<u>**Evaluation Study on Suvarna Gramodaya Scheme during 2007-08**</u>

<u>**Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj**</u>

<u>**Executive Summary**</u>

1. Background

The Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Karnataka, launched the Suvarna Gramodaya Scheme during 2007-08. Under the Phase-I of the scheme 1,203 villages in 29 districts are covered. Eight components viz., Roads, Drainages, Anganawadis, Samudaya Bhavanas, Solid Waste Management, Solar Street Light and soft components including Training and IEC are covered under the scheme.

For Phase-I, an amount of Rs.840.40 crores has been indicated as the financial expenditure for implementation of components under the scheme. Considering the substantial budget allocation, the department felt a need to carry out an evaluation to assess the impact of the scheme. TECSOK was selected by Karnataka Evaluation Authority through tender to undertake the Evaluation Study of Phase – I of Suvarna Gramodaya Scheme.

The Scope of this evaluation study broadly covers assessment of effectiveness of the Scheme and to provide a snap shot of socio-economic development in the selected villages achieved through implementation of the Scheme. The study is also supposed to assess the scope for further continuation or discontinuation of the scheme. Additionally, the study would recommend ways and means for better implementation of the Scheme.

2. Analysis of Scheme Performance under Phase - I

Of the 29,796 villages, in 176 taluks of 29 districts in the State, 1,203 villages (4%) were covered under the Phase – I of the scheme.

On Taluk-wise analysis of villages covered, (i) the number of villages selected was highest each at 19 villages out of 1,203 in Arakalgud &

Chikkodi Taluks, (ii) the number of villages selected was lowest each at 2 villages out of 1,203 in Gudibande, N R Pura & Sringeri Taluks.

On District-wise analysis of villages covered, (i) the ratio of number of villages selected to total villages covered under Phase – I was highest at 8.48% (102 villages out of 1,203) in Hassan District, (ii) the ratio of number of villages selected to total villages covered under Phase – I was lowest at 1.08% (13 out of 1,203) in Dharwad District.

On comparison of ratio of (i) villages selected to the total villages in a particular district was highest at 10.04% (26 out of 259 villages) in Udupi District, (ii) villages selected to the total villages in a particular district was lowest at 1.73% (11 out of 635 villages) in Koppal District.

On comparison of selection of villages based on categorization of taluks as per Dr. D M Nanjundappa Committee Report:

(i)   Ratio of villages selected to the total villages covered under Phase – I was highest at 34% (405 out of 1,203 villages) in Relatively Forward Taluks.

(ii)   Ratio of villages selected to the total villages covered under Phase – I was lowest at 20% (244 out of 1,203 villages) in Backward Taluks.

The infrastructure components implemented are (i) 2,826 kms. of roads (ii) 2,449 kms of drainages (iii) 1,207 Samudaya Bhavanas (iv) 1,217 Anganawadis (v) 3,223 Solar Street Lights (vi) 442 Solid Waste Management.

In addition to the infrastructure, soft components viz., Training and IEC were also covered. Under Training component, 37,252 beneficiaries have been trained in different trades, enable them to get employment or venture in to self-employment activities. Under IEC programme, over 4,600 Awareness Programmes organized to bring awareness among the village community about the schemes and programmes of State & Central Governments.

On analysis of physical & financial progress of the components taken up over 80% of the total financial allocation was spent alone on Roads & Drainages as against 60% (Maximum) specified in the scheme.

There were similar variations in other components too. In respect of (i) Samudaya Bhavana - the expenditure made was 10% against maximum of 15%, (ii) Anganawadi - the expenditure made was 4% against maximum of 10%, (iii) Training, IEC & Solar Street Light - the expenditure made was 3.64% against maximum of 8%, (iv) Solid Waste Management - the expenditure made was 0.70% against maximum of 7% as per the scheme. Even though, there are variations in fund utilization, however the entire amount allocated has been spent under various prescribed components.

On analysis of data provided on Road works, it is observed that

1. Out of 1,203 villages, only 1,184 villages were implemented with the roads of 2,820 km. The Scheme average of road implemented is 2.36 km / village (2,820 km in 1,184 villages).
2. Village-wise implementation, the Highest length of Road i.e., 21 km in Padeuvannuru village in Puttur Taluk and the Lowest was at 0.10 km in Gaddlegoan village in Basavakalyan Taluk.
3. Taluk-wise implementation, the Highest length of Road i.e., 57.42 km in Puttur Taluk and the Lowest was at 2.49 km in Nargund Taluk.
4. District-wise implementation, the Highest length of Road i.e., 231.68 km in Belgaum District and the Lowest was at 39 km in Gadag District.
5. Based on categorization of taluks, average road laid was 2.48 km / village was highest in Relatively Forward Taluks and 2.20 km was lowest in Backward Taluks as against the scheme average of 2.36 km / village. The average amount spent for roads / village was highest

with Rs.44.41 lakhs in Most Backward Taluks and least at Rs.37.17 lakhs in Forward Taluks as against the Scheme average of Rs.39.77 lakhs / village.

6. The amount spent was Rs.47,288 lakhs for covering a total length of 2,826 km road and the Scheme average expenditure is Rs.16.73 lakhs / km. The average amount spent for roads on km basis was highest with Rs.19.36 lakhs / km in Most Backward Taluks and was lowest at Rs.14.82 lakhs / km in Relatively Forward Taluks as against the Scheme average of Rs.16.73 lakhs / km.

On analysis of data provided on Drainage system, it is observed that

1. Out of 1,203 villages, only 1,142 villages were implemented with the drainage of 2,449.40 km. The Scheme average of drainage implemented is 2.14 km / village (2,449.40 km in 1,142 villages).

