

State Sponsored Rural Development Programmes (SSRDPs) in Assam: An Overview

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ABSTRACT: In Assam, about 86 per cent of the total population lives in 26,395 villages. The living conditions of the vast number of rural people are remarkably backward. In the paradox of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalisation (LPG), the majority of the people of Assam are facing formidable challenges such as extreme poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and lack of skill needs support to earn. 34.4 per cent of the total population of Assam lives in below the poverty line of which 91.50 per cent lives in rural areas. Keeping this in view, right from the inception of Five Year Plans, the Government of Assam has implemented both centrally sponsored as well as State Sponsored Rural Development Programmes (SSRDPs) to address the dehumanizing socio-economic conditions of the rural people of Assam. This article examines four SSRDPs viz. Chief Minister's Swa-Niyojan Yojana, Mukhyamantrir Karma Jyoti Achari, Chief Minister Self-Employment Scheme and Vocational Training and Government of Assam's Interest Subvention Scheme in Assam from a historical perspective. Findings showed that the performances of the SSRDPs are not satisfactory and have a better sign towards its failure.

KEYWORDS: Rural, Development, Rural Development, Performance, Programme, Scheme

I.

INTRODUCTION

Rural development is a dynamic process of development of the rural people through different programmes and projects. The development of rural people is the essence of rural development. The scholars provided various meanings, definitions and objectives of rural development. The term 'rural' means an area which is characterized non-urban style of life, occupational structure, social organization and settlement pattern.¹ The *Webster's Comprehensive Dictionary* defines the term "rural" as "that which pertains to the country as distinguished from the city or town". According to *Longman's Dictionary*, "rural means the country, country people, or life". It adds, rural is the general word for places that are neither towns nor totally wild, and the term suggests the existence of agricultural communities. Among sociologists, rural refers to areas with low population density, small size, relatively isolation, where the major economic activity is found in agricultural occupations and where the people are relatively homogenous in their values, attitudes and behaviour.²

Development means an overall positive change in the physical quality of life. In other words, it means an improvement in the quality of life through better health, education, housing and welfare. Thus, the objectives of rural development should be to provide means and ways of catering for the basic human needs of rural inhabitants, which include food, clothing, shelter, employment, school, health centers and other social welfare services. The overall goal should be to raise the quality of life in rural areas and to generate continuous self-development of peasants and rural workers.³ The scholars like, Paul P. Streeten defined development as an attack on the chief evils of the world today: malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, slums, unemployment and inequality. Measured in terms of aggregate growth-rates, development has been a partial success. But measured in terms of jobs, justice, and the elimination of poverty, it has been failure or only a potentials success.⁴

The World Bank defines rural development "as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people – the rural poor, including small and marginal farmers, tenants and the land-less". In the words of Robert Chambers (1983), rural development is a strategy to enable a specific group of people, poor rural women and men, to gain for themselves and their children more of what they want and need. It involves helping the poorest amongst those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development. The group includes small-scale farmers, tenants and landless.⁵

In fact, rural development is three dimensional in nature. As a *phenomenon* - rural development is the end result of interaction between various physical, technological, economic, socio-cultural and institutional factors. As a *Strategy* – rural development is designed to improve the socio-economic well being of a specific group of people – especially the rural poor. As a *discipline* – rural development is multi-disciplinary in nature, representing an interaction of agricultural, socio-behavioural, engineering and management sciences.

Rural development is the far-reaching transformation of socio-economic structures, institutions, relationships and processes in any rural area. It conceives as not simply as agricultural and economic growth in the narrow sense but as well as balanced social and economic development, with emphasis on the equitable distribution as well as the creation of benefits. Among the goals are equitable access to arable land, more equitable distribution of income, widespread empowerment in health, nutrition and housing, greatly broadened opportunities for all individuals to realize their full potentials through education and strong voice for all rural people in shaping the decisions and actions that affect their lives.⁶

In fact, the term rural development is a comprehensive and multi-dimensional concept which involves overall development of rural areas to improve a better quality of life of the rural people. The objectives of rural development are multi-directional as well as multi-dimensional. It aims at increase employment, high productivity, higher income as well as minimum acceptable levels of food, clothing, shelter, education, health and building up of a sound value system which is in keeping with the high cultural heritage of the country. Thus, rural development means all aspects of human development. Rural development must constitute a major part of development strategy if a larger segment of those in greatest need to benefit.⁷ Rural development, as such, is not an end in itself but a means to an end and can provide the basis for a sustained and equitable economic growth of all sectors of the economy.⁸

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY : The present paper is mainly focusing the State Sponsored Rural Development Programmes (SSRDP) in Assam. Therefore, the aim of the study is to examine the performances of the various SSRDPs in Assam.

II. METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the stipulated objective of the present study, the methodology followed in this study is historico-analytical. The historical method has been applied for historical records, information, documents *etc.* which are the basis of the study. The analytical method is employed to analyze the facts pertaining to the study. The relevant data have been collected through secondary sources which constitute the various published sources such as books, journals, news papers, research articles, websites, official reports and records. Besides, for the purpose of analysis, simple statistical tools such as average, percentage *etc.* were also applied.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Right from the inception of Five Year Plans, reliance was placed on implementation of centrally sponsored Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) for the development of rural areas in Assam and therefore, no direct and organized efforts were made independently to tackle the sufferings of the rural people. One does not find any reference of RDPs in Assam with an independent and bold approach to develop rural areas in a forthright manner. The sufferings of the rural people have been aggravated plan after plan. Keeping this in view, in the beginning of new millennium the initiation of independent SSRDPs was realised and therefore, the Government of Assam has implemented as many as RDPs in Assam as a part of its planned strategy to develop rural people in order to alleviate poverty and unemployment problems. Thus, the introduction of SSRDPs in Assam is a recent phenomenon. It may be logical to state that some of the programmes are still in experimental stage. In fact, the programmes could not attract the attention of scholars, academicians, political leaders and researchers both in India and abroad. Therefore, the literature available on the present work is very limited in number. In this connection, it would not be wrong to say that the present study could be a pioneering work in this regard which will help to identify the existing research gaps and will provide a base for further extensive research in this field. In addition, the study will also help to make a comparative study of the implementation of SSRDPs in Assam with the other parts of the country.

Further, the study will not only add to the pool of scientific knowledge, but will also benefit the government and policy planners who are serious to frame policies and programmes for rural development and to promote socio-economic conditions of the rural people of Assam.

IV. STATE SPONSORED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN ASSAM

Assam is the heartland of North-East India (NEI). The state is situated in the far north-east frontier of India, in between 90° E to 96° E and latitude 24° N to 28° N. The total geographical area of the state is 78,438 sq. kms as against the country's total area of 3,287,263 sq. kms. Thus, Assam constitutes 2.39 per cent of the total land areas of the country but the state has to support about 2.59 per cent of the country's population and 68.24 per cent of the entire NEI.

As per 2011 census, the total population of Assam stood at 3,11,69,272 of which 86 per cent inhabits in 26,395 villages. The rural population largely comprises of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans, Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). The living conditions of the vast number of rural people of the state are significantly very poor. Majority of the people are living below poverty line so as to why needs support to develop skill of the rural people so that they might be able to earn and check various formidable socio-economic challenges prevalence due to trade Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG). In fact, the socio-economic conditions of the vast number of rural people are dependent on agriculture which is the backbone of state's economy. Though agriculture is the primary source of occupation of the rural poor, this sector in Assam has not been developed sufficiently so far. Agriculture in Assam exhibits most of the characteristics of underdeveloped agriculture, namely, a high dependence on agriculture for livelihood, widespread practice of traditional farming techniques and correspondingly low usage of modern farm inputs, low levels and low growth in productivity and incomes in the sector, widespread prevalence of subsistence cultivation, inadequate agricultural infrastructure and so on. Though the state is richly endowed in natural resources, such as abundant rainfall, alluvial soil, rich and diverse plants and animal genetic bases, however, the development of agriculture in Assam has been slow over the decades. The agricultural productivity in the state still remains stagnant and deplorable conditions. It is because of the application of age old and traditional techniques, continuous sub-division and fragmentation of agricultural land due to increase of population and break down of joint families resulted in increasing excessive pressure on agriculture, the continuous encroachment of agricultural land by rising population *etc.* are the major causes of low agricultural productivity in Assam. Consequently, the living conditions of vast number of rural people of Assam are becoming poor to poorer leading to increase of poverty, unemployment, ridden, illiterate, lack of skill needs support to earn *etc.*

As per Tendulkar Committee statistics, overall 34.4 per cent (97.7 lakhs) of the total population of Assam was BPL, with 91.50 per cent (89.4 lakhs) in rural areas and 8.50 per cent (8.3 lakhs) in urban areas. The percentage of population in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) segment is the third highest among the seven north-eastern states. Among all the 35 States and Union Territories across India, Assam has the eighth highest proportion of population in the BPL segment.⁹

