CHAPTER -1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

Rural areas constitute a large part, not only in India but also the world. Almost three fourth of the total population of the world are living in these areas. Especially in developing countries like India, major parts of the total population are lived in rural areas. Such a situation, rural development is an important development effort for any nation.

There is no universally acceptable definition of rural development, and the term is used in different ways and in vastly divergent contexts. As a concept, it connotes overall development of rural areas with a view to improve the quality of life of rural people. In this sense, it is a comprehensive and multidimensional concept and encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities-village and cottage industries and crafts, socio-economic infrastructure, community services and facilities, and above all, the human resources in rural areas. As a phenomenon, it is the result of interactions between various physical, technological, economic, socio-cultural, and institutional factors. As a strategy, it is designed to improve economic and social wellbeing of a specific group of people-the rural poor. As a discipline, it is multidisciplinary in nature representing an intersection of agriculture, social, behavioural, engineering, and management sciences.

Rural development is a strategy to enable a specific group of people, poor rural women and men, to gain for themselves and their children more of what they
want and need. It involves helping the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development. The group includes small scale farmer, tenants and the landless.

Rural development as a process of developing and utilizing natural and human resources, technologies, infrastructural facilities, institutions and organizations, and govt. policies and programmes to encourage and speed up economic growth in rural areas, to provide jobs, and to improve the quality of life towards self-sustenance.¹

Different policy makers and academicians generally viewed rural development mainly from the economic point of view. But development not only calls for economic growth but also the equitable distribution of the gains made from economic growth. In other words, development implies growth with justice. It means an improvement in the quality of life through better health, education, housing and welfare. The basic elements of development are

1. Removal of inequality and poverty.
2. Increase in material welfare of the people.
3. Increase in social well being.
4. An equitable distribution of the gains of development among different groups of the people in a country.
5. An enhancement in technology and the capacity to produce a wider range of goods and services in the economy leading to a better quality of life.
6. Building institutional structures which permits participation in decision making at all-levels, equalization of opportunities for development and removal of disparities.²
To understand the concept of rural development the terms “rural” and “development” must be clearly understood. “Rural” is the area that is outside of the jurisdiction of municipal corporation and committees and notified town area committees. Rural life dominated by the farming along with allied activities like fishing, forestry and diary. Because rural people livelihood depends heavily on the biological production systems and because they, in turn are influenced by natural phenomena, they tend to rely heavily on their traditions and God.

“Development” is a broader term than growth. Growth includes only quantitative changes while development involves quantitative as well as qualitative changes. Thus, development means growth with desirable changes in the society. These desirable changes include not only increase in employment and income but also increase in quality of life of general masses in terms of better health, education, dwellings and physical and social environment. Development must also involve the socio-economic and political empowerment of the vulnerable sections of society such as poor, SC/ST, economically and socially backward and women etc. Rural development as a concept, therefore, connotes overall development of rural areas in order to improve the quality of life of rural masses. It should not be related only to government rural development programmes made for specific group of people, but should be seen in totality.

In broader term, rural development may be defined as a process of developing and utilizing natural and human resources, technologies, infrastructural facilities, institutions and organizations, and govt. policies and programmes to
encourage and speed up economic growth in rural areas, to provide jobs and to improve the quality of life towards self sustenance.³

Michael P. Todaro view on rural development is most suitable in Indian context in the following manner:

1. Improvement in the level of living standard including employment, education, health, nutrition, housing and variety of social services.
2. Decreasing in equality in distribution of rural incomes and in the rural urban imbalances in incomes and economic opportunities.
3. To sustain the capacity of rural sector.⁴

According to World Bank paper, rural development "is a strategy to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people, the rural poor including small and marginal farmers, tenants and the landless." The term "rural" means an area which is characterized by non-urban style of life, occupational structure, social organizations and settlement pattern. "Development" is defined in terms of technological or industrial development. But development of rural people means raising the standard of their living. It is development of rural areas through the extension of irrigation facilities, improvements in the techniques of cultivation, expansion of electricity, construction of school building, provision of education facilities, health care and roads etc.⁵

Rural Development can be explained as a process, which increases the capacity of rural people to produce goods and improve their services so as to improve their level of living standard and general wellbeing. Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the socio-economic condition of the rural poor. It covers measures related to
1. Increasing production and productivity in agricultural and allied sectors.
2. Resource and income development of the vulnerable section of the rural population.
3. Availability of credit to rural poor
4. Promoting marketing facilities for the rural sectors.
5. Promotion of employment opportunities in the villages. And
6. Provision of essential minimum needs for the rural sector.6

Rural development involves basically in the development of agricultural and allied activities, village and cottage industries, socio-economic structure, community services and civic amenities and above all human resources in rural areas. In fact, the process of rural development represents the entire fields of changes. Rural development is a dynamic process to improve the socio-economic life of the rural people. (a) It involves in extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek livelihood in the rural areas. (b) It extends to provide benefits of development to the weaker and poorer section of the society. (c) It also enhance both the capacity and capability of administration and socio-economic development agencies and agricultural marketing units working in the rural areas.7 It extends to provide benefits of development to the weaker and poorer section of the rural society. It also enhance both the capacity and capability of administration and socio-economic development agencies and agricultural marketing units working in the rural areas.8

According to V.M Shah, rural development aims at ameliorating social and economic condition of the people who lived below the poverty line, including
landless labourers, small and marginal farmers, rural artisans, fishermen, backward classes and backward tribes.⁹

According to Uma Leli, rural development aims at improving living standard of the masses of low income population residing in rural areas and making the process of development self sustaining.¹⁰

Main goals of the rural development programmes are to

a) Improve the quality of life in rural areas.
b) Provide quality of housing and modern community facilities.
c) Capacity building of the rural communities.
d) Provide modern affordable utilities.
e) Provide facilities for capacity building of community.

