

CHAPTER-8

8.0 PROJECTION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC UPLIFT AFTER PROMOTION OF ECOTOURISM:

8.1 PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL PEOPLE IN ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT:

One of the principles of ecotourism is in the provision of benefits to local communities, resource conservation and the industry in Jungle Mahals the chapter presents the benefits that the community has realized through ecotourism and which have contributed to local economic development in the Jungle Mahals area. Two major approaches to the application of the principles of planning can be identified in the Context of ecotourism. The first approach, which tends to be associated with more formal planning systems, places considerable emphasis on the potential benefits of ecotourism development. In this case, the role played by planning is to overcome the physical and practical barriers to ecotourism development. Local participation the planning and management of ecotourism can never the less be viewed from at least two contrasting perspectives local participation in the decision-making the process and local involvement in the benefits of ecotourism development. While these two approaches to planning have co-existed for a considerable period of time, writers have identified a significant shift toward the latter approach in the context of tourism (Timothy, 1999). The former implies empowering local people to identify their own objectives and the means by which they hope to achieve them. The approach involves the proactive encouragement of local participation not only by local residents, but also by other stakeholders such as tourism providers, business in the tourism supply chain, and various local, regional, national and international interest groups. In the past, however, local community participation in the decision-making process of tourism development has often been lacking. Local communities have tended to be viewed simply as the beneficiaries of tourism development, rather than as essential partners in the process of achieving such development, and managed in ways that are far removed from the development needs and aspirations of the local community. The participatory planning approach implies recognition of the need not only to ensure that local stakeholders become the beneficiaries of tourism development but also to integrate them fully into the relevant planning and management processes. This is particularly important in the context of ecotourism, where genuine sustainability can only truly be aspired to with the effective participation of all of the stakeholders involved. Based on interviews conducted with respondents in the area, the community is claimed to be involved in the unsustainable extraction of resources such as

caterpillars, firewood, laxkha, kurkut, mushroom, honey and animals. Terracotta and balucuri sharee in Bishnupur dukra, mukhous handicraft industry have a local business for tourism. And local tribal dance and Purulia Chouu dance is world famous its helps for local tourism developments.

These programs have included sensitization of the locals on the dangers of the unsustainable harvesting of wildlife, caterpillars, fishing, cutting of trees for fuelwood, burning down of trees for honey and other similar activities. The Trust works with local conservation groups and women's clubs to enhance conservation awareness in the local tribal people.

8.2 ALTERNATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES: Contemporary economic geography has seen a theoretical centering of the relationship between neoliberal governance, economic globalization, and capitalist development. The question within this research program is whether to see neoliberal capitalism as a single force defined by its regularities, or as a referent that describes a variety of relations between the state and the economy (Harvey's *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*). Against the backdrop of this larger conversation about neoliberal capitalism, a small but growing number of geographers have turned their attention to a variety of economic activities and sites that can be described as an alternative in one of two ways. In the first approach, the alternative economy is simply imagined to be something other than presumptively dominant capitalism and its associated systems of governance. The term alternative economies describe an array of processes of production, ownership, labor, exchange, and consumption that differ from those of the mainstream economy. A second understanding of the alternative economy coalesces around an epistemic break which posits the economy as an always already and intrinsically heterogeneous space. This second approach not only represents the economy as a field of difference but possesses the potential to reconfigure scholarly research within economic geography.

While there has been considerable excitement around the idea of alternative economies and especially non-capitalist economic activity, the alternative economy remains a marginal concern because of the underlying and frequently unspoken spatial ontology that governs its academic (and popular) representation. In many representations, the alternative is synonymous with self-consciously intentional efforts undertaken on a local scale. This association renders what it describes as peripheral and relatively powerless, vulnerable to cooptation or even state repression. From the outset, the alternative economy is seen as socially insignificant and thus unworthy of scholarly attention. What is required to combat

this double marginality is a theoretical framework that diverges from the conception of the alternative economy as local and intentional. The first step in developing such a framework is to recognize that the marginality of the alternative economy comes from defining something as an alternative in the first place. The second step is to produce an ontology of economic difference that highlights the ubiquity (in place) of non-market and non-capitalist practices alongside the variety of capitalist forms.

8.2.1 Hotels and Resort Profession: The Jungle Mahals tourism site hotel sector moved earlier than other travel and tourism industry sectors to adopt and implement environmental management principles and there are many examples of local initiatives around hotels and resorts that are designed to address issues of economic and social sustainability. The experiments and local initiatives need now to be scaled up and applied more widely.

Local economic development and the reduction of poverty are achieved where hotels and resorts:

- Maximize their employment of local labor and through management and training interventions, by investing in people and ensuring that increasingly senior posts go to local employees.
- Work with local communities and micro enterprises to ensure supplies of food and beverages, Soft furnishings, maintenance, arts and crafts, entertainment are locally sourced.

The development of local linkages of these sorts requires that the challenges of quality, quantity and continuity of supply at a fair market price are assembled.

