

P R E F A C E

The failure of the 'growth models' and the persistence of poverty in the least developing countries rural sector, necessitated them to adopt the integrated rural development model in their plans. To bring the rural mass out of their deplorable conditions, it was essential that a joint multi punjent attack must be made on poverty, i.e. political, economic and social. Hence the I.R.D. Programmes embraces all aspects of rural life.

The effectiveness of development programmes such as IRD largely hinges on the organisational viability of such programmes. Organisation of the rural poor for participating in such programmes, is a sine qua non. As the rural development programme are intended to benefit the rural poor it has been advocated widely that they should participate both in the process of planning and implementation of development programmes in an organised manner. Emperical evidence has shown that Government channels are only or more utilized by the better off rural society. In L.D.C.s as in Nepal the poor has very little access to Government channels through which the benefits of the Governmental programmes parcolate.

The present study therefore seeks to explore the organisational set up of two IRDPS in Nepal. Specifically this study aims to determine IRD efforts in enhancing the rural participation and in achieving equity among the project's poor section. It seeks to assess the socio-economic benefits distributed among the population in the two projects. An attempt has also been made to specify the shortcomings and suggest the appropriate policy, strategy and

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operation in this regard based on the findings of the study.

The study initially begins with two maps of Nepal; while the first one portrays administrative divisions along with five development regions, the second one represents the universe of study comprising the central and eastern development regions. The sampled village panchayats where IRDP's major investment have been shown meticulously

In the background, besides a broad glimpse of Nepal, the situation existing in the country before the advent of multi party system has been historically explored.

The Introduction is divided into seven sections, in which, the purpose of the study, theoretical framework, objectives and components of the I.R.D.P's are given.

Chapter two produces the socio-economic outline of the five districts and the ten village panchayats of the study.

Chapter three goes through the basic features of organisational structure of IRDP. It presents the evolution of rural programmes vis-a-vis institutional forms.

Chapter four deals with implementing agencies particularly bureaucracy. It also examines peoples participation in IRDP.

Chapter five presents the existing socio-economic profile of the respondents. It examines also the distributive effect among the different segments of the rural population.

Chapter six recapitulates the entire study and puts down the summing of the findings.

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Suggestion and recommendation have been laid down in chapter seven. It also incorporates the new dimensions of public administration in Nepal. Strategies and models of rural development have been extensively discussed here in the light of which future rural development in Nepal may be undertaken.

A few words relating to the study are in order. As the present study is limited to Sagarmatha and Rasuwa-Nuwakot IRD Projects, the findings may not be helpful in generalisation. In absence of time series data the study is limited to that of 1984-85. In the collection of data the study posed a serious problem. Most of the respondents did not maintain records of their farm output. Some of them were so ignorant that they could not clearly state number and the names of the family members. And data therefore had to be collected by way of prolonged interview which made both the researcher and the respondents jittary. In view of different topographical position of the panchayats the number of respondents covered in a day was very small.

The investigation of other IRDPs could have been helpful to draw more effective conclusive findings, however the researcher was limited by finance and time.

I am greatly indebted to Dr Dhrubajyoti Bhowmik, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal, that he agreed to give his invaluable time to guide me on this unexplored field of study. Without his inspiration at every stage, this work would have remained incomplete.

I express my gratitude to Dr Mohan Prasad Lakhey, Reader, Tribhuvan University, who assisted and encouraged me to undertake

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this study. I am sincerely grateful to Dr Lok Raj Baral, Professor, Tribhuvan University to kindle my interest in this study. To Dr Pranchanda Pradhan, Director of Development Research Council, Kathmandu I expressed my thanks for his enlightened discussions and suggestions.

I am obliged to Mr Bharat Bahadur Karki, Senior Economist and Prushotam Risal, Senior Research Officer, APROSC, Kathmandu, for assisting me in statistical analysis. Thanks go also to Mr Bhim Kant Upadhyaya, Reader in North Bengal University, for his co-operation.

The work could not be done without study leave which was generously granted by Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. My sincere gratitude to Indian Embassy, Kathmandu is recorded here for providing me the credential letter on the basis of which I was registered for Ph.D. degree with the University of North Bengal.

My thanks are due to the libraries of Tribhuvan University, North Bengal University, Indian Council of World Affairs (Sapru House), ^{New Delhi} Indo-Nepal Cultural Centre, Kathmandu, American Library, Kathmandu, Agriculture Project Service Centre (APROSC) Library, Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) Library, Kathmandu, Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS) Library, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu and Regional Library of Thakur Ram Campus, Birganj (Nepal).

Above all I must acknowledge my thanks to staff and officials of Sagarmatha and Rasuwa/Nuwakot I. R. D. P. Co-ordinator's Office, Chief District Officer, Local Development Officer and line agencies. I am also thankful to Pradhan Panchs and respondents of the concerning village Panchayats.

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The contribution of Mr. Dibya Ram Bhandari (Ex Chief District Officer) and Mrs Manju Bhandari and Mrs Lali Shrestha for their hospitality in my continuous stay in Kathmandu is unforgettable.

I deeply owe to my life partner Bisheswari, Reader, Tribhuvan University. She not only helped me in the field study but had also assisted me by being a critic with her practical wisdom of a researcher.

I am immensely grateful to my relatives, Mr. Tarun & Mrs Indira Mukherjee, Miss Sandhya, Sangita and Mrs Subhra Mukherjee. Mr Kishore and Mrs Deva Sah for their contribution in patiently bearing the burden of this study, which took more than their time and attention.

Lastly I must thank Mr. Manoj Chakraborty for typing this thesis skilfully and neatly.

Partha Kumar Chakraborty.