people and hence lacked the element of autonomy and unbiasedness in their functioning. This affected the performance level of the programme and lowered the involvement level of beneficiaries as well as programme functionaries;
- (iv) the target specific approach in the programmes was not in conformity to local needs or requirements;
- (v) often indifference of the village level workers (VLWs) towards his work and duties contributed to the poor performance of the programme;
- (vi) lack of coordination between various departments;
- (vii) the absence of monitoring, physical verification, and evaluation by higher-up authorities also affected the performance level of the programme;
- (viii) the representatives of different departments seldom attended in the open house meetings of panchayats;
- (ix) the guidelines, followed by the block office, for identifying households that were living below the poverty line, was not being followed by other departments thereby creating inconsistencies.

Linkage Effect

Results of study the reveal that at village level, poor involvement of the programme functionaries and the beneficiaries contributed to lowering of the performance level of social sector programmes. It is argued that poor involvement of both the functionaries and beneficiaries jointly contributed in weakening the linkages between the different programmes. It may be reiterated, here, that unless there was strong linkage between programmes, the socio-economic level of the beneficiaries could not be improved substantially defeating the primary purpose of the programme. Further, it was also found that, on account of weak inter programme linkages, the level of impact of these programmes on the beneficiaries was also affected. Some of the factors contributing to the poor or weak programme linkages could be summarized as:

- (i) Lack of coordination between different departments was found as one of the cardinal factors having significant bearing on the level of inter programme linkages. It was observed that while setting the target for villages, each department, as stated earlier, followed its own set of guidelines as a result of which no comprehensible and integrated work plan could be formalized or executed at the panchayats level. Thus, the element of inconsistency, in the approach of different department, also contributed in lowering or weakening the inter-programme linkages.
- (ii) As has been stated earlier, the guidelines stipulated by the block office for selecting or identifying the households, living below the poverty line was not being followed by other departments, as a consequence the linkages between the BPL families or focus group of households and social sector programmes sponsored by other departments, invariably got affected. This did not allow the beneficiaries to move from one

programme to another smoothly, thereby, affecting his/her socio-economic level.

- (iii) Similarly, due to different set of guidelines adopted by various departments, for selecting the beneficiaries often deprived the full benefits of the schemes to deserving beneficiaries.
- (iv) It was also observed that there has been a tendency, prevailing among the functionaries at the block and also at the panchayat level. The BPL families or focus group of households, who have become the recipients of benefits under any scheme should not be provided the benefit in other schemes and instead of that new households should be selected. Though, it may appear to be a good move to expand the coverage of programme but it worked against the scope of programme in the wider context. It may further, be noted that one of the objectives envisaged in social sector programme, has been to provide an element of flexibility to the beneficiaries so that they can move from one programme to another and in the process, enhance their socio-economic level. However, the current procedure in practice does not permit it.
- (v) It was found that many of the programmes were being run on ritualistically manner. The programme functionaries were only contented in achieving the norms, as laid down by the government. At no stage the functionaries, made efforts to enhance the scope of the linkages among different programmes, which also contributed in weakening the level of linkages.

Impact of the Programme

The study also attempts to analyze the impact of social sector programme on beneficiaries. For this, comparison of beneficiaries with non-beneficiaries, on cross-sectional framework was attempted. The impact was studied on the socio-economic indicators like: land holding pattern, occupational pattern, agricultural tools, income

levels, literacy pattern, nature of dwelling, school going and non-school going children, medical facilities, etc.

The study, by and large that the socio-economic condition of the beneficiaries was relatively better than non-beneficiaries implying positive contribution of social sector schemes. However, prior to making any conclusive comment, caution needs to be applied. It is necessary to consider the following points that may have bearing on the out come of the programmes.

- (i) the nature of sample was small and covered only three villages which were located with in five to ten kilometers of distance from block headquarters. Thus, they could be considered to be near the block headquarters. The impact on far flung villages have not been studied,
- (ii) survey was conducted to identifier below the poverty line (BPL) by blocks also contained many focus group of households whose assets, income level etc. exceeded the proposed limits of BPL families, as was confirmed in our field validation exercise. The plausible reason for their inclusion could be attributed to their proximity to powerful or influential class of people who exercised their pressure on field level functionaries who were responsible for conducting BPL base line survey. Further, it was found that BPL identification exercise was, largely, carried out by the VDO and VPO, village level functionaries who were assisted by a Gram Pradhan and a schoolteacher. Though, there is a provision for monitoring and physical verification of the lists at later stage, it was never checked by the block officials. The absence of monitoring and supervision exercise also emboldened the village level functionaries as well as the people's representative to manipulate on the list at the time of survey,
- (iii) another factor that could influence the impact on social indicators on the focus group of households could also be attributed to the location of

these sample village with urban areas and also to individual families efforts who commuted to these urban areas on regular and sustained basis. It is believed that exposure to urban values, could also have influenced their perception towards social issues and therefore the credit could not be given solely to social sector scheme; and

- (iv) as the proportion of focus group of households, in the sample was hardly twenty percent, majority of the households in the villaged belonged to APL category. It is also quite possible that these BPL groups of households may have got influenced by observing and interacting with the APL group of households on regular basis.

