

CHAPTER-5

ROLE OF BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Rural Development (RD) as a concept lack precise definition and perhaps this explains the reasons for the differences in approach to it in many parts of the world. The World Bank (1975) sees rural development as purely an economic issue raising the low levels of rural income through agricultural modernization. Okafor (1991) as cited by Obi (1997, p3) looks at it from the angle of welfare.

The term rural development is the improvement in the rural existential conditions. It can be facilitated by progressive conscious efforts of the state or government to improve the conditions of those residents in the rural areas. As observed by Uma lele (1975), rural development is the improvement in the living standard of the low income population residing in rural areas and making the process of their development self sustaining.⁶⁹

The term development administration came into lime light in the 1950s. The basic idea according to Obikeze and Obi (2004) is that public administration has a decisive part to play in the effort to promote development. It came because the traditional scope of public administration was seen as being highly centralized. That is administration was narrowed down more than necessary and geared towards maintaining the status quo. Development administration is therefore concerned with widening the scope development and administration. For this, therefore, it must be dynamic and capable of bring about change and enthroning change in all fields.⁷⁰

⁶⁹Harendra Singha. 'The Role of Block Development Officer in the Rural Development of Mizoram, 2006, pp.169-176.

⁷⁰ibid. pp.169-173.

Development administration has been variously defined. Almond and Powell (1966) described development administration as ‘increased differentiation of roles to better cope with change, growing inequality in the allocation of societies scarce resources and increased choice and enlarged opportunities in the decision making process of the society’” The above definition suggests that development administration is the advancement of the capacity of the states administrative institutions.

Development administration, according to Saul Katz (1957) is the name given to the way a government acts to fulfill its role in achieving development. While, Fred (1966) defines it as government efforts not only to carry out programmes designed to meet its developmental objectives but also to enhance its administrative capabilities.

Fainsod (1970) defines development administration as a career of innovative values embracing the array of new functions assumed by the developing countries that are embarking on the path of modernization and industrialization. To Collins (1980) Development administration is concerned with the achievement of change under conditions where change is difficult. Put more concretely, its focus is on range of instrumentalities employed to achieve the ends of national social and economic development. The machinery of planning, the role of government administration is promoting organizational development, public corporation organized community development projects and administrative reforms at all levels.

5.1 Rural Development Programmes

a) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

A fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide all weather road connectivity in rural areas of the country. The programme envisages connecting all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in the plain areas and 250 persons and above in hill States, the tribal and the desert areas.

b) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

SGSY is a major on-going scheme for the self-employment of the rural poor. The basic objective of the scheme is to bring the assisted poor families (swarozgaris) above the poverty line by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. Credit is the critical component of the scheme whereas the subsidy is an enabling element. The scheme involves organisation of the poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) build their capacities through a process of social mobilization, their training, selection of key activities, planning of activity clusters, creation of infrastructure, provision of technology and marketing support, etc. Under the scheme focus is on the group approach. However, individual Swarozgaris are also assisted. The SGSY is being implemented by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), banks, line Departments and the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

The credit mobilization under SGSY has been abysmally low. Further, a large number of SHGs are formed but fizzle out midway after availing the revolving fund. To make the scheme more effective it is being re-structured with a sharper focus on poorest of the poor people. A suitable mechanism will be put in place for higher social mobilization, capacity building and institution building among the target population.

c) Rural Housing (Indira Awas Yojana)

The IAY is being implemented as an independent scheme since 1996. It aims to provide assistance for construction / up gradation of dwelling units to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) rural households, with special emphasis on SCs, STs and freed bonded labor categories. A maximum assistance of Rs 35,000 per unit is provided for construction in plain areas and Rs 38,500 per unit for hilly/difficult areas. Rs 15000 is given for up gradation of a dwelling unit for all areas. The funding of IAY is shared between the Centre and State in the ratio of 75:25. (100% in the case of UTs).

d) MGNREGA

The primary objective of the scheme is to provide guaranteed work for 100 days for any household wishing to have such employment. Although all households are eligible, the expectation is that only the poorer sections, i.e., landless labour and marginal farmers would actually seek work. The secondary objective is to ensure that employment generated is from works that raise land productivity.

e) National Social Assistance Programme

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) was launched with the aim to provide social assistance benefit to poor households in the case of old age, death of primary breadwinner and maternity. The programme supplements the efforts of the State Governments with the objective of ensuring minimum national levels of well being and the Central assistance is an addition to the benefit that the States are already providing on Social Protection Schemes. With a view to ensure better linkage with nutrition and national population control programmes, the Maternity Benefit Component of the NSAP was transferred to the Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with effect from 2001-02. The schemes of NSAP and Annapurna have been transferred to the State Plan with effect from 2002-03 with a view to provide requisite flexibility to the State / UT in the choice and implementation of the schemes.

f) Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

During the Eleventh Plan, the three area development programmes, namely, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme have been integrated and consolidated into a single programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). This consolidation is for optimum use of resources, sustainable outcomes an integrated planning. The common guidelines for the Watershed Development Programme have been formulated and are effective from 1.4.2008. An amount of Rs.1825 crore has been allocated for IWMP during 2008-09. The ongoing projects sanctioned prior to

1.4.2008 under DADP, DDP, and IWDP would be continued to be implemented as per old guidelines.

The modified IWMP would adopt a three tier approach in which the upper reaches which are mainly forested and hilly would be treated with the support of Forest Department. For land situated intermediate slopes above the agriculture lands, the IWMP would address all the necessary issues of land treatment by adopting best possible options including cropping pattern, horticulture and agro-forestry etc. In the lower tier, which are plains and mainly agricultural lands, the IWMP would be dovetailed with the employment generating programme such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and would fill the critical gaps of NREGS and vice versa.

Under the new programme, a cluster approach would be followed with a broader vision of natural hydro-geographical unit of average size of 4,000 to 10,000 ha. comprising of clusters of micro-watershed to be selected as project area. The programme would be implemented by dedicated institutional agencies at state and central level. Professional support (in the form of multidisciplinary expert team) would be provided to support these institutions with proper fund allocation. A core GIS facility with spatial and non-spatial data augmented with satellite imagery data would be set up for giving Controlled access/distribution for local project planning. The project period is proposed in the range of 5 to 7 years in three distinct phases, i.e. Preparatory, Watershed works and Consolidation phase. The consolidation phase will include livelihood activities, marketing, processing and value addition activities.

g) National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP)

The National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP) has been conceptualized as a major system and reform initiative that is concerned not merely with computerization, updating and maintenance of land records and validation of titles, but also as a programme that will add value and provide a comprehensive database for planning developmental, regulatory and disaster management activities by providing location-specific information, while providing citizen services based on land records data. Under the NLRMP, the following three layers of data will be integrated

on a geographic information system (GIS) platform: Spatial data from satellite imagery/aerial photography, Survey of India and Forest Survey of India maps, and Revenue records: cadastral maps and RoR details. All cadastral maps will be digitized, and data included with plot numbers and unique id for each land parcel. Administrative unit boundaries from village level upwards (including panchayat, block, tehsil, circle, sub-division, district, division, State and national boundaries), forest, water bodies and other physical attributes of land and land use details will be overlaid, and other developmental layers (e.g., watersheds, road networks, etc.) added to the core GIS.

The activities to be supported under the Programme, inter alia, include survey/resurvey using modern technology including aerial photogrammetry, updating of land records including mutation records, completion of computerization of the Records of Rights (RoRs), computerization of registration, automatic generation of mutation notices, digitization of maps, integration of the entire system digitization of maps and training and capacity building of the concerned officials and functionaries. Connectivity amongst the land records and registration offices and land records management centers at tehsil/taluk/circle/block level would be supported. Access to land records data would be provided to Cooperative and other financial institutions for facilitating credit operations.

A major focus of the Programme will be on citizen services, such as providing Records of Rights (RoRs) with maps; other land-based certificates such as caste certificates, income certificates (particularly in rural areas), domicile certificates; information for eligibility for development programmes; land passbooks, etc. In addition, the Programme will be of immense usefulness to the governments - both Central and State Governments - in modernizing and bringing efficiency to the land revenue administration as well as offering a comprehensive tool for planning various land-based developmental, regulatory and disaster management activities needing location-specific information. Even the private sector will be able to benefit from this comprehensive tool for planning business and economic activities.