The process of rural development is multi-dimensional, multi-directional, multi purpose and multi-faceted. In fact, it has to tackle not only poverty in absolute sense, but relative and cultural poverty in rural areas. Besides, it has to tackle unemployment, ignorance, ill health, sanitation, illiteracy, squalor, outmoded customs, deep rooted corruption and red tapism, inadequate infrastructure, exploitation, removal of inequalities etc. India is a south Asian developing country consisting of half million of villages. According to the 2001 census 85.5% of its total population lives in villages.¹¹ India’s population is second in world’s rural population after China. Being a developing country, India has mass poverty, low levels of income and concentration of income in a few hands, low levels of productivity and backward technology, high levels of unemployment, poor nutrition, health, housing, literacy and welfare status, low levels of industrialization
and lower status of women. In this regard, India has some major issues of development. These are:

1. low per capita income and low rate of economic growth,
2. high proportion of people below the poverty line,
3. low level of productive efficiency due to inadequate nutrition and malnutrition,
4. imbalances between population size, resources and capital,
5. problem of unemployment,
6. instability of output of agriculture and related sectors,
7. imbalances between heavy industry and wage goods, and
8. imbalances in distribution and growing inequalities etc.

So, the government of India introduced and implemented many plans and Programmes to meet the issues and for the development of the country since independence. Out of total plans and programmes implemented in the country, some are related with infrastructural development because “development of a country depends very much on the availability of infrastructural facilities. The development of agriculture and industry also depends solely on its infrastructure. Without having a sound infrastructural base, a country can’t develop its economy. Infrastructure services can be broadly divided into two categories, physical and social. Physical infrastructure consist of-transport, irrigation, housing, water supply, sanitation etc. and social infrastructure consists of-education, health, recreation environment, banking and other farms of financial facilities. The govt. of India implemented many plans and programmes and spent crores of rupees for the development of infrastructure of the country.
Besides these, the govt. of India undertaken many plans and programmes for the development of the country through its five year plans. “The major concerns of the five year plans have been rural development and poverty alleviation through generation of gainful employment. However, during the planning period rural development strategy has shifted from the growth oriented to the welfare oriented and further to empowerment oriented.\textsuperscript{15} For example the first five year plan laid emphasized on community development, second five year plan gave importance on co-operative farming, in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} plan, the panchayatiraj model was adopted while in subsequent plans i.e 4\textsuperscript{th}, 5\textsuperscript{th}, 6\textsuperscript{th} & 7\textsuperscript{th} plans emphasis was given on area based development, minimum needs programmes, anti poverty, wage and self employment. In the 8\textsuperscript{th} plan special attention was given on renovation of panchayatiraj institutions as a measure of decentralization and the 9\textsuperscript{th} plan focuses on the trust areas such as agriculture, poverty alleviation, employment generation and rural development. But major weakness is that the people, for whom these programmes were made, have not been involved in their conception, planning, execution and monitoring. With the seventy –third amendment of the constitution, rural development.
The core objectives of the five year plans are as follows:

### Table 1.1 Core objectives and action areas of the five year plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five year plans</th>
<th>Core objectives</th>
<th>Trust area of action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st five year plan (1951-56)</td>
<td>Correction in economy</td>
<td>All round balanced development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd five year plan (1956-61)</td>
<td>Increase in national income</td>
<td>Move towards industrialization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd five year plan (1961-66)</td>
<td>Self-sufficiency in food grains</td>
<td>Expansion of basic industries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th five year plan (1969-74)</td>
<td>Economic stability</td>
<td>Sustained increased in exports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th five year plan (1980-85)</td>
<td>Acceleration of economic growth</td>
<td>Reduction in unemployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th five year plan (1985-90)</td>
<td>Improvement in balance of payment position</td>
<td>Promotion of growth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th five year plan (1992-97)</td>
<td>Employment generation</td>
<td>Strengthening of infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th five year plan (1997-2002)</td>
<td>Rural development</td>
<td>Growth with environmental sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th five year plan (2002-2007)</td>
<td>* reform plan instead of resource plan.</td>
<td>* to achieve 8% growth rate in GDP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* reduction of public sector role in core areas.</td>
<td>* to achieve 8% growth rate in GDP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* redefining govt. role on facilitator in infrastructure and social sector</td>
<td>* to achieve 8% growth rate in GDP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Vivek N. Palkar, "Governance for development: meeting a multi dimensional challenge," *Indian journal of public administration*, Vol-1, no-1, Jan-March, 2004
strategy has shifted from welfare oriented to empowerment oriented and almost all RDPs were implemented by the PRIs at different levels.

India is a predominantly a rural country where 26.1% of people are below the poverty line. The meaning of below poverty line is different from country to country. In Indian context, those peoples who live in huts, whose annual income is less than Rs. 3500/- (Three thousand five hundred) and whose cultivable land is less than 3 Bighas are considered as poor, living below the poverty line. The Broadly definitions of poverty emphasizes more on minimum level of living rather than on reasonable level of living. Accordingly, it is broadly agreed that poverty can be termed as a situation where a section of the population fails to reach a certain minimum consumption standard. Differences arise with the fixing of this minimum consumption standard. After a thorough examination, the study group set up by the planning commission in July 1962 recommended a standard of private consumption expenditure of Rs. 20/- (at 1960-61 prices) per capita per month as the bare minimum amount common to both rural and urban areas. Mr. P. D. Ojha estimated the number of persons below the poverty line on the basis of an average calorie intake of 2,250 per capita per day. This entailed monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 15/- to Rs. 18/- (1960-61 prices) in urban areas and Rs. 8/- to Rs. 11/- in rural areas. At the initial stage the planning commission accepted the study group's poverty criterion. Various researchers like B.S. Minhas and A Vaidyanathan also made their study on the basis of this definition. But other researchers like Dondekor and Rath, P.K. Bardhan and Ahluwalia made their study on the basis of their own definition of poverty which has adopted by planning commission in recent years. The Task force defined the poverty line as the midpoint of the monthly per capita expenditure class which has a daily calorie intake of 2400 per person in rural areas 2100 in urban areas of the country. Accordingly the minimum desirable standard was worked out at Rs. 77/- for the rural area and Rs. 88/- for urban area at 1979-80 prices.
So, rural development has become first and foremost necessity for a country like India and it has emerged with a new force and is almost at the top of agenda in her national policy since independence. The primary objectives of rural development programmes are

1. to improve the living standard by providing food, shelter, clothing, employment and education.
2. to increase productivity in rural areas and reduce poverty.
3. to involve people in planning and development through participation in decision making and through decentralization of administration.
4. to ensure distributive justice and equalization of opportunities in society.