Keeping this in view, over the years the Government of Assam has implemented a number of centrally sponsored as well as SSRDPs from time to time with the objective of attacking the rural problems for a better quality of rural life towards self-sustenance and achieving sustainable rural development and rural transformation in the state. The present study is a humble attempt to examine the implementation of SSRDPs in Assam. However, as it is vast in nature, the study delimits its scope with following four SSRDPs:

- Chief Minister's Swa-Niyojan Yojana (CMSY)
- Mukhyamantrir Karma Jyoti Achari (MKJA)
- Chief Minister Self-Employment Scheme (CMSS) and Vocational Training
- Government of Assam's Interest Subvention Scheme (GAISS)

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chief Minister's Swa-Niyojan Yojana (CMSY): Training occupies an important position in the efficient management and development of any programme. Besides providing skills, training brings about desired changes in the outlook and the attitudes of trainees in tune with the basic needs of the environment. Considering the significance of training in development process, the Government of Assam initiated a unique self-employment scheme called Chief Minister's Swa-Niyojan Yojana (CMSY) in the year 2001 for imparting job oriented training to the educated unemployed youths of the state in different industrially developed states of the country. Under this scheme, the educated unemployed youths were sent for training in reputed Industrial Units and Commercial Houses located at different areas of the country for a period of six months. During the period of training, the trainees were paid stipend Rs. 3000.00 per month by the Government of Assam.

As per the statistical data, the performance of CMSY in Assam during 2001-02 to 2007-08 was encouraging. The total target under CMSY was 1496 of which 1254 numbers had already been completed training (TABLE 1). The percentage of achievement was 83.82 per cent of which the highest (196.87 per cent) and the lowest (33.6 per cent) had been recorded during 2007-08 and 2001-02 financial year respectively (Fig. 1). The target of trainees under the scheme increased from 16.51 per cent in 2001-02 to 18.85 per cent in 2002-03 and 24.93 per cent in 2003-04 which rapidly decreased to 15.84 per cent in 2004-05, 11.43 per cent in 2005-06, 8.16 per cent in 2006-07 and 4.28 per cent in 2007-08. Similarly, the number of trainees rose alarmingly from 6.62 per cent in 2001-02 to 25.68 in 2002-03, but gradually decreased to 22.09 per cent in 2003-04, 17.14 per cent in 2004-05, 14.99 per cent in 2005-06 and 3.43 per cent in 2006-07 financial years (Fig. 2).

Table –1: Performances of CMSY during 2001-02 to 2007-08

Year	Target	Achievements
2001-02	247	83
2002-03	282	322
2003-04	373	277
2004-05	237	215
2005-06	171	188
2006-07	122	43
2007-08	64	126
Total	1496	1254

Source: Economic Survey Assam, 2008-09, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam.