Block is a unit of development administration for rural areas formed by the state government. The Block Development Officer is the official in charge of the block. Block Development Officers monitors the implementation of all programmes related to planning and development of the blocks. Coordination of development and implementation of plans in all blocks of district is provided by a Chief Development Officer (CDO). The role of the Block Development Officer is to supervise, monitor, guide and impart awareness programmes to the people in the rural areas about the various developmental projects of the government, i.e, central and state.⁷¹

BDO is the main operation wing of the government for the development administration as well as regulatory administration.

- a) Decision-making process: - Various matters are put up by employees of office through administrative channel and decision is taken by Block Development Officer. If it is beyond the power of Head of office, the decision is taken by the Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat as well as Secretary.

5.2 Channel of Supervision and Accountability

The village panchayat secretary/Gram sevika/Gram sevak work under supervision of Extension Officer and overall supervision is done by BDO for all activities of the office. The BDO is accountable for all related works of office.

a) Role of BDO as an Executive Officer

- a. The Executive Officer shall exercise general control overall officers and employees of the Panchayat Samiti and he/she may award any punishment other than dismissal, removal or reduction in rank to an officer or employee of a Panchayat Samiti.⁷²
- b. The Executive Officer of the Panchayat Samiti shall be responsible for taking necessary action on the decisions arrived at in the meetings of the Panchayat Samiti.

⁷¹ibid. pp.169-173.

⁷²ibid. pp.169-189.

- c. The Executive Officer shall have the custody of the records of the Panchayat Samiti.
- d. The Executive Officer shall exercise administrative control and supervision over the office of the Panchayat Samiti, the staff borne on the establishment of the Panchayat Samiti.
- e. The Executive Officer shall be responsible for the proper maintenance of accounts of the Panchayat Samiti.
- f. The Executive Officer shall sign the cash book and examine the Panchayat Samiti pass issued by the Treasury/ Bank from time to time.
- g. All correspondences of the Panchayat Samiti shall normally be carried on by the Executive Officer

The Executive Officer shall be responsible for securing coordination among the Block level Officer in all matters relating to the execution of schemes and works approved by the Panchayat Samiti.

5.3 Function and Role

a) Government Level

At the Government level, there is the Secretariat of the Community and Rural Development of which is an administrative Department. It is headed by the Commissioner and Secretary/Secretary to the Government and assisted by the Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary. The Secretariat deals with all the policy matters of the Government in relation to Community and Rural Development, State Institutes of Rural Development (S.I.R.D.) and the implementing societies like State Rural Employment Society (S.R.E.S.), Meghalaya State Rural Livelihood Mission (M.S.R.L.S.) and Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency (M.S.S.A.T.). It also deals with all establishment matters relating to Gazetted Officers in the appointment and transfer at different levels, constitution of Committees and sanction of schemes etc. (Other than those specifically delegated to subordinate offices).

b) Directorate Level

At the Directorate level, there is the Director of Community and Rural Development who is the Head of the Directorate under the Community and Rural Development Department. He is responsible for the Planning and implementation of the Government Policies and guidelines for various development programmes. He exercises the executive control over all the subordinate offices. He is assisted by the Joint Director, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, the Finance and Accounts Officer, Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Officer, Research Officer and Statistical Officer and ministerial staff.

c) District Level

At the District Level, there is the District Rural Development Agency (D.R.D.A.) which is responsible for implementation of different schemes. The District Rural Development Agency is headed by the Deputy Commissioners as its Chairman who is assisted by the Project Director, Assistant Programme Officer, Executive Engineer, Junior Engineer and support staff. There are also Assistant Development Commissioners and Sub - Divisional Planning Officer who are coordinates with the Block Development Officers in the implementation of schemes.

d) Block Level

At the Block Level, the Block Development Officer is the Head of the Block Office. He is assisted by a team of officers, technical staff and ministerial staff who are responsible for the proper and successful execution of various development works entrusted to the Department. For execution of the schemes the Block Development Officers is also responsible for securing peoples participation and maintaining of public enthusiasm in the different programme taken by the Blocks.

Table 5.1: Rural Development is an Important Task

Rural Development is an Important Task	Respondents	%
Yes	12	92.30
No	00	00
Don't Know	1	7.69

As per the data given in the Table 5.1, it is seen that Rural development is an important task as said by the BDOs. And it was said by 92.30% of the respondents and 7.69% of the respondents also said that they are not aware of the fact about the important task of the BDOs. All the BDOs declared that they enjoy the work in their respective blocks.

Table 5.2: Being a Generalist head, any difficulty or inconvenient working with specialist

Being a Generalist head, do you find any difficulty or inconvenient working with specialist?	Respondents	%
Yes	8	61.54
No	0	00
Don't Know	5	38.46

The table 5.2 tells us that 61.54% of the BDOs said that they find difficulty/inconvenient working with the specialist and around 38.46% of the BDOs do not face any difficulties.

Table 5.3: Functionaries of the block cooperative and competent to discharge their duties

Functionaries of the block cooperative and competent to discharge their duties	Respondents	%
Yes	8	61.54
No	0	00
Don't Know	5	38.46

From the above table 5.3, it is clear that 61.54% of the BDOs said that Functionaries of the block cooperative and competent to discharge their duties whereas, 38.46% of the BDOs are not aware of the Functionaries of the block cooperative and competent to discharge their duties.

Having studied and assessed the needs of the areas, he has to plan various rural development programmes by taking into account its viability in terms of the availability of resources at his disposal. In the line of programme planning, he has to pool various resources to match the programmes before they are implemented so that the programmes are carried out successfully as per his plans. (II) Implementation of Rural Development Programmes; 1. Implementation of various rural development programmes includes:(a)Rural works programme; (b)Ruralwater supply scheme;(c)Food-for-Work programme; (d)Public-health programme;(e) Minor irrigation;(f)Agriculture development programme;(g) Primary school education programme; (Animalhusbandry;(i) Rural employment;(k) Rural industries,etc.2. Implementation of Special Programmes. Due to several changes In the rural development strategies,the role of the Block Development Officer in the implementation of special programmes such as Integrated Rural Development(IRDP), Drought Prone Area Programme(DPAP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojna(JRY),etc., become more important withincreasing responsibilities.(III) Monitoring and Supervision:

Monitoring and supervision has a very special significance in the process of programme implementation.

The Block Development Officer is, therefore, to involve himself in providing proper guidance and timely checking of the on-going activities. Monitoring and supervision of the development activities in the block is done by him with the help of his colleagues and immediate subordinates, i.e. Extension Officers working as specialists in different fields.

(IV) Coordination; In the process of formulation, implementation, monitoring and supervision of the development programmes, the role of the Block Development Officer in providing both vertical and horizontal coordination is very essential as a team leader at the block level. It includes the following;

1. Providing coordination between various technical functionaries in the block
2. Providing coordination between the block administration, Panchayat Samiti, credit institutions and other agencies involved directly or indirectly in rural development activities;
3. Coordinating between the block administration and the district-level officers and other programme officers and their activities and maintaining the link between the Zilla Parishad, Taluka Panchayat and Village Panchayats;

(V) Organization, Motivation, Leadership and Training;

1. Helping the extension personnel to locate and foster leadership in villages;
2. Organizing staff meetings;
3. Organizing village people for development work;
4. Giving advice to extension staff, village Development Officers, Gramsevaks and other village-level functionaries such as Village Health Workers, Primary School Teachers, etc.
5. Ensuring team work through proper motivation among the staff members working in the block;
6. Keeping the public informed about the block activities;
7. Imparting on the job training to the field staff.

(VI) General Administration;

1. Looking after the general administration of the block;
2. Providing periodic information and reports to the superiors at the district level; assisting the elected representatives in their work;

Accompanying the Ministers and Senior Officers on tours;

5. Looking after the financial administration of the block;
6. Preparing budget estimates for different programmes at the block level;
7. Obtaining sanctions and pooling of the financial resources for the programmes.