Development is a long run process. Therefore, some plans and strategies have to be followed to achieve the objective of development. “Prior to independence, the rural development work was undertaken by different branches of administration in the states, the expenditure of development was merge and rural development work was thought of largely in terms of particular items of improvement in village life and in agricultural practices; and special attention was given to the number of well sunk or repaired, to the supply of irrigation or drinking water, the supply of seeds or fertilizers or the number of manure pits dug, the starting of rural credit societies etc. these are essential items in any rural development programme, but there was no coordinated approach to village life as a whole.

After independence the Govt. of India introduced and implemented many rural development programmes for the reduction of poverty and wellbeing of the rural poor. The objectives of these programmes are income generation, growth, target development, area development, education and welfare.

The programmes implemented by the govt. of India can be discussed by dividing into three categories. i.e. growth oriented, area-specific and target group
oriented and poverty alleviation programmes (A. Self-employment and B. wage employment programmes.).

These programmes are as follows.

**Table-1.2 : Major growth oriented programmes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Year of introduction</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Programme</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Farmers and other rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Extension Service</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Farmers and agricultural labourers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive Agricultural District programme</td>
<td>1960-61</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Industries project</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Rural unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive Agricultural area programme</td>
<td>1964-65</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High yielding variety programme</td>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command area development programme</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Major Area-specific and target group-oriented programmes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Year of introduction</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Rural employment programme</td>
<td>1968-70</td>
<td>Landless labourers and other rural unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small farmers development agency</td>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>Small Farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginal farmers and agricultural labourers scheme</td>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>Marginal farmers and agricultural labourers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drought prone area programme</td>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>Farmers Landless labourers and other rural unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert development programme</td>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>Farmers Landless labourers and other rural unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal development programme</td>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>Tribal and semi-tribal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill area development programme</td>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>Tribal and semi-tribal farmers and agricultural labourers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National watershed development projects for rain fed areas.</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Farmers and labourers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Major poverty alleviation programmes:

1.4. Self-Employment programmes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Year of introduction</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Training of Rural youth for self employment</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Rural youth in the age group 18-35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated rural development programme</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Families of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans and others living below the poverty line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Development of women and children in Rural Area</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Rural women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool kits programme</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Rural artisans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ganga kalyan yojana</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>small and marginal farmers living below the poverty line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swarnajayantigram swarozgar yojana</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Rural poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table-1.5. Wage Employment programmes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Year of introduction</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National rural employment programme</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Rural poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural landless employment guarantee programme</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Landless rural poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jawahar rozgar yojana</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Rural poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment assurance programme</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Unemployed and under-employed rural poor labourers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jawahar gram samridhi yojana</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Rural poor people, SCs/STs and physically handicapped persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sompurna rozgar yojana</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>All the rural poor, SC/ST and parents of child labour, withdrawn from hazardous occupation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National rural employment guarantee scheme</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Rural poor living below the poverty line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: S.P Singh, Planning and management for rural development, Mittal publication, New Delhi-110059(India).
Thus, for the first time, an attempt at a systematic rural development programme was introduced and implemented to serve the rural people and to cover as large number of them as possible. After the introduction of community development programme in 1952, India did not wait long for implementing and enforcing various programmes for rural development on the needs of time and conditions. V. Desai, in his book ‘Rural Development Problem & prospects’ said the Indian Govt. introduced and implement 86 rural development programmes during the 1952 to onwards. It has appear that, since the introduction of community development programme in 1952 to the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme 2005, a number of Rural development programmes have been implemented in India for rural development. (List of some important Rural Development Programmes is enclosed in Annexure-V.)

But mere formulation of plans and programme doesn’t automatically develop the rural areas. For affective functioning of these programmes there is a need of good administrative structure from top to bottom is necessary. However, for effective implementation of plans and programmes the government of India has set up a sound administrative system at the centre, state, district and block level.
In India a full-fledge ministry of rural development is set up in the year 1979. The ministry of rural development is the nodal ministry in the area of rural poverty, particularly among the vulnerable groups in the society, i.e. schedule caste, schedule tribes, landless laborers and articians. The state government has direct responsibility for the administration of rural development programme embraces numerous functions such as agriculture, co-operation, animal husbandry, public health and education and all these functions are performed by the different departments and other administrative agencies formed by the government. In state level, there is also a ministry namely Panchayat and Rural Development ministry. The state level machinery is headed by a development commissioner.

At the district level, the prestige of the district collector has been well established and he has designated district development officer and all functionaries engaged in rural development work at or below the district level are working under administrative control. There is also District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) for implementing rural development programmes.

At the block level, the block level machinery is responsible for the implementation of rural development programmes. The block level machinery is responsible for identification of poor families, preparation of development schemes for them and monitoring their implementation. All the major rural development programmes are rendered through the block development administration and thus, the machinery at this level has to be effective. As regard to the block level set up, a development block have one block development officer, eight extension officers, one each from agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operation, panchayats, rural
industries, engineering, social education and programme for women and children, ten gram sewakes, two gram sewikas, one progress assistant, one store keeper cum accountant, one senior clerk, one cashier, one typist, one driver, and class IV employees.

