



# **Role of Development Block in Implementation of Rural Development Program in Jorhat District of Assam: A Comparative Analysis of Jorhat Development Block and North West Development Block, Jorhat ,Assam**

Dr. Horeswar Das

Associate Professor

CKB Commerce College, Jorhat Assam

Abstract

*For effective rural development, an administrative set up from top to bottom is necessary. Because the administrative machinery is the blood stream of any plans and programmes. Without a strong and efficient administration no rural development programme could be effectively implemented. The government of India has established an administrative set up at the Centre, State, District, Block and Village levels. The lowest unit of community development administration for rural development is called 'Development Block.' The development block is a unit created almost entirely for the purpose of implementing Community Development Programmes (C.D.Ps) the block as an area unit of development has been made responsible for all-round development of the rural areas. The objectives of this study to analysis the role of development block and comparative study between two blocks of Jorhat district in implementation of rural development programmes specially MGNREGA, IAY/PMAY, SGSY/NRLM and CMJJSY. The study reveals that the out of the total respondents 288, 77.1% from Jorhat Development Block 22.9% from Northwest Development Block associated with the different rural development programmes and majority of the respondent of both the block availed the benefits from IAY or PMAY-G. It is also observed that after getting benefit from the different rural development programmes the incomes of the beneficiaries has been changed. It is seen that majority of the beneficiaries i.e. 44.1% were under monthly income level of Rs.3000 to Rs.5000 before getting benefit but after the getting benefit their income level increased up to Rs.7000 to Rs.9000. Similarly in case of quality of life of the rural people has also been changed. It was seen that before getting benefits under rural development programmes, majority of the respondents, i.e. 83.3% were leading the low quality of life but after getting benefit the quality of life the beneficiaries is improved and majority of the beneficiaries i.e.49.7% has comes to the category of medium level which was only 16.7% before getting any benefits.*

Key Words: Rural Development, Development Block, Economic condition.

**Introduction:** Jorhat acts as gateway to upper Assam and to the state of Nagaland. It was the last capital of Ahom kingdom and home to many historical moments of Assamese culture. In the north of the district, the Brahmaputra river forms Majuli, the largest riverine island of the world.

For the administrative purpose the district is divided into two sub-divisions, i.e. Jorhat and Titabar. Again, each sub-division is divided into revenue circles. There are mouza comprising villages of all kinds. In the district, there are only six revenue circles. The name of revenue circles are Jorhat, Jorhat East, Jorhat West, Titabar, Teok and Mariani. In the district there are 8 community development blocks with 111 Gaon Panchayat and 848 villages. Jorhat district covers an area of 2851 sq. km. (Rural: 2758 sq. km. and Urban: 92.18 sq.km.). The total population of the district as per 2011 census are 31,205,576, out of which 26,807,034 are rural and 4,398,542 are urban.

Out of the total 8 blocks, 2 blocks namely Jorhat Development Block and North West Development Block are selected for study. Data collected from the selected blocks were compared to make comment about any visible difference in implementation of RDPs especially in implementation of different RDP programmes, role of financial institutions, income of beneficiaries' etc.

Both the sample blocks of Jorhat district namely Jorhat Development Block and North West Development Block implemented different rural development programmes for economic development of rural people in study area.

#### **Objective of the Study:**

1. To study the role Development Block in Implementation of Rural Development Programmes specially MGNREGA, IAY/ PMAY, SGSY/NRLM and CMJJY
2. To make a comparative analysis between two blocks of Jorhat District of Assam .

#### **METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:**

To fulfill the requirement of the above objectives, both primary and secondary data has been collected from different sources considering the following rationality.

**Universe of the Study:** The Geographical area of the study has covered the entire Jorhat District. It is located in the central part of the Brahmaputra Valley. The district has the river Brahamaputra on its North and the state Nagaland on its south. Sivasagar district and Golaghat district are on its east and west respectively. Jorhat District has an area of 28593 sq. Km. and the population of the district is 1091295 (2011 census). The size of rural population is 871730 which is 79.88% of the total population of the district. There are 3 administrative sub-divisions, 8 development blocks, 117 gaon panchayats and 1129 villages in Jorhat district. The distribution of villages in 8 development blocks are shown in Table:1

Table: 1

Blocks wise distribution of GPs, villages and size of population of Jorhat District