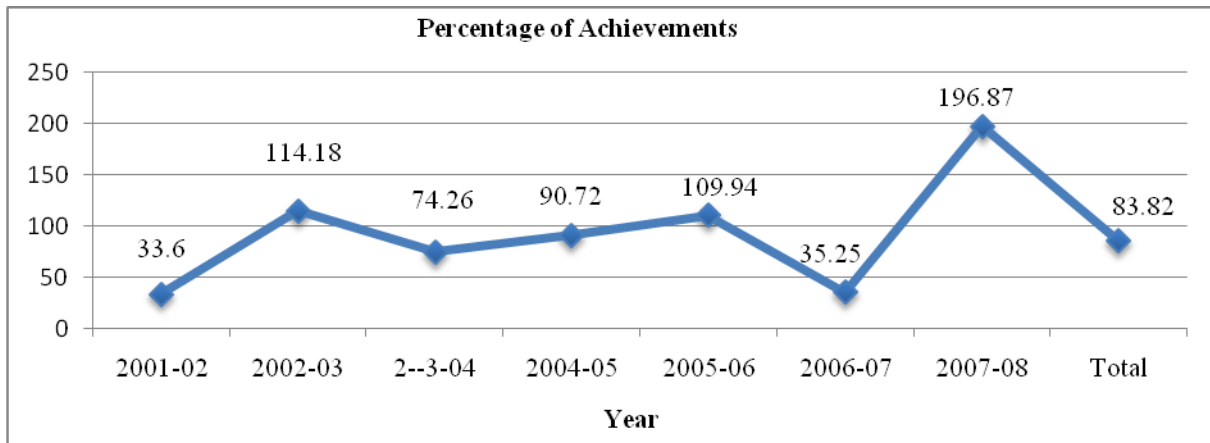


Figure 1: Percentage of Achievements of CMSY during 2001-02 to 2007-08

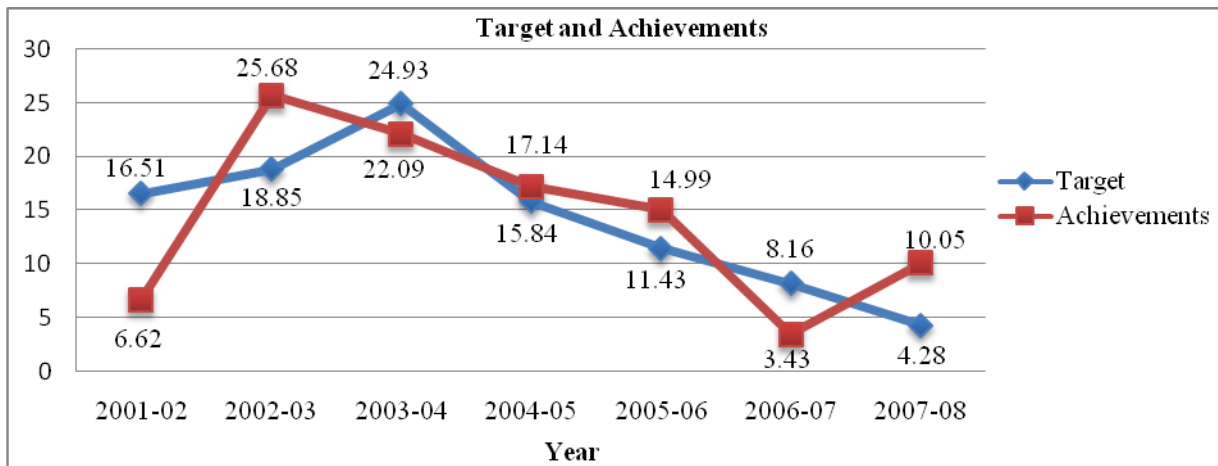


Figure 2: Year wise Target and Achievements of CMSY during 2001-02 to 2007-08

Mukhyamantrir Karma Jyoti Achari (MKJA): The MKJA was one of the flagship programmes of the Government of Assam implemented during the year 2005-06. The basic objective of the scheme is to develop skills and uplift traditional artisans through providing financial assistance from the State Government. The scheme covered all the traditional trade viz., manufacturing of decorative textile, blacksmithy, pottery, carpentry, toy making *etc.*

The overall performance of MKJA was encouraging during 2005-06 to 2011-12. The percentage of achievement was 107.08 per cent well above the target. The highest achievement i.e. 116.24 per cent was recorded in 2005-06 while the lowest i.e. 81.87 per cent was recorded in 2011-12 financial year (TABLE 2). However, in terms of year wise artisans benefited from MKJA, the study reveals a continuous decreasing trend.

The artisans benefited from MKJA were highest (49.56 per cent) in 2005-06 which decreased to 22.46 per cent in 2006-08, 16.64 per cent in 2008-09, 9.90 per cent in 2009-10, 0.57 per cent in 2010-11 and 0.87 per cent in 2011-12 (Fig. 3).

Table – 2: Performances of MKJA during 2005-06 to 2011-12

Year	Target (in No.)	No. of Artisans Benefited	Percentage
2005-06	1, 02,500	1, 19,145	116.24
2006-08*	54,000	54,000	100
2008-09	40,000	40,000	100
2009-10	23,805**	23,805	100
2010-11	1660***	1381	83.19
2011-12	2560	2096	81.87
Total	2, 24,525	2, 40,427	107.08

Source: Economic Survey Assam, 2012-13, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam.

*Implementation for both the years done together. **2480 SHGs and 21325 Individual.