(VII) Evaluation;

1. Conducting periodic evaluation of

the development activities in the block; 2. preparing evaluation reports and reporting to seniors; 3. Making use of the work assessment reports for the next programme planning.

2. Role and Functions of the Extension Officer: The role of Extension Officers is concerned with making available, scientific knowledge to rural people, helping them through educational methods, to make choices and take decision to apply this knowledge to their local situations and there by to increase production. They are also involved in helping the rural people for active participation in the community welfare and development activities.

The Extension Officers are the subject-experts and specialists in different areas of community work, such as agriculture, animal-husbandry, cooperation, health, education, rural industries, rural engineering, Panchayat and social welfare, etc. In view of the great emphasis laid on development through agriculture, the extension workers have to work through Gramsevaks in the field of agriculture. However, in other fields, such as industries, health, education and social welfare, etc., they work directly with the village institutions, organizations and functional leaders, by making use of the Gramsevaks only for providing the necessary contact in the villages for the Extension Officers to function.

The Extension Officers are not to function as an additional step in the hierarchy, but they have to function mainly as supports to Gramsevaks in the field of agriculture and integrated rural development activities. The major roles and functions of the Extension Officers are as under: (1) Helping the Block Development Officer in programme planning at the block level.

The Extension Officers, with the help of Gramsevaks, collect the information at the village level and supply it to the Block Development Officer; (2) Providing solutions to problems and implementing new schemes and activities at the village level throughout the block; (3) Providing necessary technical and administrative assistance and guidance to the Gramsevak and other Village level workers, working in the specific areas like education, health and sanitation; (4) Educating village people and providing technical guidance to village groups, farmers and voluntary organizations working at the village level; (5) Educating village people and providing technical guidance to village groups, farmers and voluntary organizations working at the village level; (6) Implementation of special programmes and activities

in the block;(7) Seeking the technical guidance from the district specialists and helping the grass-root level workers and working under the direct control of the technical officers at the district level;(8)Mobilizing local resources through the local people and organizations working in the block;(9) Conducting training and orientation programmes in the block in their technical fields.In addition to the above,the Extension Officers are required to help the Panchayat Raj institutions to gain recognition among the people.They have to do this work by working with the Panchayati Raj institutions and channelizing all their programmes through these institutions to rural people.They are also required to help the local Panchayats to develop healthy practice in respect of organizing meetings,discussions,taking up responsibilities towards the institutions as well as the village people.⁷³

Role and functions of Gramsevak(VillageLevelWorkers):Gramsevaks are the representatives of all the development departments of the local self-government working for rural development.They have to live in villages and work with the people.Although they were supposed to be multi-purpose workers in their functioning when the community development programme was started,but their role has now been changed in order to function through Panchayats and voluntary organizations.However,the Gramsevaks,inspite of their training in all the fields of development with emphasis on agriculture, need to be supported,guided and assisted in their work,particularly when complicated problems arise.They need to be given constant encouragement by the Block Development Officer and Extension Officers so that their courage to work with the village community and the village situation is kept up and developed.⁷⁴

The following list of functions and work responsibilities of Gramsevak indicate their workload and roles in the rural development:(I)Identification of needs and problems:1.Identification of needs of the villagers and taking action,as may be necessary,especially for planning the village programmes;2.Identification of problems of village people and consulting the specialists intackling them;Solving the problems

⁷³ibid. pp.169-173.

⁷⁴ibid. pp.123-133.

on a community basis. (H) Planning: 1. Preparation of village plans; 2. Preparation of crop planning (crop rotation, mixed farming, multiple cropping, community planning, etc.); 3. Planning various programmes like Drought-Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Small Farmers' Development Agency (SFDA), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Rural Landless Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), etc.; 4. Planning for Social Forestry. (III) Organizing: 1. Involving village people in various programmes; 2. Identification of local leaders and involving them in discussions relating to the village programmes; 3. Organization of young farmers' clubs and carrying out different projects through them; 4. Identification of small and marginal farmers and agricultural landless labourers; 5. Organizing village meetings; 6. Organizing village training programmes and camps. (IV) Rendering Services to village people: 1. Advising and guiding the villagers in the management of various programmes like crop management, water management, etc.; motivating the villagers for new ideas, programmes and practices; 3. Working with the people on village programmes; 4. Helping farmers in getting loans in time and introducing new schemes and programmes; 5. Helping farmers in successful cultivation of crops, and implementation of programmes like soil conservation, land reclamation, high-yield cropping systems, etc.; 6. Organizing various programmes and activities in order to bring about overall development of the village. (V) Publicity and Propaganda: 1. Use of different methods of extension education; 2. Proper utilization of audio-visual aids and methods; 3. Distribution of literature; 4. Organizing demonstrations of new experiments. (VI) Supplies: 1. Supply of improved fertilizers and pesticides in time; 2. Supply of seeds, implements, fruit-plants, improved varieties of animals, birds, pigs, etc. (VII) Office and Training Programmes: 1. Maintaining office records and registers at the village Panchayat level; 2. Attending meetings and conferences; 3. Participation in various training programmes; Selection of beneficiaries under Small Farmers' Development Agency (SFDA) and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency (MFAL), etc.

5.4 Problems and difficulties faced in implementation of the Rural Development Schemes

The BDOs face many difficulties in implementation of the rural development schemes such as Bank linkage, Network connectivity, Road connectivity, Implement new technology, Awareness about Block programme, Facilities available, Supervising, Coordination/cooperationAwareness, Communications. There are the common problems which are BDOs face in the various blocks of the West Garo Hills District.

Table 5.4: Central Guidelines of schemes regarding beneficiary selection

Following the central guidelines of schemes regarding beneficiary selection	Respondents	%
Yes	10	76.92
No	3	23.08

As per the data from the Table 5.4, 76.92% of the BDOs said that there is a central guideline of schemes regarding beneficiary selection whereas, 23.08% of the BDOs said there is no central guidelines of schemes regarding beneficiary selection

5.5 Kinds of training attended before and after joining the post of Block Development Officer

- a) Capsulate training
- b) Rural development Training
- c) Training on RII, SIRD, NIRD
- d) Quality control management
- e) MGNREGA
- f) Implementation of PMGSY scheme
- g) BRGF
- h) Preparation of DPR
- i) IAY

- j) UGSTC Training/CRRI Delhi

5.6 Kinds of training that is needed for block functionaries to functions effectively:

- a) Training on punctuality
- b) Public Relation
- c) Management and maintenance of Record
- d) Creation of Assets
- e) PAY schemes

Table 5.5: Orientation Programme, Seminar on Rural Development

Attended Orientation Programme	Respondents	%
Workshop by CSRD	2	15.38
NIRD, Hyderabad	3	23.08
MGNREGA	5	38.46
IAY	3	23.08

The data in the table 5.5 shows that 15.38% of the BDOs attended Workshop by CSRD, 23.08% attended NIRD, Hyderabad, 38.46% attended MGNREGA and 23.08% attended IAY Programmes. These are some of the programmes conducted either through orientation or seminar on Rural Development for the Block Officers in West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.

5.7 Kinds of cooperation from the Line Departments as received by the Block Development Officers:

- a) Technical
- b) Cooperation Preparing
- c) Action Plan

5.8 Kinds of works assign to the VLWs and Extension Officers by BDOs

- a. Supervising of the work & spot inquiry whenever necessary
- b. Assigned work

5.9 Role of Block Development Officers in Village Action Plan

The BDOs have a significant role in the Village Action Plan of the various Blocks in the West Garo Hills of Meghalaya. Their task lead to the implementation of the Plan which is set by the village councils/Gram Sabha in the respective blocks. Training and guiding the villagers/members to implement the plan. On the hand to cooperate and seek cooperation of all the villagers, council members/Gram Sabha members in the developmental activities. The Block Development Officers act as liaisons to the District Development Planning Committee.