8.2.2 Homestay program: One huge problem that small towns need to solve to move from being day-trip attractions for larger communities is lodging. For many of these rural towns, investment in a multi-unit hotel may be too risky. A homestay program can create direct employment opportunities to the rural communities as well as increasing their income. In a homestay program, visitors are like guests in a resident's home. Like a guest, the visitor lives with the family, sharing rooms, meals and conversation.

8.2.3 Tour / Car Operators: Although some tour operators specialize in particular destinations, the majority of operators, including the specialists, are multi-destination. Tour operators have established relationships with local suppliers; particularly their inbound

operator in the destination. Their ability to sell trips is very reliant upon the perceived and actual quality, of the destination. Tour operators are reliant on the quality and safety of the destination, they also play a significant role in shaping the way the destination is perceived by the way that they market the location. Many operators are responding to changing market trends in the Jungle Mahals in West Bengal by placing increasing importance on locally sourced services, food and drinks, richer excursion and activity programs. Where investors and companies build up hotel and resorts, management and tour operators can identify ways of working together to improve the value of the destination, for the local community gain.

8.2.4 Tour Guide Occupation: Experience of historical and present knowledge of local people help for tourist to identify the area. Involve local people as a tour guide one of the alternative income sources of local people in any tourist place.

8.2.5 Handicraft Markets: Tourists want to enjoy their shopping experience. They expect to buy a product that relates to their visit, perhaps to a specific site. Handicraft is a labor-intensive industry in the village and small scale industry in India. It provides direct employment of any place/region. Development of the handicraft sector can help mitigate rural to urban migration, inability to respond to job opportunities and uplift of rural economies.

8.3 OVERALL SOCIOECONOMIC UPLIFT: Minimum standard of the living experience of people already has created an impression on the local people. They understood that only education could bring this prosperity. Now they are want to educate their children. They increase in forest area and agricultural productivity, if parents could earn sufficient money for their family, their children will never remain uneducated. Along with the development of tourism, the culture of modern civilization will also enter into the region. Education will be the prime requisite, be a good tourist guide or a hotel manager. Thus a simultaneous uplift of the economic and educational status of the local people will be observed.

8.3.1 Local Community Benefits from Ecotourism:

The generation of socio-economic benefits is to the local tribal community from ecotourism in the Jungle Mahals area. Three districts Bankura Purulia Paschim Medinipur to determine the benefits that locals have come to realize through ecotourism. It was gathered

that the major source of socio-economic benefits from ecotourism to the community is in the form of tourism revenue, employment opportunities and the provision of social services. The participants were interviewed to get their views on the distribution of benefits and to what extent they have provided a means to improve their welfare.

8.3.2 Local Economic Benefits from Tourism Revenues:

Through the tourism revenue generated from non-consumptive tourism activities in the Jungle Mahals tourism industry, benefits have been distributed between Jungle Mahals local people. So local economic benefits from tourism revenues its help for the local people ecotourism developments. This implies that most communities that live around protected areas (in Jungle Mahals) do not benefit from such arrangements. A respondent from the Community said that ‘most people need help when they form clubs. The only problem is that the support they get is very little.’ The respondent further clarified on the support, saying that the community needs financial support alongside infrastructure, maintenance of roads, school and hospitals. The study established that most community members run out of cassava food supplies in the month of December when the rainy season begins. The majority of respondents suggested that farming inputs such as fertilizers were needed to allow the locals to grow other crops to see them through the next farming season. Brandon (1993) suggests a number of ways in which this linkage can be strengthened. Firstly, one of the problems that have tended to arise in ecotourism initiatives in the past is that the benefits of ecotourism do not stay in the local area but are appropriated by outside interests, including tourism operators and governments. Meanwhile, the costs of ecotourism, in the form of environmental damage, wildlife disturbance or loss of access to resources formerly employed by the community, tend to remain localized. Ensuring that ecotourism providers purchase their inputs from local suppliers and employ local people can ease this situation. This helps keep the economic benefits of ecotourism within the local area and gives local people more of an incentive to ensure that those benefits will still be received in the long-term.

8.3.3 Local Economic Benefits from Employment Opportunities

The presence of ecotourism in Jungle Mahals has generated employment opportunities for which the tribal Community increases benefits. It has been established that tourism is the largest private sector employer in the district. Other workers have included laborers, guards, administrative staff, maintenance workers, drivers, cooks and other support staff. The extent to which the community benefits from individual employment opportunities is minimal. Based on the informal discussions held with individual workers in Jungle Mahals

tourisms side spot, most said that the income was not sufficient to meet long term future investments such as their children's education. The income was simply for survival and not much more. It has been argued that the impact of benefits to the community through individual employment has not been sufficient. Scheyvens (1999) emphasizes the critical need for participation to lead to empowerment by distinguishing between four types of empowerment in the context of ecotourism development economic empowerment, psychological empowerment, social empowerment and political empowerment. Economic empowerment refers to the local community's ability to make and take opportunities for economic development through the development of ecotourism. It may also refer to the local community's access to the productive resources that are being targeted by ecotourism. A community that is economically empowered is one where incomes are being enhanced and lasting employment is generated, where the economic benefits of ecotourism development are shared equitably among the community as a whole, and where the local community retains access rights to the community's resource base. However, some workers clarified further by stating that individual incomes did not sufficiently address their household needs. This entails that the community's socio-economic status remains static. This then raises concerns as to whether ecotourism has the potential to bring about local development to hosting communities. In this regard alternative forms of income sources are required to supplement the existing sources of income and enhance local economic development in the area.

