

## **Constraints Experienced by Youth Clubs in implementing Rural Development Programmes in Dhalai District of Tripura**

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**Abstract:** Rural development plays a crucial role in the growth of the country as a whole. There have been many things that need to be prioritized for the welfare of the rural areas. Youth clubs in this regard may play an important role in organising different welfare programmes. The present study has been conducted in Dhalai district of Tripura where a good number of youth clubs are engaged with rural development activities. Therefore, the study intended to understand the programmes implemented by youth clubs for rural area development in the district along with the constraints experienced by them in implementing the programmes followed by the approaches adopted by them to resolve the problems. The study adopted purposive sampling method and identified twenty four respondents from eight youth clubs (one from each block) to collect data. The study found that the youth clubs are implementing numerous programmes and facing constraints regarding fund, community response and club member's attitude. The study also presented the approaches adopted by the youth clubs to respond to the constraints proactively.

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### **Introduction**

Rural development in India is extremely vital for the overall progress of the country. In rural areas, there have been many aspects that need to be focused upon, such as generation of jobs and employment for the people, construction of houses, schools and educational institutions Rural development in India is extremely vital for the overall progress of the country. In rural areas, there have been many aspects that need to be focused upon, such as generation of jobs and employment for the people, construction of houses, schools and educational institutions

Rural development encompasses a wide range of initiatives and strategies designed to improve the well-being and standard of living of rural residents. It enables rural people to understand their potential, identify their issues, and ultimately use available resources to improve their quality of life. Rural areas can benefit from the involvement of youth clubs. Youth are the driving force behind rural development, particularly agriculture development. Youth are trained to think in a way that makes them productive, especially when they have set this goal of making rural development a reality. Youth volunteers are either by themselves or under youth clubs and have been seen engaged with different community-based activities like awareness programme, sensitization programme, health check-up camps, tree plantation, blood donation, skill development, etc., etc. (Odom, 2011). It is observed that in spite of the initiatives undertaken by the youth clubs, their services are questioned which not only affects the development of the youth clubs but also the motivation of young people.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study's objective was to identify the constraints experienced by the youth clubs while implementing rural development programmes in Dhalai District of Tripura. The following questions were answered to accomplish the objectives.

- What are the programmes were undertaken by the Youth Clubs?
- What are the constraints experienced by the youth clubs in implementing rural development programmes?
- What are the approaches adopted by the youth clubs to overcome the constraints?

### **Study Area: The Dhalai District, Tripura**

The study has been conducted in Dhalai District of Tripura. Tripura became a full-fledged State on January, 1972. Tripura was divided into three districts viz. North, South & West Tripura District. Dhalai District was created in 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1995 by bifurcating North Tripura District and including part of Amarpur Sub-Division of the South Tripura District. It was created keeping in view the administrative exigency of providing development and good governance to the largely Tribal and inaccessible areas. The district is named

after Dhalai River which originates in the district. Dhalai district has 4 sub divisions, 8 Development Blocks and 24 Tehsil, 151 revenue villages and 41 gram panchayats (Census 2011). The total population of Dhalai district 3,78,230 out of which 1,94,544 and 1,83,686 are female. Out of total population, 10.7% people live in Urban areas while 89.3% live in the Rural areas. The literacy rate of Dhalai district is 73.03% out of which 77.95% males are literate and 67.82% females are literate. Dhalai District is the tribal dominated area with the population of 55.68% of the total population and Schedule caste population contributes 16.31% in the total population (Census 2011).

### Youth Population in the State & District

The total population of Youth in the age group of 15-29 years in Tripura state is 10,32,526 which is 28.12 percent of the total population of the state. The total population of youth constitute in Dhalai district is 1,09,043 lakh. Out of which 55,655 are male and 53,387 are females. The total population of youth in the age group of 15-29 years is 28.83 percent of the total population in the district (Census 2011). In Dhalai District, 2.1percent of the total youth population between the ages of 15-29 are graduates and above. 3.6 percent are graduates and above in the age group of 20-29 (District employment exchange).

### Youth Clubs in Dhalai District

Youth club plays a very important role in community development in India. The youth club is a voluntary youth group registered or not registered (Society Registration Act) working for community development for many decades. It is a local-based VYO mainly focused in a village in sensitizing various development activities. As per the record of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, more than 1.25 lakhs youth clubs and Mahila mandals working under NYKS in India as per the Annual progress report of NYKS, New Delhi in 2018-19. In Dhalai district, NYK was started under the leadership of Shri.TapanNag, District Youth Coordinator since the inception as per record from NYK, Dhalai office. The youth clubs selected for the study are presented below-

### Methodology

The study was conducted in Dhalai District which has eight blocks namely, Kamalpur, Raishyabari, Ganganagar, Salema, Monu, Ambassa, Dumbur, Chawnanu. One youth club affiliated under NYK and implementing rural development programmes for the past 3 years (July 2021 to July 2023) from each block (8) were selected purposively. Further, from each youth clubs, 3 key informants including president, secretary & field level worker (24) were selected to provide information on the constraints experienced by the youth clubs in implementing rural development programmes. The descriptive research design collected data using structured interview schedule.