5.10 Areas where Block is Progressing

The Block Development Officers gave their views that the Blocks are progressing in many areas. Some of the areas where the Blocks are progressing can be mentioned under the following heads. But generally, the Blocks are growing in their own way and pace of development in the areas of rural connectivity by the schemes of PWD, Road and transportation facilities, Rural Electrification and through Rural employment under the MGNREGA schemes under the Government of India. The BDOs moderate all the above schemes and programmes for development. Another interesting part of development in the various blocks is that there is a creation and conduct of individual and community assessment mechanisms in order to check the progress in the blocks of West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.

Table 5.6: Political Interference in the works

Any Political Interference in your works	Respondents	%
Yes	1	7.69
No	6	46.15
Silent	6	46.15

The data from the Table 5.6 indicates that 7.69% of the BDOs said that there some kind of political inference in the developmental activities/works in the various blocks. Whereas, around 46.15% of the BDOs said there is no glimpse of political interference in the various blocks in developmental activities. But, around 46.15% of the BDOs remain silent regarding this subject matter and do not want to discuss for various reasons.

Table 5.7: Do you feel that the area of your Block is too large

Do you feel that the area of your Block is too large	Respondents	%
Yes	7	53.85
No	1	7.69
Silent	5	38.46

As per the data in the table 5.7, we get to know that 53.85% of the BDOs said that the area of the Block where they are working is too large for better administration, 7.69% said that the area is not too large. Whereas, 38.46% of the BDOs remain silent and do not want to discuss about the subject matter. From here it is clear, that the areas under the BDO is really too large for better administration. And it is very much evident that there are many villages under a block.

Table 5.8: Relation of BDOs with the village Councils, DRDA, Deputy Commissioner

Relation with the village Councils, DRDA, Deputy Commissioner	Respondents	%
Good	4	30.77
Very Good/ Satisfactory	7	53.85

The table 5.8 shows that 30.77% of the BDOs said that there is good relation with the village Councils, DRDA, Deputy Commissioner whereas, 53.85% of the BDOs also said that the relation with the village Councils, DRDA, Deputy Commissioner is very good, satisfactory. From here we can find out that there is sound working out mechanisms for the BDOs in order to bring better collaboration in the various blocks of West Garo Hills Meghalaya.

5.11 Ways in which the villagers/beneficiaries are motivated and encouraged

The various ways through which the villagers/beneficiaries are motivated and encouraged can be seen in the following headings:

- a) Workshop/interactive programme
- b) Conducting meeting, awareness programme
- c) Progressing of rural people
- d) Motivate and encourage them
- e) Work in their own benefit
- f) Well information about the schemes

5.12 Role of BDOs in development sectors- Agriculture, Horticulture, veterinary, small scale industries

The BDOs have a very wide range of powers and functions in the development blocks. Their role also includes working for overall development of the Blocks in

various activities. The BDOs also have a role in creating and spreading awareness programme for veterinary staffs and the general public.

5.13 Suggestions to make the Village Councils more powerful

The various suggestions that are brought forth to make the Village Councils more powerful can be illustrated in the following points:

- a) Sustaining people on the development issue
- b) Awareness, Interest
- c) Education for the better implementation of programmes/schemes with coordinators
- d) Record keeping,
- e) Vehicle
- f) office quarters

5.14 Impressions on implementation of the Rural Development Programmes

The BDOs have a wonderful feedback mechanism where it was found out that the Rural Development Programmes are satisfactory and successful programmes. These Rural Development programmes benefit the villagers and the people in general and most of the development carried out through Rural Development programmes is satisfactory in nature. The role of BDOs lies in the process of making effective and impactful.

5.15 Problems in identifying the beneficiaries in Developmental Block

- a) Non availability of proper documents by the beneficiaries
- b) Faulty census report
- c) Communication and Road/transportations
- d) Electricity and networks

5.16 Suggestions to improve the working condition in your block

- a) Better infrastructure, facilities in terms of mobility and transport etc
- b) Regular meeting with the staff
- c) Motivation to the staff
- d) Rural people in rural areas
- e) Providing internet facilities
- f) Proper training for the staff
- g) Proper room with toilets and drinking water facilities etc
- h) Rest room, electricity problem
- i) Proper training for block staff
- j) Cooperation with the villages and the staff

5.17 Results, Analysis Interpretations

- a) Present status of Rural Development in Meghalaya

Table 5.9: Present status of Rural Development in Meghalaya

Rural Development schemes like MGNREGA/IRDP/SGSY	Respondents	%
Yes	47	85.45
No	00	00
Don't know	8	14.54

From the above table Table 5.9, it is clear that 85.45% of the officials said that a Rural Development scheme like MGNREGA/IRDP/SGSY is implemented in Meghalaya especially in Garo Hills. Whereas 14.54% of the respondents said that they do not know about the present status of Rural Development in Meghalaya. From here

it can be concluded that rural development in Meghalaya is taking place with more dynamism.

Table 5.10: Status of Village Development in last 10 Years

Village has developed during last 10 years	Respondents	%
Yes	49	89.09
No	00	00
Don't Know	2	3.64

The table 5.10, indicates that the villages have developed during last 10 years as 89.09 % of the officials gave their witness regarding the status of Rural Development. Around 3.64% of the officials also said they do not know whether there is development in villages for last 10 years. But the impression we get from the 89.09% of the officials is the right information about the village development for last 10 years. The officials are directly linked with the village development and they are the persons who can really assess the growth taking place in the villages under various Development Blocks.

Table 5.11: Responsible Person for Village Development

Responsible person for village development	Respondents	%
BDO	39	70.90
Village Council	38	69.09
Nokma	36	65.45

From the table 5.11, it is clear seen that 70.90% of the respondents said that BDOs are responsible for village development, 69.09% of the respondents said Village Council and 65.45% said Nokmas are responsible for village development in Garo Hills. Though there were multiple responses in the given options, it can be said that Village Council together with the BDOs are responsible for village development

where the role of Nokma as the Head of the village is imperial. But in reality, BDOs, Village Council and Nokma are the persons who are responsible for the village development.

Table 5.12: Benefitted from NLUP, IRDP, SGSY, IAY, EAS

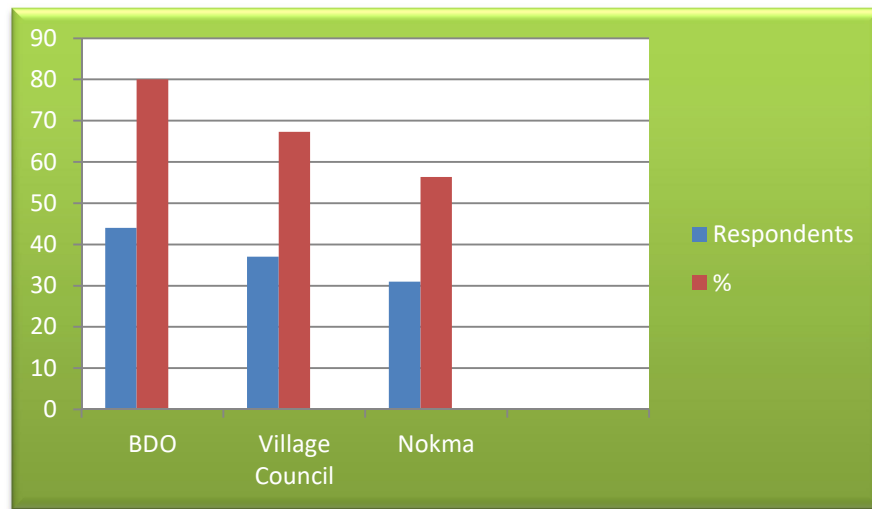
Benefit from NLUP, IRDP, SGSY, IAY, EAS	Respondents	%
Yes	49	89.09
No	00	00
Don't know	6	10.91

From the Table 5.12, it is indicated that 89.09% of officials said that the villages have benefitted from NLUP, IRDP, SGSY, IAY, EAS etc. The above figure as stated is true that the villages have really benefitted from NLUP, IRDP, SGSY, IAY and EAS and the field observation of the respondents also shows that the villages have benefitted. These are in line with the statement of the BDOs, Village Council Members and the Nokmas of the development blocks.