8.3.4 Potential Economic Benefits from Community-Based Tourism: Community Based Tourism (CBT) is argued as having the ability to create entrepreneurial opportunities for the poor and act as a catalyst for rural development. This has further deprived the community of the extra income that is needed to supplement their survival requirements. It will never provide huge incomes for those involved or provide large-scale community development: what it can offer, however, is an alternative source of income and chance to learn business skills for some.

8.4 ROLE OF FOLK CULTURE IN TOURISM PROMOTION: India with its unique cultural diversity and rich cultural tourism components invites a great number of tourists to visit India. All the Indian states are remarkably good in their cultural representation. Thus West Bengal is one of them with rich cultural tourism product. Folk culture creates authenticity and distinctiveness in the global and regional tourism market. Tourism experiences which can connect people and visitors to local cultures are very important in this

regard. All folk art and culture forms of West Bengal are ethnic in nature. It is an alternative economic activity. They remain within a particular geographical region – Bhadu and Jhumur of Bankura, and Paschim Medinipur Jhumur and Nanchni of Purulia are the finest examples. Folk culture tourism also encourages the continued recognition of culture as economic drivers by local, regional tour operators, local people and tourism marketing organizations. This paper examines how folk culture tourism allows producers and performers to keep their trends alive through increased revenue.

❖ **Classification of Folk Culture of Jungle Mahals:**

Kirtan: The Kirtan is the earliest form of music which consists of sonorous mingles of sweet music and lyrical ballad. Slow measure in ballads is delivered by the main singer of the group and recitation of the same, in same tone and pitch, is defined musically by the rest of the members. The trend follows until the whole song based mostly on mythical episodes or story of God are completed with the same zest and enthusiasm. The musical instruments using by the kirtania (performing group) are Tampura, khol, box harmonium and violin. In West Bengal most of these kinds of famous and popular songs, also known as Harinam, based on Lord Krishna and Radha.

Vadu: Bhadu Puja is observed in the Bengali month of Bhadra (mid-August to mid-September) and is a very common festival of the villagers of Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum and some part of Paschim-Medinipur. “People believe that worshipping Bhadu Devi enables childless women to bear children. With this belief the women sing Bhadu songs and worship Vadu songs are composed and sung on the night of the festival; consider Vadu as a little girl. The unmarried girls have sung Vadu song with drum.

Tusu: Tusu is a folk festival where the unmarried village girls sing Tusu songs during Tusu parab. This is celebrated in the month of Paush, in mid-January. Tusu songs are sung for a whole night of ‘Makar Sankranti,’ the end day of Paush. Women exchange garlands and fry eight varieties of pulses which are given as an offering to the goddess Tusu. A temple like structure, popularly known as “Tusu” made by the unmarried girls are carried to the nearby riverbank accompanied with traditional Tusu song and drum.

Jhumur: Jhumar is a special type of social folk dance of West Bengal. It can be performed by men or by women, or they can perform together. This dance is performed with the help of drums and cymbals in the month of Chaitra in mid-April. The other type of Jhumar, known as Chaitra Jhumar. Jhumar is performed only by women during the special occasion of transplanting paddy. Rice is the chief crop of Bengal, the paddy transplanting is considered as

auspicious and very important by the farmers and cultivators. Most of the lyrics are derived from the mythological stories of Radha Krishna and many other such folk heroes.

Chang: The dance performed by the aboriginal tribe Lodha and Shabar is called 'Chang.' It is generally held during worship, marriage and sometime during funerals also. A small drum like a musical instrument is 'changu' and the name chang has derived from it. Five to Seven Lodha male artists participate in it with their traditional attire. They dance in encircling from evening to midnight in a rhythmic sound of chang.

Bhung Dance: It is a popular and beautiful folk-dance of the Santals. During Durga Puja especially in the Vijaya-dasami is the auspicious day for Bhung-dance. It is said that only the male artists wearing dhuties on the knee, napkin around the waist, Red tape in unpolished hair and feathers of peacock upon head can dance bhung. It starts from the afternoon and continues till night. This dance is named after a peculiar musical instrument called 'Bhuang.' The Bhuang is made of pumpkin.

Karam Dance: Karam dance is not so the popular folk dance of West Bengal. It is basically an agriculture-related festival and it is performed at the time of cultivation. This dance is usually performed by the tribal communities like Oraon, Munda, Santhal. The people of the communities have the belief that by the blessing of the God "Karam" they will get a huge amount of crops and their family will be saved from evil. It is said that this dance form has some mystic powers whereby the crops would be protected from everything and would yield huge productions. The Karam dance is celebrated in August on the night of "Bhado Ekadasi".