***660 SHGs and 1000 Individual.

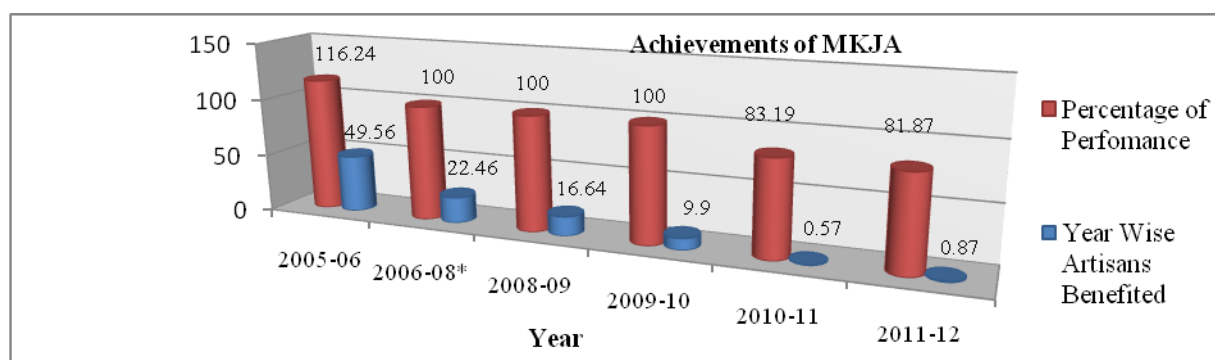


Figure 3: Achievements of MKJA during 2005-06 to 2011-12

*Implementation for both the years done together.

So far the financial achievement of MKJA is concerned; it was observed that the total expenditure incurred under the scheme during the reference period was Rs. 2472.87 lakh i.e. 89.89 per cent of the total sanctioned amount. Significantly, the 100 per cent financial achievement was recorded during 2009-10 while the lowest 73.06 per cent was recorded in 2010-11 financial year (TABLE 3).

Table - 3: Financial Achievements of MKJA during 2005-06 to 2011-12

Year	Sanctioned Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Financial Achievement (Rs. in lakh)	Percentage
2005-06	900.00	895.74	99.53
2006-08*	195.00	192.52	98.73
2008-09	145.00	144.61	99.73
2009-10	275.00	275.00	100
2010-11	735.00	537.00	73.06
2011-12	501.00	428.00	85.43
Total	2751.00	2472.87	89.89

Source: Economic Survey Assam, 2012-13, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam.

*Implementation for both the years done together.

Chief Minister Self-Employment Scheme (CMSS) and Vocational Training: Keeping the high magnitude of poverty and unemployment in view, the Government of Assam has initiated a single largest unique self-employment oriented programme called Chief Minister Self-Employment Scheme (CMSS) and Vocational Training under Assam Bikash Yojana launched in the year 2008-09 after merging the existing CMSY. In fact, the scheme has two sectors – CMSS and Vocational Training. Under the CMSS sector, the educated unemployed youths are sent for training for a period of 6 months in reputed industrial units and commercial houses throughout the country. During the period of training, Rs. 4500/- per month is paid to each trainee. The

principal objective of the scheme is to provide practical knowledge and experiences to unemployed youths by working for 6 months in the industrial units.

Under Vocational Training, the unemployed youths are provided 6 months industrial training within the state on their interested field. The cost of training is fully borne by the Government. Since its inception, the total target under CMSS was 420 of which 344 numbers sponsored for training in different reputed industrial units and commercial houses of the country. During 2008-09 to 2011-12, the number of unemployed youths completed 6 months training was 175 out of which 77 numbers have self-employed (TABLE 4). 41.67 per cent of the total trainees completed 6 month training course of which 18.33 per cent have got self-employed. The highest (81.25 per cent) percentage of training had been recorded during 2008-09 which alarmingly declined to 20 per cent in 2009-10 and 18 per cent in 2010-11. Significantly, no record of completion of training was observed in 2011-12 under CMSS (Fig. 4).

The total target under Vocational Training was recorded 9185 of which 5985 numbers sponsored for training. The number of unemployed completed training was 6553 against the target of 9185 numbers (TABLE 4). The percentage of achievement was 71.35 per cent. Interestingly, 100 per cent unemployed youths completed 6 month training course during 2008-09, 2010-11 and 2011-12 financial years. However, no one could self-employed during the reference period (Fig. 5).

Table 4: Implementation of CMSS and Vocational Training during 2008-09 to 2011-12

Year	Name of the Scheme	Target	No. of Trainees Sponsored	No. of Trainees Completed	Trainees Absorbed
2008-09	CMSS	160	165	130	51
	Vocational Training	2200	2200	2200	Nil
2009-10	CMSS	160	136	32	21
	Vocational Training	3200	Nil	568	Nil
2010-11	CMSS	100	43	18	5
	Vocational Training	2610	2610	2610	Nil
2011-12	CMSS	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Vocational Training	1175	1175	1175	Nil
Total	CMSS	420	344	175	77
	Vocational Training	9185	5985	6553	Nil

Source: Compiled from Economic Survey Assam, 2010-11 and 2011-12, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam.

