

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

COMMUNITY: is a group of people who live in a geographical area and have an interest in each other for the purpose of making a living.

DEVELOPMENT: connotes growth or maturation. It implies gradual and sequential phases of change. It refers to the upward or increasing differentiation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

The United Nations (1956) defined Community Development as the process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of the governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of the communities.

It is a movement designed to promote better living for the community with the active participation and/or the initiative at the community.

GENESIS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CDP - 1952)

Based on the experiences within the country and abroad, the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission (1949) and the Grow More Food Enquiry Committee (1952) the CDP was launched on October 2, 1952, the birth-day of Mahatma Gandhi.

At the initial stage in 1952 there were 55 community projects in 3 blocks. Each of the community development project covered an area of about 450-500 sq.miles with about 300 villages and a population of about 2 lakhs. Each project area has been divided into three development blocks. A development block consisted of about 100 villages with about 150-170 sq.miles and a population of about 60-70 thousands. Each block was further divided into groups of 5-10 villages each. Each such group formed the area of operation for a village level worker (Gram Sevak) who was the basic level extension functionary in the community development programme.

OBJECTIVES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

The fundamental or basic objective of Community Development in India is the development of people of "**Destination Man**".

The Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation, Govt. of India (1962) stated the specific objectives of the community development programme as follow:

(1) To assist each village in having effective panchayats, cooperatives and schools;

(2) Through these village institutions, plan and carry out integrated multi-phased family, village, Block and District plan for

- Increasing agricultural production.
- Improving existing village crafts and industries and organising new ones.
- Providing minimum essential health services and improving health practices.
- Providing required educational facilities for children and an adult education programme.
- Providing recreational facilities and programmes.
- Improving housing and family living conditions, and
- Providing programmes for village women and youth.

ADMINISTRATION OF CDP - PRIOR TO PANCHAYAT RAJ

National level: For implementation of CDP at the national level there was a central committee with Prime Minister as Chairman. This committee was to lay down broad policies and to provide general supervision. Under central committee there was Community Projects Administration (CPA). At the beginning CPA was very small and it grew up as a big organisation. Therefore, from September 20, 1956 a separate central ministry was created known as ministry of community development.

This Ministry was overall in-charge of the programme. This department prepared national basis programmes, budgeting, directing and coordinating throughout the country.

State level: There was a State Development Committee or a similar body. This body was entrusted with the execution of CDP and NES. This committee was presided over by the chief minister and consists of all ministers of development departments. The Development Commissioner acted as Secretary to this committee. This Development Commissioner had three-fold functions.

II) He maintains an administration relationship with the District Collector who in turn is responsible for planning, coordination, executing and evaluating the work of each block in his district.

District level: At district level the district collector is the chairman of the district planning of Development Committee. He is assisted in carrying out this development responsibilities by BDOs. The district Development Committee consists of all Heads of Department in the district. It has both officials and non officials as members.

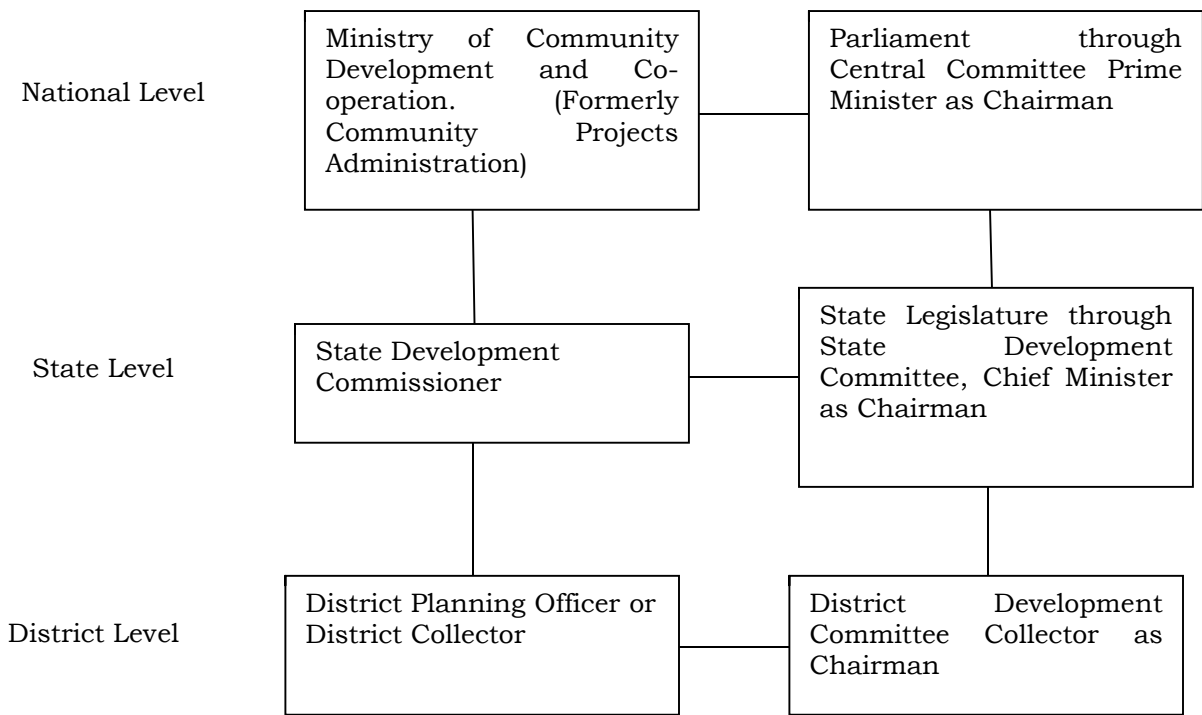
Block level: At Block level **Block Development Officer** is assisted by a team of experts in agriculture, cooperation, animal husbandry, cottage industries, etc. These technical

personnel are assigned with the development works at block level. Block Development Committee consists of representatives of panchayats, cooperatives, progressive farmers, social workers, MPs and MLAs of the area.

