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A REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INDIRA KRANTHI PADAM (VELUGU PROJECT) IN NALGONDA DISTRICT OF TELANGANA STATE

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Abstract

Though the rural development programmes was considered synonymous with the growth of agriculture and allied sectors in the beginning it has emerged over the years, as a strategy designed to improve economic and social life of a specific group of the people of rural areas. Thus, the rural development strategies include set of goods, operational processes, terminal objectives and structural arrangements designed to bring about development in the lives of rural people. The rural development is a continuous process. Thus, different rural development programmes which were formulated to attack the rural poverty could not benefit the economically weaker sections of the society to any appreciable extent as they were inadequately financed and in efficiently coordinated. The integrated approach which was lacking in other rural development programmes could be provided in the Integrated Rural Development Programme. Such was the need for interrogated approach which could be seen in integrated Rural Development Programme. This research paper to be discussed “A Review on the Implementation of Indira Kranthi Padam (Velugu Project) in Nalgonda District of Telangana State”.

Key Words: Rural Development, Transformation, Decentralization, Enforcement, IKP, BPL, Self Employment Programme, Microlevel Planning

Statement of the Problem

“Poverty is not just a lack of money, it is not having capability to realize one’s full potential as a human being”

Amartyasen

State-wide rural alleviate poverty programmes in Andhra Pradesh are built on social mobilization and emancipation of rural poor women. Velugu or Indira Kranthi Patham is the name of this show (IKP). The goal of this initiative is to improve the assets, capacities, and resilience of the poor. The initiative has had a positive impact on women’s emancipation at the home and community levels.. "Indira Kranthi Patham" was renamed in 2004 to include all rural Mandals and districts in 22 rural districts of the state. Too far, the campaign has been a decade in the making, including rural women throughout the whole state of California. For comprehensive poverty eradication, we are focusing on strengthening the process as well as establishing an institutional structure and building a foundation for long-term sustainability. As of now, APDPIP in six districts and APRPRP in sixteen districts have been combined to form the APRPRP. Non-project mandals are also covered by APRPRP, which includes 260 coastal fishing settlements. As a result, IKP is present in all of Andhra Pradesh's rural mandals. Since January 2005, these initiatives have been rebranded as Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP). As of 2005, the DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas) programme has been absorbed into IKP. Indian Kranthi Patham (IKP) draws on a decade-long, state-wide rural self-help movement for women in rural India. The emphasis is on strengthening the process, establishing an institutional framework, and creating a foundation for maintaining it for complete poverty eradication. South Asia's biggest anti-poverty initiative is this one. Building solid institutions for the underprivileged and increasing their economic prospects is the project's main goal. The project's key component is the Community Investment Fund (CIF), which is given to SHGs, VOs, and MSs to fund a broad variety of activities aimed at empowering the disadvantaged on a socioeconomic level. In



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order to serve the poorest of the poor, the initiative works to develop self-managed, grassroots-level organizations such as women's saving and credit SHGs, Village Organizations (VOs), and Mandal Samakhya (MSs).

Origin of Indira Kranthi Patham

In India, during five-year plan periods, many poverty alleviation programs were launched and implemented. Andhra Pradesh is one of the states that implemented many such programs to eradicate poverty and improve the living standards of people, particularly weaker sections and women in rural areas. The state of Andhra Pradesh has especially taken up a poverty alleviation program with the World Bank's financial assistance. As part of such initiatives, the Velugu program was started in June 2000 with an out lay of Rs. 600 crore. This Velugu Programme is taken up with the World Bank's funds as an APDPIP project. Accordingly, six districts that are backward in many domains of development were selected. Among them, the project was implemented in as many as 316 manuals and successfully achieved the programs' objectives. With the successful experience of the project in 2003, the program was extended and implemented in the rest of 16 districts except Hyderabad, with an outlay of Rs. 1486 crore. Thus, during 2003-08 as many as 20 00,000 low-income families were expected to receive the help. Recognizing the importance of these programs and their contribution to recovering poverty in rural areas among poor women, these programs merged in 2005. A new scheme, 'Indira Kranthi Patham,' has seen the light of the day. The primary purpose of this program was to identify the poor women, encourage them to form into groups to lift them all in socio-economic development. Again, the DWCRA program, which was part of IRDP was merged and worked to develop poor women living in rural areas. Therefore, this chapter attempts to present and analyze the various poverty alleviation programs (from 'Velugu' to IKP), including their affiliated programmes and the efforts to remove poverty, especially among the weaker sections of the rural areas.