Table 5.13: Implementation of Rural Development Schemes

Who implements RD Schemes in your village	Respondents	%
BDO	44	80
Village Council	37	67.27
Nokma	31	56.36

Chart 5.1: Implementation of Rural Development Schemes

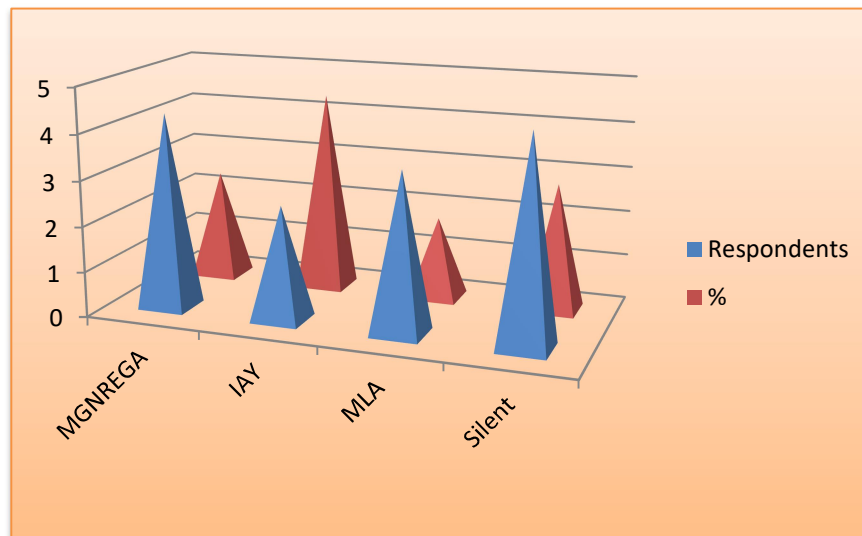


From the table 5.13, and Chart 5.1, it is seen that 80% of the BDOs, 67.27% of Village Council and 56.36% of Nokma implement RD schemes in the villages of West Garo Hills as reported by the respondents. The BDOs are responsible for all the schemes that are brought in the development Blocks and the implementations are carried out with the help of Village Council and the Nokma in the various blocks. From here, it can be said that BDOs Village Council and the Nokma play significant role in the implementation of Rural Development Schemes in the villages.

Table 5.14: Schemes Implemented in the Village

three village develop schemes implemented in village	Respondents	%
MGNREGA	37	67.27
IAY	35	63.64
MLA	35	63.64
Silent	14	25.45

Chart 5.2: Schemes Implemented in the Village

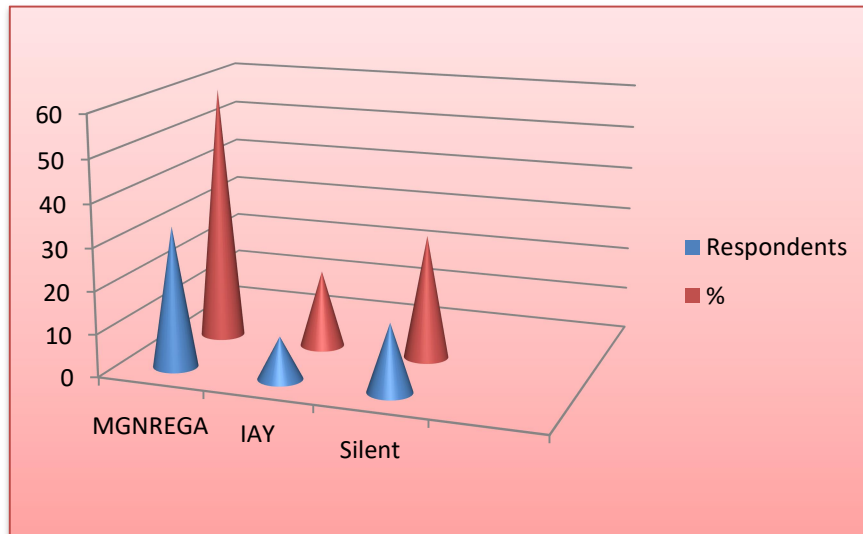


From the table 5.14, and Chart 5.2, the analysis reports that 67.27% of officials said that MGNREGA, 63.64% of officials said IAY, 63.64% of officials said MLA and 25.45% of officials remain silent regarding the schemes implemented in the villages of West Garo Hills. As per the data, it can be said that MGNREGA, IAY and MLA schemes are implement in the various villages under the different blocks. But there are 25.45% of the respondents who said nothing about who implements the rural development schemes in the villages. It may be because of the absence of the information or the indifference of the few respondents regarding the village situations.

Table 5.15: Schemes Liked Most

Schemes liked most	Respondents	%
MGNREGA	33	60
IAY	10	18.18
Silent	16	29.09

Chart 5.3: Schemes Liked Most



As per data given in the Table 5.15, we can find out that 60% of the respondents said that MGNREGA is most liked schemes in the Rural Development Blocks. Around 18.18% of the respondent also like the scheme called IAY. Whereas, 29.09% of the respondents remained silent in this matter. From here, we can come into inference that MGNREGA scheme is well governed/managed by the Block Development Officials for which the villagers or the civilians do appreciate and have benefited in greater height.

Table 5.16: Selection Process of the Beneficiaries

Happy with the selection process of the beneficiaries	Respondents	%
Yes	48	87.27
No	00	00
Don't know	7	12.73

From the Table 5.16, it is clear that 87.27% of the respondents said that the beneficiaries are happy with the selection process for the various development schemes in the Blocks which are managed by the Block Development Officials. From here, we can say that the villagers/civilians are satisfied with the mechanism or working of Block Development Officials towards the implementation of the schemes and the target selection. Around 12.73% of the respondents also said that they are not aware of the selection process of the beneficiaries in the various schemes in the Blocks.

Table 5.17: Presence of Various Centre in the Villages

Villages have cooperative stores, medical sub Centres and Veterinary Centres	Respondent	%
Yes	16	29.09
No	29	52.73
Don't know	10	18.18

As per data from the Table 5.17, we can find out that around 29.09% of the respondents said that village has Cooperative Stores, Medical sub-centre and Veterinary Centre in the various Development Blocks. Whereas, 52.73% of the respondents said that villages do not have Cooperative Stores, Medical sub-centre and Veterinary Centre in the various Development Blocks. This is significant finding because more than half of the respondents said they have not felt the presence of the various Cooperative Stores, Medical sub-centre and Veterinary Centre in the various Development Blocks. On the other hand, 18.18% of the respondents said they are not aware of the various centres exist in the villages. It may be because of the lack of communication in the villages.

Table 5.18: Sources of Knowing about RD Programmes

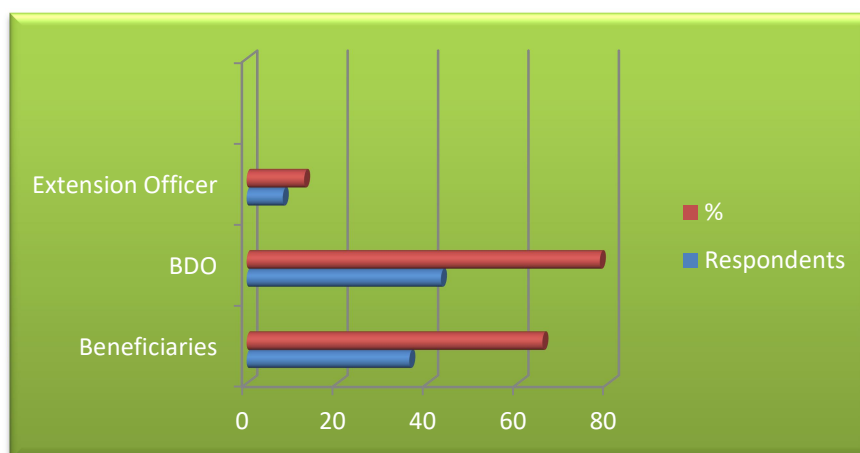
Sources of knowing about RD programmes	Respondents	%
Village Council	8	14.54
Block officials	42	76.36
Nokmas	0	00
Radio	0	00
News Paper/propaganda/NGOs	0	00

As per the data given in the Table 5.18, we come to know that 76.36% of the respondents said that Block officials are the sources of knowing about the Rural Development programmes at Block level. Around 14.54% of the respondents also said that Village Council is the source of knowing about the Rural Development programmes. From here, it is clear that the main persons to spread the news about the rural development programmes in the Blocks are the Block Officials. But Village Council has also a role in the spread of rural development programmes in the villages under various blocks.

