

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

On detailed analysis of the topic “A study Village Council Development Committee (VCDC) under BTAD: with special reference to Gossaigaon Development Block”, the administrative working, organisational structure and the working of Village Council Development Committee to implement the programmes and policies for rural development are evaluated. Based on the objectives and research questions set in the beginning of the study to evaluate the working of VCDC findings and suggestions are made.

#### **5.1: Research Findings:**

##### **i. Organizational structure and working of VCDC in Rural BTAD.**

The organizational structure of VCDC remains unclear. There is some difference in the system of working and mechanism between Panchayati Raj and VCDC even if, the later replaces the former in the Sixth Schedule areas. There are no clear constitutional rules and regulations regarding the power and function of VCDC. Several guidelines are set for the VCDC to conduct their developmental works, however, in several conditions this guidelines were ambiguous in nature and are looked over which has resulted in to a gap between the planning and implementation of the policies. Lack of proper guidelines highlighting the roles and responsibility of the TCLCC and VCDC is one of the major setback and challenge in regard to the working of VCDC for rural development in BTAD. VCDC lacks financial autonomy

which is very crucial in times of emergencies and VCDC Chairman and Members are not provided with any financial assistance or salary.

Disintegration exists with the process of selection of the Chairman and the members of the VCDCs. Unlike the electoral process followed under Panchayati Raj Institution system the Chairman and the members of VCDCs are not elected by the public, its impact is seen on the nature of its accountability and functions. The party based selection process therefore can be influential on the appointment of the members of the Village Council. The integrity and the accountability of the chairman and the members become questionable since they are politically selected by the party in power and enjoy the power in office without majority support of the public. The political party are empowered for the selection of the VCDC and TCLCC chairman and members which gives them power in regard of the decision making of VCDC and TCLCC. Thus the members become responsible to the political leaders rather than to the public.

The VCDCs lack the minimum financial autonomy to even bare the minimum operational needs to address the priority developmental needs of their respective areas. They should be provided financial autonomy which they can utilize to address the immediate needs of their respective areas during emergency.

## **ii. Implementations of Various Schemes and Programmes under Gossaigaon Development Block:**

Based on the objective of the research the study was conducted in six VCDCs under Gossaigaon Development Block, viz. Babubil VCDC, Bhumka VCDC,

Padmabil VCDC, Bhowraguri VCDC, Habrubil VCDC and Millon Bazaar VCDC. A Quantitative study was done collecting data from 200 samples to analyze the set objectives. Currently VCDCs are undertaking three rural development and social protection schemes; MGNREGA, PMAY-G and NSAP. From the study it has been found that MGNREGA requires dedicated time and effort towards the planning and implementation of the Scheme. The study revealed that 73% of the total house-hold taken as sample belonged to BPL category. Among the total 145 BPL house-hold 122 members are beneficiaries of MGNREGA schemes, which reveal that 84% of the total house-holds are receiving the benefits of the schemes. Despite of 84% of the families receives the benefits of the scheme there is sear dissatisfaction among the people. The amount of wages and the number of days of employment is not satisfactory. The number of unemployed youths is increasing in the area due to lack of avenues in both government and private sector. Study reveals that there is a growing trend of migrant workers in the area to the metros of the country to do the work of the daily wage labours. The study also revealed that people under BPL are receiving the due benefits of various governmental schemes like food stuff, other materials like sewing machine, agricultural tools, fertilizers, seeds etc. Out of 145 BPL house-holds 89% of the total sample studied has received the benefits of the housing and sanitation programmes, like IAY, PMAY-G etc. With 72% beneficiaries Padmabil VCDC shows the highest percentage whereas with 47% beneficiaries Habrubil area shows the lowest percentage. In comparison with the last 3 financial years the study reveals that the current 2020-2021 financial year has set the highest target of 886 houses to be completed as compared to target of 130 houses in the year 2016-2017and 100 houses

in the year 2017-2018. Under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) out of the total 200 samples where 145 house-hold falls in BPL 132 house-holds are receiving the benefits of NSAP, which makes 99% of the deserving members receives the benefits under NSAP. The study reveals that VCDC has been working actively in beneficiary selection and implementation of the schemes which are entrusted to them. The respondents also have shown their satisfaction in this regard.

### **iii. Role of VCDC in Rural Development:**

Among the four districts of BTAD area Baksa is in the highest position in regard to literacy rate. With 78.55% male literacy rate and 62.23% female literacy rate Baksa stands in the first position literacy wise. Despite its first position, Baksa also has the largest disparity percentage between the male and female education. Kokrajhar district with 66.63% literacy rate in total stands in the second place next to Baksa. But in regard to disparity between the male and female ration Kokrajhar has the least difference. Udalguri with 66.60% and Chirang with 64.71 % stand in third and fourth positions respectively in terms of literacy rates.

The BTC government after its formation has successfully worked and implemented several educational policies in the region. BTC government along with the state government has taken numerous steps like establishment of schools, colleges, technical institution, medical college, free coaching, distribution of awards and scholarship to the students to encourage education in the region.