Sl. No	Name of the Block	Nos. of Gaon Panchayat	Nos. of village	Rural Population	Urban Population	Total
1	Ujani Majuli Dev. Block	8	72	68847	0	68847
2	Titabor Dev. Block	17	170	154152	0	154152
3	Jorhat Dev. Block	27	270	165377	91434	256811
4	Jorhat East Dev. Block	15	112	89776	0	89776
5	Majuli Dev. Block, Kamalabari	12	120	98547	0	98547
6	Central Dev. Block, Chelenghat	10	117	75958	0	75958
7	North West Dev. Block	18	184	125093	9802	134895
8	Kaliapani Dev. Block	10	84	75958	0	75958
	Total	117	1129	871812	101236	973048

Source: District Census Handbook, Jorhat, Part XII-B, Series - 19

**Sources of Data :** The primary data on the parameter of interest from the selected sample has been collected with the help of a questionnaire keeping in view the objectives of the study. To supplement the primary data, the secondary information were collected from different agencies, organizations, internet, govt. office and various publications including journal, news paper, conference proceedings etc.

**Sampling Technique :** Probability Proportional to size (PPS) sampling technique has been applied for selection of blocks, Gaon panchayats and Villages. The procedure of selection through PPS sampling is briefly described as follows :

- List of all blocks, Gaon panchayats and Villages with their individual population in the study area have been collected.
- The running cumulative population for which the sample is required is calculated.
- Decided to select two development blocks out of eight development blocks for the study.
- The total population of each of the study area is divided by the number of sites decided to visit i.e. 2. The result is called the Sampling Interval (SI) which comes to 486524.
- A number between 1 and the SI at random is chosen. This is the Random Start (RS) which comes to 401566 which is available in the Jorhat Development Block are selected as first sample block.
- To identify the second development block we have added RS and SI, which comes to (401566 + 486524 = 888090) available in the North West Development Block, so that block was selected as sample block . The table 2 reveals the selection of sample blocks by using PPS technique.

Table- 2: Selection of blocks using PPS sampling technique.

Sl No.	Name of the Development Block	Total Population	Cumulative population	Sample Dev. Blocks
1	Ujani Majuli Dev. Block	68847	68847	
2	Titabor Dev. Block	154152	222999	
3	Jorhat Dev. Block	256811	479810	401566 (RS)
4	Jorhat East Dev. Block	89776	569586	
5	Majuli Dev. Block, Kamalabari	98547	668133	
6	Central Dev. Block, Chelenghat	94062	762195	
7	North-West Dev. Block	134895	897090	888090 (RS+SI)
8	Kaliapani Dev. Block	75958	973048	
	Total	973048		

Source: District Census Handbook, Jorhat, Part XII-B, Series - 19

**Sampling Design:** The Sampling design of this study is based on Multistage sampling procedure. The stages are as follows,

**Stage-I :** Jorhat Development Block and North West Development Block were selected out of 8 blocks of Jorhat district.

**Stage-II :** Jorhat Development Block is having 27 GP and North West Development Block with 18 GP out of 45 GPs, 4 GPs were selected by using PPS sampling technique. The selected Gaon Panchayats are Karanga Gaon Panchayat, Moidhya Thengal Khongiya Gaon Panchayat from Jorhat Development Block and Dhekargarah Gaon Panchayat and Pub Sarucharai Gaon Panchayat from North West Jorhat Development Block.

**Stage-III :** Two villages from each select Gaon Panchayat are selected by using Probability Proportional to size (PPS) sampling Technique, thus the total nos. of sample villages comes to 8. The selected villages are, Kamar Hajarika Gaon, Hejari Gaon, No.2 Mohbondha Gaon, No.1 Bhalukmara, Dhekargarah, Sarucharai Gharfalia, Sarbaibandha, Bohotia Gaon.

**Stage-IV :** The list of household beneficiaries of eight select villages have been collected from the office of the Gaon Panchayat and 10% of such beneficiaries have been selected from the village as shown in the table 3. Thus the total numbers of beneficiaries are selected for data collection comes to 288 households and data was collected from the beneficiaries by using personal interview and questionnaire method.



Table- 3

Selected Blocks, Gaon Panchayat and Villages with no.of household beneficiaries.

