
UNIT 4 STATISTICS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This unit is aimed at familiarising you with the statistics required for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes at the national, state, district and block levels. After learning this unit you should be able to:

- identify statistical requirements for proper planning and efficient implementation of rural development programmes at various levels;
- obtain the requisite statistics from the appropriate sources;
- use the data for assessing the situation; and
- appreciate the scope and potential of the computer in rural development.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Different aspects of rural development planning and management have been learned by you in the preceding blocks. You might have realised that data or statistics are key inputs for the different stages of planning and for various management functions. In this unit we will cover basic statistics on rural India and statistics related to rural development programmes. We will also briefly touch upon the role of computer in rural development in the context of an experiment in Computerisation known as Computerised Rural Information Systems Project (CRISP).

4.2 BASIC RURAL STATISTICS

Statistics are the building blocks for development planning. This is true in the case of planning for rural development as well. To remove the abstractness of the concept of basic rural statistics we can begin with the listing of the items normally included under the following heads:

- Area and Population — national, state, district, block and village; also classification of population into rural/urban, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes population, population of disadvantaged groups like landless labour, small and marginal farmers etc.
- Demographic characteristics of the population — age and sex distribution, birth rate, death rate, and natural growth rate, infant mortality rate, expectation of life, migration etc.
- Labour force and employment — Estimates of labour force; employment, unemployment and under-employment; sector-wise and enterprise-wise details of employment; self-employment and wage-employment; growth of labour and employment; occupational distribution; age and sex distribution of the labour force.

- Agriculture — Pattern of land utilisation; number, size of agricultural holdings and their distribution; area production and productivity of principal crops; key indicators of agricultural progress such as irrigation, area under high yielding varieties, use of fertilisers and other modern agricultural inputs, technologies etc.
- Livestock — Details of livestock population; milk production poultry production, meat production, fish production etc.
- Rural credit — Financial institutions including credit cooperatives; short-term, medium-term and long-term loans advanced to agriculture and other rural enterprises; non-institutional rural credit etc.
- Prices and cost of living — Prices of inputs and outputs; wholesale prices and retail prices, cost of living index etc.
- Basic amenities — availability of educational institutions, health and medical facilities, safe drinking water, road, transport, communication facilities, markets, electricity and other basic social and economic infrastructure facilities.
- Social and economic situation of the population, with special reference to the disadvantaged; social and economic problems facing the population.
- Organisational and institutional infrastructure, both state sponsored and non-governmental.
- Social and economic development programmes in an area; extent to which benefits have flowed to different segments of the population.

The list above is long, but is certainly not exhaustive.

4.3 SOURCES OF RURAL STATISTICS

Depending upon the nature, extent of sophistication and level of disaggregation of planning, the statistical requirements vary considerably. For example, to prepare a proper IRDP plan at the block level, one requires all the statistics listed above plus a lot more detailed information about the poverty profile, ownership of income generating assets, income level and main sources of income, resource potential in the region which may include as diverse information as the ground water potential of the area, the skills and educational levels of the population, the health status and morbidity pattern of the population and so on. Some of the data may not be readily available and may have to be collected through special surveys which may be costly and time consuming. We shall devote the following paragraphs to briefly discuss the sources and methods of collection of basic rural statistics, periodicity and timeliness, reliability and validity of the data and estimates, and uses to which statistics are put.

4.3.1 Administrative Statistics

Broadly, the sources of basic rural statistics can be divided into three types:

- (i) administrative records,
- (ii) censuses and
- (iii) sample surveys.

By and large, a significant amount of basic rural statistics are available in the administrative records of various government offices at the district, block/*taluka* and village/*panchayat* levels. Some of these are generated as byproducts of administration often as a result of a deliberate action, and others as products of certain government regulations. For example, as a byproduct of revenue administration, land ownership statistics and land utilisation statistics are maintained by the village *patwari* (revenue official). Similarly, the *gram panchayat adhikari* (official) maintains essential details of the inhabitants within the *panchayat* area for various official purposes. The primary school records contain details regarding school enrolment and dropout, while vital events like births and deaths are recorded in the registration office for the purpose. A major merit of such statistics is that they are collected/generated regularly without any additional explicit expenditure for data collection. Because of the legal authority of the administrative machinery, there is little difficulty in getting cooperation from respondents to collect the requisite statistics. Often, the respondents have to furnish the requisite information to the authority as a matter of routine to comply with certain administrative and regulatory stipulations.