Santhali Dance: The Santhals, like some other state of India, are the important part of the folklore of Bengal. The Santhali dance performed by the community is famous in the districts of Bankura, Purulia, and Paschim- Medinipur. Dance is an inseparable part of all festivities of the Santhal community followed by instruments like the Madol, Flute, Dhamsa, Jhanj, Kartal. Dances are usually performed on a full moon night. The dance is connected with the celebration of certain rituals. The dancers stand in a line holding hands and move to the rhythm of the madol.

Ranpa Dance: The dance is a very rare dance of West Bengal. In ancient Bengal, the gang of robbers used to walk with the help of ranpa, made of two long and strong bamboo-sticks. Now the artists use ladder made of bamboos while dancing. The attire of folk artists is dhuties, red-napkins, red-tape on the forehead and stockings on their feet. Madol and Dhamsas are the main musical instruments for performing the dance.

Kathi Dance: Bratachari Dance or Kathi Dance is a popular folk dance performed in the West Bengal a beautiful hand and leg coordination is the main key feature of the dance. The

dance earlier served as the revival of Bengal culture, but now it is celebrated for mere amusement and joy of the performers and the audiences.

8.5 COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS [CBA]: Cost-benefit analysis is more comprehensive in scope. It takes a long view of projects (farther as well as nearer future) and a wide view (in the sense of allowing for a Jungle Mahals area in tourism side). It is based on welfare economics and seeks to include all the relevant costs and benefits to evaluate the net social benefit of a project (Glasson et al. 1999). We have considered all the negative impacts along with the project expenditure as a 'cost' of the project and all the positive impacts including electricity generation as 'benefit.'

Application of Cost-Benefit Analysis:

CBA is used at two basic levels. In the private sector financial CBA is used to justify equipment and technology investments; measure life-cycle costs; meet regulations cost-effectively, and quantify hidden costs and intangible benefits. It is also a useful tool to show how outsourcing and leasing can result in cost savings, and how quality improvements can affect returns. Social CBA is used to appraise the social merit of projects or policies. The projects may be public or private, and the analysis is typically used to inform public decision makers.

Estimation of the total cost from an economic point of view the total tangible cost of this tourism place may be divided into two categories one is the cost of development and running the Jungle Mahals tourisms place area, and another is the loss of forestry and agricultural production due to the development of this project and price hike. From the environmental and social point of view, the intangible cost is much higher than the economic cost. The environmental cost of deforestation, pollution, tourism and loss of natural beauty and social cost of the project. The relationship of two kinds of incidental costs of tourism, fiscal costs and life quality costs to a community, are discussed. Methods for estimating the direct and secondary fiscal costs are presented, as well as comparing these costs to benefits. The role and method of discounting future costs and benefits are also detailed. Incidental costs it is helpful to get the terminology right at the outset of cost analysis. One of the major failures of the marketplace economists recognize is that many economic activities indiscriminately impose costs on others for which no corresponding compensation is paid (Baumol and Blinder 1988, Bull 1991).

Tourism-related cost of the Jungle Mahals (Bankura Purulia, Paschim Medinipur) in the tourist place.

Replacement cost: This approach has two problems; first, since cultural heritage sites are often thought to be essential. The irreplaceable, replacement may not be possible. Where the site is only damaged, restoration cost might be used. Second, this measure begs the question. If the point of the exercise is to decide whether a site is worth restoring, using the restoration cost as a measure of value is clearly of little use. This Jungle Mahals area many heritage building, and many Mondir, Church, Musjid is converting is very costly such as Jhargram Rajbari, Bisnupur terracotta temple, Cheliyama, Bankura, Purulia and Gharbeta etc. This measure may be appropriate for some critical aspects of the site, however, where the value might reasonably be thought to be extremely high. In such cases, however, the appropriate approach is one of cost-effectiveness rather than cost-benefit.

Travel cost: The travel cost (TC) method is an example of a technique that attempts to deduce value from observed behavior. It uses the information on visitors. Total expenditure is to visit a site to derive its demand curve for the site's services. The technique shoulders that change in total travel costs are equivalent to changes in admission fees. From this demand curve, the total benefit visitors obtain can be calculated.

It is important to note that the value of the site is not given by the total travel cost; this information is only used to derive the demand curve. The travel cost method was designed for and has been used extensively to value the benefits of recreation.

Private cost: Sometimes prohibited inhabitants lose their residence due to govt. policy.

Social cost: The Resale, Modernization and development are depending on heritage act, so the areas of the maximum building are misused or unused for lack of conservation. Moreover, sometimes commercial uses of land are not possible.

The door to door household survey reveals that in the agricultural plain annual average income of a family is 45,000 rupees. Five family members in an average, the per-capita income becomes Rs. 24/ day. The average incomes of a family in the forest villages are not more than Rs.125/ day, and they do not get a job throughout the year. Thus the per-capita income remains below Rs.20/ day. But the implementation of the action plan will obviously raise the annual income of every household in the region. Apart from the additional income from forestry and agriculture, the tourism industry will also bring millions of rupees. After the development of in this tourism zone in Jungle Mahals is development done by the West Bengal government, tourist flow to Jungle Mahals such as Jhargram, Ajodha, Bisnupur, Susunia, etc has increased massively. Expected that annual tourist flow will rise to above 10, 00,000 if all the proposed tourist spots are instated in time. It is estimated that 1200000 people will be employed in this sector with a total annual income of 30 million rupees. At

present those 50000 people are directly or indirectly employed in Jungle Mahals area tourism spot will also earn 50 million rupees annually. Every big project brings hundreds of small-scale ancillary industries. Thus there is also a potentiality of thousands of people to be employed in those sectors.

