

Adarsha Gram and the Rehabilitated Families: An Evaluation of Eight Adarsha Grams

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b) Objectives

The study aimed at looking into the following aspects of Adarsha Gram Project:

- i. Selected geographical features of the project villages;
- ii. Criteria for selection of the project sites and target families;
- iii. Strategies adopted for identification and recovery of Khash land;
- iv. Selected characteristics of the rehabilitated families;
- v. Land titles and incidence of land transfer, migration and eviction;
- vi. Types of physical facilities created through the project and services provided to the rehabilitated families;

- vii. Participation of the rehabilitated families and the local people in planning and implementation of the project;
- viii. Involvement of the government and other agencies for socio-economic upliftment of the rehabilitated families;
- ix. Pre-rehabilitated housing arrangement of the rehabilitated families and impact of the project on them; and
- x. Suggestions and recommendations for corrective measures.

c) Introduction

Under the sponsorship of the Promotion, Planning and Monitoring Unit (PPMU) of Adarsha Gram Project, the study was conducted by the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra in eight Adarsha Gram as a part of a nation-wide evaluation. In all, eight research institutes participated in the study covering different regions where the project had its operation. Within the broad framework outlined by the PPMU and RDA developed its own proposal and methodologies for the study. This was reviewed and approved by the PPMU in a meeting held on 13 July, 1992.

d) Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of the present study, observations and suggestions of the target families, concerned officials, selected local leaders and researchers, the following recommendations can be put forward for necessary consideration and future policy decision.

- 5.1 With the twin objectives of rehabilitation of the poor and homeless families and poverty alleviation, the Adarsha Gram Project has been conceptualized as a package programme with a number of interrelated components. But so far other than providing houses on a small piece of land very little activities have been initiated in most of the study villages to help these families to raise their income through meaningful economic activities and income generation. Unless this problem can be properly taken care, it would be difficult to realize the expected objectives of the project.
- 5.2 For lack of necessary fund, physical facilities and for some other problems the services planned to be provided through the project have

not yet been possible. Most of the houses have been found not-constructed as per specifications in terms of space and other facilities. Arrangement for drinking water, toilet and sanitation seemed to be quite inadequate. In most cases maintenance of houses has become a serious problem because of low quality of materials used for construction. It was expected that in each Adarsha Gram, there should be a community centre, a pond, schooling facility, mosque and park for the children. But in few cases these could be done.

In order to make the name of Adarsha Gram truly meaningful, adequate funding arrangement for the project has to be ensured.

- 5.3 Since the project is multi-sectoral in nature, its proper implementation largely depends on close collaboration and coordination efforts of various agencies such as relevant departments of the government, Project Implementation Committee, NGO representatives, local leaders and the target beneficiaries. It has been found that the project has been suffering very much due to lack of proper coordination and understanding among the concerned agencies at different levels. Some mechanism has to be developed to ensure more effective collaboration and coordination both horizontally as well as vertically.
- 5.4 Since most of these families are assetless having little bargaining capability formation of group has been considered as one of the important prerequisites for their socio-economic emancipation. But initiatives taken so far for this purpose in most of the villages have not been found up to expectation.
- 5.4 The concerned departments and agencies have to take more active role in this respect.
- 5.5 For production, employment and income generation these families must have access to land, capital, inputs and other production means. But the project could do very little in this respect. In many cases cultivable land allotted to some of these families have been illegally occupied by other influential persons.

Necessary legal measures have to be taken to recover this land and to provide land registration deeds to all the families.

As outlined in the project document, necessary arrangements have to be made to provide credit, inputs and other support services to raise production and income of the rehabilitated families.

- 5.6 Various skills which are already available in these families can be utilized to raise their family income if necessary arrangement can be made for capital, marketing and other institutional facilities.

Possibility can be explored to involve BSCIC, relevant NGOs and similar other organizations for this purpose.

- 5.7 Side by side with economic activities, proper planning is also needed for education, health care and family planning to bring about qualitative changes in the life of these families.

More collaboration and integrated efforts of the relevant departments would be needed for this purpose.

- 5.8 There is a good prospect for promoting social forestry and poultry programmes in these villages. Vegetable seeds, saplings and poultry distributed through this project have already produced some good results.

To make these efforts more meaningfully, arrangements have to be made for necessary training, motivation and follow-up services.

- 5.9 For successful implementation of any development project the need for close supervision, monitoring and evaluation can not be overemphasized. The project seems to have no built-in mechanism for these kinds of activities.

This needs careful consideration. The agencies at the local level which have experience and expertise for these kinds of activities should be requested to provide necessary supports for the purpose.

- 5.10 Last but not the least, it is to be kept in mind that for successful implementation of any development project specially for the disadvantaged group, there is need for political commitment with dedication and hard work of group of people at different levels of policy making, planning and implementation. Without strong and sincere leadership both at the national and local levels, it is difficult to realize the expected objectives of a project like Adarsha Gram.

In view of the above facts what is needed most is to make allout efforts to create a favorable condition and to motivate the concerned officials and other personnel to make the project a success.