A major problem with the administrative statistics, however, is that they often lie scattered in various administrative records of the offices of various functional departments. From the user's point of view, the first task will be to systematically compile these statistics from the records, files and progress reports maintained in the field offices as well as higher level offices. Quite often this may be a difficult task as the records may not be properly maintained or upto date. Further, explanatory notes/definitions in regard to the data may be missing. For example, the records of ownership of land holding maintained by the **patwari** may not indicate the current ownership status as mutations due to partitions, sales etc., are not normally carried out promptly.

4.3.2 Census Statistics

Censuses are the next major source of basic statistics including rural statistics. Census enumeration is conducted periodically to collect specific information relating to the entire population. The population census is the most important of them. It is conducted once in ten years in India. The last census was in 1991. The first population census in our country was conducted in 1871 and since then we have been having regular censuses. A variety of information relating to the entire population is collected during the census. These include statistics on demographic characteristics, housing and other infrastructure facilities, economic status, occupational details, employment status, literacy level, and other social statistics. Almost all census data provide a rural urban break-up. The Census Commissioner of India is responsible for the conduct of population census throughout the country. At the state level, there are state census commissioners. The field work or actual data collection is normally got done through school teachers and other government functionaries who are given special training and remuneration for this purpose.

Though the actual field work for census is only a one-month operation (usually in February of the census year), the preparations for census take a few years and the compilation and analysis of census data and preparation of various census reports at the national, state and district levels take several years. Normally, the total population figures and the important characteristics of the population at the national and state level are made available soon after the census. More detailed and disaggregated figures are normally available only with considerable time lag. The delays in the processing of census data are a matter of concern, and the expectation is that with the aid of computerisation this can be considerably reduced. Apart from national and state level aggregate estimates, the population census provides detailed disaggregated data at the district, block and village levels which are extremely useful for decentralised planning.

In addition to the population census, the other important censuses conducted in our country on a regular basis are Agricultural Census, Economic Census and Livestock Census. Agricultural census has been conducted every five years since 1970-71. It throws up detailed statistics on land holdings, distribution of operational holdings by size, area of operational holdings in different size classes etc. Economic Census collects data on household and unregistered economic enterprises. Besides, data on various village amenities — social and economic infrastructure facilities — are also collected under Economic Census which are extremely useful for planning of basic amenities in rural areas. So far, three economic censuses have been conducted, the first one in 1977. Livestock census collects detailed statistics on the livestock population in the country which is quite useful in planning for rural development.

4.3.3 Sample Survey Statistics

The third major source of basic rural statistics is sample surveys. Unlike the census where information is collected from all the individuals (units) in the population, in sample survey; information is collected only from a representative sample of individuals from the population. On the basis of statistics collected through sample surveys, reliable estimates about the characteristics can be made for the population. As compared to census, a sample survey is less time consuming, less costly and often more reliable as non-sampling errors can be minimised by having better trained professional enumerators. A major limitation of sample survey is that it will not provide reliable estimates of population characteristics at disaggregated levels (beyond what was decided at the time the sample design was prepared) due to

limitations of sample size. Of course, sample surveys will not provide individual data relating to all the units of the population either.

The most important and best known sample surveys are those conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). NSSO has been conducting socio-economic surveys on a regular basis since 1951. These surveys are of national coverage and are conducted in rounds of one year duration, after the initial few years when the duration of a round was less than one year. Each round covers selected facets of the economy and society. Over a period of ten years the subjects are covered in rotation. For instance, the 43rd round of NSSO survey was conducted during 1987-88 and covered employment and unemployment. It may be noted in this connection that the estimates of poverty line and the population below the poverty line are based on the consumer expenditure surveys conducted by the NSSO periodically.

For the collection of vital statistics, the Sample Registration System makes available every year for the country as a whole data on birth rates, death rates, infant mortality rates, age specific death rates etc. Sometimes special surveys are carried out by the Sample Registration System along with the regular surveys. The SRS was initiated in 1964-65 on a pilot basis in a few selected states but now covers the entire country.

