

Preface

Human development and improvement in the quality of life have always remained the ultimate objectives of planning since the inception of five-year plan in the early fifties. The five decades of planning effort have helped the nation to achieve self-sufficiency in many fields by recording path-breaking success. However, in some areas, its performance has been quite disappointing. Further, the fruits of development, too, have not percolated down, to the grass root levels, evenly, as was being envisaged of them, as a result of which the socio-economic disparities have not only persisted and grown, with the time, but have also accentuated and become more sharp. Poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, unemployment, regional backwardness, unprecedented flow of population from rural to urban areas, to name a few, are some of the social deviants that are posing serious threat to development effort on the one hand, and also questioning the very basis of planning on the other.

The history of planning reveals that the government has been emphasizing on the development of both the economic as well as social sectors, by launching a number of programmes from time to time, in various plan periods. However, on account of mis-match in the rate of growth in the two sectors, it has precipitated in imbalance in all round development. However, it should be remembered that the growth rate in the economic sectors is faster and its impact becomes more conspicuous in the short run, because it largely deals with exogenous factors whereas, the growth rate in the social sector, is painfully long, because it largely deals with the set of endogenous factors and their internalization. However, once the social development sets in, it provides sustenance to the overall processes of development. Therefore, for holistic growth, the development of both the sectors viz economic as well as social, is a mandatory requirement and both should be taken as

complimentary to each other. Emphasis on the development of any one, at the cost of other, would end up with disastrous consequences.

The present exercise attempts to analyze the performance of social sector programmes in two of the developed districts of Uttar Pradesh viz. Saharanpur from the western region and Varanasi from the eastern region. We take this opportunity to thank the Advisor (SER), Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi for sponsoring the study and also going through the draft report thoroughly and suggesting ways to improve it. We also thank the district magistrates of the two districts viz. Sri Alok Kumar(Varanasi) and Sri Deepak Trivedi (Saharanpur), Chief Development Officer Sri P.K. Mishra (Varanasi) and Sri Rakesh (Saharanpur) for taking interest in the study and extending all possible help to the research team. The district development officer Sri Arjun Ram (Varanasi) and Sri S.S. Vishnoi (Saharanpur) also deserve our thanks for assisting the project team at various stages of data collection work. The project team was also assisted by many other district level functionaries of both districts. We thank all of them for their assistance and supports, we also thank Dr. Anil Kumar, the project director in Saharanpur, the Block Development Officer Sri Shiv Kumar Pandey (Rampur Maniharan) and Dr. S.K. Mendiratha (Saharanpur) of the same district for going out of way to help the team despite being busy in the on going panchayat polls. We also thank many other block and village level officials who provided help either directly or indirectly, in the course of the study.

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