

REPORT ON
A STUDY OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION
PROGRAMES AND ISSUES OF TRIBAL
LIVELIHOOD IN LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MISING TRIBE

SUBMITTED BY
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DECLARATION:

I hereby declare that I have completed my research study entitled "***Poverty Alleviation Programmes and Issues of Tribal Livelihood in Lakhimpur District with Special Reference to Mising Tribe***".

The report is the result of my own investigation, analysis and observation. Neither the report nor any part has been submitted to any university or institute for any degree or diploma.

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(LILY DOLEY)

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Abbreviations

BPL- Below Poverty Line

DPEP- Directorate of Primary Education Program

GP- Gram Panchayat

IAY- Indira Awaaj Yojana

ITDA- Integrated Tribal Development Agency

MGNREGA- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

NSAP- National Social Assistance Programs

NHM- National Health Mission

NRLM- National Rural Livelihood Mission

PRD- Panchayat and Rural Development

PRI- Panchayati Raj Institution

PRA- Participatory Rural Appraisal

P.A.P- Poverty Alleviation Programs

PDS- Public Distribution System

SSA- Sarva Siksha Abhiyan

SGSY- Swarnajayanti Gramin Sworozgar Yojana

SGRY- Swampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana

ST- Schedule Tribe

CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

For centuries the rural poor have undergone a scarcity existence socially, politically and economically. The cultural deprivation of the poor, with no voice of their own, resulted in stagnation and perpetuation of their subjugation to the oppressive forces. It is an established fact that, reaching the poor families to help them to help themselves and drawing them to the mainstream of development is undoubtedly a most difficult task. Although there have been pockets of success, by action groups, voluntary agencies and committed individuals in helping and rushing the poorest towards a more decent and dignified life, a lot more is left to be achieved to fulfill our social responsibilities as their fellow beings. (Reddy, 1991)

Widespread poverty is an enduring problem and poverty alleviation has been a key component in development strategies over the past 50 years. During this period, however, the strategies and approaches to tackle the problems have changed. In 1950s and 1960s, efforts often involve investments in large scale physical infrastructure projects, while in the 1970s, the focus shifted to the development of human capital. During the 1980s, the emphasis move towards decentralized decision making, trade liberalization and economic reform. In more recent years, there has also been an increase focus on good governance. However inspite of some progress in addressing poverty the problem remains. Almost half the world's population currently lives on less than two dollars a day. In recent years, tackling such widespread poverty appears once more to have become a priority issue for many agencies. By Joseph Stiglitz of the World Bank in his Prebisch Lecture at the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1998. In this lecture, Stiglitz called for a major change in strategy that emphasizes development as a transformation of society. His proposal

focused on the need for cooperation among stockholders and for the development of appropriate institutional structures. The idea of social capital-comprised of both formal and informal institutions and interactions was a major component of his approach. In September 1999, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) adopted a new framework for achieving sustainable poverty reduction that requires nationally owned poverty reduction Strategies Contained in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) to serve as the basis for concessional lending and for debt relief within the highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiator. (www.iisd.ca/sd/poverty/sdvol46num1.html. Intervention to provide succor and relief to million ruling under poverty, particularly the disadvantages and marginalized social groups, such as Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes ,Other Backward Classes, women ,children ,the physically handicapped and the disabled. (<http://ssnr.org.com>,retereived on 21stoct, 2009).

Government of India has been launching various programs since independence with a shift in approach and change in the nature of planning for the all-round development of weaker section of the society in general and the tribal in particular. Inspite of sound theoretical frameworks, the scheme and projects under taken for the purpose failed in the objectives, realization, because of inter alia, vast diversities in resource and skills endowments, the hiatus between the perception of development by the planners and of the beneficiaries and bureaucratization.

So, in view of the above drawbacks, many programmes and projects at the same time providing scope for accommodating socio-cultural and regional variations.

There has been sustained effort through Government intervention to deal with the problems of poverty in India. During the five decades since independence, the country has made a significant stride in many areas. It is now a net exporter of food grains. There has been significant improvement on a range of human development indicators. There have been noticeable achievements of

Government intervention that the proportion of population below poverty line has been brought down.

Poverty Alleviation Programs is special programmes to provide income and employment to the people who otherwise would have been deprived of it in the absence of such programmes. At theoretical level these programmes provide greater scope for accommodating local variations in terms of resource endowments and socio- cultural set up. The process of implementation emphasis on the participatory role of the beneficiaries and follows decentralized planning process.

But cross sectional studies by individual's scholars and various institutions, report of different committees and commissions portray an unsatisfactory picture as regards to the objectives of realization of poverty alleviation programmes. Empirical evidences provide gloomy pictures as to the success of these programmes, especially in tribal areas, when the entire population of the community has been engaged in diverse field activities because of state sponsored development measures and when such activities have the prospects of greater earnings. Hence, the special programmes meant to initiate activities for raising the income level and improving the standards of living in families below poverty line are not taken seriously by the beneficiary families.

The tribal communities as the most underprivileged people are severely impacted by poverty and its manifestations, such as low levels of literacy and health care, hunger and malnutrition. They suffer social and political marginalization and remain vulnerable to exploitation. In order to redress this situation and to remove obstacles to their development, further amendments have recently been introduced in the Indian Constitution. This has created an enabling environment for promoting the interests of the tribal communities and for harnessing their untapped potential for overall social and economic development. Towards this end, action-oriented programs and projects are required which specifically address the constraints and opportunities for sustainable livelihood and empowerment of the tribal communities. The tribal

people have survived in their environments for centuries without huge amounts of money being spent on their development by governments or others, and over the years they have developed and refined valuable knowledge and problem-solving strategies not only concerning agriculture, farming systems, natural resources management and biodiversity, but also in the areas of health and education, and social organization and mobilization (e.g. by forming associations and groups for credit and savings, water use, home economics). Their knowledge and experiences need to be tapped more systematically, and blended accordingly with "modern" technical knowledge suitable to the context and environment in which the tribal people live and operate. Of the total population of the State, scheduled castes and schedule tribes constitute 12.42% and 6.9% respectively (as per the census report 2001). Historically, tribal communities were characterized by a lifestyle distinct from agrarian communities. They subsisted on different combinations of shifting cultivation, hunting and gathering of forest products, all activities linked with forest. Their cultures celebrated and fostered this close bond with nature while also emphasizing communal ownership and consumption; closely-knit kinship structures and minimal hierarchies. After Independence, the tribal's were accorded special rights and protection under Article 342 of the constitution with GOI's tribal development policy aiming to bringing the benefits of economic development without eroding their culture and identity.

Tribal communities are highly dependent on the natural resource base for their survival and their livelihood systems revolve around forests, agriculture, livestock and wage labor. The Contribution of these activities to the overall food basket varies depending upon the location of tribal settlement. The majority of agricultural production, however, is rain-fed, rudimentary and predominantly centered on rice cultivation. Depending on the location between 20% and 60% of food Requirements are met from their own production while the rest is met through food rations distributed by the Government and purchases from income generated through NTFPs and labor. Food shortfall is generally less in the village.

Agricultural wage earners, small and marginal farmers and casual workers engaged in non-agricultural activities constitute the bulk of the rural poor. Small land holdings and their low productivity are the cause of poverty among households dependent on land-based activities for their livelihood. Poor educational base and lack of other vocational skills also perpetuate poverty. Due to the poor physical and social capital base, a large proportion of the people are forced to seek employment in vocations with extremely low levels of productivity and wages. The creation of employment opportunities for the unskilled workforce has been a major challenge for development planners and administrators.

Poverty alleviation has been one of the guiding principles of the planning process in India. The role of economic growth in providing more employment avenues to the population has been clearly recognized. The growth-oriented approach has been reinforced by focusing on specific sectors which provide greater opportunities to the people to participate in the growth process. The various dimensions of poverty relating to health, education and other basic services have been progressively internalized in the planning process. Central and State Governments have considerably enhanced allocations for the provision of education, health, sanitation and other facilities which promote capacity-building in well-being of the poor. Investments in agriculture, area development programs and a forestation provide avenues for employment and income. Special programs have been taken up for the welfare of scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs), the disabled and other vulnerable groups. Antipoverty programs that seek to transfer assets and skills to people for self-employment, coupled with public works programs that enable people to cope with transient poverty, are the third strand of the larger anti-poverty strategy. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) protects the poor from the adverse effects of a rise in prices and ensures food and nutrition security at affordable prices.

To understand the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation programmes in a tribal community in terms of objectives of realizations, the present study is undertaken with Mising tribe as the case study. The Misings constitute one of the major tribes in Assam. They have their own means of appropriating natural resource to fulfill their material requirement and accordingly they have evolved their socio-cultural and economic institution before introduction of plans and programmes. With the introduction of developmental measures, economic diversification emerged in the community. Most of the families were in the process of adapting themselves to new developmental activities when another developmental package in the form of poverty alleviation programs was provided to supplement general development activities. The extent to which these programmes have been effective in objectives realization in Mising community is studied in this work.

1.2 Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India

Alleviation of poverty remains a major challenge before the Government. While there has been a steady decline in rural poverty over the last two decades, there were 244 million rural poor (37 per cent of the rural population) in the country in 1993-94, as per the latest available estimates. Acceleration of economic growth, with a focus on sectors which are employment-intensive, facilitates the removal of poverty in the long run. However, this strategy needs to be complemented with a focus laid on provision of basic services for improving the quality of life of the people and direct state intervention in the form of targeted anti-poverty programs. While growth will continue to be the prime mover, anti-poverty programs supplement the growth effort and protect the poor from destitution, sharp fluctuations in employment and incomes and social insecurity. The specifically designed anti-poverty programs for generation of both self-employment and wage-employment in rural areas have been redesigned and restructured in 1999-2000 in order to enhance their efficacy/impact on the poor and improve their sustainability. These schemes are briefly discussed below-

Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SYGSY)

The single self-employment program of Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), launched with effect from 1.4.1999, has been conceived keeping in view the strengths and weaknesses of the earlier schemes of Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) and Allied Programmes along with Million Wells Scheme (MWS). The Objective of restructuring was to make the program more effective in providing sustainable incomes through micro enterprises. The SGSY lays emphasis on the following:

- Focused approach to poverty alleviation.
- Capitalizing advantages of group lending.
- Overcoming the problems associated with multiplicity of program.

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

The NSAP was launched with effect from 15th August, 1995 as a 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme with the aim to provide social assistance benefit to poor households in the case of old age, death of primary breadwinner and maternity. This represents a significant step towards the fulfillment of the Directive Principles in Articles 41 & 42 of the Constitution. The programmes supplements the efforts of the State Governments with the objective of ensuring minimum national levels of well being and the Central assistance is an addition to the benefit that the states are already providing on social protection schemes or may provide in future. The provision of central assistance seeks to ensure that social protection to beneficiaries is uniformly available.

