



**National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030**

VILLAGE ADOPTION STUDIES

Brief Report

Research and Training Division

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Introduction

NIRD&PR faculty carries out the responsibilities of training and research. The training responsibility involves enhancing the existing skills and research aims at situation-analysis and evolves policy issues. Thus, either through training or research endeavors, the faculty are nowhere in a position to fathom out grass-root issues which are very prominent while imparting training and undertaking research. Moreover, the faculty is not abreast with practical processes while implementing RD programmes/projects. Such grass-root knowledge adds more skills to the faculty while discharging their responsibilities as trainer as well as trainer.

The formal action research undertaken by the faculty members has the definite mandate to fulfill and may not provide much insight that is required for training and research capabilities. Further, it is also observed that many a village located not very far from either the district head-quarters or adjacent to important connectivity roads are devoid of development process. The peculiar situation emanates from the very fact of **lack of awareness**. The lack of awareness among the people is leading to struggle among them to cope up with their socio-economic conditions. On the other hand, the implementation mechanism has its own limitation in terms of its outreach, understanding the issues etc. As a result, even the best possible rural areas (in terms of connectivity) are devoid of basic infrastructure development, welfare and development initiatives in the manner required.

This in context, as a novel to focus on enhancing the situation-analysis at grass-root level and then to facilitate appropriate social atmosphere so as to promote rural development initiatives, the concept of **Village Adoption Studies** is initiated.

Broad Guidelines

The Village Adoption study is basically keeping abreast with village situation and facilitates development process. Since plethora of development programmes are in vogue and yet many a village devoid of development, the study has been an endeavor to understand the grass-root situation and facilitate development process by bridging the gap between the community and government agencies. The gap can be filled through thorough understanding on prevailing situation, mobilization of community, initiate participatory processes, establish linkages etc. In this regard, Rs 3 lakh is earmarked for field based expenditure as part of activities to be undertaken in Villages adopted by faculty members. For the convenience of faculty members, the following guidelines are devised to effect expenditure for effective implementation of activities. Though the guidelines are evolved they are basically meant to initiate broad actions. Each faculty member is however provided with ample freedom to design their interventions. The broad guidelines in vogue are as follows:

A. Financial

- 1. The amount is meant for the activities under Village Adoption Studies to be undertaken in next three months.**
- 2. The expenditure made should be meant for the designated village only.**
- 3. In all probability, exclusive financial assistance should be avoided. However, financial assistance in the form of meeting critical gaps in the development endeavors which are already in vogue may be allowed with a maximum limit of 30,000/- with prior approval from Director General**

4. **Payment of salary to local individuals for facilitation services may be avoided.**
5. **Expenditure, in general, may be spent on:**
 - i. **Conducting socio-economic survey**
 - ii. **Conducting Village meetings (Gram Sabha, SHGs, Vulnerable groups etc)**
 - iii. **Conducting Interactive Workshops/Brain-storming meets for villagers**
 - iv. **PRA exercises as part of Participatory Planning and Vision Mapping**
 - v. **Capacity-building and Skill Development programmes at village level**
 - vi. **Payment of consultation fee to local SHGs/NGOs for collaboration services**
 - vii. **Video documentation by using local resources with minimal expenditure**
6. **A prior schedule of activities may be drawn in advance in consultation with villagers with endorsement of thereof from at least five representatives drawn from local governing institutions, SHGs etc**
7. **For any deviation of expenditure from above, permission from Director General may be obtained through RTD.**
8. **Payment vouchers are required to be submitted on monthly basis for the expenditure met by then.**

B. Academic

Though the Village Adoption interventions are local specific yet for the convenience of uniform output, the following issues may be adhered to:

1. **Current status of socio-economic conditions prevailing in the village, especially in regard to social and economic indicators.**

2. **Brief insight on potential of local economic and natural resources in strengthening village development.**
3. **Deliverables expected from Village adoption interventions and status thereof**
4. **Video-documentation on entire process of interventions (with emphasis on training-input)**
5. **Important Case documentations**
6. **A brief report at the end of three month period briefing prior status, results of interventions , deliverables captured and future insight**

Number of Villages adopted:

The villages concerned were encouraged to adopted based on the criterion of backwardness. The adoption taken place either by individual or group of faculty members. In all, 29 villages were adopted across the country. The number of villages are to be enhanced in view of the recent recruitment of faculty members.

The 29 villages are spread over 10 States. The region-wise break-up of villages is as follows:

Northern Region	-	3
Southern Region	-	9
Western Region	-	4
Eastern Region	-	9
North Eastern Region	-	4
Total	-	29

Strategy Adopted

Each of the faculty members who adopted the village concerned frequent the same on periodical basis for interaction with the villagers, local officials, Elected Representatives etc. Each of the adopted village frequented at least five times on an average so far.

The initial phase of the visits were confined to situation-analysis through participatory methods as well as survey methods. Once the situation-analysis is completed the faculty members identified the critical interventions required through the local governing institutions as well as those with the support of line departments. In their consequent visits, they concentrated on liaison with local development functionaries, including the District Collectors, to put forth the immediate needs of the village. The critical gaps in this regard were met through the funding extended by the institute.

Major Interventions

The foremost intervention in this regard is promotion of Solar energy in most of the villages. As one of the prime demands among the villagers is mitigating the erratic power supply in the villages, there has been huge demand from the villages to mitigate the problem, especially street lights since moving during night-time has become menace for them.

As a result, the faculty members conducted the meetings with the villagers and on voluntary contribution of 10% to 15% of the total cost, solar street lights have been provided in 10 villages. For instance, in Lunauli village of Mahoba district (Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh), in addition to the street lights, **solar home lights in houses where girl children are pursuing high school education** were also provided.

A notable feature is four to five members of the village were trained on maintenance of solar street lighting system at RTP in NIRD&PR.

Provision of training on various income generating activities was also taken up on massive way. All these trainings were provided either at their door-step or at RTP of the institute. **The interest and enthusiasm of the villagers towards capacity building related to income generating activities is noteworthy.**

As the interventions made through village adoption approach is a continuous approach more interventions are planned in future.