Block wise selected youth clubs-

Sl. No	Block	Youth Club	Establishment	Year of Affiliation under NYK	Key informants
1.	Kamalpur	United Friends Club	1979	2015	3
2.	Raishyabari	Tripureswari Youth Club	1998	2016	3
3.	Ganganagar	Modern Club	2002	2016	3
4.	Salema	Teez Foundation	2001	2016	3
5.	Chawnanu	Ujhonvi	2012	2016	3
6.	Monu	Longtraï Social Organisation	2013	2017	3
7.	Ambassa	Sudarshan Foundation	2006	2018	3
8.	Dumbur	Vivekananda Yuva Sangstha	2013	2020	3
Total	8 blocks	8 Youth clubs	.....	.....	24

### Results and Discussion

#### Programmes implemented by youth clubs

To understand the constraints experienced by the youth clubs, the researcher found it relevant to understand the kinds of programmes the youth clubs are implementing. Therefore, the key informants were asked to provide details about few of the programmes conducted under youth clubs in last three years and the information is provided through the below table.

Sl. No	Youth Club	Programmes	Funding Agency	Duration	Beneficiary
1.	United Friends Club	Coconut Industry development programme	Central coconut industry development Society	3 year	Community
		PMKVY	District Administration	1 year	Youth, Community
		Skill Development Training	NYK	3 month	Youth, women
2.	Tripureswari Youth Club	Tribal Welfare programmes under TTADC (Education, Skill development, Awareness generation, Cultural etc)	TTADC	3 year	Tribal Community
		Skill development Training programme	NYKS	2 month	Youth, Women
		GPDP programme	SIRD	3 month	Community
3.	Modern Club	Fishery Development Programme	Fishery Department	3 month	Community
		Skill Development Programme	NYK	2 month	Youth, Women
4.	Teez Foundation	Block level sports programme	NYK	3 month	Youth, Community
		Bati Bachou Bati Parou programme	District Administration	1 year	Community
5.	Chawnanu	Block level sport programme	NYK	1 day	Community
		Environment and Climate change awareness generation programme	District Administration	1 year	Community
6.	Longtraai Social Organisation	Block level sport programme	NYK	2 days	Community
		Skill development training programme	SDM	30 days	Community
		Skill development training programme	NYK	3 month	Youth, Women
7.	Sudarshan Foundation	Disability screening programme, Survey, Awareness generation on Disability etc.	District Disability Centre	One year	Community
		Target Intervention project(TI) on FSW	Tripura state AIDS control Society, Agartala	One Year	Community
		Skill Development Training Centre	DDU, KVV	One Year	Youth
8.	Vivekananda Yuva Sangstha	Environment and Climate change awareness generation programme	District Administration	One Year	Community
		Block level sports programme	NYKS	Two days	Youth
		Youth club development programme	NYK	Five days	Youth

The findings shows that youth clubs are focussing on awareness generation, sports promotion, capacity development, target intervention programmes, environmental protection etc. Therefore the funding agencies are diverse. The duration of the programmes ranges from 1 day to 1 year addressing the issues of youth, adult and community at large.

**Constraints experienced by youth clubs**

It has been observed that youth clubs are engaged with numerous kinds of programmes and thus dealing with funding agencies, communities and youth club members for delivering best services to the targeted population. Therefore, the key informants were asked to share their constraints that they experience working with them. The findings are presented below.

**Constraint with regards to fund**

During interaction with the respondents it was understood that the club faces problems regarding fund. Therefore, they were asked to share their thoughts on this matter specifying the major points. The data has been collected on the major points and presented below.

Sl. No	Constraints	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Lack of financial support from the govt.	19	43
2.	No advance payment is received	10	22
3.	Managing fund from own resources	16	36
4.	Compromised service delivery	14	31

The above statistical data shows that 43 percent of the respondents shared that they lack financial support from the government. 22 percent expressed that they don't receive advance payment for any of their program which creates hindrance for smooth starting of the program especially when the youth club does not have sufficient balance in their account. Therefore, 36 percent expressed that they manage most of the programs by utilising their own resources for which sometimes youth clubs need to compromise with the quality of their service delivery, said by 31 percent of the respondents.

**Constraint with regards to community response**

It was further understood that the initiatives undertaken by the club members sometimes are not responded positively by the community people that increased the curiosity of the researcher to know from the respondents that in which aspect community people are creating constraints. Responses were recorded accordingly and presented below.

Sl. No	Constraints	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Services are questioned	16	22
2.	Mobilising people	20	28
3.	Ensuring community participation	13	18
4.	More inclined into freebies than lectures	24	33

The above data indicates that 33 percent of the respondents are of the opinion that the community people are more inclined towards freebies programmes than others. 22 percent of the respondents viewed that in spite of delivering best services to the community people, youth clubs services are questioned. 18 percent of the respondents affirmed that the main hindrance after one program is ensuring the community participation in upcoming programs and 28 percent expressed that the youth clubs faces problems in mobilising the community for action.