In compare to Assam as a whole the literacy rate of female population in BTAD areas are lacking behind of 7.57 % in total. The total literacy rate of Assam is 73.18% with 78.81 % of male literacy and 67.27 % of female literacy. Where as in

BTAD the total literacy rate is 67.12 % and with 74.28% of male literacy and 59.70 % of female literacy. The difference of male and female literacy rate comes to 11.54% in Assam the disparity between male and female literacy rate is seen to be higher in the case of BTAD with the difference of 14.58 % between male and female literacy rate. Thus there is existence of male female disparity in education and women are seen to be in most disadvantageous position.

Employment Growth report of comparative survey of employment in 2013 as compared with the employment status in 2005, clearly indicates that there is significant growth in the employment rate in rural areas then that of the urban areas. Baksa district stands in the first position with 8.29 growths but with zero employment in urban areas of its districts indicated the development of regional disparity in the area. Udalguri district shows the most proportionate development in both the rural and urban settlement areas. Chirang districts employment growth in rural area is outstanding in compared to other districts with 9.27 % but the growth in urban area is minimal. Kokrajhar with the least growth rate in employment indicates regional disparity.

The survey report reveals that only 26% of the total respondents reported of timely implementation of the projects. Majority of the respondents with 74% in total accepted the truth there is delay in the process of implementation. 52% of the total respondents believe that the VCDCs are successful in implementation of Rural Development in the area. The 49% of the total respondents are seen not to be satisfied with the working of VCDCs. Thus, only a difference of 2% is seen in the successes and failure of the role of VCDCs. In regard to the improvement in the infrastructure of

the area and role of VCDC it is seen that people who reported the improvement are of larger number with 39% of the total respondents out of which 35% believes that there is no improvement and 28% are not conscious of the development.

## **5.2: Suggestions:**

- There is no proper division of power among the Chairman and the members of the council. Their role and responsibilities are not clearly stated in any relevant documents by the BTC administration. Therefore, there is a need of proper constitution for guidelines with distinct role and responsibilities of the Chairman and the members of the VCDCs.
- Legal and institutional strengthen of VCDCs has become necessary for the successfully implementation of rural development. As of now the VCDCs and TCLCC are ad hoc local governance institution under the provision of Sixth Schedule. In the year 2012, the BTC Legislative Assembly passed the “Bodoland Village Council Bill” with the intention to turn VCDCs into statutory bodies, but the bill still awaits the approval of the Governor. The intention of the bill was to create statutory Village Council to facilitate the rural governance in the BTAD.
- The study reveals that there is unanimous view regarding the election to be held for the local bodies. It is believed that if the Members and the Chairman of VCDCs are elected they will have more legitimacy among the public. Ultimately elections of the members of VCDCs will enhance the roles and responsibility and will increase their accessibility to recourses.

- VCDCs lack adequate facilities and allowance to exercise its functions. For effective functioning financial empowerment of the local government is necessary, a local government should have their own resources to utilize for the local development. For VCDCs to function effectively they should be empowered financially.
- The current infrastructure of VCDCs and TCLCC lacks adequate human resource as well as other material resources of a proper office setup. In order to keep track with the work progression, identification of beneficiaries' and proper records are of outmost importance for the smooth functioning of the local governance. The VCDCs lacks staff to execute their administrative work which results in delay in implementations of development schemes.
- It is necessary for the members and the Chairman to be entailed to salary for the services they offer. The process of selection and implementation solely depends upon the VCDC workers thus without the basic remuneration it is not possible for them to render any effective services to the society.
- Timely and effective implementation of scheme is also a great matter of concern. The developmental schemes after declaration by the Central and the State government should follow the time scheduled for sanction for local government to function effectively. Delay in the sanctioning and implementation of the schemes creates mistrust and low faith in developmental planning process between the community and the VCDC.

- Some amount of capacity building and training is necessary for the members and chairman of the VCDCs. VCDCs are vested with a load of responsibility starting from planning, selecting and implementing the programmes. Thus after selection it is necessary for the members to receive some basic training regarding the knowledge about the schemes and also the process of effective implementation.

### **5.3: Conclusion:**

The prime objective of inception of VCDCs in BTAD was to secure the provisions of Sixth Schedule to empower the local councils to protect their land and people. Development has multiple approaches but to achieve the objective of the Sixth Schedule the Village Councils were established to govern and facilitate development at the village level. Therefore, after the formation of BTC PRI system ceased to exist in BTAD and Village Council Development Committee were established with respect to local governance.

Since its creation VCDCs have been working to make every rural program successful in BTAD, However, it cannot be denied that the study has unfolded several limitations in regard to structural functioning, financial autonomy, matters relating to selection of beneficiaries, sanctioning of authority or approval and in timely implementation. Though the socio-economic sector has not witnessed rapid progress, the infrastructure like roads, water resources, electrification of villages, medical facilities and community development are witnessed in the region which are the basic factors of rural development.



BTAD has a history of political instability and community violence which has made a deep impact in over all development of the area. VCDC as the local government unit has immense role to play in healing the community lines among the people and creating conducive environment for over all socio-economic and political development of the region.

Despite of the drawback of the role of VCDC, the fact could not be denied that after its inception VCDCs have been working tirelessly to improve the rural BTAD. With the fact that 99.67% of the total land of BTAD falls under rural area and only 0.33% area falls under urban BTAD, the role of VCDC becomes more vital and grave in this situation. With some constitutional sanction and structural reforms VCDC can work more effectively towards the attainment of the goal of Rural Development.