

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

In India, 70 percent people live in rural areas and about 40 percent of the total rural population is living below the poverty line according to 1981 census. There are three major anti-poverty programmes - National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) - The IRDP was launched in 1978-79 in India.

The main objectives of these programmes are to assist selected families below the poverty line in rural areas. Thus, IRDP is working for the target group. However, the target group consists of small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans and others who live "below the poverty line". The present Dissertation focuses on the landless agricultural labourers in Gadhinglaj Taluka.

The study of landless labourers is important because they have no any other income sources, except 'labour'.

The IRDP has been taken up in the Gadhinglaj Taluka for poor and is one of the important scheme. The list of those who could be classified as 'below the poverty line' was prepared in 1982-83 and it was made public on July 13, 1983, for the Gadhinglaj Taluka. There are 34,395 families living in the Gadhinglaj Taluka and of them, 15,415 are 'below the poverty line' families. This constitutes a fair proportion (44

percent) of the total number of families in the Taluka. According to the IRDP Office Register/records, the landless labourers total 2015 families in the Taluka.

The number of families in the Gadhinglaj Taluka benefitting under the IRDP scheme comes to 9497. Of these, 1327 are landless labourers families. During the period 1983-84 to 1993-94, the IRDP has distributed more than Rs.2.0 crores by way of subsidy to the 9497 families in the Taluka.

The present Dissertation focuses the study on the subject of working of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and landless labourers in Gadhinglaj Taluka.

1.2 OBJECTIVES, LIMITATIONS AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The present study falls in five components, i.e. Rural development, Profile of Gadhinglaj Taluka, IRDP in Gadhinglaj Taluka, Analysis of primary data and Conclusions and suggestions.

Gadhinglaj taluka consists of 92 villages with a total population of 1,74,760 made up of 34,395 families. The family household is defined as a group of persons of blood relations and/or otherwise which is staying under one roof and sharing a kitchen. About 15,415 families in the Taluka are below poverty line. Out of these, 'below the poverty line' families, a total of 9497 have been benefitted by the IRDP. Of all these families which benefitted from IRDP in the Gadhinglaj Taluka, 1327 are from the landless labourers class.

The main object of this study is to examine the working of the IRDP and evaluate its impact on the landless labourers under this Scheme in the Gadhinglaj Taluka.

Objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To study the working of the IRDP in Gadhinglaj Taluka;
2. To study the impact on landless labourers under the IRDP scheme during 1983-84 to 1992-93;
3. To study the socio-economic conditions of landless labourers in Gadhinglaj Taluka'
4. To study the purpose of loans of the landless labourers under the IRDP scheme;
5. To study the condition of assets given to the landless labourers;
6. To examine changes, if any, in the annual income of the landless labourers.

The Area of the Study:

There are 92 villages in the Gadhinglaj Taluka. The present study covers 20 villages for examination of the effect of the IRDP on the members. The study covers the period of ten years, i.e. from 1983-84 to 1992-93.

METHODOLOGY:

The present study focuses on sample basis method. The following methodology has been adopted for the study:

1. Gadhinglaj Taluka covers 92 villages with about 34,395 families. Out of them, 15,415 are below poverty line (or

the BPL families). 1327 are landless labourer families are benefitted by IRDP. These landless labourers are divided into two categories such as non-BC and BC family recipients.

2. Twenty villages have been selected as a sample and 150 (20 percent) of total landless beneficiaries of 20 villages. Landless beneficiaries from these villages have been selected as a sample on a random basis. These are selected by random system (list obtained from the register of IRDP office (DRDA's), Gadhinglaj) on the basis of their easy accessibility.
3. The sample beneficiaries have been personally contacted and personal data has been collected through administering schedule to them.
4. Besides primary data, secondary data have been used in the analysis. Assistance of the IRDP office (DRDA's), Gadhinglaj, has also been quite useful. Various discussions were also held with the officers of the IRDP at Gadhinglaj.
5. The field survey was undertaken during January 1995.

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