2. Village-wise analysis, the Highest length of Drainage i.e., 22.16 km was implemented in Tilavalli village in Hanagal Taluk and the Lowest was at 0.05 km in Shindoli village in Humnabad Taluk.

3. Taluk-wise analysis, the Highest length of Drainage i.e., 51.03 km in Hangal Taluk and the Lowest was at 0.31 km in Bidar Taluk.

4. District-wise analysis, the Highest length of Drainage i.e., 251 km in Belgaum District and the Lowest was at 25 km each in Bidar, Kodagu, Udupi & Dakshina Kannada Districts.

5. Based on categorization of taluks, average drainage implemented was at 2.55 km / village was highest in More Backward Taluks and 1.85 km was lowest both in Most Backward & Relatively Forward Taluks as against the Scheme average of 2.14 km / village. The average amount spent for drainage / village was highest with Rs.22.17 lakhs in More Backward Taluks and least at Rs.16.08 lakhs in Backward Taluks as against the Scheme average of Rs.18.91 lakhs / village.

6. The amount spent was Rs.20,931 lakhs for covering a total length of 2,449 km drainage and the average expenditure is Rs.8.55 lakhs / km. The average amount spent was highest with Rs.11.07 lakhs / km in Most Backward Taluks and was lowest at Rs.5.87 lakhs / km in Backward Taluks as against the Scheme average of Rs.8.55 lakhs / km.

On analysis of data provided on Samudaya Bhavans, it is observed that

1. Out of 1,203 villages, only 910 villages were implemented with this component and 1,207 Samudaya Bhavanas are constructed at the Scheme average of 1.33 No. / village (1,207 Nos in 910 villages).

2. On village / taluk / district-wise implementation, maximum number of Samudaya Bhavanas implemented are 8 in Navalgi village (Jamkhandi Taluk), 46 in H. B. Halli Taluk and 118 in Belgaum District respectively.

3. Based on categorization of taluks, average numbers implemented was at 1.55 / village which was highest in More Backward Taluks and 1.20 / village was lowest in Backward Taluks when compared to the Scheme average of 1.33 / village.

4. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.10.21 lakhs in Most Backward Taluks and lowest at Rs.8.05 lakhs in Backward Taluks as against the Scheme average of Rs.9.56 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on Anganawadi Building, it is observed that

1. Out of 1,203 villages, only 754 villages were implemented with this component and 1,217 Anganawadi Buildings / projects are constructed at the Scheme average of 1.61 No. / village (1,217 Nos in 754 villages).

2. On village / taluk / district-wise implementation, maximum number of Anganawadi Buildings / projects implemented are 11 in Kolethige village (Puttur Taluk), 39 in Bantawad Taluk and 135 in Dakshina Kannada respectively.

3. Based on categorization of taluks, average numbers implemented was at 1.89 / village which was highest in Relatively Forward Taluks and 1.37 / village was lowest in Backward Taluks when compared to the Scheme average of 1.61 / village.

4. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.5.47 lakhs in More Backward Taluks and lowest at Rs.4.49 lakhs in Relatively Forward Taluks as against the Scheme average of Rs.4.93 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on Training, it is observed that

1. Out of 1,203 villages, only 725 villages in 21 districts, a total of 37,252 beneficiaries were imparted training in different trades at the Scheme average of 51 trainees / village (37,252 Nos in 725 villages). On district-wise implementation, maximum number of trainees covered are 8,970 (24% of total trainees) in Mandya District and minimum number covered were 15 (0.04% of total trainees) in Shimoga District.

2. Based on categorization of taluks, average number of trainees / village are 68 which was highest in Most Backward Taluks and 36 was lowest in Relatively Forward Taluks when compared to the Scheme average of 51 trainees / village.

3. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.3.75 lakhs in Backward Taluks and lowest at Rs.2.62 lakhs in Most Backward Taluks as against the Scheme average of Rs.3.16 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on IEC, it is observed that

1. Out of 1,203 villages, only 330 villages in 10 districts, a total of 4,622 programmes were implemented at the Scheme average of 14 programmes / village (4,622 Nos in 330 villages).

2. On district-wise implementation, maximum number of IEC programmes organised are 3,750 (81% of total programmes) in Chikkaballapura District and minimum were 12 (0.26% of total programmes) in Haveri District.

3. Based on categorization of taluks, average programme / village is 39.22 which was highest in Relatively Forward Taluks and 1.54 was lowest in Most Backward Taluks when compared to the Scheme average of 14 programmes / village.

4. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.1.05 lakhs in Relatively Forward Taluks and lowest at Rs.0.69 lakhs in Backward Taluks as against the Scheme average of Rs.0.89 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on Solar Street Lights, it is observed that

1. Out of 1,203 villages, 383 villages in 15 districts are implemented with this component. A total number of installations made is 3,223 in 383 villages at the Scheme average of 8 installations / village.

2. On district-wise implementation, maximum number of Solar Street Lights installed are 1,602 (50% of total installations) in Dakshina Kannada District and minimum were 17 (less than 1% of total installation) in Haveri District.

3. Based on categorization of taluks, average number of installation / village is 15 which was highest in Relatively Forward Taluks and 3 was lowest in More Backward Taluks when compared to the Scheme average of 8 installations / village.

4. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.1.70 lakhs in Most Backward Taluks and lowest at Rs.0.87 lakhs in More Backward Taluks as against the Scheme average of Rs.1.17 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on Solid Waste Management, it is observed that

1. Out of 1,203 villages, only 131 villages (in 7 districts) covered and a total number of projects implemented are 442 at the Scheme average of 3.38 projects / village (442 Nos in 131 villages).

