



PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTAL SCHEMES IN LAKSHADWEEP

ABSTRACT

The enchanting group of coral island in Arabian Sea forms the union Territory of Lakshadweep. This archipelago consists of 12 atolls, only ten are inhabited. The Island, earlier known as Laccadive. Minicoy and Amindivi are irregularly scattered between 8 and 12.30 north latitude and between 71c east longitudes, away from Kozhikode by about 200 to 400 kms. The island which were administrated at various place were grouped into a Union Territory of Lakshadweep with effect from November 1, 1973. In 1984, the administration was shifted from Kozhikode to Kavaratti Island. Rural development has always been an important issue in all discussions pertaining to economic development, especially of developing countries, throughout the world These include agricultural growth, putting up of economic and social infrastructure, fair wages as also housing and house sites for the landless, village planning, public health, education and functional literacy, communication etc. Rural development is a national necessity Local Self government play a crucial role for the development of village through various socio economic development program. Some extent these types of programs help to remove the problems of poverty. This paper tries to Explain Panchayat Set Up In Lakshadweep , Various Schemes And Programmes Transferred By Lakshadweep Administration To The District Panchayat , Major Developmental Schemes Being Implemented By The Village(Dweep)Panchayats In Lakshadweep


**Surendran Illathu
Padikkal¹**

¹Lecturer in Economics,
PG Department of Economics
Calicut University Centre,
Kadmat
Union Territory of
Lakshadweep, India

KEYWORDS: Panchayat, Social Justice, Empowerment, Schemes ,Programmes ,Lakshadweep Administration

INTRODUCTION

“The future of India lies in its villages”

-Mahatma Gandhi

The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in rural development in India particularly after independence. Plan documents of both the central and state governments and various committees have emphasized the importance of these bodies in the polity. Five-year plans, specially the second five-year plan, laid special emphasis on the role of Panchayats in rural developments. Second five-year plan envisaged a panchayati as responsible for village development keeping

transformation of social and economic life of rural areas as its goal of development. It says that, the rural progress depends entirely on the existence of an active organization in the village which can bring all the people, including the weaker sections, in to common programmes to be carried out with the assistance of administration. To achieve this objective the second Five year Plan entailed the Panchayats to perform civic, developmental, land management, land reform and judicial functions. Subsequent plans and policy pronouncements of national leader to emphasized the role of Panchayats in village development

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- * To identify the different developmental programs implemented by local self-government in Lakshadweep
- * To examine nature and type of different program implemented by local self-government in Lakshadweep
- * To understand the effectiveness of developmental programs.

METHODOLOGY

The study is conducted on the basis of primary and secondary data ..Investigator used structured questioner for collecting Primary Data data .Secondary data are collected from published research article, Journals, Books, Government records and website

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The Local self-government are expected to play an important role in rural development in India particularly after independence The study examine various development programs implemented by dweep panchayat in Lakshadweep

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The minimum care was taken to make the study comprehensive but some limitations occurred.

- ✎ The researcher conducted the study and data collection within a short period of time.
- ✎ Lack of time may have affected in establishing rapport with the respondents.
- ✎ There is a chance of exaggerated information provided by the respondents.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

“The Report on the Amindivi Islands”,1846 and **“The Report on Laccadive Islands”,**1848 by William Robinson are the two books that mainly dealt with the depiction of the people in both Amindivi Laccadive Islands. Another report was published in 1955 was

“S.Y Krishnaswmy’s Report of 1955”; it was only an updating of Ellis Manual.

Sociologists and Anthropologists has attracted to the Lakshadweep Islands due to its peculiar social structure. Leela Dube,s book entitled

“Matriling and Islam’, 1969 was the first among the series. It was a case study of Kalpeni islands which deals with the contradictory coexistence of mat riling which has a Hindu origin and the lives of Islam in the book

“Thinnakara Island-An Environmental Study” Published by ERR centre with the help of Science and Technology, Union Territory of Lakshadweep provides

information about the archipelago and its environmental significance in Lakshadweep. The Islands are oriented in the North, except for the East West orientation of the Androth Islands.

The skyline green is with the spreading coconut crown except for the coral Islands , and the bird’s islands Pitti among casual and exposures or coral and formation. **‘Pitti Island Lakshadweep-An Ornithological Study’** Published by Department of Science and Technology, Union Territory of Lakshadweep gives us more information about the formation of the islands, about the origin of the name , language etc. The book also gives information about fauna and flora of island. There are no rivers, mountains or hills. The soil being very porous , there are no moved Vegetation Zones, or cultivated fields.