Rural Housing-Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)

In the Ninth Plan, the special action plan for social infrastructure has identified 'housing' as one of the priority areas. It aims at providing 'Housing for All' and facilitates construction of 20 lakh additional dwelling units, of which 13 lakh dwelling units are to be constructed in rural areas. The composite housing strategy for the Ninth Plan is a multipronged strategy which has been operationalized w.e.f. 1999-2000.

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been recast as the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with effect from 1.4.1999 to impart a thrust to creation of rural infrastructure. While the JRY resulted in creation of durable assets, the overriding priority of the program was the creation of wage employment. It was felt that a stage had come when rural infrastructure needed to be taken up in a planned manner and given priority. The Gram Panchayats can effectively determine their infrastructure needs and the responsibility of implementing the program has been entrusted to the Gram Panchayats. The funds are directly released to the Gram Panchayats by the DRDAs/Zilla Parishads. The JGSY is implemented as a CSS with funding in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States.

MGNREGA

It is the biggest poverty alleviation program in the world which is started with an initial outlay of Rs. 11,300 crore in year 2006-07 and now it is Rs. 40,000 crore (2010-11). This act is now called as Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The Act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household will to do public work related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage. Thus it is a universal programme. This minimum wage varies from state to state, in some states it is Rs. 80 whereas in other it is Rs. 125 or Rs. 120. According to the act the minimum wage cannot be less than Rs. 60. The 100 days of work figure was estimated because the agricultural season is only supposed to last roughly around 250 days and unskilled workers have no alternative source of income in the remaining parts of the year.

MGNREGA has come after almost 56 years of experience of other rural employment programs, which include both centrally sponsored schemes and those launched by state Govt. These comprise the National Rural Employment Program (NREP) 1980-89; Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Program (RLEGP) 1983-89; Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) 1989-1990; Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) 1993-99; Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)

1999-2002; Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana(SGRY) from 2001;National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) from 2004 were national rural employment schemes. Among these, the SGRY and NFFWP have been merged with NREGA in 2005.

1.3 Review of Related Literature

From a careful review and exploration of the related literature and research studies we can easily predict the importance of the present study. Works on tribal development by individual scholars and institutions are many and varied in nature. Some are general and high light on development and administration of tribal community in total perspective, while others relate to individuals tribes groups of a particular region or state. The research scholars have given those studies a deep thinking and has gained theoretical from their research findings.

J.S. Sodhi (1990) in his book entitled 'Poverty Alleviation Programs and Rural Development" comprehensively studies the functioning of integrated rural development programmes as one of the major policy instrument for achieving the objectives of development of rural poor. The case study has been able to capture the finer details of the implementation and impact of the programs. Along with the case study, the book also presents an exhaustive account of the functioning of IRDP in other parts of the country. The books also offered constructive suggestions for developing the rural poor.

Ramaiah (1998) dealt with some important and burning issues of tribal areas particularly in the process of planning and implementation of development programs for critical analysis. He has highlighted the life of the three major Tribes of the Andhra Pradesh namely Gonds of Adiabab, Koyas of Godavari and Chancus of Mahaboob nagar in detail. He has analyzed various protective legislations that were enacted over years. To quote him, 'Despite the above protective measures taken by the government from time to time, Tribal's are losing their hands." He comments that in spite of many measures to protect the tribal cultivators, exploitations continues. He concludes that successful

implementation of tribal development policies and a program depends upon two factors, namely incentive factor which propel the tribal economy and the response factors that indicate the directive of development.

Others works on rural development include the studies of Srivastava and George (1977), Reddy (1988), Bhadurai and Dubey (1998), Rao (1992), Iyer (1994) has analyzed policies relating to poverty alleviation programs in the context of developing countries.

NIRD (North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati) has conducted many cross sectional studies on rural development in North Eastern region. These are included in various edited volumes and in different publication of NIRD (NERC) works of Mishra (1984, 1985), Maithani et. Al (1985, 1986), Maithani (1993) are importance ones. These have dealt with evaluation and strategic aspects of poverty alleviation programs.

Anju Kohli, Farida Shah, A.P. Choudhary (1999), in their edited books of 'Sustainable development in tribal and backward areas" highlighted in sustainable development .It says sustainable development is a development process that not only generates economic growth but also distributes its benefits equitably, regenerates the environment rather than materialization.

The present study shall add to the exiting literature on the poverty alleviation programs. As the work was based on field study, it'll capture ground reality pertaining to issues of tribal development through poverty alleviation programmes. So the study will have policy implications. This essence of the research findings will facilitate our understanding of the various poverty alleviation programs, its working structure and its role in improving economic condition of the tribal people. It will fulfill the research gap in these areas and creates a comprehensive study circle for the research scholars as well as Government agencies keeping in pace with the growing importance of various poverty alleviation programs especially in tribal areas. The findings of this research will also help the government to undertake some effective plan and policies for the Mising tribe.

1.4 Objectives

The main objectives of the research study are-

- i. To examine the nature and process of implementation of the various Poverty Alleviation Programs implemented in the Mising villages.
- ii. To find out the nature and extend of participation of Mising households in various Poverty Alleviation Programs belonging to these villages.
- iii. To study the socio-economic conditions of the Mising people.
- iv. To suggest measures for development of the Mising people.

1.5 Research Methodology

Universe of the Study

The study was carried out in Lakhimpur District. However, the study area was confined to four villages namely Pohumora, Potabil, Nowboicha and Rangajan of Lakhimpur and Nowboicha block. Using purposive sampling method the study area was selected.

Sampling Procedure

For the selection of respondents two stages were followed. In the first stage purposive sampling method was adopted for the selection of the study area.

In the second stage, for selecting the sample respondents, random sampling method was adopted.

Sample Size

A sample of 400 household including male and female, P.A.P beneficiaries and non- beneficiaries, BPL and APL household were selected. 100 samples from each village 100 sample were selected for the study purpose.

Data Collection

Data was collected both from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected from all the household of the sample villages. Questionnaire survey with the different household engaged in P.A.P activity was organized.

For gathering quantitative data household survey was conducted using the schedules. The secondary data was collected from official records, policy documents, published reports of similar projects, journals and literature from social science discipliner.

Data Analysis

Both quantitative and qualitative data was analyzed in the backdrop of the project objectives. Quantitative data was tabulated and statistically analyzed using SPSS software. Qualitative data was interpreted based on the information collected from the field.

1.6 Chapterization

The first chapter deals with the introduction and literature review. It explains about the background of the study. It also discussed about the objective and methodology of the project. The second chapter deals with the methodology and study design of the project. It explains about the sample, approach and methodology. The third chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data. It includes various tables and figures also. Fourth chapter deals with the findings of the research project and the last chapter provides a brief summery and recommendations.

1.7 Description of the Study Area

Lakhimpur is an important eastern district of borderline of Assam. This region is mainly dependent upon agriculture and hefty amount of paddy cultivation is practiced here. Lakhimpur district occupied an area of 2,277 square km. Out of this 2,2,57 sq. km is covered by village area. This district lies on north bank of the mighty river Brahmaputra. This district has two sub-divisions: namely

Dhakuakhana and North Lakhimpur. The district is inhabited by Assamese belonging to Ahom, kalita, kochh castes. There is also significant population of Mising, khamti, Deuri, Sonowal kachari. Economy of Lakhimpur is mainly based on agriculture. Major crops are rice, tea, mustard, sugarcane etc. Small number of SSC and MSC industries is located in the district.

Total population of the district is 10, 42,137. Out of this 5, 29,674 are male population and number of female population are 5, 12,463 as per the census report of 2011. Total literacy rate of the district is 77.2%. Male literacy rates is 83.52% and female literacy rate is 70.67% (Census report 2011). Whole district is divided into 9 block namely Lakhimpur, Nowboicha, Telahi, Dhkuakhana, Ghilamora, Korunabari, Bihpuria, Boginadi and Narayanpur. Total numbers of village are 1,1,85, total numbers of Gaon Panchayat are 81, Number of Zila Parishad is one, and numbers of Anchalik Panchayat are 9. Half of the population of this district consists of tribal population. Mising are the major tribe of this District. Total Mising population of the district is 680,424.

The present study is conducted on the Mising tribe as the Misings are one of the major tribes living in this district. The Mising are originally hill tribes in the North Agency presently in Arunachal Pradesh. They are the only hill people who chose to come to the plains and settle, not to go back again. Hence, they gradually percolated and spread over the Northern Bank of Brahmaputra up to Jia Bhorali on the west and the Majuli Island. The Mising Community inhabits the villages. The majority of the people are engaged in agriculture, as agriculture is the principal means to support their families. The villages are situated on the river bank. So havoc brought upon flood is sometimes immeasurable. It affects the economic system too. In this situation, the Mising people have to face many problems. Poverty Alleviation Programs can be the major remedies for the improvement of their economic conditions. But there is a lack of awareness among the people about such plan and programs. As a result majority of the people are not benefited from all that programs. The Mising population is among the poorest, most vulnerable and exploited groups in the district. The Mising tribe economy in the state is primarily subsistence oriented

and based upon a combination of agriculture, forestry and wage labor. In tribal dominated areas, erratic rainfall and high risk of flood have resulted in food insecurity, increasing migration, periodic deaths and starvation. A small land base, low agricultural productivity and low-income levels led to rising indebtedness, trapping Mising tribes into a vicious circle of exploitation.

The present study is undertaken in Lakhimpur and Nowboisa Block of the Lakhimpur district. These two Blocks is selected because majority of the tribal population of these villages are inhabits by the Mising population. Four villages were selected from each block namely Pohumora and Putabil village under Nowboicha development block and Shantipur Mising Gaon and Rangajan village under Lakhimpur development block. These four villages were selected because majority of the tribal population of these villages are inhabits by the Mising population.

Several development programs have been undertaken for development of the tribes to reduce the critical gaps in the field of health, education, agriculture, horticulture, skill up gradation and rural connectivity at par with the developed areas of the State. Poverty alleviation programs has focused on empowering the tribal's and enabling them to enhance their food security, increase their incomes and improve their overall quality of life through more efficient natural resource management based on the principles of improved watershed management, more productive environmentally sound agricultural practices, and through off-farm/non-farm enterprise development. The sustainable livelihood approach needs to be people-centered, holistic, and dynamic and built on strength and assets with sustainability. Keeping all these in view the current study has been undertaken in two blocks of Lakhimpur districts basically to analyze the livelihood opportunities, constraints, natural resource base and vulnerability basing on which the possible livelihood strategy has been developed. While doing so care has been taken to consider all the lessons learned from previous studies so as to provide various options for livelihood enhancement of the tribal community on a sustainable basis. Government is implementing various poverty alleviation and rural employment schemes

through PR department and ITDA in the tribal areas. The schemes like NSAP (national social assistance programs), IAY (Indira Awaaj yojna), MGNREGA, and other schemes like SSA, NRHM etc. have become beneficial for the poor people, but transparency and accountability still needs improvement.

