Preface:

India is predominantly a rural country where 85.5% of its total population lives in rural areas and 26.1% lives in below the poverty line. Being a developing country, India has problems such as (a) mass poverty (b) low levels of income and concentration of incomes in few hands (c) low levels of productivity and backward technology (d) high levels of unemployment, poor nutrition (e) health (f) housing (g) literacy and welfare status (h) low levels of industrialization and lower status of women etc. In this situation the govt. has the responsibility to introduce and implement rural development programmes for the all round development of the rural masses. Keeping this view in mind, the govt. of India introduced and implemented many rural development programmes for the upliftment of the rural people since 1952 and set up a good administrative system from top to bottom for the implementation of RDPs in a systematic way.

Dhemaji district is a socio-economically backward district in comparison to the other district of Assam and the people of the district are facing some severe problems like flood, unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, communication etc. Some people of the district are so poor that they are not in a position to fulfill their basic needs like food, cloths and shelter; In such a situation the implementation of RDPs can play a vital role to develop the rural people. So, to develop the rural people of the district, proper implementation of the RDPs is inevitable.

Like the other parts of India the Dhemaji district administration also implemented different RDPs for the all round development of the rural poor. It is a point to be noted that besides the implementation of different RDPs for a long
period, still a large number of people of the district are deprived of the benefits provided by the govt. through rural development programmes. There are some allegations that due to defects in selection procedure of beneficiaries, favouratism, corruption, unnecessary political interference, absence of proper supervision of the programmes and lack of people's awareness about the programmes, the RDPs failed to develop the rural people and they had to live in non-hygienic houses, take un-nutrient foods etc. So, an attempt has been made by me to study the implementation of rural development programmes in Dhemaji district of Assam. In this work, all the findings are analysed and included some suggestions for the proper implementation of RDPs. It is hoped that this thesis will be more helpful for the implementing authorities to remove the drawbacks of the programmes in its implementation.

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