

P R E F A C E

Since independence, many policies and programmes were formulated to eradicate poverty. Various exercises have been done over the years in determining the extent of poverty in India in general and rural poverty in particular. Implementation of measures aimed at bettering the weaker sections of society is a constitutional task of the governments both at the Centre and in the States.

If we go through the various evaluation reports of the schemes, projects or yojanas now in operation to improve the lot of the rural poor, we have the unhappy picture. The impression of these studies is that we seem to be always in a hurried mood and do not probe the matters in detail. Somehow the problems overtake us and we become the hapless victims^c of the prevailing conditions.

Antyodaya - , a Gandhian concept, has come to uplift the poorest strata in Rajasthan state. It has caught the popular imagination. Through which it was expected the fruits of our planned development would reach the rural poor without any differentiation on grounds of caste, class and religion. Antyodaya, the Rajasthan Government's scheme soon became very popular in the State. Other States have come to copy it, other underdeveloped countries have rushed to study the scheme. This programme has got a positive publicity both in India and abroad. The term

'Antyodaya' has inspired me as well as the programmes that have been brought under the scheme. Formation of Janata Government was noteworthy situation in the history of politics of India. Janata Government, which was much inspired by Gandhism were always saying that they will drive away the big problem of unemployment within ten years. Many economists rushed to understand Janata policy. Moreover, the scheme came under the 3rd stage of 'Sampurna Kranti' of J.P. i.e. economic revolution in the State with removal of income inequality was announced. Janata policies were based on J.P.ism.

The scheme has been launched on 2nd October 1977. It has completed four years on October 1981. With view to evaluate the scheme, the project has been undertaken. Within four years, a scheme could'nt be satisfactory with its aims and objects. But it has achieved the necessary infra-structural atmosphere in rural development as well ^{as} rural poors. It was expected and was achieved that through 'Antyodaya', the poor people of rural area have got the fruits of our planned development programmes, without any discrimination on the grounds of caste, creed and religion. But unfortunately the scheme has been suspended. It is true that a end evaluation may be fruitful at this stage. To findout the real impact of the scheme on State's rural economy is the main aim of this study. But, however, it has some limitations. At the first instance it was thought

to survey few districts, but later I find it convenient to survey the whole impact on state's economy. Though time limit and financial hedges are some of the limitations to cover the whole area under study.

state monitoring Department has presently undertaken a full time evaluation of the scheme. The reports were yet not published. Earlier the 'ex-ante' evaluation was conducted by Govt. of Rajasthan. A pilot study of 5 districts was undertaken to trial the 'Antyodaya'. Then a Evaluation study on working of Antyodaya-scheme' was published by P.E.C., Planning Commission (India) after one year of Antyodaya in 1979. Despite this Rajasthan Economic Journal has also published an appraisal of the Antyodaya scheme. All above reports and surveys are based on concurrent evaluation i.e. to study (or evaluate) the scheme while it is under implementation. My research project is 'ex-post' evaluation report, which is brought after the implementation of the scheme. Due to changeⁱⁿ political leadership of the state the scheme was neglected and lastly was suspended. But at present the same scheme is implementing in the name of 'Pichhaleko Pahila' (i.e. same meaning of Antyodaya) under 'New Twenty Point Programme and IRD schemes.

Chapter-I introduces the project report. Where I tries to explain what is evaluation? Why evaluation of Antyodaya is necessary? and what are the features of this

evaluation project, etc. In chapter-I; rural development and rural poors. I concentrated on how heterogeniously the Government has ^englected the development of rural economy. I tries evolutionarily to earmark the rural development and rural poor. Chapter-III guides the physical programme outline of Antyodaya scheme. And in Chapter IV and V I comments on the working of Antyodaya and surveyed the impact on rural poors and rural development with corrective measured.

The Shivaji University has sanctioned Rs. 400 as travel grant for visit to Jaipur. With this I could get current datas and other information from the Secretariat, Economics Department (Rajasthan University) and State Directorate of Economics and Statistics. And could also possible to visit few families of Jaipur, Ajmer, Sw. Madhopur and Kota districts of the State.

My deep gratitudes goes to my teacher Dr. J.F.Patil (Shivaji University) who inspired me to complete the work. I am also thankful to my friends in College and my colleagues for their constant encouragement. Moreover, I am very thankful to Shivaji University, which has assisted for completion of the project and lastly I am thankful to Shri A.G. Gosavi for typing the manuscript neatly and in time.

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