❖ **The market benefit provided by tourists and recreation support by Jungle Mahals and their economic impacts.**

Spending of Jungle Mahals total visitor provides market benefits to local economies. These market benefits stem directly from visitor spending on tradable goods services for example entrance fees for natural beauty or cultural attraction located in the Jungle Mahals area.

Market benefits generate additional income and cause directly indirect and induced impacts in several sectors of the economy (which correspond to change in sales tax, revenues, income and employment.)

Direct Economic Impact: Direct economic impacts are the changes in sales Tax, revenues income and employment due to tourism activity. They are generated by the influx of income stemming from visitor spending in the economic sector related to tourism and recreation they include the intermediate consumption between industries of the tourism /recreation sector.

Indirect economic impacts: Indirect economic impacts are the changes in sales Tax, revenues income and employment in all other sectors which benefit indirectly from visitor spending in the economic sector.

Induced Economic Impact: Include the change in sales Tax, revenues income and employment generated by the spending of employs of both the tourism/ recreation industries and the industries they provide goods and services to the tourism / recreation sector.

Social Benefit: Businesses benefit from locating in Jungle Mahals tourism place and areas

- The growth in employment in the restoration industry in construction trades, professionals and product manufacturing
- Enhanced municipal tax base through restored individual buildings and areas
- Increased tourism

Jungle Mahals eco-tourism is often entrenched by natural beauty. These powerful, tangible connections to our past are the ways in which people today come in touch with the past. Jungle Mahals ecotourism's are also increasingly accepted as important places linking a new generation with an older one, and thus as places to be used for education and citizenship. Revitalizing old neighborhoods, the buildings and the landscape ensure that our quality of life is improved and that community cohesion is maintained in study area heritage Tourism and

another Eco-tourism spot. The volunteer activity that often goes into maintaining and promoting heritage buildings and echo park or tourism temple walking tours, neighborhood activities is also recognized as a valuable way to keep people, especially seniors, active and involved in their community. The need to incorporate environmental and eco-tourism planning into national socio-economic planning is now widely recognized. We cannot predict how much these Jungle Mahals Tourism spot will improve the world-class scientific ecotourism development of West Bengal, Cost-benefit analysis also shows that this type of Jungle Mahals Tourism area in this drought-prone region is not economically viable if we consider the intangible costs that the society and environment have already paid. Therefore immediate mitigation measures are required to restore environmental stability and ensure the economic prosperity of this region. Only intimate interaction, consultation, and coordination, of Government Officials with local inhabitants, can materialize these plans.

Some of the most significant benefits from the conservation of heritage tourism or eco-park, nature cottage, many archeological site, forest beauty dam river lake site area hilly region with forest beauty and archer are related to economic issues.

8.6 GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMES FOR ERADICATING POVERTY:

The World Bank (1990:26) defines poverty as “the inability to attain a minimal standard of living.” The World Bank website on ‘Poverty Reduction and Equity’ defines poverty in a comprehensive manner, saying, “Poverty is hunger. Poverty is a lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty does not have a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.” Amartya Sen’s capability theory provides a more useful alternative to understanding poverty. The capability approach to understanding poverty goes beyond income and emphasizes the whole range of means, available to achieve human capabilities like literacy, longevity, and access to income. From this perspective, poverty is seen as the failure of some basic capabilities to function- a person lacking the opportunity to achieve some minimally accepted level of this functioning (Amartya Sen and Jean Dreze, 1999).

Tourism is a major growth engine for economic development in providing employment and eradication of poverty. India is fast emerging as an important tourism destination in the World. International arrivals touched 7 million per year. The campaign "Incredible India" which showcases the best that India has to offer to the tourists has now

attracted worldwide attention. The proactive policies of the Government of India are encouraging tourism in India.

Poverty is a complete phenomenon with multiple dimensions that cannot be comprehended by the use of a single standardized criterion appropriate to all layers of the society and regions of a state or a country at all times. The characteristic diversity of the concept of poverty has given rise to the alternative forms of conceptualization and measurement of the deprivations which have not only income but also social, cultural, political and even physiological dimensions. Poverty prevents human beings from enjoying a decent living. They also are denied from getting the light of education and the benefits of health services and are debarred from dreaming for the future with objectives and hopes. Thus, poverty has both intrinsic and functional significance. For this reason, preparation of the list of below poverty line families and targeting development programmers towards them are getting maximum priorities on the planning agenda. The recent estimates for poverty as calculated by the *Planning Commission, India*, on the basis of the *NSSO 55th round survey* data on consumer expenditure publishes state-specific poverty line – in the case of West Bengal, it is Rs.350.17 for the rural and Rs.409.22 for the urban areas. The overall state-specific poverty line for West Bengal is calculated by assigning weights to rural and urban poverty line equivalent to their respective share in the total population of the state – it is Rs.376.70 per capita per month. The land reform based development strategy has ensured that benefits from rising production and income in the rural areas of the state do not bypass the poorer sections of the society. Consequently, abject poverty in the rural areas of the state has largely been eliminated. West Bengal was one of the poorest states in India with over 60 percent of its rural population below the poverty line as late as the mid-seventies. The State Government has ensured that ceiling surplus vested land distributed to the poorer section of the society. After proper application of the Land Reform Programme in West Bengal, the poverty line especially, in rural areas has failed quickly.