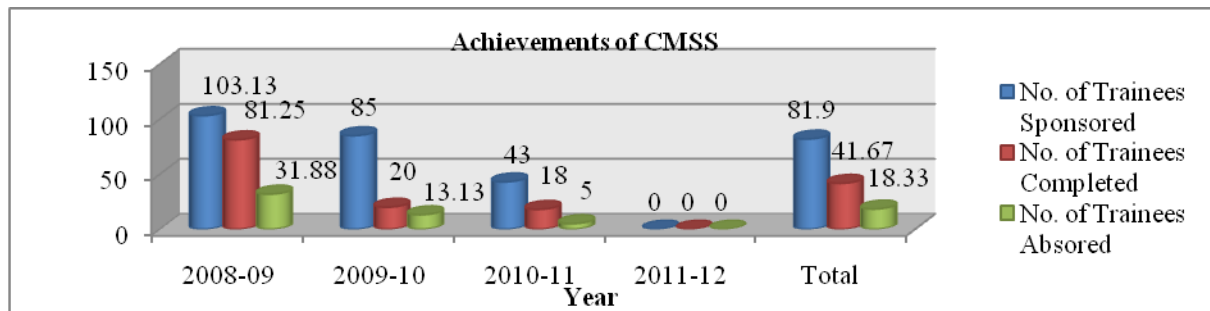


Figure 4: Achievements of CMSS during 2008-09 to 2011-12

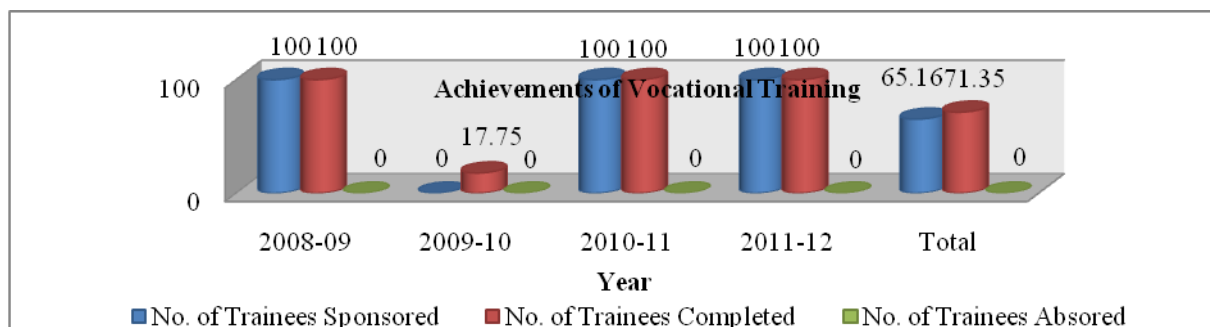


Figure 5: Achievements of Vocational Training during 2008-09 to 2011-12

Government of Assam's Interest Subvention Scheme (GAISS): Credit is an essential requirement for revitalising agricultural sector. In view of this, the Government of Assam in consultation with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) prepared a scheme called Government of Assam's Interest Subvention Scheme (GAISS) during 2006-07 financial year to provide crop loans to the farmers from the banks with 2 per cent interest relief. The NABARD was designated as the implementing agency of the scheme. Initially, the scheme was implemented for a period of three years i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09. However, it was extended to 2010-11 financial year and the upper limit of crop loan to per farmer was fixed Rs. 35,000.00 with 3 per cent interest subvention.

During 2006-07 to 2010-11, the number of crop loan account holders benefited under GAISS was 371560. The total amount of loan disbursed during the reference period was Rs. 81329.59 lakh (TABLE 5) out of which the highest 30.20 per cent and the lowest 8.94 per cent of loan disbursement were recorded during 2009-10 and 2006-07 financial year respectively (Fig. 6). In terms of interest subvention of loan, the total relief was Rs. 80644314.00 (TABLE 5) of which the highest 35.07 per cent in 2009-10 and the lowest 8.07 per cent in 2006-07 were recorded (Fig. 7).

