

**A REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON SOME
ASPECTS OF THE IMPACT OF INTEGRATED
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON
JUNNAR BLOCK**

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INTRODUCTION

Integrated Rural Development Programme is the single largest scheme for providing direct financial assistance to the poorest among the poor. This was first introduced in the country in 2,000 blocks, covered by MFAL and SFDA. After Government of India took a policy decision in 1978 to place greater emphasis on providing productive assets and generating employment for weaker sections of the society so as to raise them above the poverty line, the Programme was extended to all the 5,011 blocks in the country on 2nd October 1980.

Main objectives of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are growth and distributive justice, specially benefiting the target group and with emphasis on self-employment within a time bound programme. The target group comprises small and marginal farmers, rural artisans, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other disadvantaged groups like rural women, etc.

At the time of the inception of the Programme, it was envisaged that on an average 3,000 families would be assisted in each development block during the Sixth Plan period (1980-85). It was estimated that 15 million families living below poverty line would be benefited under the programme, of which 30 per cent of the benefited under the

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programme would belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, almost 600 families from each block each year were to be assisted under the Programme during the Plan period. To achieve this target each block was provided with a uniform allocation of Rs. 35 lakh to be shared between the Centre and the States on a 50:50 basis.

Families having an annual income below Rs. 3,500 are considered living below the poverty line and are eligible for assistance under the Programme. It is intended to provide such families assistance in the form of subsidies and loans to enable them to take up viable economic activities, which would generate adequate incremental income. The beneficiaries will be assisted to acquire productive assets and engage themselves in various land based and non-land based activities, like minor irrigation, dairy, piggery, cottage industries, trade and services through integrated support by way of credit, technical assistance including training, supply of inputs and marketing facilities.