1.8 Definition of the term Used

While doing study it will reflect upon the various aspects of P.A.P and livelihood. It will develop a link among various factors like peoples' need, social and economic aspects. The concepts which are used in study are defined bellow-

Poverty Alleviation Programmes- Poverty reduction (or poverty alleviation) is any process which seeks to reduce the level of poverty in a community, or countries .Poverty reduction programs may be aimed at economic or non-economic poverty. Some of the popular methods used are educational, economic development and income redistribution. Poverty reduction efforts may also be aimed at removing social and legal barriers to income growth among the people.

Economic Condition- Economic condition referred the financial condition of the family, their occupation, income etc. In this study the following indicators were selected to indicates the economic condition of the families –

1. Monthly income of the family
2. Their occupation
3. Land hold

Social Condition- The dictionary meaning of social condition refers to the living condition of the people in a community, society or its organization. In this study the following indicators were selected to indicates the social condition-

1. Position hold by the family member in the society
2. Educational qualification
3. Home infrastructure
4. Participation of social activities.

Household- Means the member of a family related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption and normally residing together and sharing meals or holding a common ration card.

Livelihood- According to Carney (1998), "It is comprised of capacities, assets and activities required for means of livelihood.'

CHAPTER-2

METHODOLOGY AND STUDY DESIGN

2.1 Study Area

The field investigation was carried out in two development blocks of Lakhimpur district, with tribal concentration in four villages, namely Pohumora, Potabil, Rangajan and Shantipur. Distribution of study area are shown below-

Name of the Block	Name of the village
Lakhimpur Development Block	Rangajan and Shantipur Mising village
Nowboicha Development Block	Pohumora and Potabil Mising village.

2.2 Approach

The study focused on the current livelihood analysis of the tribal communities with reference to natural resources available in the area, constraints, opportunities, various poverty alleviation programmes implemented by different govt. agencies on the basis of which a sustainable livelihood strategy was developed. The study was undertaken in the project area as per requirements of Terms of References (TOR). An initial social assessment was conducted to identify the focus groups representing indigenous and tribal people, women, as well as other major stakeholders in the selected villages. Social analysis described the problems, needs, demands, absorptive capacity, skills, and participation in agriculture activities, income and poverty alleviating programmes of the groups.

2.3 Study Design

Considering the objectives of the study, geographical spread of the area and time available, an in-depth and non-experimental social research design was adopted with mix of census and sample survey approach with sufficient scope for structured interviews. The study was exhaustive and based on extensive

fieldwork. Surveys of purposely sampled representative villages as well as household surveys were conducted using a questionnaire and focus group discussions. A structured questionnaire was used and to avoid the possibility of omission of necessary information on different variables from same respondents. The questionnaire were close-ended with limited number of response in order to use coding to facilitate data processing, besides saving considerable time of interview and analyses. The Social Impact Assessment was meticulously designed to assemble information that seemed important to meet the major objectives of the project.

2.4 Sampling

Two development blocks covered by the project formed the “universe of the study”. For the study purpose two villages from the area of each block were selected. While selecting the villages the broad criteria like tribal population specially the Mising tribe, villages with predominance of cultivation and accessible villages at least well communicated by Panchayat road within proximity to market and other infrastructures were considered. Samples of 400 households, 100 households from each village were selected. Stratification of households was made by the villagers developing their own method satisfying the population to capture the information on dependence of cultivation and other form of off-farm/ non-farm activities.

2.5 Methodology

Both qualitative and quantitative investigation methods were used to assess an array of factors as per terms of reference. The study used multi-pronged strategy to collect primary information by using techniques like questionnaire method, focused group discussion, livelihoods analysis, trend analysis and semi-structured interviews. Household survey was undertaken using a structured questionnaire. Secondary data were collected from different reports, annual reports, and published journals etc. Stakeholder interview was conducted by consulting PRI representatives, local officials, NGOs, and project

staff to obtain their views. The relevant inputs for this study were gathered from the ST and SC development department. Land use data, census data and various relevant data related to village were collected from the department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Block development office and other line departments for capturing background information on the socio-economic condition of the project block. Primary data collection using structured questionnaire format for household survey and focus group discussions with big farmers, medium farmers, small and marginal farmers, women cultivators, landless and vulnerable was done in all blocks in sample villages. The responses of the interviewee were recorded by the researcher. Enumeration of socio-economic, demographical profile, level of poverty in the region, consumption patterns of households etc. was done using the structured questionnaire. An analysis of demographic, poverty, land resources, and institutional profiles was made including the changes in population, sex ratio, literacy rate, composition of classified workers, land ownership, operational holdings, etc. in the region.

Focus was given on:

- Building a livelihood profile of each of the household.
- Identifying issues and characteristics of poverty in these villages and identifying and profiling the vulnerable groups;
- Identify institutional, social and economic constraints towards poverty alleviation;
- Assess the status of agriculture and animal husbandry in the region.
- Review the experiences of current programs and institutions designed to improve agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and other livelihoods through on-farm and off-farm incomes;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the existing programs; and
- Consumption patterns of households, expenditure and affordability etc.

Primary data was analyzed and crosschecked with the secondary data. After the data (both primary and secondary) were interpreted, the draft report was prepared.

2.6 Limitations of the Study

The study did not cover certain aspects of the livelihoods of the tribal households due to constraints of time and human resources. Especially the non-economic aspects of the livelihoods such as the aspirations, concerns, their world of experience, perceptions about a secure and sustainable livelihood, coping mechanisms in the times of stress and shocks could not be included in this study. Qualitative research methods are appropriate to cover these aspects of life. However, the researchers were overburdened with the field-level responsibilities of motivating and monitoring the data recorders. This effectively reduced the time availability, which could have been utilized for collecting the qualitative data.

CHAPTER-3

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA EXTRACTED FROM FIELD SURVEY

3.1 Demographic Profile of the Sample Villages

The demographic profile of the sample villages is shown in Table no-3.1. It has been noticed that the male population is more than the female population in the sample villages. Total male population is 51.11% and female population is 48.88%. Literacy rate of the sample villages are significantly found very well. All the children are enrolled in the schools by the process of SSA. Nearly 88.51% male populations were found to be literate and 81.8% female populations were found literate.

Table-3.1 Age-wise distribution of population in the surveyed villages

Age group	Total population	Male	Female	Literacy rate	
				M	F
0-6	3,000	15,00	15,00	15,00	15,00
7-14	4000	22,00	18,00	22,00	18,00
15-35	45,00	2,000	25,00	2,000	25,00
36-50	3,000	15,00	15,00	1000	800
50 above	35,00	2,000	15,00	1000	1000
Total	18,000	9,200 (51.11%)	8,800 (48.88%)	7,700 (88.51%)	7,600 (81.8%)

Source: Field Survey

3.2 LIVING CONDITION

3.2.1 Type of Dwelling House

All the surveyed villages were Mising villages, so chang ghar is very common in all the villages. Most of the people used to live in a chang ghar which is a traditional Mising house. Nearly 14% people are living in a Pucca Assam type house. There was not a single pucca Assam type house and kutcha Assam type house in a sample surveyed household in one village i.e. Potabil village. 40% houses are chang ghar and percentages of thatched roofed bamboo made houses are nearly 28%. Out of these four villages no. of pucca Assam type house is more in Pohumora and Rangajan village(30% and 20%) and no. of

Kutchha Assam type house is more in Pohumora and Shantipur Mising villages (40% and 30%). Percentage distribution of sample households as per type of dwelling house in the surveyed areas are shown in table no 3.2-

Table 3.2 Percentage Distribution of Sample Households as per Type of Dwelling House

Sl. No.	Type of House	Potabil	Pohumora	Rangajan	Shantipur
1	Pucca Assam Type House	0(0%)	30(30%)	20(20%)	5(5%)
2	Kutchha Assam Type House	0(0%)	40(40%)	10(10%)	30(30%)
3	Thatched Roofed Bamboo made House	55(55%)	10(10%)	20(20%)	25(25%)
4	No. of Chang Ghar	45(45%)	20(20%)	60(60%)	40(40%)

Source: Field Survey

3.2.2 Source of Drinking Water

Of all the four surveyed villages 100% drinking water is available in all the villages and in nearly 4% cases people are using stream and river water for drinking. There are no provisions for rain water harvesting in all the sample villages. Nearly 12% people are using tank and pond water and 45% people are using Tube well for drinking water. Govt. has made provision for safe dirking water in almost all the tribal villages but some of those are already defunct. Different source of drinking water in sample villages shown in the table no 3.3-

Table 3.3 Source of Drinking Water in Sample Villages

Sources	Total use
Rain water	0(0%)
Tank/ pond	45(11.25%)
Stream water/river	15(3.75%)
Well	160(40%)
Water supply scheme	0(0%)
Tube well	180(45%)

Source: Household Survey

3.2.3 Access to Consumer Durables

All the surveyed villages are 100% electrified under village electrification scheme. Solar electrification is also available in the surveyed villages. Of the four villages use of household electrification is more in Pohumora village (80%) followed by Rangajan (70%). The only electrical appliance use by the villagers is T.V. Most common two wheeler used by the villagers is bicycle. Now a day's radio is not so popular among the villagers. Motor cycles are most popular modern vehicle in the villages. The uses of motor cycles are more in Pohumora village and bicycle are more in Rangajan village. Use of consumer durables is better in Pohumora village than other villages. Availability of Consumer Durables of the sample villages shown in the table no 3.4-

Table 3.4 Availability of Consumer Durables (% Household)

Consumer Durables	Pohumora	Potabil	Shantipur	Rangajan
Electricity	80.0	55	65	70
Motor cycle	65.0	40	30	55
radio	10.0	20	5	15
T.V.	60.0	20	30	50
Bicycle	70.	85	80	85

Source: Field Survey

3.3 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

With the pace of development all the four villages have been connected by either *pucca* or *katcha* road. The villages having accessibility to market were well communicated. Among the villages, communication is relatively underdeveloped in Potabil village of Nowboicha development block and it is better in Pohumora and Rangajan than other two villages. All villages has 1km of accessible foot track, 2-3 km of *katcha* all weathered motor able road and 2-1 km of accessible graveled road from the main road. Communication Link to Sample Villages shown in the table 3.5-

Table 3.5 Communication Link to Sample Villages
(Distance Measured from Main Road)

Name of the Villages	Foot Track	Katcha all-Weather Motorable Road	Graveled Road
Pohumora	1km	2km	2km
Potabil	1.5 km	3km	1km
Rangajan	1km	2.5km	2km
shantipur	1km	2km	2km

Source - GP office.

