

Role of NGOs in Rural Development: A Study of Four NGOs in Tamenglong District of Manipur

The thesis is organized into seven chapters: Chapter 1 *Conceptual Framework of the Study* by formulating the problem of research in the light of an extensive review of the studies on role of NGOs in rural development, by designing methodological strategy consisting of universe, unit of sampling procedure, data collection and analysis of data and discussing its sociological significance. Chapter 2 entitled *Socio-economic Profile of Tamenglong* provides a secondary data based on account of socio-economic profile of Tamenglong. Chapter 3 entitled *Profile of NGOs in Tamenglong District* discusses the organizational aspects of NGOs. Chapter 4 entitled *Planning of Rural Development Project by NGOs* discusses the planning process of projects by NGOs. Chapter 5 entitled *Implementation of Rural Development Projects by NGOs* discusses the implementation process of project by NGOs. Chapter 6 entitled *Impact of Rural Development Project by NGOs on the Beneficiaries* analyses the impact of rural development project on the rural people. Lastly, chapter 7 gives the Summary, Findings and Conclusion of the study.

Chapter 1 *Conceptual Framework of the Study*

The study entitled “Role of NGOs in Rural Development: A Study of Four NGOs in Tamenglong District of Manipur” analyses the organizational aspects of NGOs, planning process, implementation process and the impact on rural people in Tamenglong district. There is wide recognition that NGOs have a significant role to play in assisting the rural poor in breaking out of their condition of poverty. Many NGOs view empowerment as a much more encompassing process that enables people, particularly the poor, to confront and deal with the systems and structures that cause their socio-economic or political marginalization in the first place, with the implementation of projects being only one way. From a practical point of view, NGOs have a number of distinct features that build a solid foundation for effective collaboration with rural development. NGOs are often able to reach segments of rural populations that governments neglect or do not target as a priority. Development programme undertaken with the active involvement of people have greater chance of success when compared to development programmes undertaken by government where people become passive observers. Studies have found

that the involvement of NGOs in development sector is essential to overcome poverty, the most effective medium to reach the poor are VOs/NGOs which are in better position to identify the genuine poor, their needs and suggests appropriate programmes (Purao 2001). Studies have found that rural development, based on the development of rural economy and the orientation of the commercial banking system towards financing of rural economy, has made rural bankers to achieve knowledge about social and economic structures for the village, about belief and values of villagers and also the agricultural lending techniques (Singh 1989). In India cooperative has been assigned a very significant role in the task of rural development particularly in eradicating poverty and unemployment (Dutta 1991). Studies have found that major rural development programmes of NGOs were agriculture, health programmes, human resources development, community development, industrial and trade development programmes to bring require progress on the said fields. Study reveals that for ninety percent of the beneficiaries, workers of NGOs are most beneficial. Whereas non-beneficiaries, i.e. workers of NGOs and workers of other development agencies have also considered rural development works of the NGOs as an effective for rural development (Bhaskar, Indu and Geethakutty 2001). The role of voluntary organisation is crucial in creating awareness about such programmes among the rural people and motivating them for actively participating in such programmes. At the same time NGOs are dependent on and influenced by the state as well as international funding agencies's ideology and programmes. These interface between NGOs and the state needs to be urgently addressed (Ambedkar, Shrikant 2004). Vajpayee (2002) pointed out that enough attention was not paid to the voluntary sector in strategy for national development. He praised the work done by devoted activist in different areas of nation building. Tandon (2002) identified three most important contributions of voluntary organisations in national development viz. innovative, empowerment, and research advocacy. During the time of data collection eight (8) organizations are working in various fields of rural development to uplift the rural people in Tamenglong. The present study focuses on the four NGOs which have been selected purposively, working for the rural people of Tamenglong.

The objectives of the study are (i) to study the organization aspects of the NGOs; (ii) to study the process of planning adopted by four NGOs for rural development project;

(iii) to study the process of implementation of rural development project by four NGOs and (iv) to assess the impact of the rural development project on the rural people.