2. On district-wise comparison, maximum number of projects are 357 (81% of total projects) in Uttara Kannada District and minimum were 2 (less than 1% of total projects) in Koppal District.

3. Based on categorization of taluks, average number of projects / village is 7.8 which was highest in Backward Taluks and 1.09 was lowest in Most Backward Taluks when compared to the Scheme average of 3.38 projects / village.

4. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.6.46 lakhs in Most Backward Taluks and lowest at Rs.1.75 lakhs in More Backward Taluks as against the Scheme average of Rs.2.13 lakhs / village.

   Of the total expenditure of Rs.840.40 crores, 28% is incurred for villages coming under Most Backward Taluks. Similarly, 22%, 19% & 31% of the total funds were incurred for villages in More Backward, Backward & Relatively Forward Taluks respectively.

2. Analysis of Scheme Performance in Sample Villages

   As part of the Study, a sample of 116 villages was selected for analysis of data and also field investigations. In these 116 villages, 580 beneficiaries (5 number / village) were contacted to seek opinions and views on various components implemented under the scheme. While selection of villages, due

care has been taken to have proper representation from villages coming under the four categories of taluks viz., Most Backward, More Backward, Backward and Relatively Forward Taluks as per the Dr. D M Nanjundappa Committee Report.

On analysis of data on 116 sample villages, it was observed that, the extent of different infrastructure implemented is (i) 340.83 kms. of roads (ii) 290.37 kms of drainages (iii) 121 Samudaya Bhavanas (iv) 122 Anganawadis (v) 388 Solar Street Lights (vi) 13 Solid Waste Management projects.

In addition to the infrastructure, soft components viz., Training and IEC were also analysed. Under Training component, 5,779 beneficiaries have been trained in different trades. Under IEC programme, over 1,524 Awareness Programmes organized in sample villages.

On analysis of data provided on Road works, it is observed that

1. Out of 116 sample villages, only 111 villages were implemented with the roads of 340.83 km length. The sample average of road implemented is 3.13 km / village (340.83 km in 111 villages) compared to scheme average of 2.36 km / village.

2. Based on categorization of taluks, average road laid was 5 km / village was highest in Backward Taluks and 2.31 km was lowest in Most Backward Taluks as against the sample average of 3.13 km / village and the scheme average of 2.36 km / village.

3. The average amount spent for roads / village was highest with Rs.83.80 lakhs in Backward Taluks and least at Rs.45.93 lakhs in Relatively Forward Taluks as against the sample average of Rs.53.59 lakhs / village and the scheme average of Rs.39.77 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on Drainage system, it is observed that

1. Out of 116 sample villages, only 104 villages were implemented with the drainage of 290.37 km length. The sample average of drainage implemented is 2.79 km / village (290.37 km in 104 villages) compared to scheme average of 2.14 km / village.

2. Based on categorization of taluks, average length of drainage was 3.80 km / village was highest in Backward Taluks and 2.16 km was lowest in Most Backward Taluks as against the sample average of 2.79 km / village and the scheme average of 2.14 km / village.

3. The average amount spent for drainage / village was highest with Rs.24.47 lakhs in Relatively Forward Taluks and least at Rs.18.95 lakhs in Backward Taluks as against the sample average of Rs.18.91 lakhs / village and the scheme average of Rs.16.73 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on Samudaya Bhavanas, it is observed that

1. Out of 116 sample villages, only 93 villages were implemented with this component and 121 Samudaya Bhavanas are constructed at the sample average of 1.30 numbers / village against scheme average of 1.33 No. / Village.

2. Based on categorization of taluks, average numbers implemented was at 1.72 / village which was highest in More Backward Taluks and 1.20 / village was lowest each in Backward & Relatively Forward Taluks when compared to the sample average of 1.30 / village and scheme average of 1.33 / village.

3. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.11.23 lakhs in More Backward Taluks and lowest at Rs.6.00 lakhs in Backward Taluks as against the both sample & scheme average of Rs.9.56 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on Anganawadi Building, it is observed that

1. Out of 116 sample villages, only 65 villages were implemented with this component and 122 Anganawadi Buildings are constructed at the sample average of 1.88 number / village against scheme average of 1.61 No. / village.

2. Based on categorization of taluks, average numbers implemented was at 2.04 / village which was highest in Relatively Forward Taluks and 1.64 / village was lowest in Most Backward Taluks when compared to the sample average of 1.88 / village and scheme average of 1.61 / village.

3. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.4.26 lakhs in Backward Taluks and lowest at Rs.2.35 lakhs in Relatively Forward Taluks as against the sample average of Rs.3.30 lakhs / village and scheme average of Rs.3.16 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on Training, it is observed that

1. Out of 116 villages, only 68 villages in 21 districts, a total of 5,779 beneficiaries were imparted training at the sample average of 85 trainees / village (5,779 Nos in 68 villages) against scheme average of 51 trainees / village (37,252 Nos in 725 villages).

2. Based on categorization of taluks, average number of trainees / village are 118 which was highest in Most Backward Taluks and 42 was lowest in Backward Taluks when compared to the sample average of 85 trainees / village and scheme average of 51 trainees / village.

3. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.4.26 lakhs in Backward Taluks and lowest at Rs.2.35 lakhs in Relatively Forward Taluks as against the sample average of Rs.3.30 lakhs / village and scheme average of Rs.3.16 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on IEC, it is observed that

1. Out of 116 villages, only 18 villages in 10 districts, a total of 1,524 programmes were implemented at the sample average of 84.67 programmes / village as against scheme average of 14 programmes / village (4,622 Nos in 330 villages).

