

CHAPTER X : CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Conclusion

There are multiplicity of programmes and schemes and almost all of these programmes are targeted at the same set of beneficiaries. To ensure efficiency and effectiveness in delivery of key services like education, health, employment, etc., Government of India has increasingly been entrusting the responsibility at the local level. This is also intended to ensure that the local governments at the district, block and village level are empowered to discharge the functions that are constitutionally assigned to them. It was observed that absence of adequate participation from these levels in the planning process was hindering the planned progress of the District.

The Health and Family Welfare Department was successful in containing diseases like leprosy, tuberculosis and polio in the District, but failed to contain the diseases like malaria and measles. Patient care in the District suffered due to inadequate infrastructure and equipment like Health Sub Centres, operation theatre, radiology facilities in the rural areas.

The education in the District was hampered by severe lack of infrastructure and schools were running without proper buildings, toilets and drinking water facilities.

The supply of drinking water still remained a problem area in the District. 55 per cent rural habitations did not have safe drinking water supply. Besides, unsafe water was being supplied to the public in the District as the quality of water was not being ensured by conducting the required water sample tests.

Road connectivity was not provided to 51 per cent of villages in the District. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, only 15 per cent of the targeted rural roads were connected with fair weather roads instead of all weather roads even after 10 years of implementation of the programme.

Progress of the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana whose objective was to bring assisted below poverty line families in the District above the poverty line was abysmal. The District authorities failed to provide the guaranteed wage employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. A large number of houses constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana were without the mandatory provisions for smokeless *chullahs* and sanitary latrines.

Electricity was not provided to 649 out of 1,537 villages of the District. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana scheme could not be implemented in the District even after six years of launching of the programme for electrification of all villages in the District.

There was an upward trend in the number of reported crimes indicating ineffectiveness of the Police to check criminal activities in the District.

Basic objective of scientific disposal of bio-medical waste for preventing environmental pollution remained largely unachieved owing to various operational deficiencies. Landfills had not been established and the municipal board was dumping the solid waste in the open with consequent adverse results on human health and environment.

Adequate monitoring mechanism was either not instituted or was not functioning as envisaged, with regard to execution of schemes. Schemes/programmes implemented were not evaluated to assess the impact.

10.2 Recommendations

- ❖ *The District Health Society should commission a survey to identify the gaps in health care infrastructure and facilities and draw up a specific time frame as per the NRHM guidelines in order to provide accessible and affordable health care services to the rural poor in the District.*
- ❖ *Basic infrastructure/ facilities should be provided on priority in all the schools, especially at the elementary level, to ensure an appropriate environment for teaching and learning.*
- ❖ *The State Government/District administration needs to prepare a strategic action plan to provide potable drinking water to the uncovered habitations in a time-bound manner. Water quality testing system should be improved/ upgraded to ensure supply of safe drinking water to the public.*
- ❖ *The State/District administration should ensure greater coordination with the executing agencies to ensure that the road and bridge works are planned, taken up and completed within the specified timeliness and accountability should be fixed for delay and slippages in this regard.*
- ❖ *Appropriate steps should be taken to bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line as envisaged under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana and to provide employment opportunities as envisaged under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Basic facilities of a clean environment and sanitation in the houses of beneficiaries constructed under Indira Awas Yojana should also be ensured.*

- ❖ *Effective steps should be taken to fill up the vacant posts of the police force and to bring down the number of pending crime cases.*
- ❖ *Bio-medical waste management and disposal systems should be streamlined. Landfill sites and waste disposal facilities should be set up on priority basis to avoid open dumping of wastes.*
- ❖ *Monitoring mechanism needs to be strengthened at all the tiers of local administration to ensure that the schemes/programmes are executed on time and within cost and timely corrective action is taken in cases of slippage.*

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