Methodology

The study area is in the district of Tamenglong, Manipur. It is situated in the West of Manipur, inhabited by tribal communities such as Zeme, Liangmai, Rongmei, Kuki, Hmar, Inpui, Chiru and Khasi respectively. The district is divided into four Sub-divisions/development blocks namely: (i) Tamenglong block, (ii) Tousem block, (iii) Tamei block and (iv) Nungba block. In Tamenglong district 8 (eight) NGOs were working at the time of study, namely, (i) *Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP)*, (ii) *Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre*, (iii) *Indigenous Women and Children Foundation (IWCF)*, (iv) *People Action for Social Change (PASC)*, (v) *People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH)*, (vi) *Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA)*, (vii) *Rural Foundation (RF)* and (viii) *Youth Development Association (YDA)*. These eight NGOs constitute the universe of the study.

Name of the NGO	Block (Area)	Project completed	Date of Registration	Main Thrust	Selected/Not Selected
Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP)	Tamenglong block	4	Regd.No. 294 of 1990	Rural Development and Food Security and Livelihood	Selected
Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC)	Tousem block	6	Regd. No. 2055 of 1977	Rural development (long-term)	Selected
People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH)	Tousem block	4	Regd. No. 218 of 1997	Rural development and Tribal livelihood	Selected
People Action for Social Transformation (PAST)	Tamei block	1	Regd. No.212/SR/TD of 2005	Agriculture and livelihood	Not Selected
Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA/ Relief and Development)	Nungba block	4	Regd. No. 24 of 1985	Relief and Rural Development	Selected
Rural Foundation (RF)	Tamenglong block	1 (ongoing)	No.306/SR/TD/2007	Livelihood	Not Selected

Indigenous Women and Children Foundation (IWCF)	Tamenglong district	2	Regd.No. 337/SR/TD 2008	Women empowerment and Child Care	Not Selected
Youth Development Association (YDA)	Tamenglong district	2	Regd. No. 261/2007	Link NGO on drugs user and HIV patients	Not Selected

Out of above 8 (eight) NGOs in the district, four NGOs were selected through purposive sampling on the basis of (i) their activeness in the relevant field i.e. rural development, (ii) they must have completed at least one rural development project at the time of the study and (iii) the project must be located in the rural area. These four NGOs namely: (i) *Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP)*, (ii) *Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC)*, (iii) *People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH)* and (iv) *Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA)* were selected. The table below indicates the distribution of villages, number of beneficiaries and project covered for the study:

Name of the NGO	Block	Number of Project selected	Number of Villages covered	Number of Beneficiaries
Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP)	Tamenglong block	1	5 villages	306
Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC)	Tousem block	1	25 villages	708
People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH)	Tousem block	1	6 villages	664
Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA/ Relief and Development)	Nungba block	1	6 villages	590

Selection of Beneficiaries

Fifty beneficiaries were selected from each NGO through a purposive sampling from one completed project implemented by the four NGOs. Only those beneficiaries were selected who have joined the NGO as beneficiary at least three years ago and purposively at least two (2) beneficiaries were selected from each of the schemes to get the required respondents. The following table shows the scheme-wise distribution of beneficiaries from each NGO selected for the present study:

Scheme-wise Selection of Beneficiaries through Purposive Sampling

Name of NGO	Types of Scheme	Number of Beneficiaries	
		Total	Selected
Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP)	Plantation	71	10
	Land terrace	62	10
	Fishery pond	31	5
	Bio-diversity garden	27	5
	Irrigational canal	54	10
	Vermin compost	45	5
	Back yard nutrition garden	16	5
Total		306	50
Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC)	Plantation	239	33
	Credit for disable	11	2
	Low cost latrine	146	5
	Roof for work	207	5
	Grain bank	105	5
Total		708	50
People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH)	Plantation	278	16
	Fishery pond	69	4
	Animal husbandry	247	15
	Land terrace	40	4
	Dam construction	10	4
	Vermin compost	10	3
	Carpentry	7	2
	Blacksmith	3	2
Total		664	50
Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA)	Water resources (irrigation, fishery and small dam)	143	10
	Animal husbandry	180	12
	Land terrace	39	4
	Plantation	207	18
	Carpentry	6	2
	Blacksmith	4	2
	Vermin compost	11	2
Total		590	50

Technique of Data Collection

The data were collected with the help of cases study of the four NGOs that are working in rural areas in Tamenglong district, Manipur. Under the study the data were also collected through personal conversations with the office bearers i.e. Secretary, Co-ordinator and Field staff of the above mentioned selected NGOs (based on their availability) to find out the process of planning and implementing the project during the field survey. Further, to assess the impact of rural development projects on rural people, a structured interview schedule covering the broader areas such as socio-economic background of beneficiaries, participation of beneficiaries in project activities and the impact of rural development projects on beneficiaries was administered on the beneficiaries selected through purposive sampling from the above mentioned four NGOs. Furthermore, the annual reports, different records and files of the NGOs were also consulted in detail to get the information of the data from secondary sources as well.