2. Based on categorization of taluks, average programme / village is Rs.0.83 lakhs / village which was highest in Most Backward Taluks and Rs.0.77 lakhs / village was lowest in Backward Taluks when compared to the sample average of Rs.0.81 lakhs / village and scheme average of Rs.0.89 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on Solar Street Lights, it is observed that

1. Out of 116 sample villages, 38 villages in 15 districts are implemented with this component. A total number of installations made is 386 in 38 villages at the sample average of 10 installations / village and scheme average of 8 installations / village.

2. Based on categorization of taluks, average number of installation / village is 13 which was highest in Relatively Forward Taluks and 5 was lowest in Backward Taluks when compared to the sample average of 10 installations / village and scheme average of 8 installations / village.

3. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.2.40 lakhs in Relatively Forward Taluks and lowest at Rs.1.31 lakhs in More Backward Taluks as against the sample average is Rs.1.94 lakhs / village and scheme average of Rs.1.17 lakhs / village.

On analysis of data provided on Solid Waste Management, it is observed that

1. Out of 116 sample villages, only 38 villages (in 7 districts) covered and a total number of projects implemented are 13 at the sample average of

0.34 projects / village and scheme average of 3.38 projects / village (442 Nos in 131 villages).

2. Based on categorization of taluks, average number of projects / village is 0.58 which was highest in Relatively Forward Taluks and 0.15 was lowest in Most Backward Taluks when compared to the sample average of 0.34 projects / village and scheme average of 3.38 projects / village.

3. The average amount spent / village for this component was highest with Rs.2.70 lakhs in Most Backward Taluks and lowest at Rs.0.81 lakhs in Backward Taluks as against the sample average of Rs.1.92 lakhs / village and scheme average of Rs.2.13 lakhs / village.

3. Opinion of Respondents

a) Roads:

Of the total respondents, 81% of them expressed that prior to implementation of the scheme, roads were very narrow and it was very difficult for movement. Due to improvement in roads, there is increase in vehicular movement (taxis, auto rickshaws, etc.,). Further, they also expressed that there is visibility of cleanliness and an urban look in some villages.

Further, 65% opined that, implementation of roads & drainages enabled smooth vehicular movement for both men and materials within the villages.

They also opined that, improved roads indirectly influenced them to repair / renovate their houses which resulted in land rates increase because of the establishment of few economic activities adjoining the developed roads.

b) Drains:

Of the total respondents 61% expressed that, prior to implementation of drainages most of the villages were facing water logging problems, which further aggravated in formation of pot holes causing difficulties for movement of men and materials.

They also expressed that, water logging was the main reason for increased mosquito menace which was creating health hazards in the villages. Upon implementation of drainages facilitated free flow of rain water and used water from households, avoiding water logging in the villages and there has been improved health conditions.

c) Samudaya Bhavana:

Of the total respondents 45% expressed that Samudaya Bhavanas are being used for organizing Grama Panchayat meetings, Self Help Group (SHG), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) meeting, Training Programmes, Adult Education, Health Camps, celebration of State & National festivals, etc.

Of the total respondents, 78% expressed that, they are located away from the village limits and cause a lot of inconvenience and difficulties to reach by them.

In 35% of the sample villages, it was observed that due to non-availability of government lands at the centre of villages / prime location the same have not been constructed.

d) Anganawadi:

Of the total respondents, 74% expressed that, before the Scheme, pre-school activities were conducted in temples / ration shops as temporary arrangement and was causing lot of inconvenience to teachers as well as students.

They also opined that provision of Anganawadi facilities provided a permanent solution for organizing pre-school activities especially for

BPL (Below Poverty Line) and other socially deprived communities.

e) Training:

During the discussions with the trainees contacted in the sample villages, it was expressed that trades like Dairy Management, Fashion Designing, Tailoring, Computer DTP, Computer Hardware, Photography Agarbathi Making, Goat & Sheep Rearing, Vermi-compost were the major trades selected by them, as they were able to generate additional income.

Of the total trainees 51% expressed that they were able to earn an additional income in the range of Rs.1,500/- to Rs.2,500/- per month.

The also expressed that, there is need for regular follow-up of the programme for success of the same.

25% of the trainees expressed that trades that were in demand in local job market should be included under the component.

f) Solar Street Light:

Of the total respondents 15% expressed that Solar Street Lights provide continuous illumination during the night time irrespective of power cuts.

This facility helped in safe commuting and provided protection against theft and felony.

g) Solid Waste Management:

Of the total respondents 2% expressed that this component helped in keeping the environment and surroundings of the villages clean & hygiene, enabling in improving health conditions.

5. Shortcomings

5.1 Implementing Agency

Field level officials of implementing agency are not being involved in preparation of proposals and selection of villages to be covered under the Scheme, as same are generally prepared by some NGOs / local

associations without adequate ground work.

Funds allocated would not be adequate to complete the works to the full extent as in some cases, components initially approved under the scheme are altered in between due to various reasons, resulting in deviation of funds and non-completion of such components.

In certain cases, due to non-availability of government land within the village limit component such as Samudaya Bhavanaor Anganawadi Building could not be taken-up even though funds were allocated for these purposes.

There is no time limit fixed for implementing agencies for completion of works, which comes in the way of completing the task as per expectations.

As the training centres are widely scattered and are located at far off places from the respective regional offices of implementing agency, hence there is difficulty in monitoring training programmes.

