

PREFACE

The strategies for rural development in the country started with the setting of Community Development Block in the early part of this century, but it was soon realised that the problems of rural areas are multifacets. Therefore, a suitable strategy known as 'Integrated rural development programme' was evolved by the Planning Commission in 1971 which aims to eradicate rural poverty from the grassroot level.

On the basis of the Report of the Planning Commission Area Development Authority was established by the name of Loktak Development Authority (LDA) in the Bishnupur district but no Micro-level study has yet been conducted so far. It has been observed that Lake Development Authority functions for the development of the Lake only. So it is hoped that it would be extended to other spheres as a multi-facet programme for the entire district, which will require the involvement of Irrigation Engineer, Agronomist, Co-operative and Bank Experts, distribution and marketing expert, an ecologist and social scientists. It has been also observed that effort so far made by integrated rural development programme in projecting a unified machinery have not succeeded in solving the problem of the area.

PURPOSE OF STUDY

The Bishnupur district of Manipur selected for the study have the following salient features that attract a closer survey :-

(i) It is a southern half of the valley of Manipur and it possesses the depression of the Loktak lake forming the lowest portion of the valley of Manipur where water accumulates and causes severe perennial flood along the fringing villages.

(ii) Protection of the only drainage outlet from the valley by a natural hump known as "Sugnu hump" leads to devastating floods and siltation on the lake region of the Bishnupur plain.

(iii) The region has huge water reserves which can be utilised for other purposes like lift irrigation, water supply, electricity generation and fisheries development.

(iv) Population pressure on land is too great in the area which retards development.

(v) Agriculture is still primitive, though irrigation is provided in the area. There is still uncertainty in production which deteriorates the economic condition of the people.

(vi) Socio-economic functions are grossly inadequate in the study area which is mostly attributed to poor economic

condition of the people and due to physical, economic and socio-cultural constraint.

(vii) The construction of the Loktak multipurpose hydro-electric project by draining the water of the Loktak lake have profound effect on the ecology of the lake and the surrounding villages. There is an increase in the rate of soil erosion, siltation on the lake floor, deforestation, water hyacinth growth and flood which need proper monitoring.

(viii) The Loktak region is one of the richest area for different flora and fauna of the State. It is the fish feeding bowl for the whole of the State of Manipur. It is also the Sanctuary of many rare species in the world, but this has been slowly becoming extinct due to mismanagement of water, land, and wild life preservation, which need to be viewed through development perspective.

(xi) Lastly, lack of proper planning to develop the area and people in the past.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY :

The main objectives of the study are :

(i) to study the physical aspects like geology, relief, drainage, climate soil and vegetation of the district and their interrelation for assessing the major problems like flood,

drought, siltation, soil erosion and deposition,

(ii) to evaluate the demographic set up like distribution of population, density of population, literacy rate and occupational pattern of the people, which are greatly attributed to the presence of Loktak lake in the district. It also aims to determine the problem relating to occupations specially associated with agriculture and fishing,

(iii) to determine the agricultural pattern, method of cultivation, productivity, changes and their relation with respect to land. It has also aimed to identify the major problems like irrigation, land utilisation, fluctuation of production, modernisation in the sphere of agriculture,

(iv) to evaluate the availability and accessibility of the existing socio-economic functions like education, health services, financing agencies, communication, marketing services, transport, retail services, industries and electricity which contribute much for the all-round development of the area and determine the possibility of further development

(v) to identify areas of general problems and ecological imbalances and their effect on the areas and people in particular

(vi) to examine the previous strategies adopted for the area development and evaluate its application in the study area

(vii) to assess the role of the project in the management

of water resources and the development of the area and the people of the district,

(viii) and finally to suggest a relevant strategy for the area development.

METHODOLOGY :

(i) In view of the absence of most of the data for the Micro level study, extensive questionnaires have been made to cover different aspects of the study area. The questionnaires are divided into four parts. The first two parts comprises of socio-economic and socio-cultural, while the third and fourth parts comprise of agricultural aspects and ecology. Extensive field work was conducted panchayetwise. Interview was conducted with the Pradhans, Upo-Pradhans and members of 24 Panchayets of the district. Interview was also conducted with the local people separately to get information about their economic status, problems and availability of socio-economic functions.

(ii) Data and information had to be collected from different sources both Government and private organisations, clubs, municipalities/town committees, and many others.

(iii) Information and literature have also been collected from different libraries, journals and personal experiences.

(iv) Available data were computed by scientific calculator and results have been analysed for obtaining the explanation and conclusion.

(v) Maps and diagrams have been drawn using different cartographic techniques to illustrate the data and information in maps and diagrams. Statistical techniques have also been applied to analyse the numerical data into a definite conclusion.

(vi) Lastly photographs were taken to pin point the problems like physical, demographic socio-economic condition associated with Loktak Hydro-electric Project and on the basis of these Reports have been prepared and various literatures are cited to compare the study with those who have worked in the area of similar problems elsewhere in the country and abroad.

LIMITATION

The study on the impact of Loktak Multipurpose Hydro-electric Project in the villages of Bishnupur district is a difficult task because of the initial stage of the Project. The district itself came into existence in 1983. There are limitations of data and the information available are mostly unreliable. Data of Census Operation villagewise reveals contrasting figure of areas and names of the villages.

It gives a gross inadequacy of data for research work. So, common villages have been taken into consideration for analysis in the successive Census. As no one worked in the study area so the area is virgin and most of the work which has been mentioned here are the results of on the spot survey and personal experiences of the investigator.

DESIGN OF THE THESIS :

The whole work commences with, the identification of the location of the Bishnupur district in the Manipur State of the Indian Union and giving the purpose, objective and methodology adopted for the study.

Then, the work commences with the first chapter which deals with the physical background of the district, the original point of all the problems.

The second, third and fourth chapters analyse, the demographic, agriculture and socio-economic functions, prevalent in the district influenced by physical factors.

The Fifth Chapter deals with the identification of the general problems and ecological imbalances created by various factors and development work in the district.

The Sixth Chapter deals with the review of earlier strategies introduced in the country and its implementation in the district.

The Seventh Chapter deals with the role of Loktak Hydro-electric Project in the development of the Loktak lake region highlighting on the management of water resources, checking of flood, reclamation of marshy land, fisheries and fisherman development, supply of electricity, agriculture, protection of plants and animals and tourism development.

And finally the Eighth Chapter comprises of the problem based development strategies, suggestions and conclusion.

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