4.3.4 Statistics from Research Studies

Empirical research — exploratory, diagnostic, and evaluative — on different facets of rural society and economy are sponsored by organisations like the Indian Council of Social Science Research, Planning Commission and different Departments of the Government of India. These micro studies conducted by research institutes/university departments with the help of grants given by the sponsoring organisation provide useful feedback on the development scenario. Sometimes these studies are conducted throughout the country with the participation of different university department/research institutes following a common research design and a common core tabulation plan. The state and other state agencies occasionally conduct sample surveys to collect specific basic rural statistics for planning, monitoring and evaluation of various rural development programmes. Another agency which has nationwide field officers and survey teams for conducting socio-economic sample surveys is the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission. The PEO conducts evaluation studies of important national programmes. In recent years, it has conducted evaluation studies of IRDP and NREP. The states, too, have their own evaluation wing, usually within the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

Check Your Progress I

Notes: a) Use the space given below for answers.

b) Check your answers with those given at the end of the unit.

1) Indicate whether the following statements are True or False. Put a tick (✓) mark in the relevant box.

	True	False
a) Statistics are the building blocks for rural development planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Special Surveys are the only source of statistics for rural development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Administrative statistics are specially collected for IRDP planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Population Census is conducted every five years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Sample surveys will not provide data relating to each and every unit in the population	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2) Name three censuses regularly conducted in the country.

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3) Briefly describe the best known sample surveys in the country.

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4.4 RURAL DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS

Rural development programmes in India are of vast dimensions requiring massive data for planning and implementation. Also, in the wake of their implementation and for the purpose of progress reporting, monitoring and concurrent evaluation, large volumes of data and information are being generated. In the following paragraphs we shall briefly discuss statistics that are being collected for monitoring and concurrent evaluation of the major anti-poverty programmes.

4.4.1 Monitoring of Anti-Poverty Programmes

Over the years, a fairly comprehensive system of monitoring of anti-poverty programmes has been developed. This is based on a regular system of progress reports and feedback. For this purpose statistical proformae have been prescribed. The monthly progress reports are brief and contain key information relating to physical and financial progress. Quarterly reports are more detailed which provide data and information relating to progress achieved, both quantitative and qualitative. Annual reports provide even more detailed statistics on progress achieved, problems faced and remedial corrective measures taken, and quantitative/qualitative information on the effects and impact of the programme.

The primary reporting agency is the block office which maintains the basic details regarding the schemes and projects being implemented within the jurisdiction of the block. The reports from different block offices are sent to the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) where they are consolidated. The reports received from different DRDAs are consolidated at the state headquarters. National level progress reports are prepared by the Department of Rural Development of the Government of India on the basis of reports received from each state.

The Department of Rural Development at the Centre has prescribed that the monthly progress reports from the states should reach the Centre by the 10th of the following month, the quarterly reports by the 25th of the month following the quarter and the annual report before the end of the first quarter following the year. Though monthly reports are, by and large, regularly received in time from most of the states, the same is not true in the case of quarterly and annual reports. This is mainly due to the time consuming process of manual tabulation and record maintenance. A major constraint in this connection is the shortage of trained manpower for compilation of data which might affect the quality of reporting also.

Whereas the Central and State Governments monitor the implementation of these programmes on the basis of certain key indicators on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis, closer day-to-day monitoring is the shared responsibility of the DRDAs and block offices. As such, the requirements at the lower levels of management are much higher. In practice, however, the collection and compilation of data are more often dictated by the requirements of the higher authorities.

In the case of IRDP, the basic data collected on a monthly basis for monitoring purpose include the number of families assisted, the sectoral distribution of the beneficiaries, the social class and gender distribution of the beneficiaries etc. On the financial side, the total investment, the per capita investment — by sector and social class, the share of subsidy and bank credit, the institutional distribution of bank loans

etc. are collected. These are compared with the targets and norms provided. Significant deviations from the targets and norms are matters of concern needing corrective supportive action. The quarterly reports, apart from the above details, provide information on qualitative aspects of the implementation of the programme — problems faced and how they have been overcome. The annual reports provide, in addition, details of income generation from the assets, and changes in the overall income of the assisted families as well as details of loan repayments.