District Poverty Initiatives Project

“Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project (APDPIP) was formally launched in June 2000 at Utnoor, Adilabad District. The project is contracted to Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) through a Memorandum of Understanding. The genesis of APDPIP dates back to 1994-95 when the Government of Andhra Pradesh drafted the early proposals to social assessments and capacity assessments of the districts in 1997-99. The experiences of South Asia Poverty Alleviation Project (SAPAP) in Mahabubnagar, Anantapur, and Kurnool culminated as a unique way forward to reduce poverty during 1995-2000. Subsequently, a revised proposal was drafted in 1999-2000 and was appraised in March 2000. The project was sanctioned in May 2000, and it was formally launched in June 2000. The project design reflects lessons learned from several ongoing and completed World Bank-financed rural development projects in India. These have shown the importance of community participation and ownership in achieving efficiency and sustainability” . They have also “demonstrated how communities can contribute towards investment and operational costs if they are assured of good service. The UP Sodic Lands Project has shown how the poor can establish their own organizations and engages in multiple activities to mitigate risks and participate more fully in the developmental process.

Similarly, the Integrated Watershed Development Projects, the Karnataka and UP Rural Water Supply, and Sanitation Projects, and the AP Forestry Project have all demonstrated the viability of user groups and their potential to manage project activities and to mobilize community contributions. These projects have also demonstrated the potential value of successful partnerships between community organizations, NGOs, and the government. An important lesson from the UNDP-assisted SAPAP, which includes AP, is that it is not enough to mobilize communities for social action. They also need to have investment opportunities alongside social mobilization. Hence, APDPIP seeks to mobilize communities and includes support to facilitate linkages with the credit institutions to open investment opportunities for the rural poor in economic activities.

Another lesson of the UNDP Project, which is relevant to this project, is that NGO involvement must be selective and focused. At the operational level, the main lessons incorporated into the project design are: (a) creation of a decentralized project management structure with full control over sub-project approval to expedite decisions and to



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minimize political interference; (b) development of streamlined procurement and disbursement rules and regulations to ensure speedy implementation; (c) inclusion of competitive employment conditions for project management staff to attract and retain competent and motivated individuals; (d) inclusion of detailed operational manuals, computerized MIS, standardized financial management procedures, regular and rigorous auditing, and quantitative and qualitative monitoring and evaluation; and (e) incorporation of physical and financial sustainability conditions in the sub-project eligibility criteria to ensure a continued flow of benefits.

The government of erstwhile A. P. was persistent in its request for Bank assistance for a project focused on poverty reduction and included all necessary budgetary resources in its plans. The government of A. P. was seriously concerned about the high level of poverty, illiteracy, and poor health and has widely promoted participatory approaches to address the needs of the rural poor. It has also been given high priority to improve the status of women through innovative approaches. The government supported this commitment by establishing a dedicated team to prepare the project proposal. An autonomous society was registered to implement the project, with Chief Minister accepting the Chairmanship of its General Body. In addition, a number of actions have been taken to enhance institutional readiness for implementation, including the selection of the project mandals, staffing arrangements for the state, district, and Mandal units, preparation of the financial management manual, and development and testing of the computerized financial management system, finalization of the operational manual and guidelines for appraisal of demand-based sub-project proposals”.

Project Development Objective of APDPIP:

The project's main objective is to “improve opportunities for the rural poor to meet priority social and economic needs in the six poorest districts of combined Andhra Pradesh. To achieve this, the project would:

1. Help create self-managed grass-roots institutions;
2. Build the capacity of established local institutions, especially the Gram Sabha/ Panchayats and Government of A. P.'s line departments to operate more inclusively in addressing the needs of the poor;
3. Support investment in sub-projects proposed by grass-root institutions of the poor to accelerate their entry and expand their involvement in social and economic activities; and
4. Improve access to education for girls to reduce the incidence of child labor among the poor.”