The lowest unit of rural development administration for rural development is called community development block. It is the creation of community development movement. The development block is a unit created almost entirely for the purpose of implementing community development programmes. Community development block ordinarily covers 100 villages with an area of 400-500 sq. k.ms and a population of about one lac. The block is a unit created almost entirely for the purpose of implementing community development programmes.24

Besides these, introduction of panchayatiraj institution also an important steps of the govt. towards the success of rural development. For many years, the establishment of democratic institutions at the district and block levels, in addition to panchayat at the village level, was felt to be an essential and inevitable step if rural development was to proceed not only rapidly but largely on the basis of local efforts and resources. This approach was broadly indicated in the 1st plan. The second plan visualized a well organized democratic structure of administration within the district in which the village panchayat would be organically linked with popular organizations at higher level. Pending further study, the plan offered interim proposals for setting up district development council and development committees in the blocks. The recommendations of the study team set up by the committee on plan projects in favour of a system of “democratic decentralization” were considered by the National development council in January 1958. The council
emphasized that the foundation of any democratic structure head to be democracy in the village. The two institutions, which made effective village democracy possible, were the village panchayat and the village co-operative. The first step in any area should therefore, to establish a network of institutions which were required at the village level. Democratic institutions at the district block and block level should be viewed as parts of one connected structure of development administration within the district. The council, therefore, affirmed the objective of introducing democratic institutions at the district and block levels, and suggested that each state should determine the structure which best suited the conditions obtaining in it. During the preceding three years, many states govt. was passed by state legislatures. The establishment of democratic institutions at the district and block levels and the role assigned to the gram sabha and the village panchayat constitute fundamental and far reaching changes in the structure of district administration and in the pattern of rural development. Their significance lies in the fact that, subject to guidance and supervision by the state govt., the responsibilities for the implementation of RDPs lies with the blocks panchayat samiti, working with panchayats in the villages and the zilla parishad at the district level.

The primary objectives of panchayatiraj are to enable the people of each area to achieve intensive and continuous development in the interest of the entire population. The elected representatives are encouraged to value the development of panchayatiraj, which offers new avenues of service to the people rather than opportunities for the exercise of authority.25
The administrative set-up of the community projects at the centre:

**Sources:** Ministry of community development India journal, 2nd edition-1964
Community Development Administration in India
State Development Committee
Headed by Chief Minister and consisting of other Development Ministers with the Development Commissioner as Member Secretary

Development commissioner

Joint and Deputy Commissioner

Director of Youth and in Charge, Training

Secretariat Staff

Field Operations

Administration

District Development Committee
(Presided over by the collector and consisting of other development officers)

Project Executive Officers
(Project on Block Advisory Committee)

Block Development Officer

Extension Officers

Agriculture Animal Husbandry Co-operation Engineering Social Education Industry

Village level Workers


Though India has gained vast experiences in the implementation of RDPs, according to UNDP report it has been ranked 135th among a total of 174 countries. Despite of launching numerous schemes and programmes, and pumping
crores of rupees into rural development, the overall picture of rural India continues
to be grim. Today, rural India is marked by high incidents of poverty and illiteracy,
widespread diseases, considerable unemployment prevalent, malnutrition among
children, women and masses at large, existence of measurable rural infrastructure
like roads, electricity, primary health, drinking water etc. lack of irrigation facilities
and many other socio-political problems. The failure of in improving the rural
scenario is attributed less to the formulation of appropriate policies, and more to
their implementation. Its problem lies in ignorance on the part of people about the
details of the programmes and prevalence of wide spread corruption during the time
of execution.26

1.2 PROFILE OF THE DHEMAJI DISTRICT

The study area to study the implementation of rural development
programmes is Dhemaji district which is a socio-economically backward district consisting
of two subdivisions-Dhemaji and Jonai. There are five community development blocks
namely Dhemaji, Murkongselek, Sissiborgaon, Bordoloni and Machkhowa, 65 gaon
panchayats, and 1315 villages out of which 1003 villages are revenue villages. Total area of
land of the district is 3237 sq. kilometer.27 There are only three town committees and eight
semi urban areas in the district. Other parts of the district are covered by the villages. For all-
round development of the district, the development of rural communities is inevitable. The
district administration implemented many rural development programmes for the
development of rural people. To study the implementation of rural development programmes
implemented in the district, three community development blocks are selected namely
Dhemaji, Sissiborgaon and Bordoloni.
Historical Background of Dhemaji District

Historically, Dhemaji district of Assam is not famous like the districts of Sibsagar, Darrang, Kamrup etc. In ancient and medieval period, major parts of the district were covered by wasteland. Density of population was also very low in that period. No historical monuments are there in the district except Ghuguha dol. slowly, the population of the district grew up through migration from different districts of Assam like Sibsagar, Dibrugarh, North-Lakhimpur etc. Dhemaji district is a newly formed district which is declared as a district in 1989 by Assam government. Before declaration as a district it was the Sub-Division of North Lakhimpur district. Now it is a full fledge district of Assam.

Location

Dhemaji district is situated in the boarder area of Arunachal Pradesh with a distance of approximately 500 k.ms east from the state capital Guwahati. It is surrounded by Arunachal Pradesh in the North and Arunachal Pradesh and the river Brahmaputra in the East. In the South there is Brahmaputra river and in the west North Lakhimpur district.

Topography

Entire district is a plain area with alluvial soil which is suitable for agriculture. There are numbers of small but high flown rivers like Simen, Gai, Jiadhal and Konha etc which create critical flood situation almost every year in summer. They carry sands from the hills of Arunachal Pradesh and cover the cultivated land with sediments on sides of river.
Out of total area of the district, according to satellite survey, 14.92% are covered by forest area and there are some valuable woods, medicinal plants etc. in the forest. According to the Assam remote sensing application centre, Guwahati, wetland covers 3960 hectare area of the district. Total cropped area of the district is 92,377 hectare and total rice area is 69,598 hectare. The percentage of rice cultivated area to total cropped area is 75.33%.

