

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

BASIC SERVICES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT (A Detailed Planning Exercise for Sirur Block, Pune District)

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Pune

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INTRODUCTION

At the instance of the **UNICEF (South Central Asia Region, Delhi)**, SRI undertook this project with the aim of preparing a simple step-by-step set of guidelines which can be used by the district/block level officials in formulating projects aiming at provision of Basic Services in Rural Development. The expected outputs of the project included.:

i) A step-by-step guideline indicating the factors which the officials responsible for project formulation should take into consideration.

ii) A simulated exercise in which an IRD block is taken as a

Case exercise in social-input planning and a detailed, project identification and formulation and budgetary exercise carried out.

For the simulation exercise, **Sirur block** was chosen. The choice of the block was facilitated by the fact that we were already engaged in a study in Sirur, and therefore had some understanding of the problems there.

The project evolved through several phases. As a result of intense discussions within SRI and with relevant officials we prepared first the **Guidelines** now published as Appendix I - 'Technical Note on Social Input Planning'. Prof. K B Kothari visited Pune several times to discuss the guidelines and to guide us about UNICEF's evolving thinking in the BSRD area. Several meetings with Mrs. S Abraham in Delhi were also useful in this.

The next stage was to prepare the **Situation and Need Analysis** which presents and discusses in detail the situation prevailing in the block, and the magnitude of the problems facing women and children.

The final chapter, the **Detailed Plan of Action** with budgetary estimates required an extensive exercise and went through a number of editions.

The report was finalised during Prof K B Kothari's visit in February 1981.

We have tried to keep up with the organisational and programme changes at UNICEF during this period, too, and beg the reader's pardon if in some cases we have missed an emphasis.

The final report is structured into 3 chapters: The first chapter gives an overview of the Sirur situation and identifies the needs of the region in terms of our chosen target groups and emphasis. The second chapter describes the envisaged activities, their relevance and the likely benefits. The pattern of project management is also discussed here. Chapter III goes deeper into the nature of activities planned and provides the estimates on capital investments and recurring costs.

There are two appendices. **Appendix I** is a relatively more conceptual note on how to go about preparing a Social-Input Plan for a block. It also includes a proforma questionnaire which could be used for data collection. **Appendix II** illustrates how one can do a quick mini 'Situation analysis' through photographs and come up with ideas for action based upon that.

As is natural with all new concepts, BSRD and Social-Inputs planning are going through a process of evolution both in International agencies and in the Government of India. Certain facets will change as more thinking goes on and more experience is gained. We hope that the

method of project design and social-input planning presented in this report will accelerate this process of evolution towards a more effective way of guaranteeing the quality of life of women and children in our rural areas.