Table – 5: Performance of GAISS during 2006-07 to 2010-11

Year	Total Loan Disbursement		Total Relief Settled	
	Account (No)	Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Account (No)	Amount (in Rs.)
2006-07	39832	7267.85	39832	6504829.00
2007-08	53448	10466.70	52986	10792470.00
2008-09	82225	16269.03	80954	14419765.00
2009-10	106127	24565.09	106127	28282936.00
2010-11	89928	22760.92	89622	20644314.00
Total	371560	81329.59	369521	80644314.00

Source: Economic Survey Assam, 2012-13, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam.

The average loan and relief provided to per crop loan account holder under GAISS was 0.22 lakh. The highest loan of Rs. 0.25 lakh in 2009-10 and the lowest of Rs. 0.18 lakh disbursed during 2006-07 financial year. The average interest subvention provided to per crop loan account holder was Rs. 218.24. It was highest (Rs. 266.50) in 2009-10 and lowest (Rs. 163.31) in 2006-07 (Fig. 7).

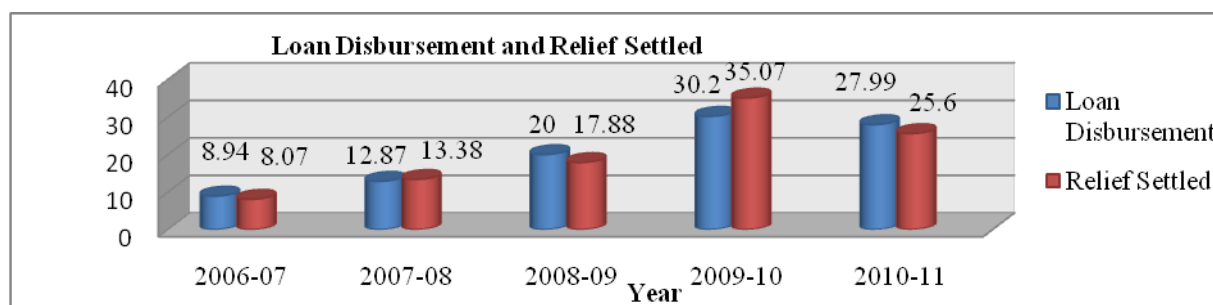


Figure 6: Year wise Percentage of Loan Disbursement and Relief Settled under GAISS during 2006-07 to 2010-11

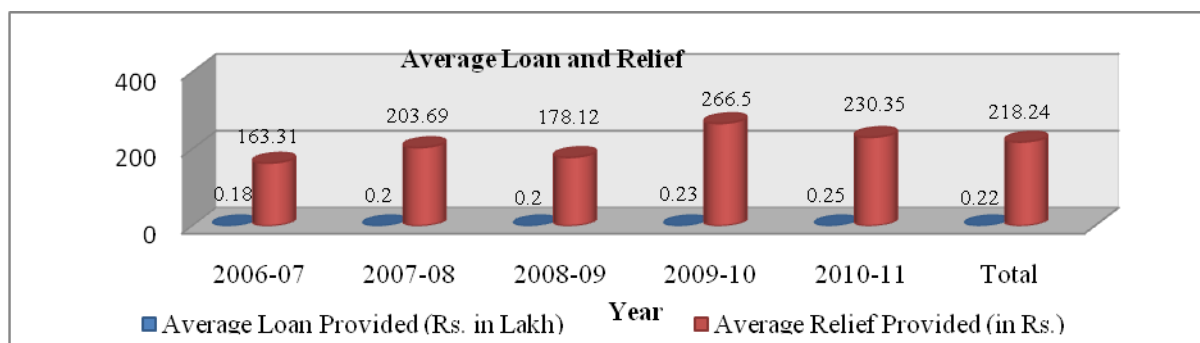


Figure 7: Year wise Average Loan and Relief provided to Per Crop Loan Account Holder under GAISS during 2006-07 to 2010-11

