

## CHAPTER-7

### MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

#### 7.1 Major Findings

MGNREGA/IRDP/SGSY is implemented in Meghalaya especially in Garo Hills. 89.09 % of the officials gave their witness regarding the status of Rural Development. BDOs are responsible for village development. 89.09% of officials said that the villages have benefitted from NLUP, IRDP, SGSY, IAY, EAS etc. Block Development Official implements the Rural Development Schemes. The various schemes which are implemented are MGNREGA, IAY, MLA. MGNREGA and IAY schemes are liked most by the people in the Garo Hills. 87.27 % of the people are happy with the selection process of the beneficiaries. 52.72 % of the Villages said that they have no cooperative stores, medical sub Centres and Veterinary Centres. 76.36% of the people said that Block officials are the Sources of knowing about RD programmes.

78.16% of the BDOs and 65.45% of the Beneficiaries said that Village level workers, Gram Sevika, Extension officer are helpful to the villagers. 47.27% of the people gave their Opinion regarding Village BDOs, level worker, Gram Sevika, Extension officer that they are very helpful whereas, 41.82% of the people also express their opinion that Village BDOs, level worker, Gram Sevika, Extension officer are not so helpful. 83.64% of the people said that the BDOs must concentrate for Development of village in line with Poverty Elevation programs. 85.45% of the people said that they are satisfied with the village development initiated by BDOs. 60% of the people expressed that BDOs visit the villages for the purposes of Awareness of rural development schemes, motivating the farmers, imparting agricultural education, aware of fertilizers and supervision of works in the Blocks. Areas where Block is Progressing are rural connectivity, Create and conduct individual and community assessment, Road and transportation, Electricity and Rural Employment. Regarding the Impressions on implementation of Rural development programmes the people

responded that it was successful and satisfactory. The problems such as Non availability of proper documents by the beneficiaries, Faulty census report, Communication and Road/transportations, Electricity and networks. 65% of the Nokmas and 49.09% of the council Members are head of the family. 45% of the Nokmas and 36.36% of Council Members have Primary Education. 25% of the Nokmas and 23.64% of the Council members have Higher Secondary Education.

20% of the Nokmas and 9.09% of the Council members have College level education. 30% of the Nokmas and 14.55% of the Council members have Primary occupation. 70% of the Nokmas and 69.09% of the Council members have Secondary occupation. 40% of the Nokmas and 40% of the Council members have Rs 0-50,000.00 annual income. 60% of the Nokmas and 32.73% of the council members have Rs 60,000-1 lac and above annual income. 60% of the Nokmas and 76.36% of the Council members have registered land under their names. 25% of the Nokmas have gun with license. 15% of the Nokmas have radio set and 5.45% of the council members have other valuable assets. 92.30% of the BDOs said that Rural Development is an important task in the villages and the schemes implemented are successful and satisfactory. 92.30% of the BDOs enjoy working in their respective blocks. 61.54% of the BDOs said Government schemes are working like functionalities of the block cooperative activities regarding implementation. 76.92% of the BDOs said that the central guidelines schemes are followed regarding beneficiary selection before implementing the Government schemes. Kind of training needed according to block functionalities to functions effectively are such as Training on punctuality, Public Relation, Management and maintenance of Record, Creation of Assets and PAY schemes. Kind of orientation programme, seminar on rural development especially Workshop by CSRD, NIRD, Hyderabad, MGNREGA and IAY are undertaken before the implementation of the Government schemes by the Block Development Officers in the Blocks.

Line Departments do cooperate with technical and in preparing the Action Plan in the implementation of the Government schemes in the Block. VIWs and

Extension Officers are assigned Supervising of the work & spot inquiry whenever necessary before implementation of the Government schemes in the Blocks. The role of BDOs is giving training and guiding the villagers/members by bringing cooperation and working together in Gram Sabha in implementing Government schemes. The BDOs motivate and encourage the villagers/beneficiaries by conducting Workshop/interactive programme, Conducting meeting, awareness programme, Work in their own benefit, and by furnishing well information about the Government schemes in the Block. 40% of the BDOs organize awareness camps, medical camps in the village as narrated by the villagers. 50% of the village elders are satisfied with the village development initiated by BDOs in West Garo Hills. 70% of the village elders said that BDOs, Village council members and Nokmas implement the Rural Development Schemes in West Garo Hills. Regarding the relation with the village Councils, DRDA, Deputy Commissioner, the findings revealed that 53.85% of the BDOs said the relationship is very good. There is cordial relation in villagers/beneficiaries/BDOs and the subordinate officers while implementing Government Schemes. 50% of the Villagers said village level worker, Gram Sevika, Extension officers are helpful to the villagers/BDOs, Extension Officer and the beneficiaries. Opinion regarding Village BDOs, level worker, Gram Sevika, Extension officer: 45% of the village elders said that they are not helpful, and 40% remain silent whereas 15% of the village elders expressed that they are very helpful. The findings reveal that there is no Political Interference in the works of BDOs, village council members and other officials in the various development blocks.