Block	Gaon Panchayat	Village	Total Number of Beneficiary	Sample Size @ 10% Household beneficiaries
Bagchung Block, Jorhat dev. Block,	Karanga	Kamar Hazarika Gaon	730	73
		Hejari Gaon	320	32
	Moidhya thengal Khongia	No.2 Mohbondha Gaon	580	58
		No.1 Bhalukmara	630	63
North West Development Block, Dhekargarah	Dhekargarah	Dhekargarah	190	19
		Sarucharai Gharfalia	40	4
	Pub Sarucharai	Sarbaibandha	110	11
		Bohotia Gaon	280	28
Total			2880	288

### Review of Literature:

Some important existing literature relating to rural development are reviewed as stated below:

**Dubhasi P.R. (1970)** in his study “*Rural Development Administration in India*” made an analytical studies on the various aspects of the changing pattern of rural development administration in India during the last ten years. The book focuses in detail about the role played by the BDO and the function of extension, co-operation and community development. It can be said to be reappraisal of the entire rural development administration in India.

**Mathur Kuldeep (1972)** in his book titled” *Bureaucratic Response to Development.*” Express the views that the block Development Officer is surely a vital link in the administrative system. It has rightly been pointed out by the author that the BDO is cutting –edge of the government interactions with the citizens and influence public attitudes towards development in a very significant way.

**Prasad Awadesh (1976)** in his book “*Portrait of Bureaucracy in India*” stress on the need for studying the personal problem of community administration as it is a crucial element and has involved the service of a large number of functionaries who are expected to bring new attitude and orientation in their work. The author elaborately discussed the recruitment policy and training method in an all India perspective.

**Mishra B.B. (1983)** in his book entitled “*District Administration and Rural Development, Policy Objectives and Administrative Change in Historical Perspective.*” Discussed the role of District Administration and Rural Development in India from the last quarter of the eighteen century when the British East India Company had established over Bengal to 1905. In analyzing the administrative changes that occurred, the author tries to relate them to prevailing social and economic conditions of the rural poor.

**Singh K.S. (1985)** in his book “*Indian Rural Society, Institution and Problem* “conducted a detail study and found that the rural people are suffering mainly from poverty, illiteracy and poor living condition. The author suggested giving priority on the multipurpose programmes for the improvement of Socio-Economic conditions of the rural people.

**Bharali D. (1987)** in his book “*Co-Operative Banking and Economic Development.*” elaborately described with analysis the role of Assam Co-Operative Apex bank Ltd. in the economy of the State. His findings were that apart from working as a commercial bank it had to discharge three other functions such as to finance primary credit societies, to act as a banking centre for primary societies, and to undertake supervision of primary societies. He also found that the bank had not been able to achieve much in these three fields due to lack of adequate support from government of Assam

### Data Analysis and Interpretation:

The comparative analysis of the implementation of rural development programme in both the blocks are shown in the table 4

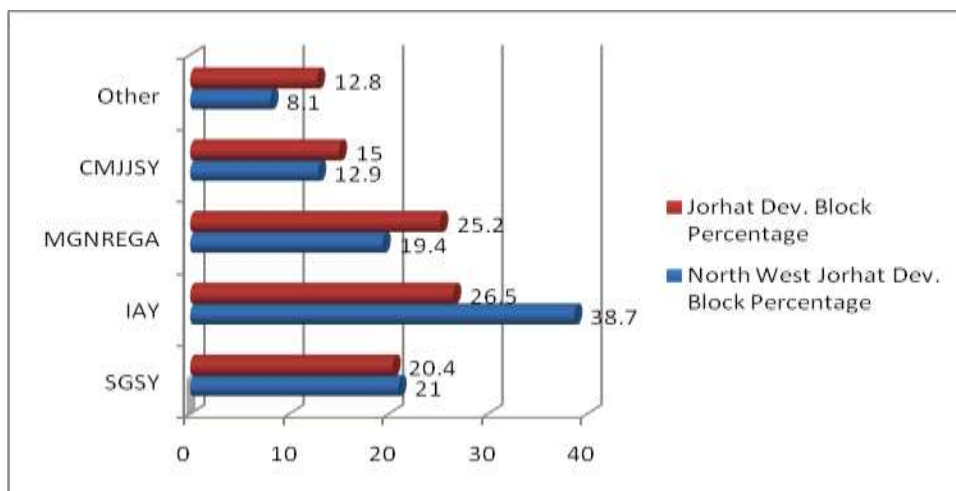
Table: 4

Schemewise No. of Beneficiaries in selected Development Blocks

Schemes	Jorhat Dev. Block		North West Jorhat Dev. Block		Total
	No. of Beneficiary	Percentage	No. of Beneficiary	Percentage	
SGSY	46	20.4	13	21.0	59
IAY	60	26.5	24	38.7	84
MGNREGA	57	25.2	12	19.4	69
CMJJSY	34	15.0	8	12.9	42
Other	29	12.8	5	8.1	34
Total	226	100.0	62	100.0	288