The progress reports of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana contain details regarding the number of mandays of employment generation, the social occupational class and gender of those who get work, the types of work taken under the programme, details of foodgrain distribution and so on. On the financial side, details of outlays, the share of wage and material component, average wage rate and average cost of generation of mandays of employment etc. are reported. Again, achievements are compared with the targets and norms and wherever major departures occur, these are indicated for follow up action and corrective (or supportive) measures.

4.4.2 Concurrent Evaluation of Anti-Poverty Programmes

A few national level evaluation studies of IRDP during the Sixth Five Year Plan brought out a number of drawbacks in the implementation of the programme. Some of the major shortcomings noted were: (i) assistance going to ineligible beneficiaries; (ii) inadequate assistance, especially to the poorest of the poor; (iii) weak planning and implementing machinery; (iv) inadequate training and frequent transfers of the staff; (v) short and unrealistic repayment periods, arbitrary recovery schedules, rejection of applications on flimsy grounds, insisting on securities even if it is not required and, in general, an absence of development banking culture on the part of banks; (vi) bias towards the distribution of a few assets which are easy to procure, irrespective of their viability — milch animals and sewing machines being the best examples; and (vii) bureaucratic approach with very limited involvement of the people.

On the basis of the findings of the evaluation studies and the fresh data on rural poverty furnished by the latest round of consumer expenditure survey of NSSO, the IRDP was restructured in a number of important ways during the Seventh Plan. Correct feedback on the implementation of the programme with the shortest possible delay is an important management tool. In that respect the experience of monitoring based on official progress reporting was not encouraging. As a result, an alternate system known as 'Concurrent Evaluation' was introduced in 1985. Basically, it is a combination of monitoring and evaluation, and the results have been quite encouraging.

The data for concurrent evaluation of IRDP are being collected by reputed research institutions in the country which are independent of the government machinery implementing the anti-poverty programmes. The survey is conducted on the basis of well-defined multi stage random sampling scheme. Every month, 36 districts are selected at random and from each district 2 blocks are selected at random. From each of the selected blocks, 20 IRDP beneficiaries are selected for detailed study, of whom 10 are new beneficiaries and the remaining 10 are old beneficiaries who were assisted two years before the survey period. Thus the total sample size for the monthly survey is 1440 beneficiaries. Over a period of 12 months, all the districts are covered by the survey and a total of about 17,280 beneficiaries are covered by the study.

The data are collected by well-trained field investigators of the research institutions using a structured and pre-coded household schedule. Interviews are backed by observation, physical verification of assets and checking of records for filling up the schedules. Most of the information collected from new beneficiaries relates to selection procedures, delays, quality of assets, loan procedures, infrastructural facilities etc. In the case of old beneficiaries the stress is more on the incremental incomes and the repayment of loans, overdues etc. In other words, information from new beneficiaries is essentially for monitoring and from old beneficiaries for assessing the effects of the programme.

Twenty-nine research institutions are participating in the scheme. Except for a few, the others conduct the survey in a district each, every month. The filled up schedules,

after proper scrutiny, are sent to the Monitoring Division of the Department of Rural Development of the Government of India so as to reach by the middle of the month following the survey. A copy is sent to the concerned State government and another is retained by the institution for its own research and analysis purposes. The schedules received at the Centre are fed into a computer and based on a set of tabulations obtained from the computer, a monthly summary report is prepared with the least time lag. Copies of these reports are made available to all the concerned parties, including state governments, DRDAs and banks. Apart from the monthly reports, quarterly, six monthly and annual reports using cumulated sample data are also prepared to get a more stable picture. Wherever significant departures from targets/norms are indicated, the concerned state government/DRDA/Bank is requested to examine the matter and take necessary corrective/supportive follow up action.

The first round of IRDP concurrent evaluation survey was completed by September, 1986. The second round was conducted during the calendar year 1987. The third round had begun in January 1989. Apart from generating a large volume of micro level data relating to the IRDP beneficiaries, the concurrent evaluation has helped to improve the official system of progress reporting. Also, the fact that independent survey teams may visit the beneficiaries on a random basis and check the records has led to an overall improvement in the quality of implementation of the programme.

