An Analysis of Rural Poverty Alleviation Programs and Challenge in Assam (A Micro Level Study of Margherita Block of Tinsukia District)

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Abstract

The research was intended to describe the development of the rural people, the country cannot claim to be a developed country. Not only India, every developing country of the world has been trying to reduction of poverty because of the poverty eradication is considered an integral to humanity’s mission for their sustainable development. It is a concept of global dialog and vital for the attainment of international goals. The government of India as well as states government has launches some poverty eradication program for the development of rural peoples, but all these poverty alleviation program are did not yield the desired result due to various shortcomings. Successful implementation of these program required appropriate policy framework, adequate funds and effective delivery mechanism. An effective and responsive district level field machinery with a high degree of commitment, motivation, professional competence and above all integrity has been recognized as one of the prerequisites for successful implementation of an anti-poverty strategy.

Keywords: Rural Poverty Alleviation Programs, Challenge, Margherita Block, Tinsukia District

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I. Introduction

Rural poverty is a worldwide problem, it existing in both developing and developed countries of the world. In India majority of population lives in rural areas and the alleviation of poverty is an important aim of the government. Due to growth of population and inequality of income and increasing of price level, the degree of poverty level in India as well as Assam is increasing day by day. At the beginning of 20th century, about ninety percent of population lived in village and at the beginning of 21st century about seventy two percent Indian still lives in the village. so alleviation of poverty has become an important objective of rural development policies and programs of India.

The district rural development agency (DRDA) has traditionally been the principal organ at district level to oversee the implementation of the different anti-poverty programmes. This was sponsored by central government and effect from 1st April 1999. In this present paper an attempt is made in order to a theoretical focus of the poverty alleviation programs and its challenge in India and with specially focusing on the scenario of Margherita Block of Tinsukia District of the state of Assam.

Objective of the study

The objectives of this present studies are:

1. To highlight some poverty alleviation programmes launched by the govt. of India.
2. To study about the challenges and problems of the poverty alleviation programs
3. The third objective of this present paper is to focusing a short description about some poverty alleviation program such as IAY, MGnREA, etc

II. Concept of Poverty

The term ‘poverty’ has no common acceptable definition, poverty is a complex phenomenon. Poverty is a state of deprivation. In general poverty means lack of basic capacity of their daily needs, Participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothes, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. According to World Bank, poverty marked deprivation in well-being and
comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice and insufficient capacity.

2.1 Poverty alleviation programmed in India and Assam

Poverty alleviation programmed has been one of the major objective of the plan development indeed, it is a global issue, the eradication of poverty is considers as an integral part to humanity’s quest for sustainable development. One of major objectives of the planned economic development in India has been to removal poverty and improving the quality of life of the people. In India, at the beginning of the new millennium, the number of poor in the rural areas was 193.2 million. although the problems of rural poverty has been persisting in India science the beginning of planning but the serious efforts for the alleviation of poverty was introduced only in the recent years. The poverty alleviation programmed was accepted as one of the major objectives planning since the fifth plan. It was only during the seventies the programs like Small Farmer’s Development Agency(SFDA), marginal farmers and Agricultural Laborers Development Agency(MFAL), Drought Prone Areas Programed (DPAP), Food For Work Programed (FWP), were introduced for benefiting the rural poor. Later on, The Integrated Rural Development Programed (IRDP) Was Introduced In 1978-79. In order to Provide Wage Employments to Rural poor, The National Employment Programed (NREPO) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programed (RLEGP) were introduced in Assam along with other states during the sixth plan. Later on, first April, 1989, NREP and RLEGP were merged into a single wage employment programmed under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). IRDP is also being implemented by the state government since 1980 as a major instrument of its strategy to alleviate rural poverty. The objective of this program is to assist poor families in developing skills and inputs to overcome their poverty. Other programmed like TRYSEM was introduced in august 1979. in 1993-94, two new programs, namely the Employment Assurance Schemes (EAS) and the Prime Ministers Rozger Yojana (PRMY) were introduced in Assam along with other states. In 1995-96, The Prime Minister’s integrated urban poverty eradication programmed (PMIUPEP)
with an objective of effective achievement of social sector goal, community empowerment, and shelter and skill upgradation as a multipronged strategy was started.

