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"WORKING OF I.R.D.P AND ITS IMPACT ON POOR PEOPLE."

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ABSTRACT:

*The analysis and observation of the working of the command Area Development Authorities brings the fact to the light that in fact it has excited the imagination of the rural area. New irrigation schemes are coming up with an objective to help the farmers. Joyti Kumar has rightly observed that "The Command Area Development provides an excellent opportunity for comprehensive are programme of rural development for areas under assured irrigation." He suggested the " A bold approach to planning design and long distance transfer of water is needed to augment the overall water resources of the country."*¹

KEYWORDS: *analysis and observation , planning design.*

INTRODUCTION

Both the Government of India and the various State Governments had been applying efforts through launching several rural development schemes to uplift the living standard of the people. But reality was that these schemes and programme were limited to some selected pockets and many people belonging to the poor and down-trodden sections of the society remained deprived of such benefits. This led regional disparities and also broadened the gap between the rich and the poor. So it was realized that there should be single integrated programme namely the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) covering

all aspects of the rural life all over the nation. The IRDP got preference in the Sixth-Five year plan 1978-83.

In the words of Bhawe IRDP is "integrated development of the areas and the people through optimum development and utilization of the local resources-physical, biological and human-bringing necessary institutional, structural and human- and bringing necessary institutional, structural and attitudinal changes by delivering a package of services to encompass not only economic field but also the establishment of the required social infrastructure and services in the areas of health and nutrition etc."¹ It is an multi-dimensional project which covers many sides of the rural development. Since it is based on the integrated approach, it integrates various development programme and policies. It stands for integration between growth

forces and variables, interacting in an overall framework. It is " an organized effort to evolve the possibility of developing infrastructural facilities along with intersectional in an integrated framework at micro level."² It is in fact a package programme of various rural development services and activities of Government which are closely inter-related."³ It is also a nation-wide movement Stimulated or guided by the Government. In this movement main thrust is rural development with the help of the rural people who are given direct opportunity to participate in various development programmes and obtain the benefits. These programmes include efficient rural cooperatives, land reforms measures conducive to cooperative action among farmers, education, family planning, cottage industries, basis technical training for self-

employment and may other schemes which help the individual to raise his living standard.

This policy of the Government of India like other mentioned policies was launched with the objective of removing poverty from India. The specific importance of the IRDP is that it enabled and invited the poor people to take part in the programmes for their economic betterment. It provided facilities for opening and running dairy, poultry, piggery farms, sheep and goat rearing honey keeping, small scale industries, small shop etc. To enable the people to run these the IRDP is that it wants to improve the health of the rural people by providing nutritious food specially to the children and pregnant women, medical facilities supplying drinking water etc. It also wants to alter the rural face through launching programs which may help the villagers in constructing roads approach roads for villages playgrounds for youths, common halls and other facilities. It also wants to arrange rural markets, fairs, recreational theaters etc. It is more interested in developing agricultural development and horticultural products.

Thus it is obvious that the IRDP is multi-dimensional in its approach and as a package programme of various rural development service under the Government. It is based on 'decentralised micro- level planning at the Block level' and offers a package of programme for the rural people' giving more preference to those who are still below the line of poverty."¹ The philosophy of integration of the IRDP is based on the integration of sectoral integration among various programmes and also above all integration between growth forces and variables. The IRDP is an organized effort of the Government to" evolve the possibility of developing infrastructural facilities along with inter-sectoral avenues in an integrated framework at micro level."² various rural development programmes have been brought under the IRDP. These programmes and schemes are being implemented through a single Agency, namely, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). In the words of Radha Raman Singh IRDP is "an attempt to implement Gandhi's concept of 'Survodya', i.e. promoting the welfare of each and every individual in the rural areas and at the same time ensuring accelerated development of the neglected and disadvantaged groups of the population with the idea that to serve first the poorest of the poor along with concept of Antyodua in application."³ It may be noted that before launching IRDP the Government of Mrs. Indira Gandhi had launched 20-Economic programme. All these programmes were included in the IRDP.

It was realized that most of the rural people of India belonging to the down-trodden sections were untrained. Hence the IRDP put much emphasis on providing training to them in various fields so that they could start some self-employment schemes with the grants (with subsidies) provided by the Government."¹ About 15 million families were to be covered by the programme during the sixth Five year plan of which 30 percent had to be from the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes only"² It aims at systematic scientific and integrated use of all the natural resources available in the rural areas. In the words of B. Rao the IRDP stands for evolving "an operationally integrated strategy for the purpose on one hand of increasing production and productivity in agriculture and allied sectors based on better use of land water and sunlight and on the other of resource and income development of vulnerable sections of population in all the Blocks of the country."³ It is based on the grass-root level planning. It is not a piece-meal or adhoc manner. This programme is permanent based on the concept of all-round development.

Thus it is obvious that the National Rural Employment guarantee Act was notified by the government of India on 7 September 2005 with the marked objective to provide employment to those rural poor people who have no alternative other than to do manual work. It Laid emphasis on security in rural area by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every house hold whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The state government has made responsible for wide communications of the scheme skill is also the duty of the state government to regularly review, monitor and evaluate NREGA processes and outcomes. The government with the marked objective to helped the unemployed rural unskilled workers launched the NREGA all over the country. This scheme has been appreciated everywhere and it has helped a number of real workers to improve their living standard. The government is very much generous in all offering funds for

implementation of NREGA. Millions of job card holders have been recorded. It has created big hope in the mind of the rural workers.

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