**Constraints with regards to Attitude of members**

The discussion with the respondents revealed that to a great extent the attitude of the members towards community development puts challenges before the youth clubs. Therefore, they were asked to share the constraints aroused due to member's attitude. The responses were recorded and presented below-

Sl. No	Constraints	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Lack of motivation for community work	12	17
2.	Lack of coordination among the members	17	24
3.	Lack sound networking skill	19	27
4.	Lack of sincerity in delivering services	21	30

According to the table, 17 percent of the club members are not fully motivated for community work as they are employed in different works for livelihood. 27 percent of the respondents viewed that the club members

lack networking skill while 24 percent opined that club members lack coordination among themselves. Moreover, 30 percent of the respondents expressed that youth clubs fails to deliver services sincerely.

#### Approaches undertaken in response to the constraints

The above discussion revealed that youth clubs are facing constraints in terms fund, community response and club member's attitude. Therefore, it was interesting to know the approaches adopted by youth clubs in response to the constraints. Accordingly responses were collected and presented below.

#### Approaches related to Fund

The selected youth clubs are adopting different approaches to resolve the problems related to fund. It is observed that the youth clubs are focusing on four approaches to address the issue such as making funding agency aware about financial condition of the youth clubs; engaging with NGOs for collaborative work; fund raising; promotion of voluntary services. The findings are presented below-

Sl. No	Approaches adopted	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Making aware about the financial status of the club	10	16
2.	Engagement with NGOs in collaborative projects	8	13
3.	Raising funds from different other activities	19	31
4.	Motivating employees for voluntary services	24	39

According to the above table, 100 percent of the youth clubs try to overcome their financial problems by motivating club members for voluntary services. 31 percent of the youth clubs engage themselves in raising funds through different other activities like donation drives and community competitions and getting sponsorships. 16 percent of the club members make the other stakeholders aware of their financial situation to maintain transparency and 13 percent works in collaborating with NGOs in different projects.

#### Approaches related to Community Response

It is understood that the youth clubs are also addressing the constraints related to community response to any initiatives undertaken by the youth clubs. Therefore, the respondents were asked to share the approaches followed to resolve the problem. The findings presents that building rapport with the community people; organising free health check up camp; home visits to understand household needs; motivation for voluntary service; involving community in programme planning and implementation are the approaches adopted in response to the constraints, presented below-

Sl. No	Approaches adopted	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Building rapport with the community people	24	27
2.	Organising free health check up camps	17	19
3.	Conducting home visits to understand their needs	13	14
4.	Motivating employees for voluntary services	14	16
5.	Involving community people in programme planning and implementation	21	23

The table depicts that 100 percent of the youth clubs extends their hands of cooperation in building rapport with the community people. It is found that 23 percent of the youth clubs involve the community people in program planning to ensure successful implementation of the programme. It is also found that 19 percent members organises free health check up camps for gaining community support. Further, 16 percent of the members motivate employees for voluntary service and 14 percent conduct home visits to understand the community needs from individual perspective and accordingly designs need based programmes.

#### Approaches related to Club Members

It is understood from the above data that the youth clubs are facing constraints with regards to club member's attitude towards delivering services. Therefore, the respondents were asked to share the measures adopted to resolve such problems. The findings reveal that counselling sessions, capacity development programmes; connecting with other organisations for trainings

Sl. No	Approaches Adopted	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Counselling sessions	8	33
2.	Facilitating with trainings organised by GOs & NGOs	9	29
3.	Capacity development programme	10	37

According to the above table 37 percent of the respondents organises capacity development programmes for the members of youth club with an objective to enhance their skills in different aspects. Moreover, 29 percent of the respondents viewed that the members are sent to other govt. and non govt. organisations for undergoing different programmes which enhances the knowledge of the youth club members. Alongside counselling sessions for the club members are arranged on priority basis, expressed by 33 percent of the respondents.

### Discussion

The study identified the programmes implemented by the selected youth clubs along with the constraints experienced in implementing these programme and the approaches adopted by the youth clubs to address the constraints. The study explored that programmes related to skill development, income generation, target intervention, environment protection etc. are some of the programmes implemented by the youth clubs. While implementing the programmes, the youth clubs had to experience different constraints related to fund, community response and attitude of club members. The study also explored different approaches addressing the constraints. The study gave an impression that the youth clubs have the potential to work for community development. Their services can be improved if the challenges confronted by the youth clubs addressed appropriately by the concerned.

### Conclusion

Youth are skilled young people that can make significant contribution in rural development field and the above discussion in this regard presented that the youth clubs are capable enough to address all community issues. It was understood that timely release of fund and some amount as advance may to a great extent resolve the financial problems. Enhancing community mobilising skills and delivering of services with utmost sincerity may address the issues related to community people. Along with this, if the attitude of club members towards community work is improved then issues related to club members may be resolved.

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