In Assam 87 percent of the total population lives in rural areas of state and most of them are found poverty ridden and economically backward. The state government has been giving special thrust for abolishment on rural poverty as well as for up-liftmen of economic condition of the people in rural areas. To achieve the objectives, state government has been implementing various poverty alleviation programs undertaken by the government of India. The Director of panchayat and rural development, Assam has been upgraded to commissionerate of Panchayat and rural development in 2009. The department has two wings, ‘Panchayat’ and ‘rural development’ wings. Both the wings have been implementing various state and centrally sponsored programs through the network of 27 District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), 21 zilla porisheds and 219 community development blocks. There is no Panchayat system in the six schedule areas of Assam.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been implemented since February 2006 in the seven districts of Assam as the first phase district. During the year 2008-09 all twenty seven districts of Assam were covered under this programme. The main objective of this programme is to provide 100 days employment to the job card holders in a financial year. Under this development block a number of job card holders become employee with this scheme and both the men and women can easily participate for their daily work without hesitation. But some shortcoming has been arose due to not prepared of District perspective plan, Labour budget and Short provision of employment and nonpayment of unemployment allowances etc.

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY):

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) aims at providing dwelling units free of cost to the poor families of the Schedule Castes (S/Cs), Schedule Tribes (S/Ts), free bonded laborers and also non SC/ST persons living below poverty line (BPL) in the rural areas. The scheme is funded on cost sharing basis of 75:25 between the Central and the State since 19992000, where 80 per cent of allocation has been earmarked for new
construction and 20 percent for up gradation of unserviceable kutchha houses. The scale of assistance for construction/up gradation varied from time to time and also between hilly and plain areas. Under the sixteen Panchayat of Margherita developments block the IAY scheme was began at the same of the state launch. But due to lack of not plan of the annual action, not conferred on women ownership of IAY, not construction of sanitary latrine and smokeless chullahs and without involving beneficiaries.

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) :

The single self-employment program of Swarnjaynti Gram Swarozar Yojana, launched with effect from 1st April 1999 has been conceived in view the strengths and weaknesses of the earlier schemes of integrated rural development program (IRDP) and allied program along with million wells scheme(MWS). The objective of restructuring was to make the program more effective in providing sustainable incomes through micro enterprise. SGSY is conceived as a holistic program of micro enterprises covering all aspects of self-employments viz, organization of the rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their capacity building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up, technology, credit and marketing. Swarnajayanti gram swarojger Yojana, under this schema DRDA Tinsukia has achieve success in creation of awareness among the BPL farmers for the organization of self-help group for adoption of different activities like-tea plantation, fishery, ginger cultivation, mechanized farming, sericulture, handicraft, horticulture, piggery etc. presently more than 300 Nos of SHG formed under the Margherita block of Tinsukia district.

III. Material and Method

The article is mainly based upon secondary Data’s. The secondary data is mainly based on books, Govt. records, Journals, News Paper, Pamphlet and Internet related with the topic of the study.

The study area

The present article covered a micro level study, under the Margherita development block of Tinsukia district of the state of Assam. Under this development block a numbers of majority people lives in rural villages. Communities under this
development Block are mainly Moran, Adivasi, Nepali, Deori, Kachari, Singpho etc. the major earning source of income is tea plantation. Though Tinsukia district falls under the industrial belt with coal belt at Margherita, green tea gardens covering almost whole district, one of the oldest oil refinery of Asia located at Digboi, recent BPL survey reveals that 41.31% of rural population is falling under below poverty line.

The district is surrender by Arunachal Pradesh in the South-East, Dibrugarh dist, In the south-west and Dhemaji district in the north. The ancient name of Tinsukia was ‘Bangmara’ it was the capital of Muttack kingdom. It was declared as 23rd district of Assam on 1st October 1989, with three sub-division namely; Tinsukia, Sadiya and Margherita. Now, Margherita development block cover sixteen village Panchayat these are Bhithorpawoi, Borbil, Borgolai, Brahmanjan, Enthem, Golai, Jagun, Ketetang, Kumarpatty, Kumsai, Ledo, Ledo Collierey, Lekhapani, Makumpather, Pawoi and Samukjan.

IV. Conclusion

Without the development of the rural people, the country cannot claim to be a developed country. Not only India, every developing country of the world has been trying to reduction of poverty because of the poverty eradication is considered an integral to humanity’s mission for their sustainable development. It is a concept of global dialog and vital for the attainment of international goals. The government of India as well as states government has launches some poverty eradication program for the development of rural peoples, but all these poverty alleviation program are did not yield the desired result due to various shortcomings. Successful implementation of these program required appropriate policy framework, adequate funds and effective delivery mechanism. An effective and responsive district level field machinery with a high degree of commitment, motivation, professional competence and above all integrity has been recognized as one of the pre-requisites for successful implementation of an anti-poverty strategy. For batter implementation of these program it is need to play an important role of the panchayati raj institution, the non-governmental organization as well as active participation of the peoples. Generally the rural poor are unawareness’ about the government schemes. So it
is need to active participation of the voluntary organization for monitoring of the various schemes of the government.

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