Fig. : 1

Associated with different



## Rural Development Programme in selected Blocks

The table 4 shows the various rural development programme implemented by North West Development Block and Jorhat Development Block. The SGSY programme covered almost same percentage of beneficiaries in both the blocks. But in case of IAY programme beneficiaries of North West Development Block were more than Jorhat Development Block. On the other hand in case of NREGA, beneficiaries of Jorhat development block were more than North West Development Block. Chief Minister Jeevan Jyoti Swaniyojan Yojan and other Scheme like NSAP covered all most same percentage of beneficiaries in both the block.

Financial institution specially banking institution played an important role in implementation of rural development programme. The financial institution of sample blocks are shown in the table 5

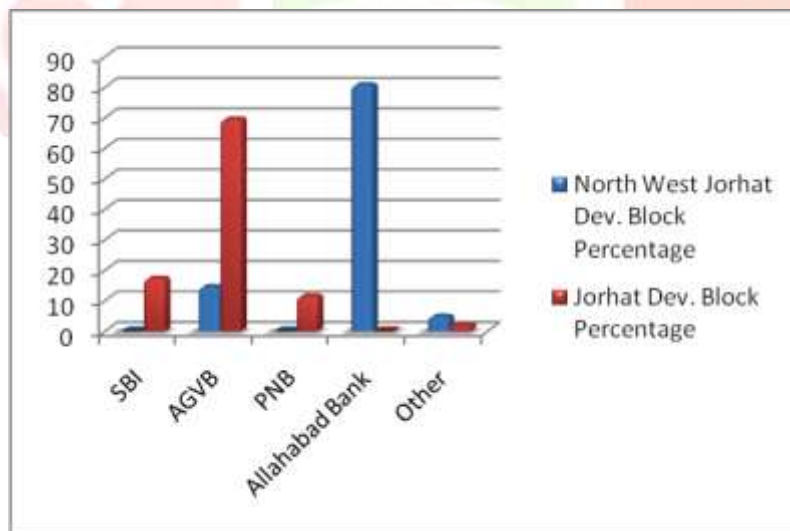
Table: 5

Financial Institution from which beneficiary got the financial assistance

	Jorhat Dev. Block		North West Jorhat Dev. Block		Total
	No. of Beneficiary	Percentage	No. of Beneficiary	Percentage	
SBI	39	17.3	0	0	39
AGVB	157	69.5	9	14.5	166
PNB	26	11.5	0	0	26
Allahabad Bank	0	0	50	80.7	50
Other	4	1.7	3	4.8	7
Total	226	100.00	62	100.00	288

Fig. : 2

Financial I Institution from which beneficiary got the financial assistance



Financial institutions played an important role in financing to rural people through rural development programme. Generally, financial assistance is provided to the beneficiaries by the local bank branches. The table : 5 and fig. : 2 shows the institution who help in financing rural development programmes. Assam Gramin Vikash Bank financing to more beneficiaries in Jorhat Development Block than North West Development Block. On the other hand Allahabad Bank financing more beneficiaries in North West Development Block than Jorhat Development Block. No financial assistance is provided by SBI and PNB in North West Development Block but financed to good numbers of beneficiaries in Jorhat Development Block. The table revealed that in North East Development Block

majority of the beneficiaries i.e. 80.7% have got the financial benefit from Allahabad Bank because only one branch of Allahabad Bank is located in North East Development Block. Some of the beneficiaries i.e. 14.5% get the benefit from Assam Gramin Vikash Bank and nominal percentage of beneficiaries i.e. 4.83% availed their financial assistance from other bank like Kanaklata Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank and other private bank etc. In the Jorhat Development Block majority of the beneficiaries i.e. 69.5% availed their benefit from Assam Gramin Vikash Bank, 17.3% beneficiaries from State Bank of India, 11.5% from Punjab National Bank and only 1.7% avail their benefits from other financial institutions.

It has been observed that AGVB and Allahabad Bank branches played important role in financing rural development programme in Jorhat Development Block and North West Development Block respectively.