Institutional and Human Capacity Building”

The thrust of this component is “to develop self-reliant and self-managed community-based organizations. Accordingly, the majority of funds available under this component would be utilized to build new or existing groups in the project districts. In addition, the line departments and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), especially Gram Panchayats, are to be sensitized/re-oriented through training, consulting services, workshops, and exposure visits. So that they operate more inclusively in responding to the needs of the rural poor. Specific financing activities include: (a) Formation and development of CIGs, including SHGs, and their support organizations. This would consist of forming new groups and strengthening existing groups, especially those formed through DWCRA. The project would adopt many features of the UNDP approach to group formation/ community empowerment successfully tested under the on-going South Asia Poverty Alleviation Program (SAPAP). (b) Information, education, and communications support, including awareness building campaigns and demonstrations in village communities on issues affecting social and economic activities of interest to the rural poor, (c) Capacity building of Gram Sabhas/Gram Panchayats to improve micro-level planning, financial management, and sensitization to needs of the poor in the village community, (d) Skill enhancement and re-orientation/ sensitization of participating line department staff and NGOs are made more responsive to the needs of the rural poor (e) introduction of a pilot program on institutional and capacity rating to enable the development of a need-based support program and their linkages with the banking institutions”.

The objective of Indira Kranthi Padham is to enable the rural poor, particularly the poorest of the poor in AP to improve their livelihoods and quality of life by facilitating formation of self-sustainable institutions of the poor.IKP builds



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on more than a decade long, statewide rural women’s self-help movement. The focus is on deepening the process, providing an institutional structure and developing a framework for sustaining it for comprehensive poverty eradication. It is the single largest poverty reduction project in South Asia. The project mandate is to build strong institutions of the poor and enhance their livelihood opportunities so that the vulnerabilities of the poor are reduced. Community Investment Fund (CIF) is the major component of the project, which is provided to the SHGs/ VOs/ MSs to support wide range of activities for socioeconomic empowerment of the Poor. The project would help create self-managed grassroots level institutions of the poor, namely Women thrift and credit S.H.Gs, their federations - Village Organizations (VOs) and Mandal Samakhyas (MSs)

The present paper focuses on the implementation of IKP in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh. IKP was introduced in December 2002 in the name of Velugu. From 2003 April it was practically implemented with the support of SERP (Society for Elimination Rural Poverty) the apex institution for the IKP. It is an effective instrument for the removal rural poverty. The main funding agencies of IKP, one is CIF (Community Investment Fund) second one is RMK (Rastriya Mahila Kosh) in addition to a number of micro finance institutions are functioning in the district. From inception to till date around Rs. 45 crores were invested on different poverty eradication activities in the district by the CIF and RMK. The RMK was limited to ten Mandals in the plain area of the district. These investments spend on construction of institutional organizations only. The DRDA is the Nodal agency for all poverty eradication in the rural areas and at the same time the it is providing all facilities to the IKP in the district.

Status of IKP in Nalgonda District in Telangana

There are 46,881 Self Help Groups functioning under the guidelines of IKP. Out of them 8,378 belong to Scheduled Casts, 13,415 are from Scheduled Tribes, 20,626 are Backward class communities and 4,462 SHGs belonging to Other Communities. On the basis of poverty, 34 614 self-help groups are poor, 11,452 are the poorest of poor and the rest of 815 are other groups like PHC, Widows AIDS etc. Bank Linkage Programme is the main funding source to all the SHGs in the district. Through the Bank Linkage Programme, 11,480 SHGs got credit of Rs. 227.95 crores in 2010 -11 financial year.

The district of Nalgonda is far ahead in the implementation of a number of poverty eradication Programmes through the support of SERP. With the support of SERP the IKP had conducted different developmental activities like Bank Linkage programme, Pavalavaddi, Social Security Pension Schemes, Pension Scheme for AIDS patients, YSR Abhaya Hastam, Food Security and Marketing, a special poverty removal strategy for SC and ST, Rajeev Youva Kiranalu, STRI SHAKTHI and STRI NIDHI, Dairy and other agricultural development activities are taken up done by the IKP in the district.

The implementation of IKP in the district is the main subject in the present paper, in addition to the following objectives like, to find out the distribution of SHGs on base of community and poverty, to analyze the distribution of funds from various funding source and finally to assess the overall impact of IKP on the SHGs. We have used simple percentages and averages in the analysis of the paper. The present paper is based on the secondary data and some articles and reports have been reviewed. Due to this limitation the results cannot be generalized for other studies.

The following tables give the information about the IKP implementation of the district.