Climate

The climate of the district is generally damp in summer and dry and cold in winter. In summer, most of the months, the weather is remaining cloudy and rainy. Temperature of the district ranges from minimum 10 degree celcious in winter to maximum 35 degree celcious in summer. Annual average rainfall in the region is 335 cm in a year.

Economic base

Most of the people of the district depend on cultivation and they cultivate seasonal crops like paddy, mustered and sugarcane etc. Generally, people cultivate once in a year but some cultivators are seen cultivating twice in a year. For a major part of the population, cultivation is the main sources of livelihood and income. There are no major scale industries in the district and there are only a few small scale industries depending on which a minimum p/c of people is earning their livelihood. Besides these there are some cottage industries in the district which provide a means of livelihood for a small number of families. Regarding the means of livelihood of the people of the district, intension must be made that a small number of people are employees under
central and state government. Besides which there are businessman, contractors, artisans, masons and majority of people are cultivators and agriculture labourers.

**Infrastructure**

Dhemaji was declared as a district in 1989; still the infrastructure of the district is not so good. It may be discussed under following heads.

a) **Education:** To provide education facilities to the people of the district there are six no's of provincialized colleges, 13 no's of junior colleges, 13 no's of higher secondary schools, 56 no's of high schools, 138 ME schools, 30 no's of MV schools and 847 LP schools in the district. Besides these there are numbers of venture colleges, junior colleges, HS schools, ME schools, LP schools and a few private schools are there in the district.\(^3\!^1\)

All the educational institutions help to increase the literacy rate in the district but still, the literacy rate is not up to the expected level.

b) **Health:** To provide medical facilities, there is only one civil hospital (100 beded) at the district headquarter Dhemaji, two CHC at Gogamukh and Jonai (30 beded) three PHCs at Sissiborgaon, Jonai and Bengenagarah (10 beded) and almost one sub center in every gaon panchayat of the district.\(^3\!^2\) But it is not adequate to cater to the public need.

c) **Community Development:** To conduct the developmental works in different areas, there is DRDA, 5 community development blocks, 3 town committees and 65 gaon panchayats in the district. Specially, to implement the rural development programmes above mentioned offices are responsible except town committees.
Besides these, to conduct the different developmental and administrative work, there is an administrative setup of different departments as usual with other districts. But still, some offices of the district located in North Lakhimpur district.

d) **Industries:** Dhemaji district lags far behind in the field of industry. No major scale industries are there in the district to create employment generation in both govt. and private sectors for which unemployment problem is increased day by day.

e) **Electricity and Telecommunication:** As a means of modern communication system, telephone has played an important role. But in the district, telephone service is not satisfactory especially in rural areas. But now, different telephone company (Pvt.) introduces telephone service in the district which upgrades the telephone service to better condition.

Like this, the electricity supply also very poor. Still, there are numbers of villages are left out from electricity connection.

f) **Communication:** N H 52 passes through the district from the West to East. The condition of the NH 52 is not so good, but it is now under construction and promoted to double way. There is no broad gauge railway connection to the district. Only a Meter gauge railway is there in the district. Another means of communication of the people of the district is boat service. The people use boat as means of communicating for keeping link with specially the district of Dibrugarh. No air connection is there in the district.

The link road to educational institutions, Health centers, NH 52, Railway and Boats are very poor in condition in the district. The district administration implement different programmes and spent crores of rupees, but still, the
communication system is not up to the expected level. There are many instances of the district being cut off from the rest of the state and the country due to the breach of NH and railway especially during flood.

g) Civic amenities: One of the basic features of the district is that it is inhabited by different tribes and communities such as Missings, Deories, Tiwas, Koibattas, Ahoms, Konches, Chutias, Bodos, Hazongs, Nepalese etc. having their own distinctive cultural heritage, religions and languages in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. Table 1.6 shows the language wise population and table

Table-1.6 Language Wise Population (1991 census)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assamese</td>
<td>2,34,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengali</td>
<td>38845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarati</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>12539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malayalam</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipuri</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marathi</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepali</td>
<td>22705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oria</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjabi</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telegu</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urdu</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistical Deptt., Dhemaji
Table 1.7: Religion-wise population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hindus</td>
<td>514295</td>
<td>34485</td>
<td>548780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>7104</td>
<td>3429</td>
<td>10533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christians</td>
<td>6124</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>6390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikhs</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhists</td>
<td>1068</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>1199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jains</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4199</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>4460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion not stated</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Statistical deptt. Dhemaji*

h) Demographic profile of Dhemaji district: According to 2001 census, total population of the district is 5,719,44, out of which 36.93% is belongs to ST (p) community. While SC population is 5.35%. Remaining population is belongs to OBC, MOBC and general communities. Table 1.3 shows the Population pattern of the district.

Table 1.8: Population Demography (2001 census)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>ST</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Literacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>571,944</td>
<td>30,482</td>
<td>3,103</td>
<td>3,31,150</td>
<td>533112</td>
<td>38832</td>
<td>65.96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Statistical Deptt.Dhemaji.(2001)*
1.3. Profile of three selected development blocks:

There are five development blocks in the district namely, Dhemaji, Murkongselek, Sissiborgaon, Bordoloni and Machkhowa. Out of five development blocks three are selected for study. The profile of three selected blocks is discussed separately.