The different rural development programme implanted by implementing authority for the economic development of rural people after getting the benefit the income of the beneficiaries of selected blocks have been changed. The table 3.96 shows the income of beneficiaries (monthly) after and before getting benefit in Jorhat Development Block and North West Development Block.

Table: 6

## Monthly income of the respondents before and after getting benefit under RDP

Income Level (Rs.)	North West Jorhat Dev. Block		North West Jorhat Dev. Block		Jorhat Dev. Block		Jorhat Dev. Block	
	Before		After		Before		After	
	No. of Respondent	Percentage	No. of Respondent	Percentage	No. of Respondent	Percentage	No. of Respondent	Percentage
less than 3000	12	19.4	0	0	74	32.7	0	0
3000-5000	28	45.2	1	1.6	99	43.8	1	0.4
5000-7000	22	35.5	2	3.2	53	23.5	50	22.1
7000-9000	0	0	37	59.7	0	0	101	44.7
9000-above	0	0	22	35.5	0	0	74	32.7
Total	62	100.0	62	100.00	226	100.0	226	100.0

Source : Field Survey



Fig. : 3

Monthly income of the respondent before and after getting benefit in selected blocks

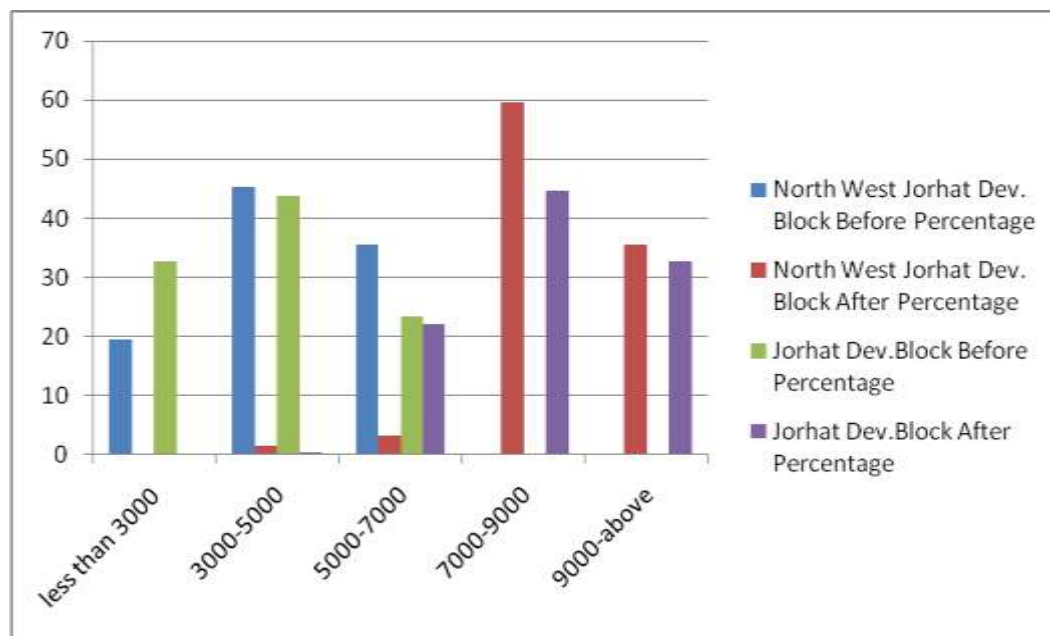


Table: 6 and fig .3 highlight the individual monthly income of the beneficiaries in both the blocks before and after getting benefit from the rural development programme. There was significant changed in income level of the beneficiaries in both the block. In Jorhat Development Block out of the total 226 respondent 32.7% are in the income level of less than 3,000 but after benefit there is no respondent in that level of income. Similarly, in North West Development Block 19.4% respondent out of total 62 nos. of respondent are in the level of less than 3,000 and after getting benefit no respondent was in that level. In the income level 3,000 – 5,000 there are 48% beneficiaries are in the Jorhat Development Block but after getting benefit only 1% beneficiary in that level of income. In North West Development Block also majority of the beneficiaries fall under the category of 3,000 – 5,000 before getting benefit but only 1% after getting benefit. In the income level of 5,000 – 7,000 the 23.5% beneficiaries was in the Jorhat Development Block before getting benefit. But after getting benefit the number of beneficiaries was increased to 22.1%. Similarly in North West Development Block it was 35.5% before getting benefit and only 2% after getting benefit under the level of 5,000 – 7,000. But in the both the blocks the income level of beneficiaries significantly increased after getting benefit. Majority of the beneficiaries of both the blocks increased their income up to the level of 7,000 - 9,000 and 9,000 above. From the above comparison it was observed that the income level of beneficiaries of both the blocks have been increased after getting benefit from the rural development programme. It is one of the most important positive impacts of implementation of rural development programme in creating employment opportunities and increases their income.

