

PREFACE

Poverty alleviation has been accepted as a major strategy in the country since inception of our economic planning. During the plan periods, a number of poverty alleviation programmes have been introduced targeting the rural poor by providing self-employment opportunities and other productive assets for generation of income.

It has been experienced during the plan period that effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes may enhance the income level of the poorer section of the society and thereby uplifting the rural economy. Proper implementation of these programmes, no doubt, can play an effective role to ensure better allocation of resources from Government and financing banks to the rural poor for creation of self-employment avenues in the rural sectors. The present study makes a humble attempt to evaluate the performance of a poverty alleviation programme, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) taking Lakhimpur District of Assam as area of study. The study is directed towards assessing the achievements of the programme in respect of financial as well as physical progress and weaknesses from the view point of activities undertaken by the beneficiaries of SGSY, size of investment, support from financing banks and implementing agency, generation of additional employment, mandays and income etc. SGSY as an antipoverty programme has a tremendous scope for creation of self-employment opportunities and thereby raising the income level of the poor people in the district. This can be attained only through proper implementation of the

programme, which requires better co-ordination and co-operation among different developmental departments, financing banks, implementing agency and poor people of the district.

The present study is based on both primary and secondary information collected personally by the researcher. The study is designed with Eight chapters. The First Chapter contains the significance of the study, objectives of the study, hypotheses, methodology, review of literature, concepts and definitions used and limitation of the study. The Second Chapter gives a brief outline of the study district Lakhimpur eliciting its origin, geographical location, river system, population structure, level of education, industry, transport system and forest resources etc. The Third Chapter deals with some major poverty alleviation programmes implemented by the Government during its plan periods. Chapter Four analyses the genesis of Swarnajyanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) as a poverty alleviation programme including its target group, objectives and features of the programme. The Fifth Chapter analyses the performance of SGSY in the district of Lakhimpur in terms of financial support and physical progress of the programme. Chapter Six deals with the field survey which explains the primary informations collected by the researcher from 200 sample beneficiaries of SGSY in the district. In Chapter Seventh, an analysis is made on various problems and difficulties faced by the implementing agency and the sample beneficiaries in implementation of SGSY. Chapter Eighth summarises the major findings of the entire study and puts forward few suggestions for effective implementation of the programme in the district of Lakhimpur in near future

Sonit Kr. Bhuyan
(Sonit Kr. Bhuyan)