Government of India has published the result of **“Socio economic Survey of Chetlath Island”** in 1970 as a part of its census enquiry. The survey result gives details of the island Chetlat. It contain all about the village chetlat **‘Survey of Training needs for Lakshadweep Island’** Published by the institute of Applied Manpower Research in 1991.

There is a several Government Publications **‘The District Gazetteer of Lakshadweep’** come first. A great deal of general information regarding the history and people of the islands as well as the overall development that has taken place in Lakshadweep in recent times provides through it. **‘The district Census Hand book 2011’** is an important Publication brought out by the census organization on behalf of the Lakshadweep.

Union Territory Administration. This book comprises of two part a village and Town Directory and part B: Primary Census Abstract for general population scheduled tribe population of data community development block level instead of traditional tahsil level.

Basic Statistics is an important publication of Planning and Statistic Department, Union Territory of Lakshadweep. This is on of the most valuable district level publications brought out by the Department of Planning and Statistics. Its inter-alia presents data on socio economic and developmental programmes of each sector to facilitate easy reference.

“Lakshadweep and its people” is the very important publications of Planning and Statistics, Union Territory of Lakshadweep. It provides all information about Lakshadweep. The book has three parts contains details about the land and the people, planning and development and future prospects respectively. It is an annual publication. For our purpose we refer the issue of 1989-90 to2009-10 which is latest.

Dr K.K.N. Kurup has presented a historical account with special reference to a specified period in the history of the islands in his book **"The Ali Raja of Cannanor"**. This book is exclusively deals with the Arakal House of Cannanor; whose reign covered the islands from the middle of the 16th century. In his book **"Kerala under Hider Ali and Tipu Sulthan"**.

PANCHAYAT SET UP IN LAKSHADWEEP

The Lakshadweep Panchayats Regulation, 1994 was promulgated by the President of India, on 23rd April, 1994 and the provisions of the Regulation were brought into force in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep on 23.05.95. As per the 1st schedule of the Regulation there has to be 10 Village (Dweep) Panchayats and a District Panchayat for the whole of Lakshadweep. The Village (Dweep) Panchayats were constituted in December, 1997 and the District Panchayat in January, 1998.

The Election Commission for UTs has already initiated action for preparing for the Panchayat General Election due in December, 2002 and the process will be completed without any delay to constitute the Panchayat by December, 2002.

The Lakshadweep consist of 93% Scheduled Tribe population. There are 79 seats in the Village (Dweep) Panchayat and 22 seats in the District Panchayat for direct election. All the above 101 seats are held by Scheduled Tribe candidates. 30 out of 79 members of the Village Panchayats, 8 out of 22 District Panchayat members and 4 out of 10 Chairpersons of Village Panchayats are women members.

The Lakshadweep Administration transferred schemes and programs from the sectors of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Public Health, Industries, Cooperation, Education, Fisheries, Social Welfare, Electricity, Environment, Rural Development and Public works to the Panchayats along with staff and fund for its operation under the Panchayats. 25 major schemes with 76 sub schemes along with 800 employees of the UT Administration have been deployed and placed under the District Panchayat. 24 major schemes with 100 sub schemes along with 249 employees of the UT Administration have been deployed and placed under the Village (Dweep) Panchayats. The schemes and programmes transferred by the UT Administration and schemes of its own are implemented by the Panchayats with assistance of these deployed UT Administration employees.

The District /Village Panchayats prepare their own schemes and budget annually and after its approval both in the Village Panchayat and in the District Panchayat meeting, the annual budget for the panchayats is recommended by the District Planning Committee where 2/3rd of its members are from among the elected representatives.

VARIOUS SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES TRANSFERRED BY LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION TO THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT

Agriculture:-

- 1.Coconut Development
- 2.Soil and Water conservation
- 3.Disaster Management
- 4.Social & Agro Forestry

Fisheries:-

- 1.Mechanization & improvement of fishing crafts
- 2.Maintenance & Repair of Boats
- 3.Setting up of Fishermen Co-op Societies

Industries:

- 1.Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana
- 2.Promotion of Traditional Handicrafts and setting up Handicraft Training Cum Production Centre.
- 3.Financial assistance to the Local Entrepreneurs/transport subsidy to SSI Units.
- 4.Human Resource Development Plan

Social Welfare:-

- 1.Social Security & Welfare
- 2.Arts and Culture
- 3.Special Nutrition Programme

Education:-

- 1.Early Childhood care and Education
- 2.Primary Education
- 3.Adult Education
- 4.Rural functional literary project
Post literacy & Continuing Education

Labour and Employment:-

- 1.Pre -recruitment training to the local Scheduled Tribes

Electricity:-

- 1.Integrated Rural Energy Programme

General Administration:-

- 1.Relief measures at the time of natural calamities.