Shortage of manpower is coming in the way of effective implementation & monitoring of the Scheme

5.2 Respondents

Partial coverage of the village requirements in terms of infrastructure may not enable to achieve the objectives of the scheme guidelines.

There has been instances of improper gradient and inadequate drainage system causing water logging problems resulting in further aggravation of pot hole formation and deteriorating quality of roads.

No hand-holding support and follow up guidance after completion of training by the implementing agencies, thus leaving the trained candidates clue less.

Some of the Samudaya Bhavanas are not provided with electricity connection and water supply hence rendering it not useable by villagers.

Further, a few of Samudaya Bhavanas, even though after completion is not handed over to respective Gram Panchayats.

6. Findings of the Study

During the study, it was required to cover criteria for selection of villages, ascertaining component-wise progress, current status, quality of works and public opinion about the infrastructure created under Phase - I. To ascertain the above indicated parameters, a total of 116 sample villages were selected in 29 districts. The findings of the study are as follows:

Selection of Villages

Out of 29,796 total villages in the State 1,203 (4%) were covered for implementation of the Scheme under Phase - I. The selection was mainly based on the criteria such as villages where more concentration of SC/ST, the villages should be nearer to urban centres, villages preferably located adjoining major roads & connected with good network of roads, villages having potential to grow as growth centres and villages having minimum population of 2,500. In majority of the cases, the Department has followed the above indicated guidelines as per the Scheme in selection of villages.

On analysis of selection followed in sample 116 villages also, broadly the guidelines have been followed.

As per the categorization of the taluks, of the total 1,203 covered villages under the scheme, 24% of the villages fall under Most Backward Taluks, 22%, 20% and 34% under More Backward, Backward & Relatively Forward Taluks respectively. This shows that Most & More Backward Taluks (only 46% of the total villages) were not given due importance while selecting villages for implementation of the scheme.

Utilisation of Funds

The funds utilized for roads & drainages was over 80% (81.19%) of

the total against maximum limit of 60% which indicates that fund utilization was not in conformity to the stipulated guidelines.

Fund utilization for remaining components which was suppose to be at 40% of the total allocation, however actual utilization was less than 20% (actual 18.81%).

Component-wise specific observations

Road

Out of 116 sample villages, 111 villages have been provided with 341 Kms of Road length at the cost of Rs.6, 109.03 Lakhs. Overall the quality of roads was good and motorable. The improved roads enabled increase in economic activities. However, in certain villages, quality of roads was average and roads had developed pot holes leading to water logging problems. In the villages viz., Belagundi in Belgaum Taluk and Negli village in Mulbagal Taluk such lapses were observed.

On analysis of physical & financial progress, it was observed that, in certain villages specifically in Kudur village of Magadi Taluk and Tavarekere village of Bangalore South Taluk though financial progress is shown for road, however physically roads are not implemented in these villages.

The highest length of road at 10.69 Kms. is implemented in Ajjampura Village of Tarikeri Taluk and lowest in Shikeri village in Bagalkot Taluks at 0.55 Kms.

Drainage

Out of 116 sample villages, 108 villages have been provided with 290.37 Kms of Drainage facility at the cost of Rs.224.51 Lakhs. Overall the quality of drainages was satisfactory and enabled smooth flow of waste water from the village limits. However, in certain villages, quality of drainages was average and in certain cases they were not provided with proper gradient causing overflow of water to the roads and thereby deteriorating the quality of roads. In the villages viz., Jently village in Mundargi Taluk and Khangaon in Gokak Taluk the drainages had above said problems.

On analysis of physical & financial progress, it was observed that, in certain villages specifically in Kudur village of Magadi Taluk and Doddamole village of Chamarajanagar Taluk though financial progress is shown for drainage, however physically they are not implemented in these villages.

The highest length of drainage at 8.00 Kms. is provided in Bellambara Village of Ankola Taluk and lowest in Madbole Village in Shahpur Taluks at 0.30Kms.

Samudaya Bhavana

Out of 116 sample villages, 93 villages have been provided with 121 Samudaya Bhavana at the cost of Rs. 898.58 Lakhs. In 16 villages more than one such building and specifically maximum of 6 Samudaya Bhavanas are constructed in Hosahalli village of Kudligi Taluk.

Of the total sample, 58% respondents opined that the Samudaya Bhavanas are strategically located and easily accessible. Further, it was observed / opined that, in 2 villages construction is incomplete, in 5 villages they are used for Government offices, in 3 villages, even

after completion they are not handed over to Grama Panchayats for public use.

In certain villages, where government lands were not available, however the Samudaya Bhavanas have been implemented in the vacant places surrounding temples / mosque / church, which indicate that the efforts are made to utilize the allocated funds for this component for providing such facilities to the village community.

Anganawadi Building

Out of 116 villages, 61 villages were provided with a total of 122 units at the cost of Rs.382.28 Lakhs. These 122 units comprise construction of 64 new Anganawadi Buildings, only civil works in 5 villages and Out of 122 projects of this component in 61 villages, 64 new Anganawadis have been constructed, in five projects only civil works taken up (as there were existing Anganawadi Buildings), two are incompleted (hence not to put in use) and in remaining 51 projects no activity viz., neither construction of new building nor civil works is taken up.

The financial progress indicates that, there has been completion of 122 units / projects under this component. During field study, it was observed that, out of 122 units / projects, (i) only 64 new Anganawadis have been constructed, (ii) in five units / projects only civil works were taken up (as there were existing Anganawadi Buildings), (iii) two units are incomplete (hence not to put in use) and in remaining 51 units / projects no activity viz., neither construction of new building nor civil works is taken up.