Table 5.19: Village Level Workers Helpful to the Villagers

Village level worker, Gram Sevika, Extension officer are helpful to the villagers.	Respondents	%
Beneficiaries	36	65.45
BDO	43	78.16
Extension Officer	8	12.73

Chart5.4: Village Level Workers Helpful to the Villagers

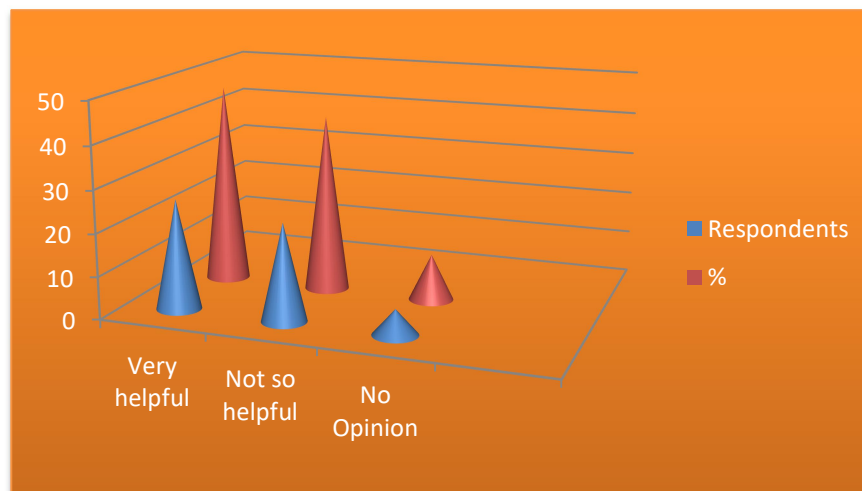


The Table 5.19 and Chart 5.4, show that 65.45% of the beneficiaries said that village level workers, Gram Sevika, Extension officers are helpful to the villagers, 78.16% of the BDOs also said that village level workers, Gram Sevika, Extension officers are helpful to the villagers and 12.73% of the Extension officers said the same thing. From here we can establish the fact that village level workers, Gram Sevika, Extension officers are helpful to the villagers in the various Blocks. Their presence is felt by the people and the welfare work is being carried out for greater good of all. Thus, rural development is taking good shape and lives of the people are uplifted from poor conditions to tolerable situations.

Table 5.20: Opinion Regarding VillageLevel Worker, BDOs Gram Sevika, Extension Officers

Opinion regarding Village level worker, BDOs, Gram Sevika, Extension officer	Respondents	%
Very helpful	26	47.27
Not so helpful	23	41.82
No Opinion	6	10.91

Chart 5.5: Opinion Regarding VillageLevel Worker, BDOs Gram Sevika, Extension Officers



As per the data given in the Table 5.20, we get to know that 47.27% of the respondents said that Village level worker, BDOs, Gram Sevika, Extension officers are very helpful to the villagers in the various Blocks, whereas, 41.82% of the respondents also said that Village level worker, BDOs, Gram Sevika, Extension officers are not so helpful to the villagers in the various blocks. Around 10.91% of the respondents remained silent about the matter regarding Village level worker, BDOs, Gram Sevika, Extension officers helpfulness. Thus, less than 50% of the respondents expressed Village level worker, BDOs, Gram Sevika, Extension officers are helpful and again, less than 50% felt not helpful.

Table 5.21: Areas of Work for BDOs on Development of Villages

Areas BDO should concentrate for	Respondents	%
Development of village		
Agricultural Development	1	1.82
Public Health	3	5.45
Poverty Elevation Programmes	46	83.64
others	5	9.09

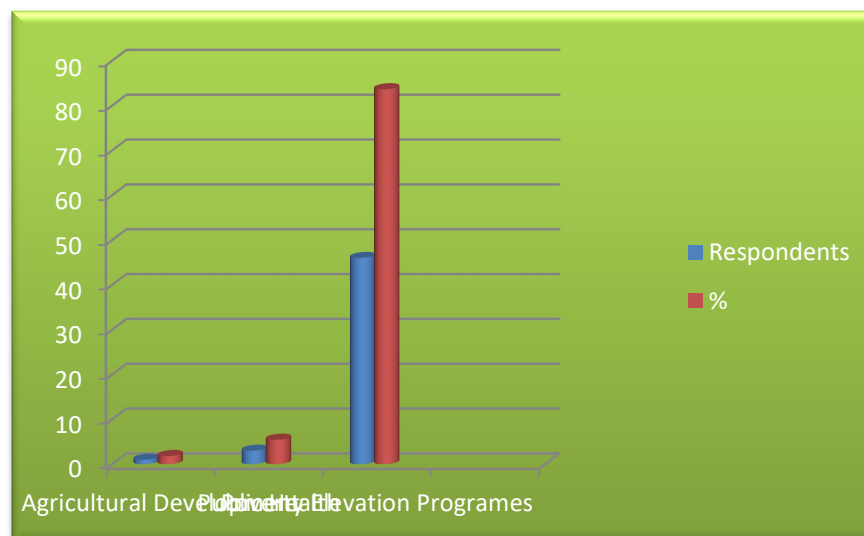


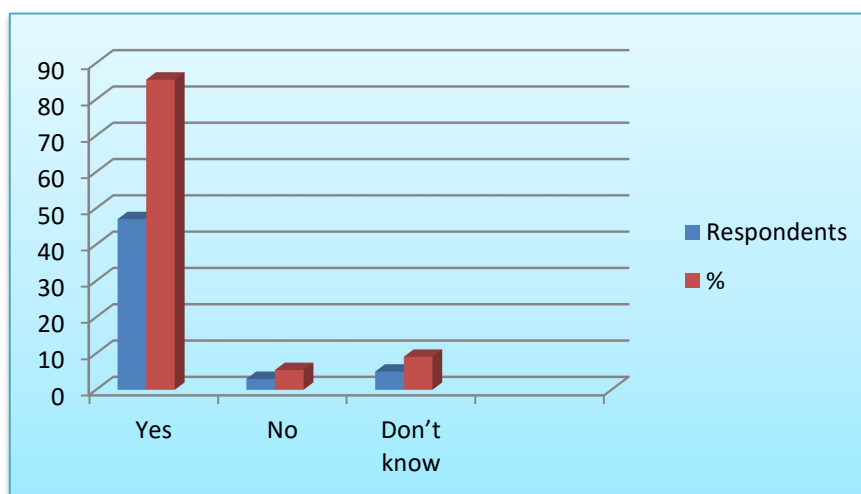
Chart5.6: Areas of Work for BDOs on Development of Villages

From the Table 5.21 and Chart 5.6, we can find out that 83.64% of the respondents said that Areas of Work for concentration of BDOs on Development of villages is Poverty Elevation Programmes. Though Public Health, Agricultural Development and other areas where BDOs play great role but Poverty Elevation Programmes is the main areas for concentration of BDOs on Development of villages. The BDOs, are well appreciated on this areas of functioning as this shows the status of rural development in the blocks/village.

Table 5.22: Status of Satisfaction with the Village Development Initiative by BDOs

Satisfied with the village development initiated by BDOs	Respondents	%
Yes	47	85.45
No	3	5.45
Don't know	5	9.09

Char 5.7: Status of Satisfaction with the Village Development Initiative by BDOs



As per the given data in the Table 5.22 and Chart 5.7, it is clearly indicated that 85.45% of the respondents said that the people are satisfied with the village development Initiated by the BDOs in Blocks, whereas, around 5.45% of the respondents also said that the people are not satisfied with the village development initiated by BDOs, and around 9.09% of the respondents said that the people are not aware of the initiatives of the BDOs. From here it can be said that the initiatives of the BDOs are well recognized by the beneficiaries as well as the people in the villages under the respective blocks.