Rural Development: Rural Development is a process of bringing change among rural community from the traditional way of living to progressive way of living. Rural Development (RD) is a process, which aims at improving the well being and self realization of people living outside the urbanized areas through collective process, a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of rural poor.

In the present study rural development is defined as a process of bringing change on the beneficiaries through various schemes such as land terraces, water resources, animal husbandry (poultry, piggery and duckling), small dam construction, plantation of crops (potato, onion, cabbage, ginger, orange, banana and litchi), blacksmithy, carpentry (benches, bed and almirah), bio-diversity garden (rearing of medicinal herbs and rare species of flowers), vermin compost, formation of SHG and improvement of skill through training such as records maintenance, book keeping, social audit and workshop from the NGOs. It consists of programs and activities of NGOs which aims at improving the economic and social life of the beneficiaries.

NGO: A non-governmental organization (NGO) is a citizen-based association registered under the Society Registration Act xxi of 1860, that operates independently of government, usually to deliver resources or serve some social or political purpose. A non-

governmental organization (NGO) is generally considered to be any non-state, nonprofit, voluntary organization.

Here, it is a non-governmental organization (NGO) registered under the Society Registration Act XXI of 1860 namely; Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC), Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP), People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) and Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) which are working in Tamenglong District of Manipur. It is a non-state and non-profit voluntary organization working for the development of rural villages in the district.

Project: A set of Planned interrelated tasks to be executed over a fixed period and within certain cost and other limitations.

It is a specific project Planned by the four NGOs under study to execute through activities and programmes over a fixed period and within certain cost for development of beneficiaries.

Scheme: Scheme is an official plan, strategy or programme of action of an NGO, the way that something is arranged or organized to be followed in future, a systematic plan for achieving a particular aim.

Scheme is defined as those specific activities and programme such as terracing of land, animal husbandry, water resources, plantation of crops, blacksmithy and carpentry given to the beneficiaries by the NGO to achieve a particular aim and target to improve their socio-economic condition.

Role: Role is a set of connected behavior, rights and obligation in which a person or a group of persons actually carries out the requirements of his/their position.

It is a set of activities of NGOs through a specific project formulated for the beneficiaries which carries out the requirements of their position in the process of rural development.

Impact: Impact is an evaluation or assessment, the changes that can be attributed to a particular intervention, such as a project, program or policy, both the intended ones, as well as ideally the unintended ones.

Impact refers to the changes and improvement in the status of beneficiaries through NGO's schemes such as terracing of land, water resources, animal husbandry,

small dam construction, plantation of crops, bio-diversity garden, vermin compost, formation of SHG and improvement of skill through training such as records maintenance, book keeping, social audit and workshop from the NGOs.

Chapter 2: Socio-economic Profile of Tamenglong

Tamenglong is the heartland of a region inhabited by Zeme, Liangmai, Rongmei, Kuki, Hmar, Inpui, Chiru and Khasi. The district covers the total areas of 4391 sq.km and lies between latitudes 24.30 N and 25.27 N and longitudes 93.10 E and 94.34 E. The population of Tamenglong according to 2011 census, 2,570,390 of which male population is 1,290,171 and female population is 1,180,219 respectively. The literacy rate of Tamenglong according to 2011 census is 79.21 of which male literacy rate is 86.06 whereas female literacy rate is 71.73 (Census 2011). Tamenglong is divided into four sub-division; namely, Tamenglong block, Tamei, Nungba and Tousem. Tamenglong is considered as the most backward district of Manipur.

Their main source of income is agriculture and the chief crop is rice which is also the staple food of the tribal people in the district. Majority of the people practice jhuming/shifting known as slash and burn cultivation. People in this area are depending on agriculture including horticulture & Jhuming, Natural Timber and Forest collection from forest (fire wood, charcoal, food items) and as wage labour for their livelihood. Tamenglong district has three district roads such as Tamenglong -Khongsang road, Tamenglong-Tamei road and Tamenglong-Tousem road. But due to hilly area, these roads are in poor condition. There is no other proper road to connect to the district head-quarter and other communication facilities are lagging behind. But the Government of India recently proposed railway line connecting Jiribam to Tupul on which the work is in progress. However, the people in the district are socially and economically poor comparing to other districts of Manipur. Therefore, most of the villagers living in the district are under -marginal line.