In 36 sample villages more than one Anganawadi Building / civil works was provided.

Training

Out of 116 villages 72 villages were covered with training component. A total of 5,779 beneficiaries were trained at the cost of Rs.191.13 Lakhs. 55% of the respondents expressed that the training and courses whereas remaining 45% of the trainees expressed that the same was not suitable / adequate to local industry requirement.

Generally, the trades covered under training were DTP, Computer Hardware, Fashion Designing, Tailoring, Dairy Management, Vermi-compost, etc., as observed during field study. Maximum of 803 beneficiaries were covered in Mandikal village of Chikkaballapura Taluk when compared to any other sample village.

IEC

Out of 116 villages 22 villages were provided with IEC and a total of 1,524 programmes at the cost of Rs.52.37 Lakhs.

Maximum numbers of awareness programmes organized were 750 each in Mandikal & Manchanabele villages of Chikkaballapura Taluk.

61% of the respondents were aware of the component and they expressed that, the information provided through this programme enabled them to know more about Government schemes / programmes which were beneficial to them.

Solar Street Lights

Out of 116 villages 38 villages were covered and a total of 386 installations were made at the cost of Rs.98.69Lakhs.

A maximum of 75 numbers of installations was made in Haleneranki village coming under Puttur Taluk .

A total of 63% of the respondents expressed that the lighting facilities provided through solar system enabled lighting facilities even during power cuts.

Solid Waste Management

Out of 116 villages, in 12 villages only this component was covered and A total of 13 projects/ units were implemented at the cost of Rs. 56.66 Lakhs.

The facilities viz., dust bins, trolleys; dumping yards were provided under this component.

61% of the respondents expressed that, the implementation of this project enabled the villages to keep them clean and in hygienic condition

7. Impact of the Scheme

The Scheme by and large succeeded in providing basic infrastructure facilities required in the villages. Though certain lapses during implementation were there, the Scheme has been able to provide additional infrastructure and other employment generation opportunities. The impacts of the schemes are briefed as follows:

Accelerated the process of social and economic development in the villages covered under Phase - I.

In 1,203 villages covered under Phase – I, the scheme has been instrumental in creation of infrastructure / other facilities viz., (i) surfaced and motorable roads with a total length of 2,826 kms, (ii) improved drainage facility of 2,450 kms for smooth flow of storm and waste water, (iii) 1,200 number of Samudaya Bhavanas for conducting socio-cultural activities, and (iv) 1,217 number of Anganawadi Buildings.

Further, over 3,000 Solar Street Lights have been installed in 383 covered villages. Under SWM component, nearly 440 projects taken up in 131 number of villages, where in approximately 600 trolleys, 2,500 dust bins and 100 dump yards were provided.

In addition to the above infrastructure, the Scheme has facilitated in providing training for over 37,000 educated un-employed rural youths including women in different trades. The training enabled trainees to venture in to self-employment and get employment in the local job market.

In 116 sample villages covered under Phase – I, the scheme has been instrumental in creation of infrastructure / other facilities viz., (i) surfaced and motorable roads with a total length of about 340 kms, (ii) improved drainage facility of 290 kms for smooth flow of storm and waste water, (iii) 121 number of Samudaya Bhavanas for conducting socio-cultural activities, (iv) 122 number of Anganawadi Buildings (v) trained over 5,800 un-employed rural youths including women in different trades for self-employment or employment opportunities in the local job market, (vi) Over 380 Solar Street Lights installation has been done in 38 covered villages, (vii) Under 13 SWM projects taken up in 12 villages provided approximately 50 trolleys, 150 dust bins and 10 dump yards.

Enabled rural population to be empowered for better livelihood opportunities on a sustainable and growing basis.

Improved the connectivity and easy movement for men & materials within the villages through up-gradation of existing infrastructure and taking up new works in rural areas.

Has been able to bring in financial security and achieved socio-economic growth in the villages covered under the scheme.

Recommendations

The study came out with short term & long term practicable recommendations. Further, some recommendations which require policy decisions were also suggested in the report.

A. Short term recommendations

It is observed that, all the villages are not provided with all eight components envisaged under the Scheme. This may be due to insufficient funds allocated for such selected villages

It can be noted that, normally, Rs.100/- Lakhs is allocated / village under the Scheme. It is recommended that the villages covered under the Scheme shall be released at least the allocated funds fully in order to see some changes in such villages.

While preparing proposals, the requirements of the villages to be assessed properly. It is recommended that based on the discussions with village community, Grama Panchayats and local leaders infrastructure requirements of the villages to be assessed, finalized and forwarded to the department for the final approval. This will enable comprehensive development of the village through participatory approach.

If road only is implemented without drainage system, the quality of road would not last long as there would be again water logging problems because of no drainage facilities. It is recommended that there is need for coverage of drains as part of road construction enabling smooth flow of storm water and to increase the life of the roads and drains. Similarly, it is recommended that, other components such as Samudhaya Bhavan, Anganwadi need to be developed with required facilities to render them 100% useful to the village community.

Components like IEC & Training and Solid Waste Management were

not given due weightage during implementation of the Scheme. As these components are also very important, it is recommended to give due importance to them for coverage under the scheme.

There is instances viz., though the buildings (Samudaya Bhavana and Anganawadi Buidlings) are completed but not being handed over to village authorities and hence currently are not put to use. It is recommended that, initiations to be made for handing over the same to Grama Panchayat immediately after completion of construction for public use.

A circular from Head Office may be issued to the implementing agencies / authorities accordingly.