On the basis of the experience gained from concurrent evaluation of IRDP, a similar scheme was started for the erstwhile NREP. The first round of NREP concurrent evaluation survey was conducted during November 1987 to October 1988. The findings of the survey enabled the agencies concerned to pinpoint and correct a number of drawbacks in the implementation of the programme which were not brought to notice by the normal system of progress reporting.

Check Your Progress II

Notes: a) Use the space given below for answers.

b) Check your answers with those given at the end of the unit.

- 1) Indicate whether the following statements are True or False. Put a tick-mark (✓) in the relevant box.

True False

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| a) Most of the rural development administrative statistics are highly aggregated in nature. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Information requirements at the lower management level are much more detailed than at the higher levels of management. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Concurrent evaluation is a combination of monitoring and evaluation. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Information is obtained from new beneficiaries of IRDP for evaluation. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Concurrent evaluation has adversely affected the quality of official progress reporting. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 2) In what important ways is the monitoring system of rural development project different from the concurrent evaluation system.

(Hint : See the text carefully — the different purposes and different methods employed.)

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4.5 COMPUTERISATION

A major problem with the manual system of data compilation and storage is that data and information maintained in the records and files of block offices, DRDAs and other offices are not easily retrievable and, as such, cannot be used for further analysis for planning purposes. In the existing system of progress reports, the data mobility is invariably upwards. There is hardly any horizontal or downward mobility of data. Because of this inflexibility of the manual system, often basic data needed for planning are not available at the DRDA and other offices. Also, elected representatives of the people, non-governmental agencies and the public at large are not adequately kept informed about the details and progress of various rural development programmes. As a result, there is limited opportunity for an interface between the progress as reported upwards and the progress as it is witnessed in reality.

The approach to the Seventh Plan stated that a massive volume of data had already been collected in connection with the planning and implementation of anti-poverty programmes. However, not much of these data had been analysed and effectively used for plan formulation, implementation and management control. The manual system of data management was found wanting to meet these requirements. In this connection, the Planning Commission recommended that the Department of Rural Development may initiate steps to develop a computerised management information system (MIS) at the DRDA level.

4.5.1 The Karwar Experiment

Computerisation of MIS for rural development programmes had already been taken up on an experimental basis in a few districts in the country. One such rather promising experiment was in Karwar in Karnataka State. The Karwar experiment which was started in mid 1984 had started showing significant positive results. The experimental computer at Karwar consisted of a micro-processor and the requisite peripherals. This was installed at the office of the Project Director, DRDA. A system design had been built up for data management for all the programmes implemented by the DRDA. Information on about 25,000 IRDP beneficiaries had already been filed on individual records. Daily transactions relating to IRDP of every bank branch in the district was being input for undating all beneficiary records. A separate module was prepared for monitoring loan repayment. A village database for all planning activities in the district was being fed into the system. Area planning for the district relating to NREP and RLEGP for 1985-86 had been done with the help of the DRDA computer.

Some of the tangible results of the Karwar experiment are worth noting. To start with, all basic data and key information relating to various rural development programmes implemented by DRDAs were available at the headquarters and they were easily accessible. This had given better management control for the implementing agency. Further, updated information regarding the progress of various projects and activities available at the headquarters enabled the project director and other officials to conduct effective field inspections which kept the field functionaries vigilant in respect to the correctness of the information furnished, the quality of the assets provided to the individual beneficiaries and the works undertaken. In other words, computerised MIS ensured that the quality of reporting, the quality of implementation itself and beneficiary satisfaction have simultaneously improved.

An added advantage of Karwar experiment was that it had relieved the office staff from much of the routinised and repetitive time consuming work. A happy feature of the experiment was that from the beginning, the entire office was involved in it and virtually everybody in the office had operational access to the system and drew benefit from it. Thus, it had demystified a science and an art which was for long totally esoteric in character, handled by highly skilled professionals.

4.5.2 Crisp

Based on the experience gained in Karwar district, the Department of Rural Development, Government of India decided to introduce a pilot project on Computerisation of Rural Information System in 10 districts in different States.