Co-Operation and Civil Supplies:-

1. Development of other type of Co-operative Societies

PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT

Developmental Schemes:-

I. Dinghy Making, Boat Building Yard, Kavaratti:-

Small Dinghies are constructed under the scheme and sold to local fishermen. The Applicants desiring to procure Dinghies can register their names with the Fisheries Officer, District Panchayat at anytime of the year. On the dinghies being ready to deliver the applicants are informed to take delivery after payment. The District Panchayat in its first meeting of every quarter will evaluate the performance of the scheme based on the no. of boats issued, complaints and suggestions received from the beneficiaries. Any complaint received regarding the unit will be processed and a reply will be given within a period of 15 days.

I. Fish Pickle Units at Agatti and Bitra:-

Two Fish Pickle Units one each at Agatti and Bitra as a new Development Scheme. The Units now provide pickles required at the Schools for Mid-day Meals. Further improvements are on the anvil to market the produce through out the islands.

The Officer looking after the matter in the respective schemes are the Officers in charge of District Panchayat. Complaints and suggestions can be sent to the District Panchayat directly also.

II Jaggery and Vinegar Making Unit, Andrott:-

Jaggery and Vinegar are quality products of Lakshadweep. The District Panchayat has a unit at Andrott for promoting the trade, generating job opportunities for local meera tappers and to make available the produce to the entire territory. The Meera Tappers can sell their Meera to the unit. The present rate of buying Meera is Rs.12/- per litre. One Kilo of Jaggery cost Rs. 90/- and Vinegar Rs. 15/- per litre.

Unit is under over all supervision of Officer in Charge, District Panchayat, Andrott and the senior most Agriculture Staff looks after the day today affairs of the Unit.

Geo Textiles Unit, Kalpeni:-

The purpose of the Scheme is to encourage eco-friendly products. The Unit also provides employment to the local Scheduled Tribes. At present the Unit makes materials like Coir, Net, Carpet, Hammock, Coir fibre, ropes etc., which are available for sale in the unit.

The Unit is under the supervision of Supervisor at the Unit. Complaints and suggestions on the scheme can either be sent to the Officer in Charge DP, or directly to the Public Relations Officer, District Panchayat, Kavaratti.

VARIOUS SCHEMES

TRANSFERRED BY THE LAKSHDWEEP ADMINISTRATION TO THE VILLAGE (DWEEP) PANCHAYATS

Medical & Health Service:-

- 1.Registration of Births & Deaths
- 2.Public Health Activities
- 3.Food Adulteration

Animal Husbandry:-

- 1.Fashioning of goat rearing system to suit the eco system
- 2.Poultry Development
- 3.Cattle/ Buffalo Development (Integrated Cattle Development)
- 4.Animal Health Coverage and Disease Control

Agriculture:-

- 1.Horticulture Development
- 2.Olericulture Development
- 3.Manure and Fertilizers
- 4.Integrated Plant Protection
- 5.Agril extension Service & Strengthening Department activities
- 6.Floriculture and Orchid Development
- 7.Agricultural Marketing and processing

Department of Environment and Forests:-

1. Scientific management of bio-degradable and non-bio degradable wastes

Social Justice Empowerment and Culture:-

- 1.Social Security and Welfare
- 2.Aid to women welfare Organizations

Fisheries:-

- 1.Deep Sea fisheries and Development of Shark fishing
- 2.Mechanisation and improvement of fishing crafts

Public Works:-

- 1.Water Supply programme

Labour and Employment:-

- 1.Imparting training in Type Writing
- 2.Incentive aid to local ST Candidates seeking employment

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCHEMES BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE VILLAGE(DWEEP) PANCHAYATS IN LAKSHADWEEP ARE:

- ✦ Jaggery and Vinegar Making
- ✦ Poultry Units
- ✦ Meera Tapping (Meera is the sweet toddy obtained from coconut trees by which jaggery and vinegar is made)
- ✦ Tailoring and Dress making Units
- ✦ Assistance to Fishermen
- ✦ Beautification and maintenance of public places
- ✦ Rat Control

SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES TRANSFERRED FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION:

I. AGRICULTURE

Schemes and Programmes under Agriculture Sector:

1. (a) Coconut Development Programme:-

The Scheme envisages cutting and removing unthrifty and senile palms by paying compensation of Rs.400/- per tree.