B. Long term practicable:

C. It was observed during field study that, some of the villages are provided with more than one Samudaya Bhavanas for fulfilling needs of different communities. The purpose of socializing within the village community is not served and it only divides village on basis of castes. It is recommended that, even more than *one Samudaya Bhavan is provided for a village, such facilities to be allowed for usuage by all caste and Communities avoiding discrimination.*

D. To increase the success rate under training component, there is need for imparting training based on demand in local job market. There is also need for organizing follow-up meetings periodically to keep track of exact progress achieved under the component. It is recommended that, a necessary instruction may be issued from the Head Office to such empanelled / Selected training Institutes to conduct training programme accordingly.

E. Solid Waste Management is not given due importance as expected. It was observed during field study that, the facilities provided have not been accepted fully by the village community. Generally, there was mismatch

between what is provided and what is required. In certain villages, it was observed that, even though trolleys, baskets are provided, however the same have been not utilized due to lack of manpower. In such cases, it was opined that, alternatively provisions may be made for manure pits for dumping solid waste on their own. *It is recommended that, at the planning level the requirements of the villagers under SWM may be discussed and same may be considered and provisions for such facilities shall be included in the forth coming programmes.*

F. On analysis of component-wise data provided by respective ZPs, it was observed that, there is mismatch between permissible fund allocations when compared to funds utilization at field level. It is recommended that, mid course evaluation or concurrent evaluation by the Department may be initiated to monitor the project in terms of physical and financials as per guidelines.

A uniform format may be evolved for reporting the progress of the components (indicating both physical and financial targets and accordingly the progress achieved) by local level implementing agencies to RDPR department on a periodical basis. This will help to establish a quick and systematic monitoring mechanism at Head Office level.

G. Recommendations requiring change in policy

H. It is recommended that, if required, a Third Party Inspection for certification of project implementation need to be emphasized. This will enable proper monitoring and utilization of allocated funds for a particular component ensuring judicial utilization of the funds as per the estimated quantities. This will further enable ascertaining quality and quantity as stipulated for the project.

I. Due to overlapping of other schemes of the Government, there are instances of construction of Samudhaya Bhavan or Anganwadis in the villages. In

such cases, it is recommended that, not to make provision for such components under SGS to avoid repetition. This will enable judicial utilization of funds for some other villages which are deprived of such facilities.

J. There are instances of construction of two or more Samudaya Bhavan in a particular village based on castes. It is recommended that, a decision may be taken to make a provision for one Samudaya Bhavan per village and such facilities to be allowed for usuage by all caste and Communities avoiding discrimination. Further, such decisions would enable Government to utilize funds judiciously for completion of other components in the SGS villages.

The Suvarna Gramodaya Scheme is a special development programme of Government taken up for improving the village life on par with urban look. To get such urban look in these villages, in addition to the existing components there is need for inclusion of urban facilities such as rural market hubs / shandy areas, common service centre, warehousing facilities for storage of agri products, rural economy based projects, village linked tourism, development of linking roads to the social infrastructure viz., hospitals, educational centres, entertainment centres which are available in the nearby urban centres. The provision for such facilities would enable improvements in socio economic development of the villages, thereby meeting the overall objective of the SGS scheme.

In a nutshell, the study concludes that Suvarna Gramodaya Scheme has helped many villages to enhance its socio-economic status and improving living condition of village community. It is recommended that, subsequent phases need to be continued with suggested modifications and also incorporating recommendations wherever possible and feasible, which will certainly make the scheme more meaningful and sustainable.

Findings of the Evaluation Study

During the course of field study and interaction with various stakeholders, including implementing agencies at various levels, the study team observed many facts and these are summarized below:

Selection of Villages

As per the guideline the criteria for selection of a village should be nearer to the urban centres/taluk place/well connected with roads etc., to be considered under the Scheme. Further, it also stipulates that there is need to give thrust for villages where there is more concentration of SC/ST population. The guidelines also highlight selection of villages based on categorization of taluks as per Dr. D M Nanjundappa Committee Report. It can be noted that, overall 1,203 villages have been proposed for implementation of Suvarna Gramodaya Yojana Phase – 1 with the outlay Ankola – Goa road). These two villages satisfy the criteria to be included in the scheme as per the guidelines. However, these two villages have not been considered. However, other village namely Hire Honnali (though satisfy the population criteria) which is located about 10 km from Kalaghatagi town has been covered under the scheme. Further, in Belgaum Taluk, two villages viz., Savgoan, Kallehole villages in Belgaum Taluk were located close to urban centers, having better accessibility through a good network of roads and had potential to develop as a Growth Centre were not selected during Phase I. of Rs. 82,856.78 lakhs. For Evaluation 116 villages have been visited to ascertain the procedure followed in selection of village, current progress and condition of infrastructure, opinion of respondents about the works and its impact.

In majority of the cases, the Department has followed the guidelines as indicated above in selection of villages for implementation of the infrastructure. On analysis of selection followed in sample 116 villages also, broadly the guidelines have been followed in selection by the Department. However, it was observed that, in respect of certain villages which have the above said advantage /

norms have not been selected under the scheme. Few cases where such instances were observed are furnished below:

1) Two villages namely Dastikoppa and Ramanal villages each having population more than 2,500 persons are coming under Kalaghatagi Taluk, Dharwad District. Both the villages are very nearer to (within 4 kms.) Kalaghatagi town which is the Taluk Headquarter. Further, these two villages are also located adjoining NH – 63 (Hubballi – Ankola – Goa road). These two villages satisfy the criteria to be included in the scheme as per the guidelines. However, these two villages have not been considered. However, other village namely Hire Honnali (though satisfy the population criteria) which is located about 10 km from Kalaghatagi town has been covered under the scheme.