3.4 EDUCATIONAL STATUS

For the study purpose the qualification of the education are divided in five categories below H.S.L.C, below H.S., Below Graduate, Graduate and illiterate. The study indicates that 22.55% people are below H.S.L.C, 33.75% people are below H.S., 19.5% people are below Graduate, 15.5% people are Graduate and 8.75% people are illiterate. Among these 6.25% male are below H.S.L.C, 17.5% male are below H.S., 10% are below Graduate, 13.75% male are Graduate and illiteracy rate is 2.5%. Among the women 16.25% are below H.S.L.C and below H.S., 9.5% are below Graduate, only 1.75% women are Graduate and illiteracy rate among women is 6.25% which is higher than male illiteracy rate. Women literacy rate is lower than male literacy rate. There is not a single graduate woman in Potabil village. Village wise Educational Status of Male and Female Head of the Sample Households shown in the table 3.6, table 3.7, table 3.8 and table 3.9-

Table 3.6 Educational Status of Male and Female Head of the Sample Households (%) in Potabil Village

Educational Qualification of household	Below H.S.L.C.	Below H.S.	Below Graduate	Graduate	Illiterate
Male	10	20	10	5	5
Female	20	10	10	0	10
Total	30	30	20	5	15

Table 3.7 Educational Status of Male and Female Head of the Sample Households (%) in Pohumora Village

Educational Qualification of household	Below H.S.L.C.	Below H.S.	Below Graduate	Graduate	Illiterate
Male	5	10	10	20	5
Female	10	20	10	5	5
Total	15	30	20	25	10

Table 3.8 Educational Status of Male and Female Head of the Sample Households (%) in Rangajan village

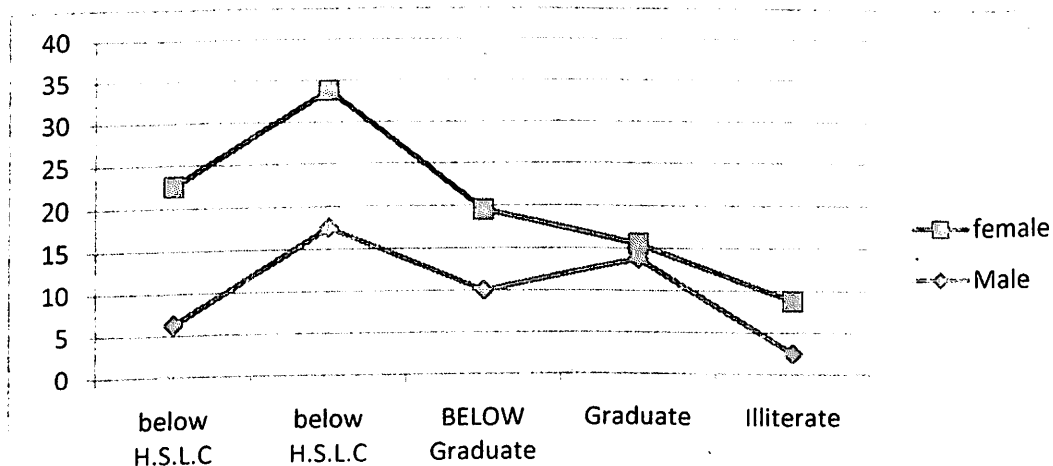
Educational Qualification of household	Below H.S.L.C	Below H.S.	Below Graduate	Graduate	Illiterate
Male	5	15	10	20	0
Female	15	20	8	2	5
Total	20	35	18	22	5

Table 3.9 Educational Status of Male and Female Head of the Sample Households (%) Shantipur village

Educational Qualification of household	Below H.S.L.C.	Below H.S.	Below Graduate	Graduate	Illiterate
Male	5	25	10	10	0
Female	20	15	10	0	5
Total	25	40	20	10	5

Source: Field Survey

Fig.3.1 Male and Female Literacy Rate



3.5 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE SAMPLE VILLAGES

Total no. of primary school in the villages is 13, which was more in Pohumora village i.e. four primary schools. Every village had one middle school, no. of high school was four, out of this three villages had high school, and in another one village namely Shantipur village had no high school within the village area. No. of H.S. school and colleges are four but there no colleges in the any one of the villages. Colleges are located within the distance of 3k.m. Total no. of Anganwadi centre is 9, which is high in the villages of Pohumora and Potabil. Educational Institution of the sample Villages shown in the table 3.10-

Table3.10 Educational Institution of the sample Villages

Name of the Villages	No. of Primary School	No. of Middle School	No. of High School	No. of H.S. School	Colleges	Anganwadi Centre
Pohumora	4	1	1	1	1(3KM)	3
Potabil	3	1	1	1	1(3KM)	3
Rangajan	3	1	1	1(2.50KM)	1(3KM)	2
Shantipur	3	1	1(2km)	1(1KM)	1(3KM)	1
Total	13	4	4	4	4	9

Source: GP Office

3.6 PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Of the 400 surveyed houses hold 12.5% male are holding different position in the society and percentage of female is only 3.25%. Male participation in the different social activities is more in Shantipur village followed by Pohumora village. It is also noticeable that there is not a single position holder woman in the Shantipur village. Data shows in table no. 3.11-

Table3.11 Village Wise Percentage of Male and Female Position Holder in the sample villages-

Name of the Village	Male	Female
Putabil	10(10%)	5(5%)
Pohumora	12(12%)	2(2%)
Rangajan	10(10%)	3(3%)
Shantipur	18(18%)	0(0%)
Total	12.5%	3.25%

Source: Field Survey

3.7 OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN, SIZE OF LAND HOLDING AND MONTHLY INCOME OF THE HOUSEHOLDS

For the current study purpose the occupation of the surveyed villages has been divided in to two major categories i.e. Traditional and Non- traditional. Under the traditional occupations Cultivation, poultry farming and animal husbandry, weaving and fishery were found. Among these, cultivation is the most common occupation among the villagers. Other occupations i.e. Govt. services, self-employed, private sector workers and daily wage workers are come under Non-Traditional Occupation. Transformation of occupation was also noticed in the sample villages during surveyed period. As all the sample villages are Tribal villages and traditional occupations are very popular among the Mising people. It has been noticed now a day's villagers are also engaged in various non-traditional occupations. Most of the educated youth are engaging themselves in private sector work and self employed business also. It is the effect of education and growth of various SHG that youth engaging themselves in various activities other than traditional occupations. Occupations are shown in table 3.12-

Table no 3.12 Major occupations of the sample villages

Traditional	Non- Traditional
Cultivation	Govt. Job
Animal Husbandry	Private sector Job

Poultry Farming	Daily Wage Work
Weaving	Self employed
Fishery	---

Source: Field Survey

3.7.1 Occupational Pattern and No. of Families

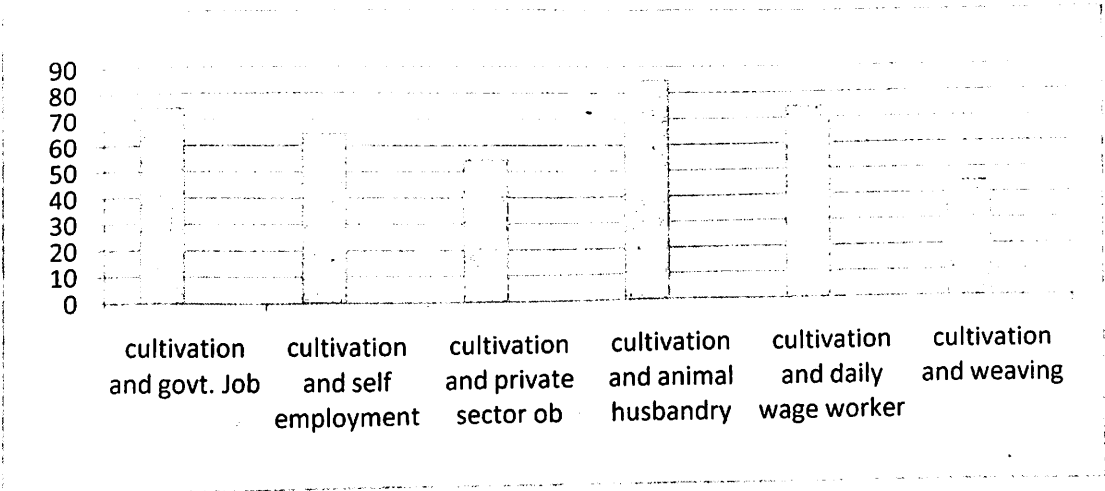
Basing on the natural resource base as well as human, physical and financial capital, the livelihood of different household has been different. Of the entire four sample villages the major livelihoods have been agriculture, wage labour and animal husbandry with the limited options for petty business and service. Cultivation and animal husbandry is the major source of livelihood where 21.25% household involved in these two occupations followed by Govt. job and daily wage worker where 18.25% household are engaged in these occupation. Occupation wise no. of families are shown below table no 3.13-

Table no 3.13 Occupation wise distribution of households

Occupation	No. of families
Cultivation and Govt. job	75 (18.75%)
Cultivation and self employed	65 (16.25%)
Cultivation and Private sector job	55 (13.75%)
Cultivation and animal husbandry	85 (21.25%)
Cultivation and Daily wage work	75 (18.75%)
Cultivation and weaving	45 (11.25%)

Source: Household survey

Fig no 3.2 Occupation wise distribution of households



3.7.2 Size of Land holding

Land is the major determinant of the assets status of the household and the strategic factor for determining livelihood. The current study indicates that 27.5% of sample households have more than 5 acre of agricultural land. Around 27.5 % households possess less than 5 acre of land, 21.5% households possess more than 15 acre of land and 23.5% households possesses more than 10 acre of agricultural land in the sample villages. The size of land holding is shown in the table no 3.14.-

Table No-3.14 Percentage Distribution of Sample Households as per size of Land Holding

Size of Land	No. of households
Less than 5 acre	110 (27.5 %)
More than 5 acre	110 (27.5%)
More than 10 acre	94 (23.5%)
More than 15 acre	86 (21.5%)

Source: Household Survey

3.7.3 Income Range of the Household

For the study purpose income range of the household were divided in to five categories. The current study indicates that 23.75% households' income is less than 10,000. Highest income range is 25,000 to 35,000 and 16.25% to 18.75% households have these income ranges. The income range and no of families are shown below table no 3.15-