## **7.2 General Suggestions**

- i) Areas BDO should concentrate for Development of Agriculture, Public Health, Poverty Elevation programmes in the village.
- ii) Suggestions to make the Village Councils more powerful:
  - a. Sustaining people on the development issue
  - b. Spreading Awareness and Interest among the people in the Blocks

- c. Education for the better implementation of programmes/schemes with coordinators
  - d. Training for Record keeping
  - e. Vehicle for the staff in the operation
  - f. office quarters can be provided so that working would be easy and comfortable at reachable time schedule.
- ii) The findings from the village elders reveal that 55% of the development officers do not visit the village and so there is an urgent requirement that development officer visit the village frequently in the respective blocks in West Garo Hills.
  - iii) BDOs can concentrate more on the Agricultural Development of the respective blocks.
  - iv) Workshop/interactive programme can be conducted to motivate and encourage the villagers/beneficiaries.
  - v) Information about the schemes can be given well in advance in the respective blocks so that everyone is aware of what is going on in the Blocks.
  - vi) Better infrastructure, facilities in terms of mobility and transport etc can be introduced.
  - vii) Regular meetings with the staff of the blocks can be conducted.
  - viii) Providing internet facilities in the offices of the Block development is necessary.
  - ix) Proper training for the staff in the blocks can be introduced.
  - x) Proper room with toilets and drinking water facilities etc., can be introduced in the various development blocks.
  - xi) Cooperation with the villagers and the staff in the blocks can be established.
  - xii) Faulty census report can be modified and republished.
  - xiii) For better administration, the Blocks in the West Garo Hills can be divided in small units.
  - xiv) Kind of training needed according to block functionaries to function effectively are such as Training on punctuality, Public Relation, Management and maintenance of Record, Creation of Assets and PAY schemes.

- xv) The village council members are happy with the selection process of the beneficiaries and the same spirit can be continued in the near future.
- xvi) The block officials can also motivate the farmers in the blocks.
- xvii) Imparting agricultural education and creating awareness of fertilizers etc among the village farmers are the need of the hour and lines of actions can be taken accordingly in different blocks.

### **7.3 Suggestions for Further Study**

The investigator analyzing the various, results, findings and suggestions is now in a position to suggest for further study:-

- a) A Comparative Study of the Block Development Officers in Rural Development of Meghalaya.
- b) Studies also can be undertaken in line with various government schemes in the development blocks in Garo Hills of Meghalaya.
- c) The various roles of the block officials and the administration of the Government schemes can be compared with other districts of Meghalaya.
- d) Studies on the administration of the Block Development Officers in the Khasi and Garo development blocks can be undertaken to bring to light the progress of the various development schemes in Meghalaya.
- e) A Comparative Study of the Block Development Officers in Rural Development of Meghalaya and Assam can be taken up.
- f) An Evaluative study can be taken up in line with the Rural Development Ministry, Government of India for the qualitative and quantitative assessment of the beneficiaries in India.
- g) A Comparative Study of the Block Development Officers in Rural Development of North East Region and other regions of India can be taken up.

## **7.4 Conclusion**

Though Rural Development programmes in Garo Hills have been badly affected due to many reasons but activities have posed a big blow to the developmental activities carried on by the different Departments of the State Government. The communication, marketing system, agriculture and allied sector still needs to be explored although some achievement has been made with the efforts of the Government of Meghalaya especially after 1972.

Six decades have been passed since the introduction of Community Development, about 40% of rural population is still living in below poverty line. It is high time now to make a field survey of rural development activities, evaluation of performance and find out some mechanism to monitor assess the performance of the rural bureaucracy. In the Rural Development Department, at the Directorate level, all the bureaucratic personnel's have been borrowed from the various development departments. The Block level bureaucrats play a very significant role in the development of various sectors like agriculture, small scale industry, horticulture, fishery, education, health etc.

