

## **ABSTRACT**

Rural Development indicates all round development of rural areas with the view to better standardize the living condition of people in rural areas. Rural development is multidimensional in nature. It involves economic, social-cultural, environmental, technological and institutional factors. Rural Development is an operational approach which is design to bring about positive changes in the social-economic and cultural life of the rural population.

Rural Development is one of the prior aims of our country as majority of nation's population lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture and allied activities for livelihood. Striking problems like poverty, indebtedness, landlessness, unemployment etc has drawn attention of the policy makers to develop some developmental planners at different levels. Implementation of the plans and programs requires proper organizational setups for close monitoring to ensure efficient and effective implementation of plans and programs.

Panchayats has been working as the backbone of the Indian Villages since the Vedic period. The State is primarily responsible to take up the task of Rural Development. Article 40 of the Indian constitution has established the provision of State village panchayats for the development of the rural areas. State with the aim to improve the socio-economic and political condition has established and strengthened the local rural institution like Panchayati Raj System. The 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment removed the constitutional weakness of the Panchayati Raj system and has put constitutional obligation upon the states to enact the Panchayati Raj Act as per provision of the part IX of the Indian Constitution.

As in the areas under Sixth Schedule the Indian Constitution provides special constitutional powers for the protection of its land and people to accelerate the socio, economic and political development of the tribal areas. After the formation of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) within the framework of the Sixth Schedule, the Panchayati Raj System ceased to exist in the area. Sixth Schedule provides for special power and formation of Village Council Development Committee (VCDC) and another institution Territorial Constituency Level Coordination Committee (TCLCC) in the lines of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD) areas. VCDC works as an extension of Panchayat and Rural Development Department (P&RD) of the State. The developmental schemes are programmes are dependent upon the VCDCs through District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) at the village level.

VCDC plays vital role as a bridge between people and the administration. The success and failure of any developmental program depends upon the VCDC members. VCDC works as the implementation unit in the village level and also plays important role in distribution of benefits and selection of beneficiaries for the developmental schemes. The research aims to feature the role of VCDC in assisting the Government to bring about overall development and wellbeing of the people in rural BTAD. The study is an attempt to analyze the administrative working of BTAD and to understand organizational structure and working of Village Council Development Committee in the BTAD area. The implementation activities of VCDC of various schemes and programmes under Gossaigaon Development Block are also analyzed in the study.

Keywords: Rural, Development, administration, policies, implementation.