Village level: VLW or Gram Sevak acts as a multipurpose worker at village level. Each Gram Sevak is incharge of about 7 or 10 villages. He is incharge of both village and family development. He is guided and assisted by various technical specialists at the block level. He is the last official administrative person in the administrative chain for carrying out this nation-wide programme for village development.

As seen, at every level along with the official setup, non-officials participation has also been emphasised. This programme is often called as a **"peoples' programme"**. There is great stress on the peoples' participation not merely in the execution of the programme but also in its planning.

According to Nehru a Panchayat, a cooperative and a school are the three essentials for an Indian village. Panchayat deal with political affairs, cooperative with the economic affairs and school with education. With these three village institutions Indian villages are built on a strong foundation.



NATIONAL EXTENSION SERVICE (NES-1953)

NES was implemented from 2.10.1953. This was implemented in the areas which were not covered by CDP, so that entire country would get the benefit of development. When compared to CDP, the **NES was less intensive** in character.

Since CDP and NES had the same basic ideas, they were integrated both at the centre and state. With effect from April, 1958 there was no distinction between CD blocks and NES. All NES blocks became CD blocks was achieved by October 1963.

At central level Planning Commission itself headed by PM acted for direction and coordination of development. It was assisted by an advisory board comprising of secretaries of several Central Ministries concerned.

At state level, a state development committee under the chief minister was set-up with several ministers as its members. It was assisted by the state level advisory board with development department secretaries. A development commissioner was responsible for management of the programme.

At district level, there was a district development council (DDC), headed by the District Collector. Various district level development officers, as well as non-officials such as legislative etc., direction of development commissioner is responsible for implementing all the projects within the district.

Project advisory committee in the block was headed by **Block Development Officer (BDO)**. Several officials and non-officials are the members of this committee. Blocks were formed with the cutting edge of about 100 villages with an approximate population of 60,000 to 80,000. District Committee to guide and support BDO to implement the multi dimensional development project. The BDO was assisted by a number of extension officers representing agriculture, animal husbandry, cooperative, industries, health, social education etc.

On the completion of first five years of the programme, the planning Commission appointed a high-ranking study team headed by **Balvant Rai Mehta**, Chief Minister of Gujarat. This team pointed out both positive results and inadequacies in the implementation of the programme.

The study team made a significant recommendation with implementation of a programme. The decentralised administration was to be placed under the control of elected and integrated local self-government system ordinarily of 3 tiered bodies from

village level to block level and then to district level. This democratic decentralised system was named as "**Panchayat Raj**". CDP was by and large bureaucratized management.

OBJECTIVES OF NES:

- (i) to change the outlook of village people;
- (ii) to make the people participate effectively in development programmes;
- (iii) to develop village leaders accepted by all; and
- (iv) to increase the employment and production.

DEFECTS OF CD/NES

- (i) Uneven distribution of benefits;
- (ii) Absence of clear-cut priorities;
- (iii) Lack of self reliance and mutual aids; and
- (iv) Inadequate emphasis on development of cottage and small scale industries and agriculture.

Intensive Agricultural District Programme (IADP-1960)

The major outcome of the above thinking was the formulation of a strategy of intensive approach to agricultural production, specially the food grains. A new programme named as IADP was formulated which was launched gradually from 1960. The third five year plan (1961-1966) incorporated this programme into the planned development process. This programme was popularly known as a "package programme". This name was given because of the collective and simultaneous application of all practices of improved seeds, irrigation, fertilizer, plant protection, implements, credit, etc. This programme was started in July 1960 in seven selected districts in various states. They were (i) West Godavari in AP, (ii) Shahabad in Bihar, (iii) Tanjore in Tamil Nadu, (iv) Raipur in MP, (v) Ludhiana in Punjab; (vi) Pali in Rajasthan; and (vii) Aligarh in UP. The selections of these districts were done on the basis of their high potentiality for increasing the yield in shorter time. These selected districts had sure water supply for irrigation, well developed cooperatives, good physical infrastructure and minimum hazards.

Objectives

- (i) To achieve rapid increase in the level of agriculture production through a concentration of financial, technical, extension and administrative resources
- (ii) To achieve a self-generating breakthrough in productivity and to raise the production potential by stimulating the human and physical process of change and
- (iii) To demonstrate the most effective ways of increasing production and thus, to provide lessons for extending such intensified agricultural production programmes to other areas.

Short coming

1. Educational approach to reach farmers was lacking.
2. VLW was found below standard and was not able to impress farmers.

Intensive Agricultural Area Programme (IAAP-1964)

As a result of this a revised version of IADP with **less intensive** and therefore **less costly** programme was formulated and launched in selected blocks of 150 districts. It was named as **IAAP**. The selected blocks were to have the same physical conditions as in the case of selection of districts for IADP. Under this programme 20 to 25 per cent of the cultivated area of the country was brought under the intensive agricultural development.

Implementation of IAAP was accepted by Agricultural Production Board and came into operation in **March 1964**. This programme also followed the package approaches of use of improved methods. The highly adverse conditions (droughts) during 1966-68 served as a big blow. The foodgrains output was still insufficient to meet the rising domestic demands. Imports were also continued to supplement the local production.