Table 5.23: Purposes of visit of the BDOs to the villages

Purposes of visit of the BDOs to the villages	Respondents	%
Awareness of rural development schemes	12	60
Motivating the farmers	0	00
Imparting agricultural education, aware of fertilizers etc	0	00
Supervision of works only	3	5

As per the data given in the Table 5.23, we come to know that 60% of the respondents/BDOs said spreading awareness of rural development schemes is the main purposes of visit of the BDOs to the villages under different blocks. Around 5% said that even Supervision of works in the villages is also one of the purposes of visit of the BDOs to the villages. The respondents openly declared in their opinion as given in the table 4.15, that motivating the farmers and imparting agricultural education, awareness of fertilizers are not purposes of visit of BDOs to the villages.

Table 5.24: Areas where Block is Progressing

Areas where Block is Progressing	Respondents	%
Rural connectivity	55	100
Create and conduct individual and community assessment	55	100
Road and transportation	55	100
Electricity	55	100
Rural Employment	55	100

From the Table 5.24, it is clear that 100% of the respondents said that the Block is progressing on various areas such as rural connectivity, created and conducted individual and community assessment, road and transportation, Electricity and Rural Employment. All the respondents answered all the options as given in the Table 4.16 where multiple answer type questions was constructed in order to bring out specific information regarding the areas where the block is progressing.

Table 5.25: Impressions on Implementation of Rural Development Programmes

Impressions on implementation of Rural development programmes	Respondents	%
Very Good	0	00
Good	0	00
Satisfactory	1	7.69
Not satisfactory	0	00
Successful programme	1	7.69

As per the data given in the Table 5.25, it is clear that 7.69% of the respondents said satisfaction is the impression on implementation of rural development programmes. This is really a sad figure as majority of the respondents gave no indication about very good and good impression on implementation of rural development programmes. Again, 7.69% of the respondents said that success is the impression on implementation of rural development programmes. This is again very insignificant percentage of the respondents about impression. From here, it can be said that majority of the respondents have intentionally kept silent about the impression of the implementation of the Rural Development Programme.

Table 5.26: Problems in Identifying the Beneficiaries in the Blocks

Problems in identifying the beneficiaries in your block	Respondents	%
Non availability of proper documents by the beneficiaries	55	100
Faulty sensus report	55	100
Communication and Road/transportations	55	100
Electricity and networks	55	100

As per the data given in the Table 5.26, we can find out the various problems in identifying the beneficiaries in the Blocks as given by the respondents can be stated in

the followings. All the respondents notified the problems in identifying the beneficiaries in the following points given below;-

- i. Non availability of proper documents by the beneficiaries
- ii. Faulty census report
- iii. Communication and Road/transportations
- iv. Electricity and networks

b) Recruitment base and Socio-economic Background of Bureaucrats in Meghalaya

As per the analysis from the informations collected from the respondents it can be said that the various training provided to the BDOs are as given in the followings:-

- i. Capsulate training
- ii. Rural development Training,
- iii. Training on RII, SIRD, NIRD,
- iv. Quality control management training,
- v. Implementation of MGNREGA,
- vi. Implementation of PMGSY scheme,
- vii. Preparation of BRGF training,
- viii. Preparation of DPR training,
- ix. Preparation of IAY,
- x. UGSTC training/CRRRI Delhi.

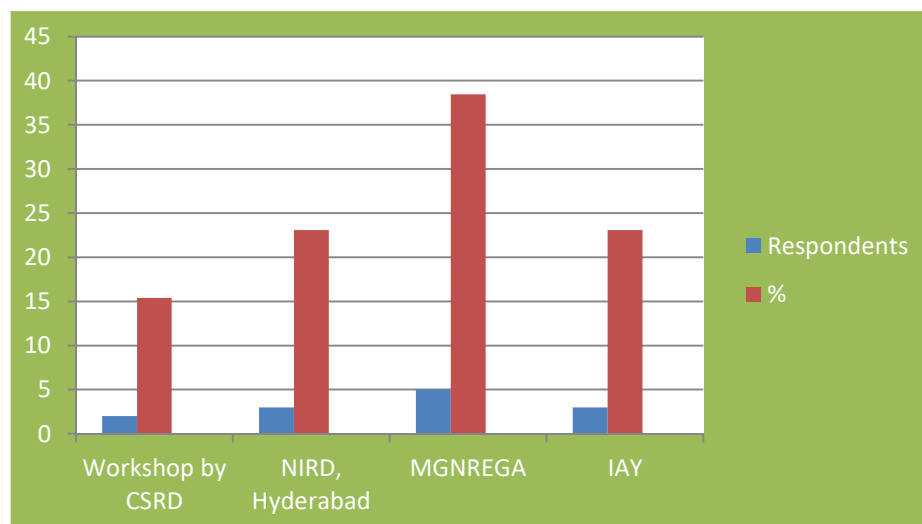
The kind of training provided to the BDOs and the officials in the Rural Development of Meghalaya can be seen in the following points such as-

- i. Training on punctuality
- ii. Public Relation
- iii. Management and maintenance of Record
- iv. Creation of Assets
- v. PAY schemes

Table 5.27: Attended Orientation Programmes

Attended Orientation Programme	Respondents	%
Workshop by CSRD	2	15.38
NIRD, Hyderabad	3	23.08
MGNREGA	5	38.46
IAY	3	23.08

Chart 5.8: Attended Orientation Programmes

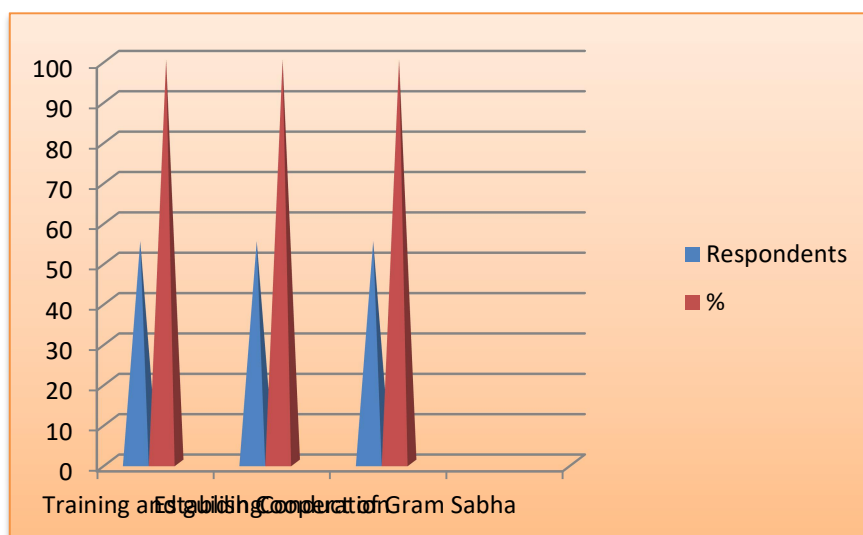


As per the data given in the Table 5.27 and Chart 5.8, we can find out that 38.46% of the respondents said that they have attended Orientation Programme on MGNREGA, 23.08% said that they attended orientation programme conducted by NIRD, Hyderabad, 23.08% of the respondents said they attended orientation programme on IAY and 15.38% of the respondents also said that they have attended workshop cum orientation programme conducted by CSRD. From this it can be said that various orientation programmes have been conducted by various agencies in view of rural development programmes.