These schemes can be broadly divided into two categories. One those which are directly related to the eradication of poverty and two those which are indirectly related to the eradication of poverty in Jungle Mahals LWE affected area. Those who are directly related to the eradication of poverty in West Bengal are described below:

ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA (AAY): AAY launched in December 2000 provides food grains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.2.00 per kg for wheat and rice Rs.3.00 per kg to the poor families under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The scale of the issue, which was initially 25 kg per family per month, was increased to 35 kg per family per month

from April 1, 2002. The scheme initially for one crore families was expanded in June 2003 by adding another 50 lakh BPL families. The term 'Antyodaya' means "up liftmen of the last man in the row." As the term signifies, the program was meant for the poorest amongst the poor in the rural area of the State. The pilot inquiry revealed that the poorest families were without land.

PRIME MINISTER'S ROZGAR YOJANA (PMRY): PMRY started in 1993 with the objective of making available self-employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youth by assisting them in setting up any economically viable activity. The REGP is implemented in rural areas and small towns (population up to 20,000) for setting up village industries without any cap on income, educational qualification or age of the beneficiary, PMRY is meant for educated unemployed youth with family income of up to Rs.40, 000 per annum, in both urban and rural areas, for engaging in any economically viable activity.

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MGNREGA): MGNREGA was started in 2006-07 and extended to cover the whole country during the 11th Plan. With a people-centered, demand-driven architecture, completely different from the earlier rural employment programs, MGNREGA has directly led to the creation of 987 crore person-days of work since its inception in 2006-07. It has also successfully raised the negotiating power of agricultural labor, resulting in higher agricultural wages, improved economic outcomes leading to a reduction in distress migration.

RURAL EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (REGP): REGP, launched in 1995 with the objective of creating self-employment opportunities in the rural areas and small towns, is being implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Under REGP, entrepreneurs can establish village industries by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and bank loans, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs.25 lakh.

SWARAN JAYANTI GRAM SWAROZGAR YOJANA: SGSY, launched in April 1999, aims at bringing the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by organizing them into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through a mix of Bank credit and Government subsidy. In this scheme, IRDP and other programs have been included. Under this scheme, the poor are granted bank loans and subsidies to establish small enterprises. This scheme is centrally sponsored on 75: 25 basis, by center and states.

INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA (IAY): This is a major scheme for construction of houses of unserviceable kuccha houses to semi-pucca houses have also been added. From 1999-2000, the criteria for allocation of funds to states/UTs has been changed from poverty ratio to the housing shortage in the state. Similarly, the criteria for allocation of funds to a district have

been changed to equally reflect the SC/ST population and the housing shortage. The Ministry of Rural Development (MORD) provides equity support to the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for this purpose.

NATIONAL FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME: In line with the NCMP, National Food for Work Programme was launched on November 14, 2004, in 150 most backward districts of the country with the objective to intensify the generation of supplementary wage employment. The programme is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do Manual unskilled work. It is implemented as a 100 percent centrally sponsored scheme and the food grains are provided to States free of cost. However, the transportation cost, handling charges and taxes on food grains are the responsibility of the States. The collector is the nodal officer at the district level and has the overall responsibility of planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and supervision.

NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (NREGS): This scheme was introduced in February 2006. For this scheme, the national rural employment guarantee act was passed on September 2005. In this scheme two schemes have been included (a) Sampoorn Gramin Rozgar Yojana and (b) National Food for Work Programme. This NREGS scheme was started in 200 districts in the beginning. It will be launched in all the districts throughout the country within periods of 5 years. The main objective is to provide at least 100 days of employment to every family in a year.

DROUGHT PRONE AREAS PROGRAMME (DPAP), DESERT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DDP) AND INTEGRATED WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IWDP): DPAP, DDP and IWDP are being implemented for the development of wastelands/degraded lands.

SMALL AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES: Government for alleviating poverty and unemployment has paid special attention to the development of small and cottage industry. This sector is already providing employment to 238 Lakh people. It encourages self-employment schemes by spending heavy expenditure on it. It will help in raising employment opportunities in small scale industries.

Regional Rural Banks (RRB): Regional Rural Banks have been set up to develop rural economy for providing funds for the purpose of development of agriculture, trade, commerce, industry and other productive activities in the rural areas, credit and other facilities, particularly to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural laborer's, artisans and small entrepreneurs for matters connected therewith. The RRBs have been conceived as an institution and a catalyst for ensuring the development of the rural economy by providing not

only credit but also other essential facilities as an answer to meet the diverse and heterogeneous needs of the rural folk under different socio-economic and agro-geographical conditions.