Chapter 3: Profile of NGOs in Tamenglong District

1. The three NGOs namely; Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC), Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP) and Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) are working for more than 15 years, except one NGO i.e.

People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) is working for 14 years. All the four NGOs are registered under the Society Registration Act XXI of 1860 and also non-profit organizations.

2. During the field survey it was observed that the administrative set up and the functioning of the four NGOs are common. All the four NGOs have their own executive board and the working staff. The executive board is headed by a Chairman, followed by Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The executive board is the decision making body in each four NGOs.
3. The vision and the mission of the four NGOs are to uplift the marginalized and the poor people in the rural villages. Improving their livelihood, education, gender empowerment and right based issue through development activities which are an eye opener to the rural people in the process of developmental activities.
4. The donor's agencies for the four NGOs are both from outside India and within India. For Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC) the donor agencies are namely: (i) ActionAid India, (ii) Indo Global Social Service (IGSS), (iii) Bonn Germany, (iv) Lillian Fonds, (v) Catholic Relief Scheme (CRS), (vi) Caritas India and (vii) CSI- Belgium. For Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP) the donor agencies are namely; (i) Evangelische Entwicklungsdienste (EED Germany), (ii) Jamesdji Tata Trust (JTT) and (iii) Indo Global Social Service (IGSS). For People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) the donor agencies are namely: (i) Evangelische Entwicklungsdienste (EED Germany) and (ii) Jamesdji Tata Trust. For Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) the donor agencies are namely: (i) Evangelische Entwicklungsdienste (EED Germany), (ii) Jamesdji Tata Trust (JTT) and (iii) Sir Debojit Tata Trust.
5. The functionaries of all the four NGOs are well educated and have potential and capability to handle their job. Two NGOs namely: Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) and People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) have recruited professionally trained staff particularly for the posts like accountant and field worker etc.
6. During the survey it was observed that the infrastructure of the four NGOs like building, office equipments such as computer, printer, almirah and internet

facilities are maintained by the office people. The four NGOs have their own permanent plots and office to carry out their work even keeping in view for the expansion of developmental programmes in future.

Chapter 4: Planning Process of Projects Undertaken by NGOs

1. For identification of problems in the project area, all the four NGOs have conducted Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). PRA provides the opportunity to get first-hand information and insights into the project area in general and the problems of resource management as well as to learn from the stakeholders and farmers in particular to the project scientist and other concern staff of the NGOs.
2. In all the four NGOs it was found that Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was done by following bottom-up approach in which indigenous technical knowledge of the local people and the ways and means are built or refined to generate appropriate technologies.
3. During the field survey it was found that all of them have done micro-planning during their planning period. Micro-planning is a process of analyzing data and developing activities which address and highlighted issues to be taken up during the implementation of the project.
4. It was also observed during the field visit that they have conducted baseline survey in the project area during the planning process. Baseline survey is a tool which helps in collecting information about socio-economic data of the village, demographic features, infrastructure in the village, social parameters, skills available in the village, social capital, livelihood of households, average income and expenditure of every household in the village.
5. During the planning process all aforesaid NGOs have formed a committee in every project village consisting of 6-7 members selected from village council, church leaders and youth to look after the beneficiaries at the time of implementing the project. They have given different names to these committees namely: (i) Village Level Committee (VLC) for Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP), (ii) Development Committee Team for Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC), (iii) Village Development Committee (VDC) for

People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) and Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA).

6. During the field survey it was observed that all the four NGOs have prepared their project themselves after the consolidation of baseline data collected by them during survey in the project areas. Project proposal has been prepared as per the guidelines of the funding agency (IES) for that project area. Then the proposal is scrutinized at the consultation meeting of the partner NGOs along with the funding Agencies. After the final consolidation, the proposal has been made by the chief functionary of the NGOs. But in case of Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC) project shelf is prepared by chief functionaries himself.
7. In all the four NGOs there is no much difference in selection and identification of beneficiaries of the project. The three NGOs namely: Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP), People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) and Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) the selection of beneficiaries is based on baseline survey and wealth ranking tools of PRA. In the selection of beneficiaries, poorest among the poor have been selected in each project village. In case of Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC), both wealth ranking and the Govt. issue BPL card are used in selection of beneficiaries in the project villages. Besides, the local committee formed by each NGO in every project villages took the main role in identification of beneficiaries of the project.

