

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 pronged 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. Empirical 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 percolate.

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.

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