Tribal Area Development Programme: The tribal area development program was launched in four districts in Gujarat. Its target group was tribal in that area. Investments under this program have not been made to help a substantial number of families to rise in from the poverty line. The only infrastructure has been put on the ground and the scheme has yet to grow as to its full impact.

Rural Growth Centers: The main objectives of the Rural Growth Centers Scheme are to provide economic infrastructure at the selected centers for triggering-off the process of rapid economic growth in their hinterland. The basic infrastructural items include road link, electricity, transport facility, banking and credit, storage, drinking water, fair price shops, veterinary aid, civil dispensary, school, the supply of inputs, etc.

Rural Tourism : The scheme of rural tourism was started by this ministry in 2002- 2003 with the objective of showcasing rural life art, culture and heritage at rural locations and in village the village which had core competence in art and craft handloom and textiles as also asset in the natural environment were selected the scheme also aims to benefits the local community economically and socially as well as enable interaction between tourist and local population for a mutually enriching experience.

8.6.1 Policy and approach of the Government to deal with LWE activity:

The Government's approach is to deal with Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in a holistic manner, in the areas of security, development, ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities, improvement in governance and public perception management. In dealing with this decades-old problem, it has been felt appropriate, after various high-level deliberations and interactions with the State Governments concerned, that an integrated approach aimed at the relatively more affected areas would deliver results

The government remains committed to deal actively with Left Wing Extremism (LWE) indulging in crime and violence.

- The overall objective is to uphold the law of the land, provide security of life and property and provide a secure environment for development and economic growth, Government's approach is to deal with Left Wing Extremism (LWE) activities in a

holistic manner, in the area of security, development, administration and public perception management.

- Considering the inter-State ramifications of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) activities, the need for inter-State coordination and cooperation is self-evident, both in terms of uniformity in approach and in terms of ground-level joint police action, with the intent to enforce the law of the land and to deal with Left Wing Extremism (LWE) crime and violence in accordance with the law established.
- The States should further improve the police response and pursue effective and sustained police action against Left Wing Extremism (LWE), individually and jointly.
- There should be no peace dialogue by the States with Naxalite groups unless they give up crime, violence and arms.
- The States should formulate and implement effective surrender and rehabilitation policies for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) who shun crime, violence and arms. Mass media should be extensively used to highlight the futility of Naxal ideology and violence and loss of life and property caused by it in the affected areas.
- States are being assisted in, and requested for, steps as are important in dealing with Left Wing Extremism (LWE) activities.

Essentials for effective policing: The government effective policing are flowing that

- Providing secure police station buildings, trained personnel, basic amenities for the personnel deployed and specialized equipment, weaponry and vehicles at the police station level.
- Strengthening of the State Intelligence set-ups, for enhancing capabilities for collecting, sharing and using actionable intelligence.
- Optimal utilization of existing training capacity and the creation of additional training capacity.
- Raising specialized units/task forces trained in counter-insurgency and jungle warfare, for anti-Left Wing Extremism (LWE) operations.
- Prompt filling up of the vacancies in the State police forces.
- Improvement in the police - people ratio, in consonance with the law and order requests.
- Adequate provisions for equipment, weaponry, mobility, communication, training, police buildings and housing and forensic science in the State police budget.

- Expeditious inquiry and prosecution of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) crimes.
- All-around development of affected areas, with the qualitative implementation of Central and State development schemes, and with a fair deal to deprived segments.

In addressing this decade's old problem, it has been felt appropriate, after various high-level deliberations and interactions with the State Governments concerned, that a combined approach aimed at the relatively more affected areas would give super results. With this in view, a detailed analysis of the spread and trends in respect of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) violence has been made and 34 affected districts in 8 States have been taken up for special consideration in planning, implementation, and monitoring of development schemes. Within these 34 districts areas, eight hardest hit districts in 4 States, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa, have been taken for implementation of joined security and development action plans, an approach that can be simulated in other affected districts also. Focused attention is being provided to meeting the security deficits in these regions, regarding the adequacy of infrastructure, police deployment, weaponry, equipment etc. The various development Ministries are also taking cogent steps.

8.6.2 Development and others Measures:

Special consideration in planning, implementation and monitoring of development schemes is being emphasized. Under the Backward Districts Inventiveness, which covered 147 districts, an amount of Rs. 45 crore per district had been assigned on a non-lapsable basis. This has now been changed to the Backward Regions Grant Fund, in 250 districts. National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, which was initially being implemented in 200 districts, and was extended to 330 districts in April 2007, has now being extended to all districts in the Nation, having regard to the need to universalize this demand-driven program for wage-employment. These outlines are in addition to various income-generating, public-utility and social-security systems of Ministries like Rural Development, Agriculture, Health and Family Welfare, Youth Affairs and Sports, Panchayati Raj and Tribal Affairs. These provide ample opportunity to statement the development aspects relevant to Left Wing Extremism (LWE), provided the implementation is done in a systematic and qualitative manner, another step has been the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, which seeks to identify and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be

documented. The Rules have been notified on 01.01.2008. Particular attention is being given to the effective implementation of this act in the States so that its aims and objects are fully achieved.