## CONCLUSION :

From the above discussion we can conclude that the rural development programmes plays an important role in creating employment opportunities and improving the quality of life of the rural people. From the study it is observed that the out of the total respondents 288, 77.1% from Jorhat Development Block 22.9% from Northwest Development Block associated with the different rural development programmes and majority of the respondent of both the block availed the benefits from IAY or PMAY-G. It is also observed that after getting benefit from the different rural development programmes the incomes of the beneficiaries has been changed. It is seen that majority of the beneficiaries i.e. 44.1% were under monthly income level of Rs.3000 to Rs.5000 before getting benefit but

after the getting benefit their income level increased up to Rs.7000 to Rs.9000. Similarly in case of quality of life of the rural people has also been changed. It was seen that before getting benefits under rural development programmes ,majority of the respondents ,i.e. 83.3% were leading the low quality of life but after getting benefit the quality of life the beneficiaries is improved and majority of the beneficiaries i.e.49.7% has comes to the category of medium level which was only 16.7% before getting any benefits.

No drought rural development programmes has provided opportunities to rural people tin creating employment opportunities and alleviate poverty but is possible only when constrain, structural, technological and institutional are removed in the rural area of the state. In Assam especially the rural development schemes are suffering the many problems that the financial allocations, improper selections, supervisions, unorganized market facilities, political interference etc. From the study it is seen that majority of the beneficiaries i.e. 56.6% expressed the problems faced by them in different stage of implementations of rural development programmes. 11.8% said about of corruptions, 9.8% said about the improper supervisions, 12.5% stated about insufficient fund, 15.2% pointed out the political interference and 8.5% said about lake of awareness.

Thus we can say that the different rural development programmes are being implemented to alleviate poverty and generation of employment opportunities but the urgent need of the hour is their effective implementation which can be possible with the honest and sincere administrative machinery, extended co-operations of the different departments ,constant supervision from selection point to use of end of the resources will go a long way alongwith the public ,private participations at all level of activities.

#### References:

1. Chaudhary C.M., Rural Economics, Sublime Publications 2009.
2. Leli Uma, Design of Rural Development: Lesson from Africa, Johan Hapkins Press, Baltimora, 1975.
3. Shaha V.M., "Co-Operation in Support of Rural Development." Kuruskhetra, Feb, 1997.
4. World Bank, Poverty Reduction Handbook.
5. Parthasarathy G., "Integrated Rural Development : Concept Theoretical Base and Contradictions" in Mathew T. (ed), Rural; development in India Agricole Publishing Academy, New Delhi ,1984.
6. Patel A.R., RDA. "Challenging Task for Voluntary Agencies", Kuruskhetra, Vol. 34(1) New Delhi, October, 1985.
7. Rao P. Narasimha and Rao R. Venkata, " Rural Development in India: A Review" in Rural Development Reforms ed. Verma S. B., Singh U.P., Jiloka S. K., Deep & Deep publisher Pvt., ltd. New delhi, 2006.
8. Singh Kesar, "Problems, Prospects and Implementation Strategies" In Rural Development : Macro-Micro Realities ed. Yatindra Singh Sisodia, Rawat Publisher, Jaipur 2007.
9. Kirit N. Shelta, Evaluation of Rural Development, Kathan Education Communication Unit Ahmedabad, 1988.
10. Gramin Vikash, a news letter Published by the Ministry or Rural Development , Govt. of India , vol.1& 2 August 1996.
11. Tewari R.T. and Singha R.C., Rural Development in India, Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi, 1998.
12. Annual Report, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, 2012-13.
13. Sarkar K., "Rural Development : Some Key issues", in Kuruskhetra, Vol-48, May, 2000.
14. Mondal Sagar, Ray G.L.; "Text Book of Rural Development." Kalyani Publishers 2012.
15. Desai Vasant, "Rural Development in India", Himalaya Publishing House 2013.

www.assamgovt.nic.in, operational guideline of various rural development Programmes