Table no 3.15- Income range and no of household

Income Range	No. of household
Less than 10,000	95 (23.75%)
More than 15,000	85 (21.25%)
Less than 25,000	80 (20%)
More than 25,000	65 (16.25%)
Less than 35,000	75 (18.75%)

Source: GP Office

3.8 HEALTH FACILITIES

Among the four villages only one village has Govt. dispensary i.e. Pohumora village. Every village has one health sub-center, out of four villages three villages namely Pohumora, and Rangajan village have private pharmacy and there is no any private clinic in any one of the village. Data shown in table 3.16-

Table3.16 Health Facilities of the Sample Villages

Name of the Village	Sub-Center	Govt. Dispensary	Private Pharmacy	Private Clinic
Pohumora	1	1	1	0
Potabil	1	0	0	0
Rangajan	1	0	1	0
Shantipur	1	0	0	0

Source: GP office

3.9 BANKING AND OTHER CIVIC FACILITIES

Banking and postal services are not available in the surveyed villages. The distance of post office and Bank from the villages is 2-4km. All the villages have weekly market within the accessible distance. Only two villages have book stall i.e. Pohumora and Rangajan village. No such book stall has been noticed in other two surveyed villages i.e. Potabil and Shantipur village. Data shown in table 3.17-

Table3.17 Banking and other Facilities (Distance from Village)

Village	Post Office	Bank	Weekly Market	Book Stall
Pohumora	2km	3km	1(within village)	1(within village)
Potabil	3km	4km	1(within village)	0
Rangajan		2km	1(within village)	1(within village)
Shantipur	3km	3km	1(within village)	0

Source: GP office.

3.10 WAGE EMPLOYMENT

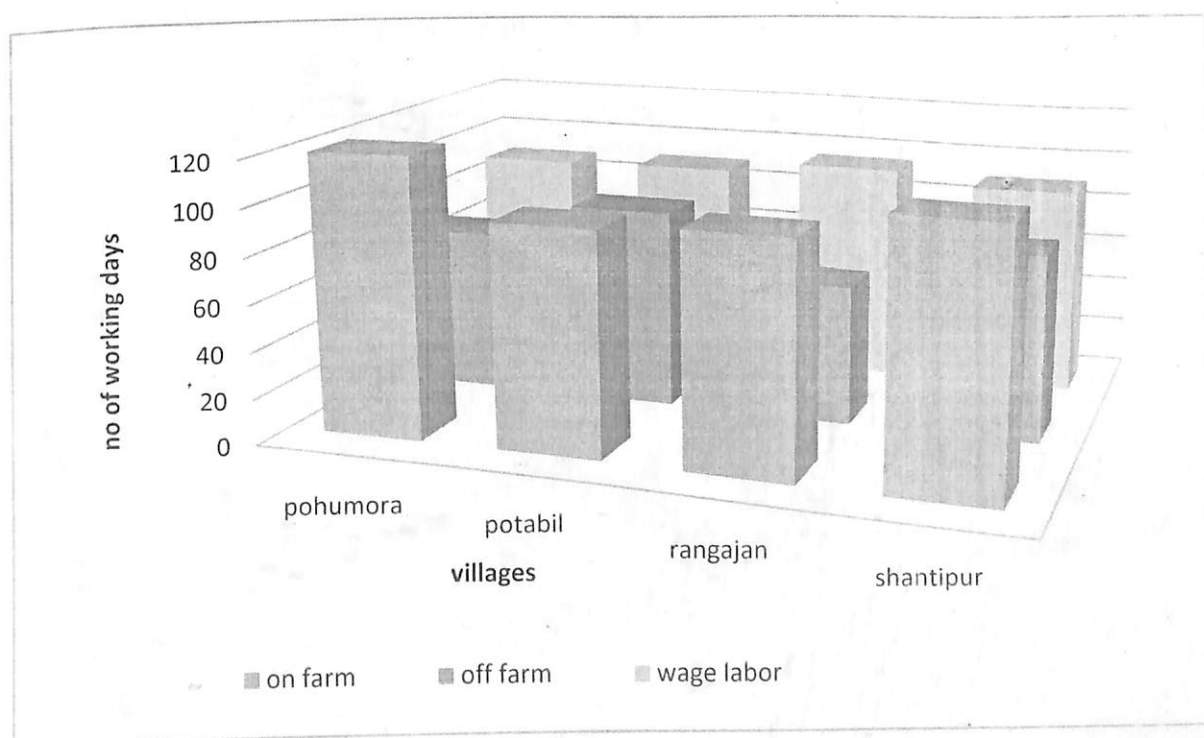
Agriculture provides engagement of 105 days in a year to household whereas wage labor provides 91 days of work engagement, which has been possible after implementation of MGNREGA. Off farm activities like forest activities, self-employment etc provides 73 days of part time engagement. The household surveyed of sample villages reported 298 days of engagement (both part time and full time) as displayed in the table. Average Period of Engagement in the sample villages are shown in table 3.18-

Table 3.18 Average Period of Engagement

Village	On Farm Activity	Off Farm Activity	Wage Employment	Total
Pohumora	120	70	89	302
Potabil	95	85	90	300
Shantipur	98	60	95	288
Rangajan	110	80	90	305
Average	105.75	73.75	91	298.75

Source: Field Survey

Fig 3.3 Average Periods of Working Days



3.11 MIGRATION

Detailed study on migration was beyond the scope of study. However related data on migration in the context of better income and unemployment was collected from the villagers and sample household. It was revealed from the study that low income and unemployment were the driving forces for such migration in the villages. The details of findings are displayed in the table 3.19-

Table3.19 Period of Migration and Causes-

Villages	House Hold Reporting of Migration	Reasons of Migration		Period of Migration	
		Better Income	Employment	1month	Up to 2-3month
Pohumora	30%	20%	10%	20%	10%
Potabil	45%	25%	20%	30%	15%
Rangajan	40%	15%	25%	35%	5%
shantipur	35%	20%	15%	25%	10%

Source: field survey

Fig 3.4 Total no. of Migration

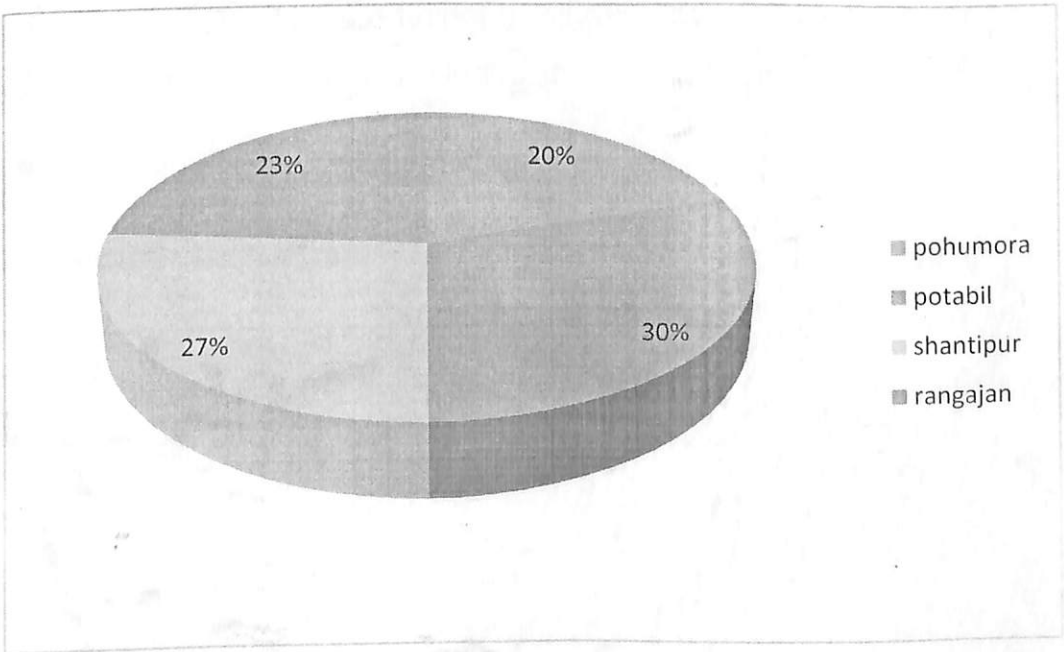
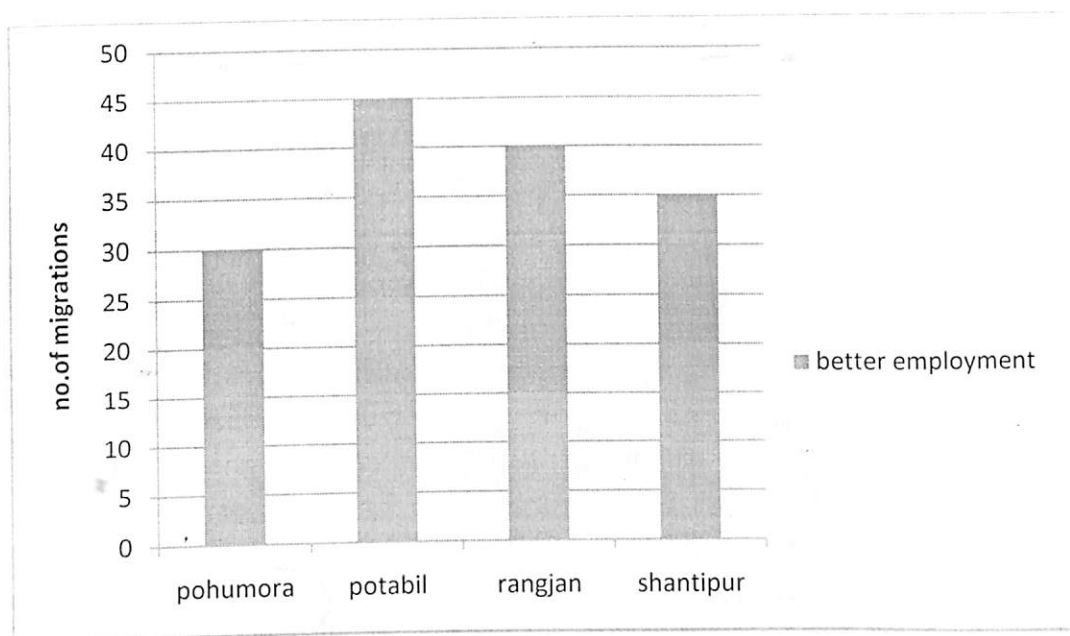