2) Further, in Belgaum Taluk, two villages viz., Savgoan, Kallehole villages in Belgaum Taluk were located close to urban centers, having better accessibility through a good network of roads and had potential to develop as a Growth Centre were not selected during Phase I.

Recommendations:

Various suggestions for improvement of the scheme have been emerged during the course of study. Accordingly the major recommendations are suggested as (i) Short Term practicable (ii) Long Term Practicable (iii) Recommendations required in Policy Change are below:

i. Short Term practicable

a) It is observed that, all the villages are not provided with all eight components envisaged under the Scheme. This may be due to insufficient funds allocated for such selected villages

It can be noted that, normally, Rs.100/- Lakhs is allocated / village under the Scheme. It is recommended that the villages covered under the Scheme shall be released at least th allocated funds fully in order to see some changes in such villages.

b) While preparing proposals, the requirements of the villages to be assessed properly. *It is recommended that based on the discussions with village community, Grama Panchayats and local leaders infrastructure requirements of the villages to be assessed, finalized and forwarded to the department for the final approval. This will enable comprehensive development of the village through participatory approach.*

c) If road only is implemented without drainage system, the quality of road would not last long as there would be again water logging problems because of no drainage facilities. *It is recomm ended that there is need for coverage of drains as part of road construction enabling smooth flow of storm water and to increase the life of the roads and drains. Similarly, it is recommended that, other components such as Samudhaya Bhavan, Anganwadi need to be developed with required facilities to render them 100% useful to the village community.*

d) Components like IEC & Training and Solid Waste Management were not given due weightage during implementation of the Scheme. As these components are also very important, *it is recommended to give due importance to them for coverage under the scheme.*

e) There is instances viz., though the buildings (Samudaya Bhavana and Anganawadi Buidlings) are completed but not being handed over to village authorities and hence currently are not put to use. *It is recommended that, initiations to be made for handing over the same to Grama Panchayat immediately after completion of construction for public use.*

   A circular from Head Office may be issued to the implementing agencies /authorities accordingly.

ii) Long Term practicable

a) It was observed during field study that, some of the villages are provided with more than one Samudaya Bhavanas for fulfilling needs of different communities. The purpose of socializing within the village community is not served and it only divides village on basis of castes. It is recommended that, even more *than one Samudaya Bhavan is provided for a village, such facilities to be allowed for usuage by all caste and Communities voiding discrimination.*

b) To increase the success rate under training component, there is need for imparting training based on demand in local job market. There is also need for organizing follow-up meetings periodically to keep track of exact progress achieved under the component. It is recommended that, *a necessary instruction may be issued from the Head Office to such empanelled / Selected training Institutes to conduct training programme accordingly.*

   a. Solid Waste Management is not given due importance as expected. It was observed during field study that, the facilities provided have not been accepted fully by thevillage community. Generally, there was

mismatch between what is provided and what is required. In certain villages, it was observed that, even though trolleys,baskets are provided, however the same have been not   utilized due to lack of manpower. In such cases, it was opined that, alternatively provisions may be made for manure pits for dumping solid waste on their own. *It is recommended that, at the planning level the requirementsof the villagers under SWM may be discussed and same may be considered and provisions for   such facilities shallbe included in the forth coming programmes.*

c) On analysis of component-wise data provided by respective ZPs, it was observed that, there is mismatch between permissible fund allocations when compared to funds utilization at field level. *It is recommended that, mid course evaluation or concurrent evaluation by the Department may be initiated to monitor the project in terms of physical and financials as per guidelines*.

A uniform format may be evolved for reporting the progress of the components (indicating both physical and financial targets and accordingly the progress   achieved) by local level implementing agencies to RDPR department on a periodical basis. This will help to establish a quick and systematic monitoring mechanism at Head Office level.

iii) Recommendations requiring change in Policy

1) It is recommended that, if required, a Third Party Inspection for certification of project implementation need to be emphasized. This will enable proper monitoring and utilization of allocated funds for a   particular component ensuring judicial utilization of the funds as per the estimated quantities. This will further   enable ascertaining quality and quantity as stipulated for the project.

2) Due to overlapping of other schemes of the Government, there are instances of construction of Samudhaya Bhavan or Anganwadis in the villages. In such cases, it is recommended that, not to make provision for such components nder SGS to avoid repetition. This will enable judicial utilization of funds for some other villages which are deprived of such facilities.

3) There are instances of construction of two or more Samudaya Bhavan in a particular village based on castes. It is recommended that, a decision may be taken to make a provision for one Samudaya Bhavan per village and such facilities to be allowed for usuage by all caste and Communities avoiding discrimination. Further, such decisions would enable Government to utilize funds judiciously for completion of other components in the SGS villages.

4) The Suvarna Gramodaya Scheme is a special development programme of Government taken up for improving the village life on par with urban look. To get such urban look in these villages, in addition to the existing components there is need for inclusion of urban facilities such as rural market hubs / shandy areas, common service centre, warehousing facilities for storage of agri products, rural economy based projects, village linked tourism, development of linking roads to the social infrastructure viz., hospitals, educational centres, entertainment centres which are available in the nearby urban centres. The provision for such facilities would enable improvements in socio economic development o the villages, thereby meeting the overall objective of the SGS scheme.

In a nutshell, the study concludes that Suvarna Gramodaya Scheme has helped many villages to enhance its socio-economic status and improving living condition of village community. It is recommended that, subsequent phases need to be continued with suggested modifications and also incorporating recommendations wherever possible and feasible, which will certainly make the scheme more meaningful and sustainable.