❖ **Important Schemes For LWE Affected States :**

- **Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme:** Under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme, funds are provided for meeting the recurring expenditure relating to insurance, training and operational needs of the security forces, rehabilitation of Left Wing Extremist cadres who surrender in accordance with the surrender and rehabilitation policy of the State Government concerned, community policing, security-related infrastructure for village defense committees and publicity material²².
- **Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS):** The Scheme of Different Infrastructure in Left Wing Extremism affected States was prompted by the 11th five-year plan from the financial year 2008-09 with an outlay of Rs. 500 crores to cater critical infrastructure gaps of Security forces which could not be covered under any other scheme. During the 11th Plan period (2008-09 to 2011-12) an amount of Rs. 460.00 crores were assigned of which Rs. 445.82 crores was released to the 9 LWE affected States for meeting out the objects related to requirements of the flexibility of the police/SFs by upgrading existing roads/tracks in inaccessible areas, measures to enhance security in respect of police stations/outposts located in susceptible areas etc. The Scheme was extended to the 12th Five Year Plan period on 02.04.2013, with an outlay of Rs. 373 crores, comprising 280 crores (75%) as Central share and Rs. 93 crores (25%) as State share. Rs. 122.13 crores were released to the LWE affected States during the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 for up gradation of training infrastructure, weaponry, equipment and fill up critical infrastructure gap of Special Forces of the States. The Scheme has been obsolete from Central assistance from the financial year 2015-16 as per recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.
- **Integrated Action Plan (IAP)/ Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for LWE affected districts:** The Planning Commission (Now NITI Aayog) had commenced the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) in 2010-11 covering 60 Tribal and Backward districts for accelerated development by providing public infrastructure and services. During the financial year 2010-11, Rs. 25 crores per district were delivered to 60 districts which improved to Rs. 30 crores per district per year from the financial year 2011-12. The Scheme was extended to

82 districts in 2012. From the financial year 2012-13, the scheme renamed as “Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for LWE affected districts” and extended to 88 districts covering 76 LWE affected districts. The major works/assignments included under IAP/ACA relate to construction of School building/ School furniture, Anganwadi centers, Drinking water facilities, construction of rural roads, Panchayat Bhawan/Community halls, Godowns/PDS shops, livelihood activities, skill development/training, minor irrigation works, electric lighting, health centres/facilities, Ashram schools, construction of toilets, multi-purpose cha bu Taras, passenger waiting halls, special coaching classes for students, ANM development centers, and development of playgrounds etc. This scheme of ACA was under implementation up to 2014-15 and discontinued from the central assistance from the financial year 2015-16.

- **Road Requirement Plan-I (RRP-I) for LWE affected areas:** The Road Requirement Plan Phase-I (RRP-I) was commenced by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in February 2009 for improvement of road connectivity in 34 LWE affected districts of 8 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. Formerly, the RRP-I envisaged 5,477 kms of roads, covering 1,126 kms National Highways and 4,351 kms State Road at an estimated cost of Rs. 7,300 crores.
- **Installation of Mobile Towers:** The Cabinet, in its meeting held on 20.08.2014, has approved mobile towers at 2199 locations, identified by the MHA in consultation with BSNL/ State Governments in the 10 LWE affected States. Out of 2199 approved projects, 932 mobile towers put on the air as on 31.12.2015.
- **Scheme of Fortified Police Stations:** The Ministry has sanctioned 400 police stations in 10 LWE affected States at a unit cost Rs. 2 crores under this scheme. A total of 282 of PSs have been completed, work at 118 PSs is under progress.
- **Civic Action Programme(CAP):** This Scheme is under implementation from 2010-11, in LWE affected areas. Under this scheme, funds are providing to the CAPFs (CRPF, BSF, ITBP and SSB) @ Rs. 3.00 lakh per company per year for conducting welfare activities in their positioning areas in LWE affected States. This is a very successful plan/outline to bridge the gap between the Security Forces and the local inhabitants and also helpful for winning the hearts and minds of the populace.

It is the belief of the Government of India that through an all-inclusive approach focusing on improvement and security-related interventions, the LWE problem can be successfully undertaken. However, it is clear that the Maoists do not want root causes like underdevelopment to be addressed in a meaningful manner since they resort to targeting school buildings, roads, railways, bridges, health infrastructure, communication facilities etc in a major way. They wish to retain the population in their areas of influence marginalized to perpetuate their outdated ideology. Consequently, the process of development has been set back by decades in many parts of the country under LWE influence. This needs to be recognized by the civilization and the media to build pressure on the Maoists to eschew violence, join the mainstream and distinguish the fact that the socio-economic and political dynamics and aspirations of 21st Century India are far removed from the Maoist world-view. Further, an ideology based on violence and obliteration is predestined to fail in a democracy which offers legitimate forums of grievance redressal²².