Fig 3.5 Reasons of Migration



3.12 BPL FAMILIES AND P.A.P BENEFICIARIES

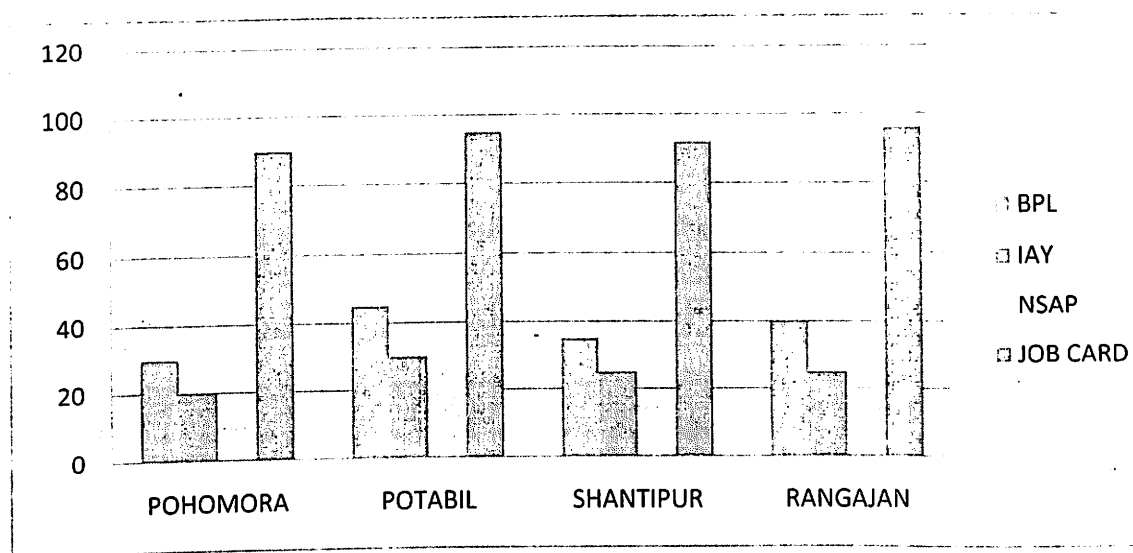
Total no of BPL families in all the surveyed villages are 37.5%. Among the villages no. of BPL families is more in Potabil village i.e. 45%. Government has provided different P.A.P in all the surveyed villages. Total no. of IAY beneficiaries' household in the surveyed villages is 25%, no. of NSAP beneficiaries are 17.5%. Almost all the household are registered their name under MGNREGA. Total job card holder in all the surveyed villages is 93.25%. Data of P.A.P beneficiaries sample villages shown in table 3.20-

Table3.20 P.A.P beneficiaries sample villages

Villages	BPL Families	IAY Beneficiaries	NSAP Beneficiaries	Job card Holder
Pohumora	30	20	10	90
Potabil	45	30	25	95
Shantipur	35	25	15	92
Rangajan	40	25	20	96
Total	37.5	25	17.5	93.25

Source: GP surveys

Fig 3.6 No. of BPL Families and P.A.P Beneficiaries



3.13 POVERTY ALLEVIATIONS PROGRAMMES IN THE VILLAGES

Major Poverty Alleviation Programmes in all the surveyed villages are MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), IAY (Indira Awas Yojna), SSA (Sarba Siksha Abhiyan), NRHM (National Rural Health Mission), Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan and NSAP (National Social Assistance Program). NSAP includes four various programs. Indira Gandhi National Old Age pension scheme, Indira Gandhi national widow pension scheme, National physically handicapped pension scheme, National family benefits scheme and Annapurna. All the programs are implemented by the PRI through the respective line department. Data shown in the table 3.21-

Table 3.21 Major Poverty Alleviations Program in the villages-

P.A.P	Types	Implementing Agencies
MGNREGA	Employment Guarantee Act	P and RD
IAY	Rural Housing	P and RD
NSAP	Social Assistance Programs	P and RD
SSA	Education	State Education Dept.

NHM	Health Programme	Health Department
Nirmal Bharot Abhiyan	Rural Sanitation	Public Health
Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification	Rural Electrification	State Electricity Department
NRLM	Rural livelihood Programme	P and RD

Source: GP Office

3.14 IMPACT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

Though Govt. has implemented various poverty alleviation programs in the villages but during the survey time it was revealed that most of the village households were not satisfied with these programs. Household opinion has been also taken for the study purpose, which is shown in the following tables. Out of 400 hundred sample household 50% households said that these poverty alleviation programs neither improve their standard of living nor increase their income level. Table 3.22 shown the household Opinion on P.A.P (%).

Table3.22 household Opinion on P.A.P (%)

Improve Standard of Living	30%
Increase Income	20%
None of these	50%

3.15 IMPORTNACE OF POVERTY ALLEVITON PROGRAMMES

Most of people in the sample household had not denied the importance of poverty alleviations programs in their village, 60% households believed that these programs are quite important. Rest of the households thought that it is very important. Data shown in the table 3.23-

Table 3.23 Importance of P.A.P (%)

Very Important	40%
Quite Important	60%
Not Important	0%

3.16 HOUSEHOLD LEVEL OF SATISFACTION ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

45% households in the surveyed village were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the poverty alleviations programs. Overall 20% people were dissatisfied with the all these programs.

Table 3.24 Households Response on P.A.P (%)

Satisfied	35%
Dissatisfied	20%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	45%

3.17 POVERTY AND P.A.P

Though Govt. has implementing various poverty alleviations programs in the villages but majority of the people thought that these programs unable to reduce poverty. Households opinions is shown in the table no 3.25

Table 3.25 Households Response of Effect of P.A.P on Poverty (%)

Decrease	35%
Increase	25%
Same	40%

3.18 UNEMPLOYMENT AND P.A.P

It has been observed that 50% of households believed that P.A.P couldn't reduce unemployment problem in their villages and remaining household

believe that after implementation of P.A.P can be able to reduce unemployment to some extend in their village. Data Shown in table 3.26

Table 3.26 Households response on P.A.P and its effect on unemployment (%)

Decrease	50%
Same as Before	50%

The investigator also tried to find out the households response on various P.A.P and it was clearly found that majority of the household wants an income and employment generated P.A.P. In their villages.30% household support housing programs and the respond for transportation, education and health and sanitations are same. Data shown in table no 3.27-

Table no 3.27 Importance of P.A.P (%)

Poverty Alleviations Programs	Household Response
Transportations	10%
Housing	30%
Education	10%
Health and Sanitation	10%
Income and Employment Support	40%

3.19 P.A .P AND TRIBAL LIVELIHOODS

The data from the field reflected that there is little impact of P.A.P on tribal livelihoods. By comparing the annual income of beneficiaries before P.A.P and after P.A.P, it is found that there is increase of 28.52% in income of the beneficiaries. Like that there is increase of 47.42% in expenditure of the beneficiaries. Before the implementation of P.A.P the villagers were generally spending 64.24% from their income while after the implementation of these schemes they are spending 73.69% of their income. The data shows that due to change in income there is also change in expenditure. Generally the expenditure of villagers was more on food items. Around 45.13% of their expenditure used to go to food. But after the implementation of this scheme the

expenditure on food items gradually shifted to non-food items which include both luxuries and necessity items. For this the expenditure on food items is gradually decreasing (59.29%) and on non-food items is increasing. This reflects that there is some impact on tribal livelihoods but this impact is considered as very little. Source Wise Annual Household Expenditure Before and After P.A.P is shown in the table no 3.28-

Table3.28 Source Wise Annual Household Expenditure Before and After P.A.P

Source of Expenditure	Before P.A.P	After P.A.P
Food	45.13%	59.29%
Clothing	6.68%	8.28%
Health	3.46%	3.57%
Cooking fuel	0.89%	1.24%
education	0.9%	1.2%
Transport	2.14%	2.63%
Social/religious function	2.95%	3.55%
Alcohol	1.91%	2.19%
Electricity bill	0.96%	1.83%
Household assets	1.38%	2.04%
Recreation	0.27%	0.41%
Maintenance of House	4.52%	7.01%

Source: GP office and Field survey.

3.20 FINDINGS FROM FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

To understand about the impact of P.A.P, focus group discussion has been done. Focus group mainly included the women, BPL families, job card holders, daily wage workers as well as major stockholders in the sample villages. From the focus group discussion mix response has been found regarding impact of P.A.P. It was also found from the focus group discussion that, those peoples who are involved in Panachayati Raj, has been given a positive opinion regarding P.A.P. Among the four villages positive response is highest in Pohumora village. As per the household and different stockholders opinion of Pohumora village, P.A.P is a very effective program for reducing poverty, providing employment and assets creation of the village. More negative response was found in Potabill village. During the focus group discussion, it was found that peoples of this village are not satisfied with the P.A.P. As per their

opinion these programs are not effective for reducing poverty in their villages. Villagers are not satisfied with the stockholders also. Mix response has been received from Shantipur and Rangajan villages. As per the opinion of the focus group of these two villages, though P.A.P is effective in providing employment within the villages, but that is not enough to reducing poverty in the villages. These programs are not able to reduce the work migration. Women participations on different P.A.P are also not satisfactory.

CHAPTER-4

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

4.1 Regarding Infrastructure of Villages

- A good house is an indicator of the economic and social status of the people. Majority of the household used to live in a chang ghar. The study indicates that only 14% of sample households have pucca Assam type houses in all the surveyed villages. There is no pucca house in Potabil village. Percentages of pucca houses are more in Rangajan and Pohumora villages. There has been a lot of improvement in the housing structure of tribes owing to the direct support from government-sponsored projects. It does not mean, however, that there is an all-round progress in the construction of houses for tribes. The house conditions of the Pohumora and Rangajan villages are better than Potabil and Shantipur village. As expected majority of the households rely on open latrines. Modern types of toilets seldom found in tribal houses.
- Drinking water is available in all the surveyed villages. Tube well is the major source of drinking water. Government has made provisions for safe drinking water in all the surveyed villages but most of them are defunct. The livestock usually depends on streams, rivers and ponds for drinking and bathing. In absence of toilets almost all villagers take their bath in ponds and streams and even near the tube wells. Village drains are not available in most of the villages. Due to lack of consciousness the platform of the tube wells are used for washing cloths and utensils making it unhygienic.
- Although the surveyed villages are electrified by Govt. electrification system or the Rajiv Gandhi Rural electrifications programmes but most of the people are not aware of using electricity. During focused group

discussion with the villagers the role of PRI is not so satisfactory on creating awareness among the people. Most of the villagers are unknown about the applying procedure of electricity connection in their houses and this is the major reasons that most of the households in Potabil and Shantipur villages has not been electrified. Using of electricity is more in Pohumora village followed by Rangajan. Modern types of consumer durables such as T.V., bi-cycle, motor cycle, radio and other electrical appliance are the indicators of standard of living in tribal rural areas. Ownership of consumer durables is better in Pohumora and Rangajan village than other two villages. So from the survey it was found that the economic condition of the household in Pohumora and Rangajan village is better than Potabil and Shantipur village.