Application with the following details can be sent to the President Cum Chief Counsellor/Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat, Kavaratti.

- Survey number of the land
- No. of trees to be cut
- Ownership details of the land

2. Soil and Water Conservation:-

(a) Protection of Seashore:-

The Scheme envisages encouraging the locals to plant various plants and construction of bunds along the seashore to protect it from sea erosion. The locals paid at the rates fixed by the Agriculture Department from time to time.

(b) Protection and maintenance of Littoral and Mangrove Vegetation:

The Scheme envisages protecting the seashores from erosion by preserving the available mangrove vegetation in Minicoy Island and by planting new littoral vegetation. The locals are paid at the rates fixed by the Department of Agriculture from time to time.

Applications will be accepted by the District Panchayat from the month of May to December every

year. Applications so received will be scrutinized by the Screening Committees constituted for the purpose in all the islands before the 20th of January and forward the applications with recommendations to the District Panchayat latest by 10th February. The District Panchayat before the closing of the financial year will release the amounts due to the beneficiaries.

Complaints, grievances and suggestions will be received by the Officer in Charge, District Panchayat in all islands and by the Public Relations Officer, District Panchayat, Kavaratti through out the year. The complaints and grievances will be redressed within 15 days from the receipt of the same

II. INDUSTRIES

Schemes and Programmes under Industrial Sector:

1. Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojna:-

The Objectives of the Scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Educated youth to take up self-employment programmes Selection Committee meetings are held on the last week of every month Names of persons selected is recommended to the Bank on the first week of every month

Complaints, grievances and suggestions will be received by the Public Relations Officer, District Panchayat, Kavaratti through out the year. The complaints and grievances will be redressed within 15 days from the receipt of the same.

SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT AND CULTURE

Schemes and Programmes under the Sector:

a) Management of Reading Room Cum Libraries in 9 islands:-

Grievances and suggestions for improving the services of the program will be received by the Public Relations Officer, District Panchayat, Kavaratti any time during the year, which will be forwarded within 5 days to the Director of Social Justice/Library Development officer.

b) UT level Cultural competitions:-

On receipt of the funds from the Department of Social Justice the District Panchayat in collaboration with an agency like Sahitya Kala Academy conducts the UT/ Island level cultural competitions during January/February every year. Willing and interested participants can register their names directly with the District Panchayat (Social Education Organiser) in the case of Kavaratti and with the OIC in case of other islands anytime during the year.

c) Special Nutrition Program:

The program envisages providing Nutritious food to Pregnant Women, Nursing mothers, adolescent girls

and children at the age group of 6 months to 6years. The Scheme is implemented through Balwadi, Anganwadi and Crèche.

Enrolment can be done at the beginning of every month through out the year, with the Anganwadi Workers/ Teachers - in Charge.

d) Supplementary Nutrition Program under PMGY:-

The program envisages eradicating malnutrition among the children below 3 years. Complaints, grievances and suggestions will be received by the PRO, District Panchayat on all working days through out the year and the same will be forwarded to the Department within 5 days.

SUGGESTION FOR IMPROVEMENT

- ◆ Before implementing socio-economic development programme authority should take initiation to make awareness about these programme.
- ◆ Adequate and regular supervision is need to check whether the programmes is improved or not.
- ◆ Frequent awareness camp can be organized to create awareness about different schemes.
- ◆ Local self government should take the action to divert fund to different programmes.
- ◆ While dividing the programmes and schemes it is better to collect opinion from peoples.

SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

- ✧ A study may be conducted in socio-economic and educational disparities in different Islands in Lakshadweep.
- ✧ A study can be conducted to analyses impact of socio - economic development programs implemented by local self-government in Lakshadweep.

CONCLUSION

Rural development has always been an important issue in all discussions pertaining to economic development, especially of developing countries, throughout the world These include agricultural growth, putting up of economic and social infrastructure, fair wages as also housing and house sites for the landless, village planning, public health, education and functional literacy, communication etc. Rural development is a national necessity Local Self government play a crucial role for the development of village through various socio economic development program. Some extent these types of programs help to remove the problems of poverty.

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