Dhemaji development block:

Dhemaji development block is the oldest block of the district. It was established in the year 1956. Total geographical area of the block is 409.49 sq. kilometer. There are 15 gaon panchayats and 263 revenue villages. Forest area covered 1816.93 hectre in the block. Total agricultural land of the block is 1508.00 hectre and land under cultivation is 1055.00 hectre. Cultivation is done more than once. Annual average rainfall of the district is 2748.3mm.

a. Population:

According to the 2001 census, total population of Dhemaji block is 111154. out of total population of 111154, 39311 are belongs to ST community, 6425 are belongs to SC population and remaining are belongs to other communities. Population per sq. Km is 275 nos in the block. Total literacy rate of the block is 63.84% (2001 census).

b. Infrastructure:

1. Educational institution:

For providing education to the people of the block, there are 3 colleges, 1 junior college, 3 nos. of higher secondary schools, 16 high schools, 38 nos. ME schools, 12 nos. Middle schools, 220 LP schools and one technical institute in the block.
1. Health services:

To provide medical facilities, there are 1 no. 100 beded Civil Hospital, 1 no. block elementary health centre, 2 nos. mini health centers and 2 nos. health sub-centers. Besides these, there are two veterinary hospitals for the treatment of animals.

2. Commercial banks:

For the financial transaction, there are 6 banks in the block. Namely; State bank of India, United bank of India, Assam co-operative apex bank, Dhemaji branch, Assam gramin vikash bank, Dhemaji, Moridhalghat and Butikur branch.

3. Co-operative societies:

There are 4 co-operative societies in the block.

Profile of Bordoloni Development Block:

Bordoloni development block of Dhemaji district is situated in the west of the district headquarter. Total geographical area of the block is 478.28 sq. Kms. There are 13 panchayats and 202 revenue villages. Most of the area of the block is highly flood affected area and the people of the block faced the problem of flood almost every year. The block was established in the year 1992. The total cropped area of the block is 24502 hectres.

a. Population:

Total population of the block is 94898 nos., out of which 44,326 nos. belongs to ST, 6084 are SC and remaining population belongs to OBC and General categories. Density of population of the block is 198 nos.
b. Infrastructure:

1. Educational institutions: there are 1 college, 1 Junior college, 3 nos. of Higher secondary schools, 11 High schools, 36 Middle schools and 170 nos. of Primary and Pre-primary schools in the block for providing education.

2. Health: To provide medical facilities to the people of the Block, there are 2 nos. primary health centers, 1 community health centre, 1 no. Ayurvedic cell, 2 nos. family welfare centers are there in the block. Besides these, there are two veterinary hospitals for the treatment of animals of the block.

Sissiborgaon development block:

The Sissiborgaon development block is also a socio-economically backward block of the district consists of 17 panchayats and 351 revenue villages. The block was established in the year 1991. Total geographical area of the block is 933.01 sq. kms, having 2,49,477 Bighas 3 kothas. The people of the block are facing some problems like flood, unemployment, communication etc. It is important to say that the numbers of landless families are 2310 nos.

a. Population:

Total population of the block is 1,61,657(2001 census). Out of total population, 83141 are male and 78516 are female. The ST/SC population of the block is 70,485 and 10,872 nos. respectively. The density of population of the block is 172 nos. in per sq. km. according to 2001 census, the literacy rate of the block is 76.56%.
b. Infrastructure:

1. Educational institutions:

There is 1 no. deficit college, 2 nos. Higher secondary schools, 14 nos. of high schools, 7 MV schools, 59 ME schools, 168 LP schools and 185 nos. of Anganbadi Kendra for providing education to the people of the block.

2. Health:

To provide medical facilities to the people of the block, there are 1 no primary health centre, 5 nos block elementary health centers and 22 nos health sub centers in the block. Besides these, there are three veterinary hospitals for the treatment of animals of the block.36

1.4: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Since the purpose of the study is to find out the implementation of Rural Development programmes for Rural Development studies available on the same have been reviewed in the following pages-

Mathur, Y.B. in Rural Development in India from 1885 to 1985 deals with past and present experiment of Rural Development programmes. The book elaborately envisaged the growth and Development of Rural Development institutions in India from pre to post independence period.37

Mathur, Kuldip (1972) in bureaucratic response to development express the view that the BDO which is surely a vital cog in the administrative system the author point out that the BDO is the cutting edge of the govt. interaction with the citizens and influences public attitudes towards development in a significant way.38
Choudhuri D. Poul in *New partnership in rural development* 1978 observed that the BDO is the chief co-coordinator of all rural development programmes. He also observed that in the overall rural development in India the village level workers and all extension officers are under the direct supervision of the BDO. 39

Vasant, Desai in *rural development*, 1988 states that all the state govt.s should build at the earliest a strong and well equipped organizational set up to implement the various rural development programmes in more effective manner. 40

S.R Moheswari, in *Rural development in India* 1995 attempts to discuss rural development in India with a historical overview and analyses the community development programmes of district and block level administration and peoples participation in the programmes. He also discuss about rural development bureaucracy along with the constitution and rural development at the centre, state, district and block level. 41

Hoshier singh, in *administration in rural development in India* 1996 examines the various schemes, programmes and approaches adopted so far in rural development. The book contains twelve chapters on different aspects of rural development. By discussing the programmes that author views that the machinery created for rural development has been unable to meet the challenges of providing the benefits of the development to the rural masses, particularly the weaker section of the society. 42

Satya Sundaram, I. in *Rural development* examine all the aspects of rural development in the Indian context. The author discussed the various
schemes, programmes, approaches and peoples participation in the rural development programmes.43

Das, R. in Social-Economic Transformation of Millions through Rural Development gives a vivid account of the past and present rural situations the accomplishment and failures under planned development strategies, and the retrospective and perspective aspects of the rural economy. Indian rural masses in general are still in extreme poverty, deprivation, squalor and disease and hope raised to alleviate their sufferings have not yet come to the desired expectations. The book also makes critical examinations of the various development strategies as introduced and practices under the successive five year plans, especially under the seventh five year plan and offer suggestions to improve upon their workings.44