Suggestions

Thus, on the basis of the study, a number of suggestions could be made to streamline the programmes for higher level of effectiveness. We would like to propose, broadly, three kind of suggestions on how to increase the participation level of programme functionaries. Secondly, on how to enhance the participation level among the beneficiaries. Thirdly, how to improve the level of inter-programme linkages so that its impact on beneficiaries optimizes.

Suggestions for Improving Involvement Level of Functionaries

- (i) at the block level, coordination be established between all the concerned departments dealing with social sector schemes. Efforts be made to ensure that their meetings were held regularly like the one at the district level, where each department unfolds and discusses their prospective strategy to formulate an integrated, uniform and comprehensive plan strategy be;
- (ii) at the village level, provision should be made to train all department level functionaries from time to time. It is further suggested that these

functionaries should not be unduly burdened with additional work load.

Their work be evaluated at regular intervals;

- (iii) efforts must be made to fill the posts, that are lying vacant, at the block levels at the earliest and creation of post of VDO and other functionaries of the block should now be based on the demographic norm and not on the basis of number of villages or panchayats;
- (iv) uniformity, at all levels, be maintained by all concerned departments dealing with social sector schemes whether for identifying the focus group of households for different social sector schemes or for maintaining the family register and other records;
- (v) the district level functionaries be involved to ensure that proper departmental coordination was being maintained in the execution and implementation of programmes at the block levels. Likewise their intervention could also be sought to resolve the problems timely.

Suggestions for Improving Involvement Level of Programme Beneficiaries

It was observed that the functioning of panchayats, at the village level, was also not upto the mark. It was quite ironical to see that, while the government, on one hand, was trying to empower these grass root level institutions through Panchayati Raj Acts, these bodies, many a time, on the other hand, were found to be total unaware of their duties and responsibilities. The working of Panchayats lacked an element of social consciousness while performing duties as a local self-body. Hence, it has become quite imperative to attach a non-government organization (NGO), with requisite experience, in discharging their duties more effectively in the right direction. Besides this, the other task of such NGOs would also be to provide assistance to these institutions to identify local problems and demands and provide solution to it. They should be required to act as a liaison between various departments and help the panchayats to effectively carryout the task of monitoring and evaluation of social

sector programmes. This way the NGOs would also sensitize the panchayats and encourage them to work for total integrated development of the villages, and tackle the problem confronting on the way. Similarly, the help of NGO could also be sought to develop close rapport between blocks and villages. Their services may also be hired for the following:

- (i) To provide wider coverage to the social sector schemes, at the village level, and also sensitize the people.
- (ii) Similarly, the services of NGOs may also be taken to assist the Gram Panchayats to carry out their duties.
- (iii) Every Gram Panchayats, with the help of NGOs, at the initial stage, may be encouraged to come up with annual work plan, which includes integration of all targets, setup by other departments. It should also be ensured that these targets are in total conformity with problems and demands at the local levels.
- (iv) NGO's services may also be taken to provide training to VLWs, members of the panchayats and gram pradhans.
- (v) The physical verification of targets achieved and of the programme be taken up by all relevant departments, from time to time.
- (vi) The NGO's may be asked to organize open meetings, on behalf of the panchayats, in which all relevant departments be encouraged to submit their targets, achievement and work plan.
- (vii) In order to avoid confusion and duplicity and also strike a uniform code, all the relevant departments, working in the area of social sector programmes, be asked to accept only those set of BPL households which have been identified by the block office. These identified families need to be provided a BPL card, which should contain detail information about all the programmes and the benefits they have been given.

- (viii) NGOs should act as a liaison between the blocks and Gram panchayats. Their services and experience also need to be utilized to provide solutions to the local problems and demands confronting concern villages, help in organizing meetings and also evaluating the progress of social sector schemes, from time to time.
- (ix) Another important task of the NGOs should be to identify and train potential group, at the village level, so that it may take up their place at a later and appropriate stage when the NGOs withdraws from the scene.

Suggestions for Improving the Linkages

The social sector programmes are, primarily, meant to assist focus group of households because it has been observed that this section, so far, has remained isolated and marginalised from the fruits of mainstream development. If these households are provided assistance in isolated and sporadic manner through social sector scheme, it is unlikely to break their vicious circle of poverty. For their holistic development, the development strategy should incorporate an array of social sector programmes that enables the beneficiary to move from one programme to another, thereby improving their socio-economic status. Efforts should also be made to integrate the social sector programmes with other poverty alleviation programmes that are in vogue for general category of poor people so that the focus group of beneficiary may finally move to the higher level of development. Thus, it is suggested that:

- (i) The block be given the same status as the DRDA agency at the district level and their identified focus group of households be accepted by all concerned departments.
- (ii) These focus group of households should also be provided a BPL card specifying the benefits they have received. The card should also include information related to what other benefits the household

requires. For identifying their needs, help of NGOs and panchayats be taken up. The exercise is to be repeated, at regular intervals, so that the validation and monitoring of schemes and of beneficiaries are taken up and correspondingly updated.

- (iii) The procedure in the selection of beneficiaries be simplified and made uniform so that genuine beneficiary does not feel unduly harassed. The help of NGOs could also be taken up.
- (iv) While deciding the targets for each programme separately, concerned departments should also focus on the linkage aspect of these programme so that they may converge at some point of time to provide maximum benefit to the focus group of households.