Findings of the Study: The major findings of the study are as follows -

- The study reveals that the performance of CMSY in Assam during 2001-02 to 2007-08 was encouraging. The scheme could provide job oriented training to 1254 numbers of educated unemployed youths in different industrially developed states of the country. The percentage of achievement was 83.82 per cent. However, the most disheartening feature of implementation of CMSY was that the year wise target and achievement of CMSY was not satisfactory. Since 2004-05, the target of trainees under the scheme decreased gradually from 15.84 per cent in 2004-05 to 11.43 per cent in 2005-06, 8.16 per cent in 2006-07 and 4.28 per cent in 2007-08. Similarly, in case of achievements of the scheme, the study clearly shows a continuous declining trend i.e. 22.09 per cent in 2003-04 to 17.14 per cent in 2004-05, 14.99 per cent in 2005-06 and 3.43 per cent in 2006-07. Thus, from the above analysis, it can rightly be concluded that the physical achievement of CMSY was disappointing and did not appear any impressive result. It was due to this fact the scheme was subsequently merged with CMSS and Vocational Training under Assam Bikash Yojana launched in the year 2008-09.
- One most significant aspects of implementation of SSRDPs in Assam was that during 2005-06 to 2011-12, the overall performance of MKJA was more than hundred per cent (107.08 per cent). However, it was equally disappointing to note that in terms of year wise achievement of MKJA, the study reveals a continuous decreasing trend. The percentage of artisans benefited from MKJA was 49.56 per cent in 2005-06 which alarmingly decreased to 22.46, 16.64, 9.90, 0.57 and 0.87 per cent in 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively.
- Out of total Rs. 2751.00 lakh sanctioned amount, the expenditure incurred under MKJA was Rs. 2472.87 lakh. The difference between sanctioned amount and expenditure incurred was significant (Rs. 278.13 lakh). Besides, there was a significant variation of year wise expenditure and number of artisans benefited under the scheme. The number of artisans benefited during 2005-06 was 1,19,145 against the total expenditure of Rs. 895.74 lakh. During 2010-11, the total expenditure incurred under MKJA was Rs. 537.00 lakh and the number of artisans benefited from the scheme was 1,381. On the other hand, the number of artisans benefited during 2011-12 was 2,096 against Rs. 428.00 lakh expenditure. Thus, the study indicates a discrepancy in between beneficiaries and expenditure incurred under the scheme. Therefore, these aspects should be taken into account very carefully while implementing the scheme.
- The performance CMSS in comparison to other SSRDPs was disappointing. The achievement of the programme was 41.67 per cent. The most disappointing feature was that only 18.33 per cent (77 numbers) of trainees could self-employed in Assam. Of course, the response of educated unemployed youths during the first year (2008-09) of implementation of CMSS was encouraging (81.25 per cent). However, it was surprisingly decreased to 20 per cent in 2009-10 and 18 per cent in 2010-11. Significantly, no record of completion of training was recorded during 2011-12 financial year.
- Under Vocational Training, out of 5985 numbers of educated unemployed youths sponsored for training, 6553 numbers could complete training during the reference period. The percentage of achievement was 109.49 per cent. Interestingly, no record of employment of trainees under Vocational Training was found in Assam during the reference period. Thus, it can rightly be concluded that the scheme could not fulfil its objectives and failed to address the dehumanizing socio-economic conditions of the rural people.
- Under GAISS, 371560 numbers of crop loan account holders were benefited during 2006-07 to 2010-11. The total amount disbursed as loan was Rs. 81329.59 lakh. The average loan and interest subvention

provided to per crop loan account holder was disappointing. The study reveals that the average loan amount to per farmer was 0.22 lakh. The highest loan of Rs. 0.25 lakh was disbursed during 2009-10 financial year which was much below than the target. Besides, it was equally disheartening to note that in terms of interest subvention of loan, the total relief was Rs. 6504829. The average interest subvention of loan was Rs. 218.24 only which was in fact, very nominal.

VI. CONCLUSION

The above discussion and analysis shows it beyond any shadow of doubt that the achievements of implementation of SSRDPs in Assam have both the aspects - success and failure. The study appears that the Government of Assam has implemented as many as SSRDPs for overall development of rural areas. Indisputably, these programmes have contributed largely in developing rural areas of Assam. Official records claimed that these programmes were functioning well and more or less could achieve the target. However, the study shows that many of the SSRDPs in Assam have a better sign towards its failure. On the basis of careful study of statistical data, it can rightly be said that the implementation of various SSRDPs is not impressive and encouraging. Therefore, certain changes are still required in government plans and programmes for successful implementation of the programmes. In fact, intensive efforts and attention is to be needed in order to fulfil the objectives of the various SSRDPs. This task is a very complex one and requires the co-operation of all sections of society such as political parties, non-government organizations (NGOs), lawyers, judges, public servants, teachers, police, media persons and others. Further, there is an urgent need for good governance, dedicated bureaucracy, strong political will, and co-operation from voluntary organizations and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

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