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Table – 1

Cast-wise distribution of Self Help Groups in Nalgonda District

Sl. No.	Social Category	No. of SHGs	Percentage
1	S C	8,378	17.87
2	S T	13,415	28.61
3	B C	20,626	43.99
4	O C	4,416	9.41
Total		46,881	100.00

Source: DRDA. IKP Nalgonda

The above table reveals the social category wise distribution of Self Help Groups in the Nalgonda district. Out of 46,881 SHGs, Backward Class Community 44.00 (20,626) per cent is the highest share among the rest of social categories. The rest of categories are Scheduled Tribes (ST) is 28.61 (13,415) per cent, Scheduled Castes (SC) are 17.87 (8,378) per cent and the Other Casts (OC) are 9.41 (4,416) per cent respectively. The district of Nalgonda has the highest Tribal population in the state and due to this the share of ST SHGs are greater than the SC and OC categories. It is significant that the category of BC is at peak level share of all the other social categories due to the reason that around 50 percent population as from this category is reported in the recent census. The SHGs are constructed on the base of their socio economic conditions. In this respect the majority of SC, ST and BC categories are under the Below Poverty Line (BPL). In this regard the IKP is concentrated on the targeted sections for the better involvement of these vulnerable sections. The implementation of IKP depends on the involvement of public participation as the main scale to assess the performance of poverty eradication programmes in the district. In this aspect majority of targeted sections are more interested towards the IKP directions and it is the better indication for the eradication poverty of the district.

Table – 2

Poverty base Self Help Groups in Nalgonda District in

Sl. No.	Poverty Category	No. of SHGs	Percentage
1	Poorest of the poor SHGs	11,452	24.42
2	Poor SHGs	34,614	73.83
3	Other SHGs	815	1.73
Total		46,881	100.00

Source: DRDA. IKP Nalgonda

Poverty eradication is the main objective of Indira Kranthi Padam. On the basis of poverty the SHGs are classified into three categories i.e. Poorest of the poor SHGs, poor SHGs and Other SHGs. In the district of Nalgonda there are 46,881 SHGs and the majority groups belong to Poor is 73.83 (34,614) per cent, followed by poorest of poor groups

24.42 (11,452) and other groups are only 1.73 (815) per cent respectively. The table indicates that the poor SHGs dominates the rest of groups. The IKP of the district is mainly focused on the poor and poorest of the poor groups, why because majority of these groups are under the Below Poverty Line. Hence we conclude that the distribution of SHGs are at the reasonable level in the district of Nalgonda. The table shows the involvement of BPL SHGs to play vital role in the implementation of IKP and it is an indication for the better institutional management system in the eradication of poverty of the district.



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DOI: <http://ijmer.in.doi./2023/12.07.98>
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Table – 3

Distribution of funds

Sl. No.	Poverty Category	Rs. In Crores	Percentage
1	C I F	40	12.12
2	R M K	05	1.51
3	B L P	285	86.37
Total		330	100.00

Source: DRDA. IKP Nalgonda

The above table depicts the source of funding to the SHGs in the district. The main sources are Community Invest-ment Fund (CIF), Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) and Bank Linkage Programme (BLP). Out of Rs 330 crores the BLP is having the highest share than the other two sources which is 86.37 (285 cr) per cent, followed by CIF is 12.12 (40 cr) per cent and RMK is only 1.51 (5 cr) per cent respectively. In the district all the SHGs are linked up to the Banks due to this share is the highest than the other sources and the RMK is introduced in 10 Mandals out of 46 in 2006- 07 financial year, due to this it is only 1.51 per cent to the to-tal invested amount. The CIF is from the inception of IKP by the support of Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP). These sources play a key role in the implementa-tion of IKP in the district, but the source of CIF is the bet-ter way, because it is the contingency fund for all develop-mental activities in the practical implementation of the IKP. From the inception to till date every year some assured amount has been spent on various institutional activities by the IKP in the district.