Das, H.H. in Introduction to Panchayati Raj and Community Development in India stresses the growth and development of Panchayat Raj systems in India and experience of the community development. The author also made a critical estimate on the whole system of Panchayati Raj and its structural and functional aspects.45

Mishra, S.N. & Sharma, K. in Problem and Prospects of Rural Development in India, stresses that in the development process the general masses should be active & conscious in the matters of Development. In the book, the author analyses the strategies of Rural Development adopted in past and to be adopted in future for better implementation of Rural Development Schemes.46
Dubhasi, H.R. in *Rural Development Administration in India*, analyze the various aspects of changing pattern of rural development administration in India, during the last ten years and makes an attempt to analyze the role of BDO, training, the functions of extension officers, cooperation and community development.47

Desai, V. in *Rural Development, Problem and Prospects* analyses the various rural development programmes implemented in India.48

Dhawn, M.L. (Ed) in “Rural Development Priorities” discussed mainly the objectives and goals of rural development, people’s participation in rural development to make the rural development more effective.49

Vasudeva Rao, B.S.(Ed) in “Rural Development; Strategy and Role of institutions” laid emphasis on rural development strategies for rural development, people centered development, role of communities in rural development and some innovative ideas of rural development.50

Das, Purnendu Sekhar (Ed). In “Decentralized planning and participatory rural development” discussed about people’s participation in local governance, people’s plan for sustainable rural development, means for strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions, decentralization and women empowerment.51

Singh, S.P in his book “Planning and Management for rural Development” discussed about socio-economic profile of gram panchayat, overview of rural development programmes, decentralized planning, indicators of effective management of rural development and project management.52

Verma, SawaliaBihari and Singh, S.K in their edited book “Rural development through women’s participation and electronic media” mainly
discussed about the need of women participation in rural development, theoretical aspect of rural development and empowerment of women.53

Desai, vasant. In his book “Rural development through the plans” discussed about the different rural development programmes implemented in India for rural development and development strategies in different five year plans.54

Amal Roy, in Organization Aspects of Rural Development stresses the organization process at the block level administration of two blocks in the state of Karnataka. The author made a critical observation of the working, structure of the block level rural development administration in relation to achievement of goals, priorities and targets of rural development programmes.55

H.R Chaturbedi and S.K Mitra, in Citizen Participation in rural development, examine the nature and extent of citizen’s participation in rural development, by selecting two districts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Both the author have done admirable job in presenting to the reader the nature of citizens involvement in development process in an altogether different set up while emphasizing more on the citizens participation in rural development.56

N. Sivanna, in Panchayatiraj reforms and rural development, observed that the leadership of block level administration is imperative for the successful functioning of panchayatiraj reforms and it is also a bold step in decentralized planning and development programmes.57

S.K Waghmare, in Administrative organization in community development programme, analyses the historical evaluation of community development programme and its powers and functions. The book also criticized the
officials for the failure of community development programmes during the 5th five year plan.58

P.C Goswami, in Problem of rural development in North East India, discussed that the North East India is more backward than the other parts of the country. The author mainly emphasizes on the need of various rural development programmes for the development of North East India.59

K.P.C Rao, in Rural development in Ranga Reddy district, strategy allocating crumbs to the rural poor attempts to examine the strategy of integrated rural development programmes and the processes of planning and its implementation in Maheswaram block of Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh. The study reveals that the actual numbers of beneficiaries fell short of the targets.60

1.5: NEED FOR THE STUDY

The development of India, to a large extent, depends upon the development of different communities in general, and her rural communities in particular. As such, some significant plans and programmes are required to plan and implement for bringing about desirable socio-economic changes of the rural masses. It is to be noted that the Govt. of India has introduced and implemented various rural development programmes since 1952.

Like the some other parts of the country, the majority of the population (93.21%) live in rural areas in Dhemaji District.61 The people of the district are facing some severe problems like flood, unemployment, illiteracy, poverty and communication. In order to alleviate these problems and to uplift the socio-economic status of the rural people, the administration of the Dhemaji District
has also implemented several rural development programmes. Although, such rural development programmes have been implemented, the socio-economic condition of the majority of rural population of the District is not up-to-the mark and remains standstill as it were in Independence. It has been observed that some people of the district are so poor that they are not in a position to fulfill their basic needs like food, shelter and cloths.

However, it has been alleged that there are some anomalies in the selection procedure of beneficiary, corruption, favoritism, unnecessary political interference and absence of proper supervision as regards the implementation of rural development programmes. However, after reviewing the studies conducted by earlier researchers in detail, the investigator found that, so far, no study has been conducted scientifically to ascertain the effectiveness of the rural development programmes implemented in Dhemaji District of Assam. Thus, an empirical in-depth study was felt need to investigate critically the implementation of rural development programmes in Dhemaji District.

1.6 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In the context and need mentioned above, the present study is formally stated as, “Implementation of Rural Development Programmes in Dhemaji District of Assam: A Critical Analysis”, with a view to achieve the following objectives.
1.7 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study were:

1). To study the various facilities provided by the different rural development programmes to uplift the rural people living below the poverty line.

2). To find out whether the persons of the target groups of the different programmes are benefited or not.

3). To study the role of different agencies responsible for the implementation of the programmes.

4). To find out the actual numbers of beneficiaries who are benefited from these programmes and the bases of selection of the beneficiaries.

5). To find out the problems of implementation of the rural development programmes.

1.8 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

It is not possible to study the implementation of all the rural development programmes in the district for the effective management of the study. So, three important programmes are selected for this study. These are Indira Awaas Yojana, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana. These three programmes have been selected on the basis of their gravity in the area falling within the district. The main aim of the IAY scheme is to provide dwelling units, NREG scheme for providing wage employment and SGSY for eradicating poverty of the rural poor.