Chapter 5: Process of Implementation of Projects by NGOs

1. During the field survey it was found that the duration of the project for each NGO varies depending upon the nature of the project they took up. The duration of the project of Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP) and People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) was 3 (three) years. However, the duration of the project was 4 years and 10 years in case of Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC) and Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) respectively.
2. The formulation of schemes by the four NGOs depends on the baseline survey conducted during the planning period of the project. The schemes were selected according to the needs of the beneficiaries. The local committee formed by the

four NGOs in every project villages also helped in selecting the schemes for the beneficiaries.

3. It was found during the survey that the three NGOs namely: (i) Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP), (ii) People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) and Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) have common types of schemes like land development, water resources and plantation schemes. In case of Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC) only two scheme namely plantation and land development similar with the other three NGOs.
4. At the time of implementing the schemes, all of them have formed Self Help Groups (SHGs) in every project villages. Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP) has formed 20 Self Help Groups (SHGs), Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC) has formed 52 SHGs, People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) has formed 25 SHGs and Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) has formed 29 SHGs in every project villages respectively.
5. It was observed during the survey that the local committee namely: (i) Village Development Committee (VDC), (ii) Development Committee Team (DCT) and (iii) Village Level Committee (VLC) formed by the four NGOs in every project village looks after the project activities at the time of implementing the project. These committees were given responsibilities to handle the problems in the process of implementation of project in the absence of the NGOs staff.
6. During the field survey it was found that monitoring was done at different levels by the four NGOs. People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) and Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) monitoring was done at the initial stage by the local committee formed by the NGO. The local Committee maintained additional records and files at the time of implementing the project. At the same time it was also found that the project staff or the coordinator visits the field every month. In case of Development Agency for Tribal People (DATP) and Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC) monitoring is done by the staff of the NGOs.

Chapter 6: Impact of Rural Development Project on the Beneficiaries

The impact of the projects undertaken by the NGOs under the study can be analysed in terms of ownerships, size of land, level of education, occupation and income through

various schemes and training such as digging of small irrigational canal, plantation of crops, making of land terraces, animal husbandry, blacksmithy, carpentry, bio-diversity garden, dam construction and fishery have brought desirable improvement on the beneficiaries.

1. Almost all the beneficiaries' land was converted into permanent cultivable land terraces abandoning the traditional ways of shifting/jhum cultivation through the scheme. While in case of very few beneficiaries making of land terraces was not successful due to the misused of funds provided to the beneficiaries under this scheme.
2. All the beneficiaries who opted scheme for digging the small irrigational channel from the stream to their paddy field have achieved successfully and have been benefited. All the beneficiaries accepted that their quantity and quality of paddy yield increased through the scheme due to relatively better and improved irrigational facilities than before.
3. About more than fourth-fifth of beneficiaries responded that crops plantation or farming were productive with the introduction of better sapling and new technique of farming such as using manure and chemical like pesticides. The reason for the failure of crops was due to unfavorable climate. About four-fifth of beneficiaries who opted bio-diversity garden or back yard garden (rearing of medicinal plants and traditional rare species of flowers) responded that it was productive and raised their income by selling in the market.
4. Beneficiaries who got animal husbandry scheme (rearing domestic animals such as pig, duck and poultry), with over seven-tenth responded it that was profitable for them and over one-fifth responded that it was not profitable for them. The reason for not being profitable was that animal died out of poor rearing system where the villagers could not access to treatment as they were living in remote villages.
5. Beneficiaries who got blacksmithy and carpentry schemes were trained and given materials by the NGOs for making such as spade, knife, ploughing tools, making bed chairs and benches. About three-fourth beneficiaries each from two NGOs intended to continue blacksmithy and carpentry for livelihood. The development of these skills among the beneficiaries will be helpful in having better life chances.