Table – 4

Distribution lone from Bank Linkage Programme In 2011-12 to the SHGs

Sl.No.	Social Category	No. OF SHGS	Percentage	Distribution of loan in crores	Percentage
1	S C	2,130	18.55	38.40	16.84
2	S T	3,425	29.84	50.21	22.05
3	B C	4,726	41.16	99.92	43.83
4	OC	1,199	10.45	39.42	17.29
	Total	11,480	100.00	227.95	100.00

Source: DRDA. IKP Nalgonda

The above table reveals the loan amount distribution from BLP to the different categories of Self Help Groups in the district of Nalgonda . The com-munity-wise distribution of SHGs is analyzed in the table -1, but the present table is focused on the loan disburse-ment on the basis of social category in the present financial year. Out of 11,480 SHGs, 41.16 (4,726 SHGs) per cent are from BC to receive loan from BLP and it is more than the rest of social categories, followed by ST is 29.84 (3,425) per cent, SC is 18.55 (2,130) per cent and OC is 10.45 (1,199) per cent respectively.

In the present financial year Rs. 227.95 crores has been distributed to the total of 11,480 SHGs in the district. Out of, this 43.83 (99.92 cr) per cent loan amount distributed to the BC category it is the highest per cent than the rest of social categories. The other categories are followed by ST is 22.05 (50.21 cr) per cent, OC is 17.29 (39.42) per cent and SC 16.84 (38.40 cr) per cent respectively.

It is noted that the share of loan receiving SHGs and distribution of loan amounts vary from category to category. In the BC category loan receiving groups are 41.16 per cent and loan amount distributed is 43.83 per cent. Around 2.5 per cent is excess than the group percent by B.Cs. In the aspect of ST 29 84 per cent groups are covered under loan received category but the distribution of loan amount percentage is 22.05 and the gap is around 7.0 per cent. In this category



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around 7.00 per cent loan receiving amount is lower than the loan receiving groups. The loan receiving groups of SC category is 18.55 per cent and amount is 16.84 per cent, but the variation is around 2.00 less. In aspect of OC community 10.45 per cent groups are receiving loans, but they received 17.29 per cent of amount. In OC category the gap of covered groups are low and received loan amount are very high and this variation is around 7.00 per cent.

It is clear from the above table, that there is an unequal distribution of loan amounts among the various social categories in the district of Nalgonda. The OC and BC SHGs are getting more loan amounts than their participation membership, it is in the reverse in SC and ST communities. It is indicating the dominance of OC community and BC community. The BC community has also slightly dominated over SC and ST communities in this aspect. But the OC community SHGs are overall dominant on all other communities in getting benefits in the district. And at the same time the community of ST is more suppressed and in this category. The main reasons as observed are the IKP activities are sharply spread in plain Mandals from the inception, but in agency area it is slowly creeping, due to lack of education, awareness, infrastructure and the district head quarter is far away to the agency area. The involvement of SC and ST categories is more but the benefits are far away. The IKP of the district must concentrate in this angle also.

IKP Special Programme for downtrodden people

The IKP been taken special strategy to remove the poverty of ST and SC communities only. In this aspect every poorest of poor SC and ST families have got the worth of ten thousand rupees credit, offered with Pavalavaddi scheme for the purpose of dairy, petty business activities and other development activities. At present 80,207 families are eligible and 5,744 families have already got the credit under Pavalavaddi scheme.

Poverty and unemployment are twin problems, to remove the poverty the Governments must provide employment opportunities to the youth and in this regard the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken the challenge the against unemployment with the of Rajeev Uouva Kiranalu scheme. This is especially for unemployed youth. There are 5,000 unemployed youth who have been benefited and in this aspect the district has occupied first place in the state.

Conclusions

The district of Nalgonda is far ahead in the implementation of IKP among all districts in the state of Telangana. Involvement of BC, ST, SC SHGs are in majority shares in the district. In The distribution of funds some discrimination is found out, for example, least per cent of OC category SHGs are offering more funds through BLP and Pavalavaddi. Majority of SC and ST category SHGs are not getting in their proportion level and it must be achieved at their proportion level. The BLP is to be fast extended to the hill area as the BLP is the main credit source for all SHGs. It is implemented in the overall district but it is very slow in agency area. The (RMK) Rastriya Mahila Kosh Scheme is limited to ten plain mandals, but there is a need of extension to rest of the mandals.

In the district, IKP has been implemented as a special programme to remove the poverty under the SC and ST categories but it is to be extended to the other BPL categories. STRINIDHI programme has been implemented at present in 59 villages only, it must be spread over all villages in the district. In the overall analysis the implementation of IKP is successfully functioning but the distribution of results vary without proper distribution of results it leads to inequalities in all aspects, especially among the vulnerable sections. In this regard the IKP authorities must concentrate on the proper distribution of poverty eradication activities in the district.

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