Table 5.28: Role in Village Action Plan by BDOs

Role in Village Action Plan by BDOs	Respondents	%
Training and guiding	55	100
Establish Cooperation	55	100
Conduct of Gram Sabha	55	100

Chart 5.9: Role in Village Action Plan by BDOs



From the Table 5.28 and Chart 5.9, it is found out that 100% of the respondents have given the multiple answers based on the role of BDOs in Village Action Plan. The various roles of the BDOs that can be mentioned in village Action Plan are as follows:-

- i) Training and guiding the villagers/members in the village
 - ii) Establishing cooperation among the different block officials to work unanimously for the cause of rural development.
 - iii) Conduct of Gram Sabha in the Block for better organization and administration of Policies, Schemes related to rural development.
- c) Organizational arrangement of the agencies involved in rural development activities.**

Table 5.29: Benefitted from NLUP, IRDP, SGSY, IAY, EAS

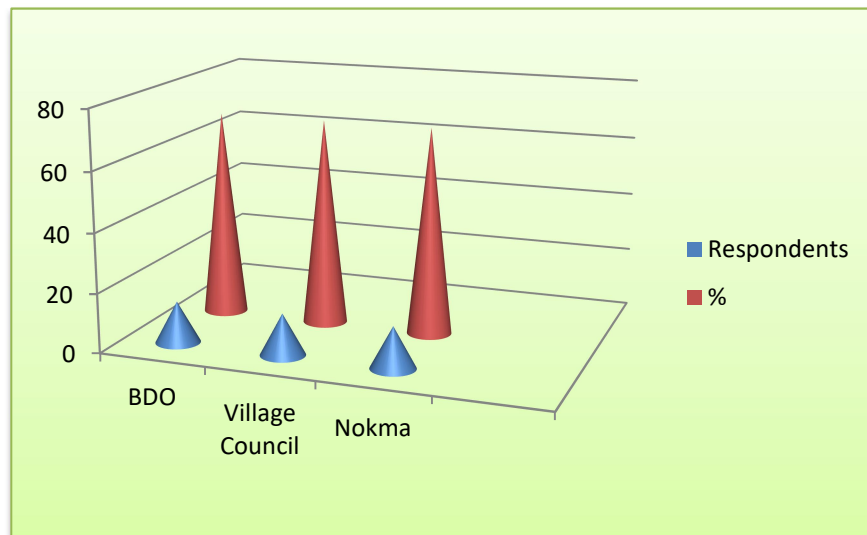
Benefitted from NLUP, IRDP, SGSY, IAY, EAS	Respondents	%
Yes	13	65
No	00	00
Don't know	7	35

From the Table 5.29, it is clearly indicated that 65% of the respondents said that the people benefit from NLUP, IRDP, SGSY, IAY and EAS schemes for rural development under the different Blocks in West Garo Hills Meghalaya. Around 35% of the respondents are not aware of the benefits obtained from the various NLUP, IRDP, SGSY, IAY, EAS schemes.

Table 5.30: Implementation of RD schemes in the Villages

Who implements RD Schemes in your village	Respondents	%
BDO	14	70
Village Council	14	70
Nokma	14	70

Chart 5.10: Implementation of RD schemes in the Villages



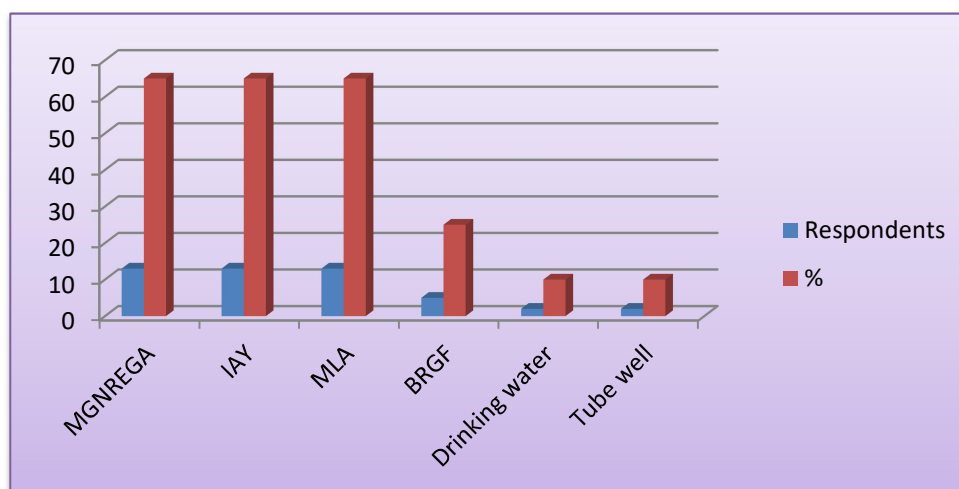
As per the data given in the Table 5.30 and Chart 4.10, it is indicated that 70% of the respondents said that BDO, Village Council and Nokma are the people who implement the Rural Development schemes in the villages. From here it can be said BDO, along with the village council members assisted by the Nokma implement the Rural Development schemes for rural development.

d) Implementation of the Government Schemes by the Block Development officer under Rural Development.

Table 5.31: Implementation of Village Development Schemes

Three village develop schemes implemented in village	Respondents	%
MGNREGA	13	65
IAY	13	65
MLA	13	65
BRGF	5	25
Drinking water	2	10
Tube well	2	10

Chart5.11: Implementation of Village Development Schemes



From the Table 5.31 and Chart 5.11, it is found out that 65% of the respondents said that MGNREGA, IAY and MLA are the three village development schemes implemented in the village. Besides these three schemes, BRGF, Drinking water, Tube well are also implemented in the village as the data shows.

e) Status and relationship with the officers engaged in rural development work

Table 5.32: Relation with the Village Council, DRDA, Deputy Commissioner

Relation with the village Councils, DRDA, Deputy Commissioner	Respondents	%
Very Good	7	53.85
Good	4	30.77
Satisfactory	0	00
Bad	0	00

As per the data given in the Table 5.32, it is indicated that 53.85% of the respondents said that there is very Good relation with the village councils, DRDA, and Deputy Commissioner. 30.77% of the respondents said that there is Good relation with the village councils, DRDA and Deputy Commissioner. From here it can be said that there is sound relation better rapport of the people with the village councils, DRDA, and the Deputy Commissioner in the respective district under administration.

f) Difficulties encountered by the rural bureaucracy in carrying out the rural development activities

- i. The various
- ii. Non availability of proper documents by the beneficiaries
- iii. Faulty census report
- iv. Communication and Road/transportations,
- v. Electricity and networks

Table 5.33: Problems and Difficulties faced in Implementation of the Schemes

Problems and difficulties faced in implementation	Respondents	%
Bank linkage	1	7.69
Network connectivity	1	7.69
Road connectivity	2	15.38
Implement new technology	0	00
Awareness about Block programme	0	00
Facilities available	0	00
Supervision	0	00
Coordination/cooperation	2	15.38
Awareness	1	7.69
Communications	0	00

From the Table 5.33, we get to know that though small percentage of the respondents who have revealed the problems and difficulties faced in implementation of the schemes, but the fact is that the BDOs do face problems and difficulties while they go for implementation of the Rural Development Schemes. Around 7.69% of respondents revealed that Bank linkage, 7.69% mentioned about Network connectivity, 15.38% of the respondents said Road connectivity, 15.38% of the respondents said problems and difficulties regarding coordination/cooperation, again, 7.69% of the respondents said problems and difficulties related to awareness. There are also many issues related to problems and difficulties of implementation of the rural development schemes such as implementation of new technology, facilities availability, supervision and communications which are also major problems and difficulties in implementation of the rural development schemes in the various development blocks of West Garo Hills Meghalaya. These are the challenges and trials in the rural development for which the BDOs have to take measures to overcome and bring satisfactory results in their respective blocks.

Table 5.34: Ways to help Motivate and encourage the villagers/beneficiaries

Ways to help motivate and encourage the villagers/beneficiaries	Respondents	%
Workshop/interactive programme	0	00
Conducting meeting, awareness programme	3	23.08
Progressing of rural people	0	00
Motivate and encourage them directly	3	23.08
Work in their own benefit	0	00
Well information about the schemes	0	00

As per the data given in the Table 5.34, it is clearly indicated that 23.08% of the respondents said that conducting meeting, awareness programme is one of the ways to help motivate and encourage the villagers/beneficiaries in the Rural Development schemes. Around 23.08% of the respondents also said that encourage and motivate the villagers/beneficiaries directly is also one of the ways. Besides the above two ways there are also other ways such as conducting workshop/interactive programme, progressing of rural people, work in their own benefit and furnishing well information about the schemes in the villages could be motivating factors in the Rural Development.