6. Majority (seven-tenth) of the beneficiaries have earned profit from vermin compost. This vermin compost was used as manure for cultivation especially for kitchen garden. In regarding fishery, majority (over four-fifth) of the beneficiaries have responded that fish rearing has increased their surplus income besides agricultural products.
7. A number of beneficiaries (about seven-tenth responded that the training such as records maintenance, book keeping, social audit and medical awareness camp given by the NGOs was very beneficial. Beneficiaries about four-fifth responded that they got more confidence after the training given by NGOs. The reason for partially success was that most of the beneficiaries were not highly educated and have difficulties in understanding the new terms used by the NGOs officials.
8. Near about three fourth of beneficiaries were satisfied with the scheme they got from the NGO. However, the beneficiaries' reason also pointed out the reasons for their dissatisfaction from the scheme. About half of the beneficiaries responded that the project amount was less, and about four-fifth responded that short duration of project was the reason and about two-fifth responded that delays implementation of scheme was the reason.
9. Most of the beneficiaries (nine-tenth) started their production activities such as growing cash crops and vegetables through NGOs schemes and only nearly about one-tenth of beneficiaries have not started their production activities. The reason for not starting the production was that these beneficiaries misused the funds given to them under the scheme and nine-tenth of beneficiaries' scheme was successful.
10. About three-fourth of the beneficiaries responded that their socio-economic condition has improved much and almost all beneficiaries from both male and female responded that their family income has increased, and with over nine-tenth of beneficiaries responded that both family income as well as method of cultivation have improved due to NGOs scheme and activities.
11. It was found that common scheme such as construction of public toilet and water tank were successful and now the beneficiaries have better access to safe drinking water reducing water prone diseases like malaria and typhoid. Now, through various schemes, beneficiaries are able to generate more income, produced more food and

thereby reduced the scarcity of food during lean season. The local committee formed by the NGOs have improved their knowledge on development concept and goal and expressed their enthusiasm that these rural development project was a felt need for the prevailing situation in rural areas.

Chapter 7: Summary of findings and Conclusion

The three NGOs namely: DATP, RNBA and DBSWC are working for more than 15 years except PESCH is working for 14 years and all the four NGOs are registered under the Society Registration Act XXI of 1860. The administrative set up and the functioning of the four NGOs are common. Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) is a sub-donor agency as well as an implementing agency. The other three NGOs are purely implementing agencies. The functionaries of the four NGOs are well educated and have potential and capability to handle their job. The four NGOs have their own permanent plots, buildings and offices to carry out their work even in future in rural development programs.

In planning process the major criteria for the selection of project areas by the four NGOs has been their remote location. For identification of problems all the four NGOs have conducted Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) by following bottom-up approach, micro-planning and baseline survey during the planning process. In planning process the four NGOs have formed a committee in every project villages consisting of 6-7 members. The four NGOs have prepared themselves their projects after the consolidation of data received from the project areas. In selection and identification of beneficiaries, the local committee formed by each NGO in every project village took the main role.

The formulation of schemes by the four NGOs depends on the baseline survey conducted during the planning period of the project. At the time of implementing the project, three NGOs except Don Bosco Social Welfare Centre (DBSWC) have implemented the project in phase-wise (a phase consist of 6 months each). The funds were disbursed according to the scheme wise. It was observed that there was no discrepancy in the flow of fund and all the four NGOs received fund in installment basis. At the time of implementing the scheme, all of them have formed Self Help Group (SHGs) in every project villages. The scheme were selected according to the needs of the

beneficiaries. The local committee formed by the four NGOs in every project villages also helped in selecting the scheme for the beneficiaries.

Rural development projects undertaken by the NGOs were able to have a positive impact on their life. It help them not only in shifting from traditional practice of jhum cultivation to terrace cultivation in their agricultural fields but with irrigation facility provided through scheme also helped them in growing cash crops like vegetables etc. Use of pesticides, insecticides and HYV seeds resulted into surplus production. The skills developed through schemes like carpentry and blacksmithy leads to better livelihood and also improved their consumption pattern. The facility provided for safe drinking water helped in controlling water borne diseases in the area under study and quality of life has improved as result of these projects. The success of the project was due to the participation of local at the time of implementing the project.

B.P. Maithani and V.P. Singh (1987) in his study on implementation of National Rural Employment Program in Arunachal Pradesh substantiate the view that “most of the schemes could not be completed because of the inadequacy of funds. There is, therefore, no alternative to increasing the flow of fund under NREP to the hilly and tribal areas of north-east by expanding the criteria to includes deficiencies of infrastructure, remoteness etc.” (p. 385). Singh (1999) also made a study on the role of NGOs in rural development in North-East with special reference to the states of Assam and Mizoram. The study revealed that “voluntary organizations in North-East India are not much experienced in handling rural development projects”. (Singh, 1999: p.125).

