



Working and Organization of DRDA : A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

Rural development is advocated as a basic strategy for economic development in India. Many rural development programmes have been launched both by the Central and State governments which aimed at improving the condition of the poor people. The governments' policies and programmes have laid emphasis not only on poverty alleviation, but also on generation of employment and income opportunities, provision of infrastructure and basic facilities to meet the needs of the rural poor. To administer the Rural Development Programmes effectively a new administrative set-up, namely, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), was set up by merging the SFDA and MFAL in 1980. An effort has been made in this article to understand the process of functioning of a DRDA in the implementation of rural development programmes.

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Mahatma Gandhi said : "India lives in its villages. If the village perishes, India will perish too". This truism about the social, economic and political development of rural areas is valid even today. There are cascading effects of poverty, unemployment, poor and inadequate infrastructure in rural areas and consequential social and economic tensions being manifested in economic deprivation and poverty. The imbalances in the society hamper development. Hence rural development which is concerned with economic growth and social justice, improvement in the living standards of the rural people by providing adequate and quality social services and minimum basic needs, becomes essential. Along with the traditional needs seen in rural areas, a host of new challenges have emerged in response to our globally-connected society. Rural development therefore, occupies a prominent position in the hierarchy of tasks before Indian planners.

Rural development has been the main agenda of the Five Year Plans of the country. During the period of 65 years of Independence several changes have taken place in the policy framework of rural development. Many rural development programmes have been launched both by the Central and State governments. The governments' policies and programmes have laid emphasis not only on poverty alleviation, but also on generation of employment and income opportunities, provision of infrastructure and basic facilities to meet the needs of the rural poor. The thrust of attention is on all the rural people particularly towards rural poor, not only in terms of providing incentives for development but also linking of economic activities into a well planned infrastructure.

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