- With the pace of development the road connectivity is well connected in all the surveyed villages. Communication is good in Pohumora and Rangajan villages in comparison to other two villages. All the surveyed villages is accessible by both pucca and kutchra road.

4.2 Regarding Livelihood, Income and Land Holding

- Major occupation of the surveyed villages is cultivation. The focus of the cultivation undertaken by the tribal household is twofold; either cultivates food grains for self-consumption or cultivates produce for the market, especially vegetables and oil seeds. Fruits trees are grown on common lands or on homestead lands. However, there is tendency to grow rice either on ancestral lands or sharecropping farms, because they are more fertile and suitable to rice cultivation. Most of the vegetables and crops are consumed and rest is sold in the market. A portion of pulses and oil seeds are sold in the market or to the traders and the money realized is supplemented by income from livestock production or wage labor for family expenditure mostly to ensure food security. Agricultural extension in the tribal areas is constrained by limited staff, problems of reach out,

location of isolated villages with sparse population, illiteracy of people, non-availability of required inputs and deficiency in monitoring and supervision.

- The nature of the agriculture being practiced by the tribal households is not technology intensive, rather labor intensive. It was revealed from the study that agriculture is mostly subsistence type and tribal farmers have not yet used fertilizers and plant protection chemicals for scaling up the crop yield. The outcome of PRA and primary survey indicate the relatively lower yield level of major crops in the tribal areas than the district and state average. The work in agriculture on one's own farm provides substantial employment to majority of the households'. Agriculture is a dynamic activity and various factors influence their engagement in this activity. This dynamic nature of agriculture implies that for most households, their livelihoods are not completely dependent on agriculture.
- The people have different occupation which can be grouped as on-farm (farming, agricultural labors), non- farm (allied agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry) and off- farm (non agriculture labor, service, household industries). The findings of the surveyed indicate that nearly 50.8% members are engaged in some sort of occupation while 49.2% remain unemployed and engaged in household activities. Of the total population of the households 71.25% are engaged in cultivation and animal husbandry, 11.25% are engaged in both cultivation and service, 8.75% are engaged in self employed work. From the surveyed it was cleared that very few people are engaged themselves in private sector. It is also noticeable that people are not willing to do daily wage work.
- Each household has their own cultivation land. A minimum land area of 4.00 acre is required for meeting the family requirements of food grains, oilseeds and vegetables of a standard tribal family comprising six members. The findings of the current study indicate that each landholder

family is having minimum 5 acre of agricultural land. Highest land hold in the villages is 12 acre. It was also observe that those households which are engaged in Government services Share their land for cropping.

- The study clearly indicates that occupations and family income is highly related to each other. Monthly income of the household is range from 5000 to 25000 Rs. Those households which engaged in both cultivation and Government service have the highest income range. The study indicates that monthly income of 71% household is 8000 to 25,000. As expected income range of daily wage worker is very low than other occupations. On-farm sources give about 49% of income. Off- farm income is about 30% whereas non - farm sources give about 21% of income. On an average 60% of household expenditure goes towards food whereas expenditure on education and health is around 2% and 7% respectively. Expenditure on agriculture is about 8% whereas on other items (festivals, house repair, and clothing) it is 20%. Saving is hardly 3% of total income.
- Animal husbandry constitutes a major source of livelihood. Tribal's keeps cows and chicks for their own household purposes of milk and egg. The only exception is rearing of pig and goats which they do mainly for market. In times of difficulty tribal's sell their livestock at distress prices, mainly to settlers and middlemen. Pig is mostly preferred by tribes due to its quick multiplication rate and more live weight. Grazing of animals is mostly taken care by the women and girl children. Since the animal husbandry is not a full time work, it is amenable to women, whereas the wage labor work involves eight or more than eight hour of work and its male dominated. Within the household it is seen that it is the son, wife and daughter who contributes substantially to this activity. The tribal households prefer to earn case by selling the animals and look upon the animals as a reserve for emergency situations. During the field survey it is invariably noticed that the upkeep and maintenance of animals are

very poor. Regular vaccination, balance feeding, sanitation, animal hygiene de-worming are never practiced except in few cases. Poor breed and poor health and nutrition's leading to high mortality of the animals.

4.3 Regarding Education and Women Empowerment

- Education is considered as the major factor for social and economic development of a society. Nearly 91% head of the households are literate and 8% head of the household are illiterate. Female illiteracy rate is higher than the male. It is also revealed from the study that rate of higher education is very low among women. Only 1.75% women are graduate in the surveyed household and male Graduate rate is 13.75%. It is also noticeable that there is not a single Graduate woman in Potabil Village. Among the villages rate of literacy is more in Pohumora and Rangajan village than other two villages so far the study is concerned.
- Of the several constraints of diversity livelihood sources and augmentation of assets, the most serious is illiteracy and ignorance. The tribes unless given proper guidance and information, would continue with subsistence nature of farming and cannot adopt new technologies. These obstacles, to a large extent, removed by giving them the right type of education. Education has higher pay-off for the tribe in a changing, modernizing environment than in a traditional society. The educational level of other member of the household especially of the female head cannot be ignored as they also have a key role in decision making.
- Of the 400 surveyed households only 3.25% women participated in different social activities. Women participation in various social activities is less than male. Among the village, women social participation rate is very poor in Shantipur village. Few women are participated in Panchayat election. Interestingly, those who have been elected speak about positive side of PRI, whereas those who have not been elected speak the

negative side. In most of the villages women formed SHGs and started some income generating activities along with credit and thrift. They have now earned courage to come to the front and participate in- group discussion. It was also observed during the surveyed that Mising society is mainly a Male dominated society and most of the male prefer their women to engage themselves only in household activities rather than other social activities.

1.4 Regarding Health and Sanitation

1. In every surveyed villages Health sub- centre is available but doctors' visit is not regular. It was also observed during the surveyed period that sub-centre is not well maintained and other medical facilities are not available. There is no Government dispensary in all the surveyed villages. During the surveyed it was also revealed that people are not aware of vaccination of their children. Most of the women used to give birth their child at home without proper medical guidance. This leads to high mortality rate of children. Role of NRHM is not so satisfactory in creating health awareness in tribal areas.
2. In absence of toilets almost all villagers take their bath in ponds and streams. Modern latrines are seldom found in tribal's area. There is a lot of improvement in using a modern latrine in the villages now a day's owing to the direct Government sponsored sanitation project which is known as Nirmal Bharot Abhiyan. Government has provided sanitation facilities to the IAY beneficiaries' household and other BPL family. But proper awareness is still needed in this regard.
3. Village drains are not available in most of the surveyed villages although there are some drains constructed along with concrete road inside the village but such drains are not well maintained. Livestock aid centre is also not available in any one of the surveyed villages.

Access to health facilities were unsatisfactory in all cases as a result of which communicable diseases, skin diseases and malaria were mostly seen. Health measures and village sanitation is not so satisfactory in most of the villages.

4.5 Regarding Wage Employment and Migration

- Agriculture is the major occupation of the all surveyed villages. Agriculture provides engagement of average 105.75 days in a year. Wage labor provides average of 91 days of engagement to the villagers which have been possible after implementation of MGNREGA. MGNREGA proved 100 days of work guarantee to the rural families. It was revealed from the surveyed that most of the villagers are not willing to wage labor under MGNREGA due to low wage payment in comparison other field. The existing wage rate is hardly 162 Rs per day irrespective of sex fix by the Government. And it is considered as the major reason of migration in the surveyed villages though this act provides work within their village. But it is also noticeable that landless and BPL families are mostly benefited by MGNREGA which are verified from the job cards provided to them.
- It was revealed from the study that better employment and better income is the major causes for migration in all the surveyed villages. As per the household report 33.25% people are migrated for work. 20% people are migrated for better income and the rate of migration for better employment is 17.5%. As per the survey report most of the household are engaged in agricultural activities so period of migration is took place for very short period of time that is 1 to 3 month. It was also observed during the surveyed that women migration rate is very low in comparison to male.

- Evidence from all sources clearly indicates that women's wage are always less than what men earn. The technologies developed so far are male oriented. There is a need to have gender – sensitive extension training and workshop for dissemination of technology and gender equity. Young women are also migrated (though in lesser numbers) alongside adult men leaving behind the elderly and children in homestead. It was also found from the survey that women participation in MGNREGA work is not so satisfactory in all the surveyed villages. Though this Act provides some facilities to the women and women having children but most of the time implementing agencies were failed to provide all those facilities to the women worker in work site.

4.6 Regarding Poverty Alleviations Programmes

- As per the Government policies all the P.A.P beneficiaries must have a BPL ID no. It was found from the surveyed that 37.5% families are under BPL. No of BPL families are more in Potabil village than the others. It was also revealed during the survey period that most of the poor families didn't get BPL ID no and it was happened because most of the villagers are not aware of socio- economic census. For this reason those who are really needy of all those P.A.P scheme have not benefited from all those programs .Role of PRI is also not satisfactory in this regard.
- Many kinds of P.A.P programs have been noticed in the surveyed villages which are implemented by Government through PRI. 25% BPL household is already listed in IAY beneficiaries list, no of NSAP beneficiaries are 17.5% which is include widow pension, old age pension, physically handicapped pension and Annapurna. It is a very good marks that no. of job card holder families in all the surveyed villages is 93.75%. But during the household surveyed it was revealed that villagers are not willing to work in MGNREGA due to its low wage in comparison to other work.

- The average number of respondents applied for employment is very low in the study area (23.17%). Those who applied for job are mostly non-tribal beneficiaries and among them not a single person got unemployment allowance. However, this does not necessarily mean that there is low demand for employment in the study area. The poor tribal have not much courage to go to the GP office and claim for job. Even in some cases it was found that those who are really needy of those cards have not received the cards. Whereas few villagers who are working in public sectors have taken job cards and are not at all applying for job. Thus among the job card holders 75.93% of people have worked under MGNREGA while 18% haven't worked. During the field work it was observed that these households are giving their cards to other households for getting benefits through them.
- Around 7.74% households are the non-job cardholders. This may be due to their lack of interest to work under the MGNREGS as they have greater mobility for alternative money making job opportunities even at a distance place. Among the sample non-job card holder households around 50% households have already applied for job cards. The waiting time after the applications for job cards as reported by the respondents vary between 5 to 24 months. The reasons for non-issuance of job cards may be due to several factors such as relative socio-political and economic strength of the households in the village, awareness level, close relationship with the PRI functionaries' etc. Those who have not applied for job cards may be due to lack of interest and awareness.
- By securing livelihood, MGNREGA also mitigates seasonal distress migration which has been a significant source of employment and income for a large proportion of rural population. But there are two types of risks associated with working under NREGS. First, in most of the cases, the wages are paid on piece rate basis and depending on his/her

performance; a worker may get even less than the minimum prevailing market wage rate. Second, as per the provisions under the scheme, a household should get minimum 100 days of employment. But, the GP fails to provide 100 days of employment to job seekers. Such limited and irregular supply of works restricts the job-seekers from working under NREGA.