Thus, the present study is in contrary to the study made by the above researchers (Maithani and Singh 1987) in case of implementation of National Rural Employment Program in Arunachal Pradesh where the local people did not involved at the time of implementing the project. It can be cited from the above discussion that Non-Governmental Organizations are performing much better than the Government agency in implementing the project in the rural areas.

Through conscientisation, awareness generation and capacity development processes, they attempt to break the cycle of deprivation and poverty to enable rural poor to assert their rights and lead a dignified quality of life (Thakur, Devendra & Thakur

D.N.1997). The four NGOs in the present study have played a vital role in the process of rural development in Tamenglong district of Manipur in terms of socio-economic lives of the rural people. It was found that the impact of the project on the beneficiaries have seen to a great extent. In agricultural aspect almost all the beneficiaries' terraces were cultivable into permanent cultivable terraces abandoning traditional shifting cultivation, in plantation of crops nine-tenth of beneficiaries plantation scheme were productive. In animal husbandry seven-tenth of beneficiaries were benefited. In regarding carpentry and blacksmith smith scheme, most of the beneficiaries intended to continue as their profession. In regarding about the training given by the NGOs, about two-third of beneficiaries responded most beneficial. Most of the beneficiaries almost all the beneficiaries have started their production activities. About three-fourth of beneficiaries have responded that their socio-economic conditions have improved through schemes. Singh M.R. has conducted a survey during (2000-2001) in two tribal villages in Manipur by name Khangsin and Minou. He concluded that NGOs are playing active role in development activities in the field of education, health and sanitation, women and children to improve the quality of life (Singh M.R. 2004).

Thus from the above discussion it can be drawn that the project of four NGOs have influenced the rural people in many ways. Through the project of NGOs socio-economic lives especially family income and agricultural products of the beneficiaries have improved, the participation of rural people in development projects have increased to some extent. Shri Ram Meheswari has cited that the role of NGOs in rural development not only undertakes constructive work but also exercise surveillance over the government in its role as a rural developer and criticized government policies, programmes and provide an essential communication channel by keeping the government brief about the success and failures of rural development programmes (Shri Ram Meheswari, 1995). Therefore, it can be cited clearly from the above findings and discussion that the role of NGO is to act as an agency in rural development task as well as a surveillance organization over government role in the process of rural development.

Suggestions

1. Although the office bearers of the four NGOs under study were well educated and have potential to undertake the rural development projects, but most of the working staff were not having required skills especially in accounting and field survey. Only two NGOs namely; Rongmei Naga Baptist Association (RNBA) and People Endeavour for Social Change (PESCH) have recruited one accountant and one person for field survey. Therefore, it can be suggested that NGOs must recruit skilled and professional staff for accounting and field survey.
2. During the planning process all the four NGOs have formed a local committee in every project village consisting of 6-7 members selected from village council, church leaders and youth to look after the beneficiaries at the time of implementing the project. However, it was observed that the local committee was not able to handle the task efficiently given to them by the NGOs. Therefore, NGOs need to build more capacity among the members and local committee through training and workshop in order to have smooth implementation of the program.
3. It was observed that all the four NGOs have prepared the shelf of project by themselves without involvement of any external expert. There would be more effective in proposal for the project if the NGOs involved some professional experts in the process of preparing the project.
4. It was found that at some occasions NGOs delayed in delivering the scheme to the beneficiaries. This affected the beneficiaries especially those beneficiaries who opted for plantation during monsoon season. The NGOs need to have a systematic ways to deliver the scheme at specific time.
5. It was observed that at the time of delivery of scheme the amount was disbursed in cash to the beneficiaries. NGO need to developed alternative ways as some of the beneficiaries misused the cash for other purposes given to them for particular scheme.
6. One of the reason for the failure of animals husbandry scheme was absence of support in cases when the animal given under scheme fell sick. In absence of treatment the animal died and whole investment gone in vein. It is suggested that the NGOs must use 'cluster approach' in such schemes so that necessary forward and backward linkages can be provided effectively. It also suggest to have proper coordination with

animals husbandry department of the state as such facilities cannot be provided by the NGOs themselves. NGOs and state government departments must development proper coordination in such cases. NGOs can have also coordination with other NGOs working in the same area and having similar projects and scheme. A district and block level committee of NGO functionaries will be more effective to deal such situation. They may also coopt the project officer, DRDA and district level officers of the concerned department and BDOs of the concerned block as well.