Due to lack of time and money, the researcher has selected only one district namely Dhemaji, to study the implementation of rural development programmes. Data of the different programmes were collected from the three selected blocks of
the district out of five blocks of the district. So the findings of the study were based on three community development blocks i.e Dhemaji, Sissiborgaon, and Bordoloni.

The Dhemaji district administration implemented different RDPs since its inception. But the researcher has undertaken the study, implementation of rural development programmes during the financial year 2006-07 and the data’s were collected from the beneficiaries of different RDPs who were benefited during above mentioned financial year.

1.9. METHODOLOGY

Methodology is one of the most important parts of social research. In social research, Methodology occupies an important place in the field of study. Through methodology, it is possible to study the social problems in an objective and scientific manner. Methodology is the logical systematic study of the principles which leads scientific investigation. In methodology, we apply those methods in understanding the entire study right from the beginning to the end which includes formulating the problems, deciding the methods, collecting and analyzing the data and generalization.

The present study was mainly based on Descriptive Survey method. The descriptive method is found simple and easily applicable to study various socio-economic problems of rural people. It was a fact- finding approach related mainly to the present status by exploring the ways for future upliftment through the cross- sectional study of the present situation. This method is mainly concerned with the collection and interpretation of data to find the causal connection and relational, the descriptive method to some
extent, is also concerned with the interpretation of data. The main objective of socio-economic survey is to describe, analyze and interpret socio-economic institution, area or group with a view to drawing out generalizations which are either helpful to solve the problem or to guide other investigations.

**POPULATION**

The universe for the present study was defined as all the rural people living below the poverty line in Dhemaji District. They were assumed the beneficiaries of different rural development programmes implemented in the Dhemaji District.

**SAMPLING METHOD**

After having selected the field of study, the investigator decided to select respondents for his study. The aim of study is to examine the implementation of IAY, NREGS and SGSY in Dhemaji District, so the researcher decided to select the beneficiaries of the district. Sampling is the most reliable methods especially those methods are more important in case of social survey. Most of the group studies in social survey are large and it is impossible to get information of every individual. On the other hand, in socio-logical study, a case study has to be made generally taking long time in studying each unit. Due to the vastness of the population and the difficulties of contact with the whole population sampling method is helped in collecting information.
In the present study the investigator adopted random sampling method and respondents were selected as the representatives of the beneficiaries. The cluster random sampling was made to select 50% Development Block, 50% GPS Out of total GPS in the block, 50% villages from the total villages selected in the GP and 50% beneficiaries from selected villages are belonging to various ethnic groups of the district.

**TOOLS USED**

In order to collect the required data for the study the following tools were developed and used.

a. **Questionnaire:**

The data’s were collected from the respondent by using structured questionnaire which is attached at the end of this thesis. Questionnaire is a list of questions relating to the field of enquiry and providing space for the answers to be filled-up by the respondent.

For collecting data in a scientific way questionnaires were prepared relating to the I.A.Y programme, the N.R.E.G.A. and SGSY.

b. **Interview schedule:**

In the present study, the researcher has used Interview schedule for collecting data on peoples’ participation in rural development.

Interview schedule is an important tool for the collection of secondary data. This schedule contains various topics such as Geographical location of the area, historical backgrounds, populations, literacy rate of the area, road &
communication and all other necessary data through different sources, for which an extra blank paper was used to note down. Interview schedule is a brief written document giving on outline of the different aspects to be studied. In this study the researcher also used an interview schedule for collecting data from the respondents.

c. Observation

Observation is one of the important tools of social investigation and carries value in gaining knowledge regarding the social phenomena. Goode and Hatt remarks, “Social research begins with observation and must ultimately return to observation for this final validation. The sociologist must then train himself to observe carefully. Observation is probably the oldest method used in scientific investigation. There are two kinds of observation; (a) Participant observation and the other is (b) non-participant observation. When the investigator participates with the activities of the group under study it is known as participant observation. When the investigator does not actually participate in the activities of the group, but simply observes them from a distance it is known as non-participant observation. In the present study the technique of non-participant observation is used by the investigator.

PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION

The investigator collected the required data from two important sources: (i) Primary data or field source data (ii) Secondary data or documentary sources data.
(i) **Primary data**

Primary data are those which informations are gathered for the first time. The informations are gathered by the researcher himself. The investigator made his sincere effort to collect the most valid and pertinent data for the study. As such, he visited the different houses of the beneficiaries and met them personally. For the collection of data, he administered the questionnaire among the respondents and requested them to fill up the same. They were instructed if required and requested them to return the filled-in questionnaire in complete within two days. After two days, the investigator made a second visit and collected the questionnaires. The respondents were taken from the beneficiaries of 2006-07 financial years.

Afterwards, the investigator interviewed all the beneficiaries responded to the questionnaire about the benefits they obtained from the rural development programmes and their views and opinions on implementation of these programmes.

In this way, all the primary data required for the study were collected from the beneficiaries of rural development programmes implemented in Dhemaji District.

(ii) **Secondary data**

The sources of information’s through documents concerning institutions are known as secondary data or documentary source data. Information’s received through secondary sources are sufficient and useful. The secondary data’s can be collected from historical books and journal periodicals, office records and other published materials. For the purpose of collecting secondary data’s, the researcher followed some related books and journal periodicals, office records and other published materials.
**TABULATION**

When the data's have been classified and arranged in a tabular form is called tabulation. Thus tabulation is depending on classification. The main aims of the tabulation are:

a. To present the data systematically.

b. To present the data in brief and minimum space.

c. To present the data to classify the problem.

d. To make data comparable.

In the study, the researcher has carefully processed the data in tabular form by using frequency and percentage after the completion of data collection. After tabulation the researcher, analysed, interpret and discussed the data to achieve the findings of the study.

**STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED**

Simple statistics of frequency and percentages (%) were used to analyse the data gathered for the study.

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