- Ration card issued by the Government, provide the means to purchase subsidized food grains from designated shops. Possession of ration cards is an important resource for poor households. The BPL cardholders have ration cards and use to get rice and kerosene on monthly basis from PDS shops. Due to non- finalization of current BPL list in the state some families are deprived of this scheme.

Impact of P.A.P on tribal Livelihood was also tried to observe through this research work. The study revealed that there is an impact of P.A.P on tribal livelihood. Due to change in income there is also change in expenditure. The researcher tried to find out the impact of P.A.P. tribal livelihood by comparing before and after P.A.P in the villages. Data shows that after implementation of P.A.P in the villages there is a change in expenditure pattern of the households. Generally the tribal expenditure is more in food items but after P.A.P. the expenditure on food items gradually shifted to non- food items which include both luxury and necessity items. This indicates that there is some impact on tribal livelihoods of P.A.P.

CHAPTER-5

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

Poverty Alleviation Programmes are considered as effective programmes for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, by way of providing livelihood in villages. It provides a source of livelihood which will have an impact on reducing migration, restricting child labor and alleviating poverty. For which it can be considered as the largest anti-poverty programs in India. But, the success of these programmes depends upon its proper implementation. The study area is a tribal dominated area. It was observed that the awareness level of the study areas is not encouraging. Around 75 % villagers are aware about different P.A.P in their village. But villagers' awareness about how to apply for these entire schemes, awareness about minimum wages and demand for work was reportedly very low. Around 45% of the villagers claimed that they informed about different P.A.P scheme from GP which indicates that GP official playing a significant role in spreading information on P.A.P. However, the GP has not played any major role in proper implementation of these programs. Favoritism was seen in case of getting different Poverty alleviation schemes. Bribe was also taken from Govt. employees, rich families in order to give these schemes. Above discussion reveals that though P.A.P is a well thought programs, a powerful tool in the hands of the common people to get their basic livelihood, but its poor execution deprives them from their basic rights. Though there is a little change in expenditure pattern of households but it fails to stop the flow of distress rural-urban migration, restricting child labor, alleviating poverty, and making village self-sustaining through productive assets creation. Therefore, a well thought out effort is necessary to address these problems in Gram Panchayat. To make these schemes more effective for securing the desired objectives of rural poverty eradication and livelihood security, there is an urgent need to ensure citizen participation in all stages of the implementation process. A proper mechanism should be developed to check the corruption in distribution

of beneficiaries, assured timely payment of actual wage and substantial asset creation. It was revealed by the villagers that there was no Gram Sabha meeting regarding the various poverty alleviation schemes. Even maximum numbers of people are not aware about Gram Sabha meeting, which reflects non-participation of villagers or community in decision making. As a result maximum poor people are still deprived of these schemes.

Issue of awareness emerges one of the hindrances to the local community. It thus necessitates sufficient awareness amongst the intended beneficiaries regarding provisions like different pensions scheme, guaranteed days of employment, unemployment allowance, minimum wages, availability of complaint register, etc. However, the situation in this front is not very encouraging in the study area. As most of the worker respondents are illiterate and belong to the economically poor class, the extent of awareness about P.A.P has emerged out to be a major concern in all the hamlets. Around 75% of the villagers are aware about the P.A.P. Among them the majority are the STs and illiterate. But villagers' awareness on how to apply for IAY house, various pension scheme, job cards, awareness about minimum wages and demand for work was reportedly very low. Around 20% villagers are not at all aware about it. Those who are aware about it, out of them only 41% of the respondents are aware of proper implementations of this programme.

The procedural and implementation aspects of all P.A.P have never been free from confronting some basic challenges like general awareness, understanding policy nitty-gritty, sufficient access etc. Having given the socio - economic background of the respondents, the structural issues such as transparency, maintenance of documents and accountability were difficult things to actualize from the villagers point of view. When asked whether beneficiaries knew about the time span of getting various scheme from the date of the submission of applications under the P.A.P, only 20 per cent respondents revealed that they were aware of any such guidelines of P.A.P.

The major question raises how to implement these programmes, which can give justice to the poor for whom these programmes were designed. To a certain extent, the effective implementation is consequent upon greater awareness and participation of beneficiaries and PRIs, since they have a greater role to play. However, technicalities apart, effective implementation of these schemes is also conditional on the effort of the state government by simplifying the implementation design and above all, the political will to ensure its successful implementation.

Apart from P.A.P agriculture and Animal husbandry can be a significance source of tribal livelihood in the study area. As per the study result every household has agricultural land and animal husbandry is a common source of livelihood. Most of the family member acutely engaged in farming. But the nature of the agriculture and animal husbandry being practiced by the tribal households is not technology and scientific intensive. Through proper utilization of land resource tribal people can make cultivation as a regular income generation livelihood. It was revealed from the study that the agriculture is mostly subsistence type and the Mising tribal farmers have not used fertilizers and plant protection chemicals for scaling up the crop yield. It can summarized that the use of certified high yielding seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and machinery/implements for precision farming is totally neglected in the study area, which has attribute to poor crop yield and low profitably in all cases. In subsistence economies, animal husbandry constitutes a major source of livelihood for Mising people. During field study it was invariably noticed that the upkeep and maintenance of animals are very poor. Regular vaccination, balance feeding, sanitation, animal hygiene and de worming are never practiced except in few cases. Poor breed and poor health and nutrition leading to high mortality and low yield are the main reasons for the status of cow, pig and poultry in the project districts. High mortality has been identified as the main constraint in poultry rearing. As a result animal husbandry fails to become a regular income generation livelihood for Mising people in the study area.

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SUGGESTIONS –

- i. The success of the programmes depends upon its proper implementation. Much of the pitfalls of P.A.P implementation can be overcome if proper processes and procedures are put in place. Thus, there should be continuous efforts towards creating adequate awareness on different provisions of P.A.P amongst the people. Creating awareness is necessary not only to motivate the people to work under the scheme but also to encourage them to participate in its planning and implementation.
- ii. Efficient utilization of resources under the scheme requires bringing in transparency and accountability. Provision for social audit at the Panchayat level on a regular basis can play a significant role in this regard.
- iii. Government is implementing various poverty alleviation and rural employment schemes through PR department and ITDA in the tribal areas. The schemes like Annapurna, NREGS, IAY, SGRY, SGSY and other schemes like SSA, NRHM etc. have become beneficial for the poor people, but transparency and accountability still needs improvement.
- iv. There should be the ability and willingness of local Govt. and Panchayat to plan works and run the programs effectively. A proper monitoring mechanism should be developed that can assured correct implementation of this programs.
- v. Some of the important initiatives that are needed for livestock development are promotion of appropriate crossbreeds while conserving indigenous breeds' livestock, establishment of livestock marketing system, promotion of rural backyard poultry in a cooperative marketing, enhancing livestock extension services, encouraging private veterinary clinic and provision of an insurance package to avoid distress.

- vi. Promotion of scientific farming system is needed to achieve the goal of more food, more income and more livelihood, diversification of cropping and enterprises, nutritious garden in back yards, support for micro-enterprises supported by micro- credit etc. are various options for food and nutrition's security at community level. There is immense scope for backyard nutrition's garden and backyard poultry with little support to increase the physical availability of nutritious food, especially for poor
- vii. Proper awareness on saving and credit facilities for poor is needed in study area. As most Banks and Cooperative Societies are unwilling to provide consumption loans, moneylenders are the only source of consumption credit for them. Dependence on money lenders keeps them in perpetual debt and results in the mortgaging and ultimate loss of land and other property. Even the crop field is mortgaged from the stage of planting. The persistent problem of indebtedness among the Mising tribes is one of the manifestations of poverty. Despite existence of legal/protective measures to curb the business of money lending in tribal areas and provision of debt-relief, the enforcement has been weak and inefficient. The tribal women are more sufferers, as they are triple burdened with production, reproduction and management of assets. Some of their labors are passed on to the children resulting increased child labor in tribal areas at the cost of their education.
- viii. One of the prominent areas in which assistance is required to improve the living conditions of the tribes is agriculture. The importance of agriculture base of income generation but because of the increasingly important role that rural demand will need to play in order to support non-agricultural growth from the demand side. Much of this demand will be for non-agricultural products produced in rural areas, which will also generate non-agricultural employment. The crisis of stagnation in agriculture needs urgent attention. This sector still provides livelihood to nearly two-thirds of our people and remains vital for food security. As pointed out by the National Commission on Farmers, we need a *new*

deal that rebuilds *hope* about farming. This of course involves finding larger public resources. But even more it requires policy makers, particularly at the State level, to make a renewed effort to understand farmers' problems and identify the critical areas of support and reform that will make farmers themselves sufficiently confident about the future of their occupation to put in greater effort and undertake more investment..

- ix. Promotion of alternative source of livelihood is urgently required in study area. Employment opportunities in sectors outside of agriculture and forestry mark the depressed economy of tribal communities. Though more locale specific feasibility studies may be required in relation to alternate livelihoods, the sub-sectors like village crafts, small manufacturing and repairs, rural transport and petty business of processed products show promise as a whole.
- x. Education and health are priority areas of social development for tribal communities and gains in these will result in long term socio-economic change. There are other significant initiatives in these sectors such as DPEP and SSA in education and NRHM program in public health which is the rural education and health programs implementing by Govt. Through these programs Govt. to some extent able to reduce illiteracy and improve rural health.
- xi. SHG can play a significant role in removing gender disparity and women decision making. The SHGs also provide space to discuss their problems, to work towards solutions and to meet their credit needs. On the issue of equity in wages, evidence from all sources clearly indicates that women's wage are always less than what men earn. The technologies develop so far male-oriented. There is a need to have gender-sensitive extension training and workshop for dissemination of technology and gender equity.

- xii. The vulnerability of tribes occur due to trends in gradual degradation of natural resource, equality ,excessive population, inappropriate developments in technology, undersigned change in political representation, general economic stagnation and shocks due to climate extremities, outbreak of diseases and seasonably in prices and employment opportunities. The broad strategies to deal with vulnerability would be natural resource based, non- natural resource and appropriate migration. All these require a village level vulnerability analysis and development of a micro planning.