The role of Block Development Officer as central functionary, therefore, needs to be examined and assessed if the problems and prospects of rural development in Meghalaya is to be properly carried. The Government of Meghalaya as well as the Central Government is presently concentrating on accelerated development of rural areas particularly for economic self-sufficiency, improvement of communication, eradication of rural poverty etc. Various programmes were implemented and some are under implementation. The success of these programmes depends upon efficient and dedicated rural bureaucracy led by the Block Development Officers. It is in this context that the present study is considered to be important. The study had been carried out by surveying the field reality and the working of the Block Development Officers in the West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya.

The results, analysis and findings indicate that Rural Development is taking place with slow pace in different districts of Garo Hills. The role of the Rural Development officers, and the staff in rural development schemes are noteworthy to mention. The findings on the other hand reveal that the villagers are satisfied with the Government schemes as they have been successful in West Garo Hills, Meghalaya. Awareness of rural development schemes, motivating the farmers, imparting agricultural education, aware of fertilizers and supervision of works in the Blocks are the need of the hour. Areas where Block is Progressing are rural connectivity, Road and transportation, Electricity and Rural Employment. Regarding the Impressions on implementation of Rural development programmes, it is noteworthy to mention that it was successful and satisfactory. The problems such as Non availability of proper documents by the beneficiaries, Faulty census report, Communication and Road/transportations, Electricity and networks required proper monitoring procedures are yet to be solved.

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.

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. The village council members are happy with the selection process of the beneficiaries and the same spirit can be continued in the near future. The block officials can also motivate the farmers in the blocks and impart agricultural education

and creating awareness of fertilizers etc among the village farmers which are the need of the hour and lines of actions can be taken accordingly in different blocks.

Though various approaches and strategies for rural development were initiated such as multi-purpose approach, minimum package and area development approach, target group approach, employment oriented approach, and Integrated Rural Development Approach, there was less impact. Realizing the importance of people's participation in the process, Panchayati Raj Institution as an agency of rural development has been introduced in 1959. The Constitution (73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Act of 1992, further added a new dimension and vigour in the process of rural development by bringing in a constitutional provision for what is commonly known as democratic decentralization. But even after the introduction and strengthening of Panchayats the main functionaries and unit area of operation is not systematic.

The Block Development Officer (BDO), the 'block' and 'block level functionaries' introduced during Community Development days, largely remained the same. The panchayats wherever they are available were and are often advised and guided by these functionaries in their participation in rural development activities. But, in non-panchayat areas like Meghalaya for reasons of convenience and accessibility rural development administration continued to be the main responsibility of the Block Development Officer assisted by number of subordinate officers specialized and trained to motivate and assist the rural people. In the absence of any popularly elected body in the village level the BDO and his team continued to look after all aspects of rural development. The role of BDOs became crucial for the rural development endeavors in Meghalaya and this gave impetus to this study.

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 Gram Sevaks only for providing the necessary contact in the villages for the Extension Officers to function. Their functions are not to be taken 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 as helping the Block Development Officer in programme planning at the block level is to be really taken seriously in every aspect of the developmental process with honour and dignity.

Though the central guidelines on the schemes are followed regarding beneficiary selection before implementing the Government schemes. Kind of training needed according to block functionaries to functions effectively such as Training on punctuality, Public Relation, Management and maintenance of Record, Creation of Assets and PAY schemes. Various orientation programme, seminar on rural development especially Workshop by CSRD, NIRD, Hyderabad, MGNREGA and IAY are required to undertake before the implementation of the Government schemes by the Block Development Officers in the Blocks to minimize future discrepancies.

The BDO as a multipurpose functionary is expected to be more prompt, efficient, objective, and most importantly to be capable of motivating the rural poor. He is a ubiquitous figure today, especially in the context of rural development in non-panchayat areas like Meghalaya. In spite of the fact that the District Council has been functioning for long, the area still remains very backward. There is not enough co-ordination between the District Council and the State Rural development functionaries in the region. A certain degree of co-ordination among the two is important to avoid duplication of work. A focused and co-coordinated effort is necessary for the improvement of agriculture and allied sector, village industry, and horticulture. The Block Development Officer who is to ensure this co-ordination between the various implementing agencies at the rural level has to be all in all supervising the various developmental programmes, projects, activities for better implementation and sound evaluation.

The development blocks are progressing in the areas of development such as electricity, road and transportation, safe drinking water facilities, health sectors such as PHCs and CHCs, literacy in terms of education etc. Still more focus can be stressed in the areas such as concentration for Development of Agriculture, Public Health, Poverty Elevation programmes in the village and raising the standard of life in the various development blocks. More Government schemes can be implemented in the long run through the intervention of Nokmas, village councils and Block Development Officers with basic awareness and training programmes in the remote areas of the blocks in order to minimize the poor living conditions and uplift the downtrodden.