A detailed project report was prepared. The focus of the project was to develop a functional software to plan, monitor and evaluate various anti-poverty programmes sponsored by the Government of India and implemented by the DRDAs in all the States of the country. The project was named Computerised Rural Information Systems Project and came to be known as CRISP.

CRISP was formally launched in May, 1986 and a series of training programmes and field visits were organised by the project teams. A Project Review Committee with Secretary, Department of Rural Development as Chairman and experts from computer software and hardware, Management Information System, District Planning and Rural Development as Members was constituted to oversee the implementation of CRISP in the pilot districts. The National Informatics Centre of the Department of Electronics was made the nodal agency for implementation of the pilot Project. Selection of the pilot districts was done with care to ensure that the 10 selected districts represent a true sample of all the districts in the country in terms of level of development, diversity of agro-climatic conditions, administrative cultures etc.

Given the various diversities in the different districts, slowly a standardization of input and output formats was evolved. In almost all the pilot districts the computers started functioning in the first half of 1987, after the necessary ground work was done. Once the computers in the pilot districts had become functional, an evaluation process started, culminating in a meeting of Secretaries of Rural Development from all the States.

Based on the experience gained in the pilot districts and the rapid success of the software developed, in October 1987 the Department of Rural Development sanctioned funds to all the DRDAs in the country for purchase of computers and the requisite peripherals. Training of DRDA staff was also organised.

The CRISP team was given the task of preparing a detailed Users' Handbook as well as imparting training to the trainers selected by the different State Governments. A comprehensive Handbook for Users was prepared and distributed to all the training institutions and DRDAs by January, 1988. By the end of 1988, training was imparted to staff in about 350 districts. Four staff members of each DRDA were trained in handling the computer. In a number of states installation of computer hardware has been completed. Overall, in about 300 DRDAs the computers have been installed. By the end of March, 1989, training as well as installation of computers were expected to be completed in almost all the DRDAs.

The software prepared under CRISP is user-friendly. The level of technical competence needed for learning and using it is not high. This ensures easy acceptance of CRISP by administrators and managers. Further, arrangements have been made for imparting computer training using CRISP software to probationers of Indian Administrative Service at the National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie. CRISP software has been carefully prepared for interfacing with any future district computerisation to be taken up by the Department of Electronics or other agencies of the Government of India or State Government. In a few cases, DRDAs have been already been linked with the State headquarters.

The available software is CRISP Version-1. This is essentially for planning, monitoring and concurrent evaluation of the major anti-poverty programmes. CRISP Version-2 which is under preparation, is essentially for database management. CRISP Version-3, which is yet to be prepared will meet the requirements of District Planning. Graphics form an important part of CRISP package. It would be possible with the help of graphics to show in a map the areas of concentration and areas which require greater attention. The software will enable one to develop various planning models which will provide rational answers to the questions on priority for locating various infrastructural facilities. It would also be possible to determine in

advance the schemes to be taken up in different villages. Availability and dissemination of such information will be able to procure for such programmes public participation and involvement which has not been available till now.

Check Your Progress III

- Notes : a) Use the space provided below for the answers.
b) Check your answers with those given at the end of this unit.

1) List reasons for computerisation of rural development statistics.

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2) What were the tangible results of Karwar experiment?
(Hint : See the text of subsection 1.5.1)

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3) 'CRISP is a highly decentralised project.' Comment?
(Hint : See the text for indications in regard to decentralisation of the functioning of the project.)

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4) Graphics form an important part of CRISP package. Why?

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4.6 LET US SUM UP

In this unit we have discussed the types of statistics which have a bearing on planning, implementation, monitoring and concurrent evaluation of rural development programmes at national, state, district and block levels.

We have discussed basic rural statistics which are essential pre-requisite for proper planning of rural development at different levels. We have identified the various types of basic rural statistics and the main sources of such statistics, viz. administrative records, censuses and sample surveys. The merits and demerits of the different sources have also been indicated.

We have noted the statistics relating to rural Development Programmes being implemented in the country. This was followed by discussion of monitoring of anti-poverty programmes and their concurrent evaluation. Under monitoring we have dealt with statistics obtained through periodic progress reports whereas under concurrent evaluation we have discussed the system of data collection through sample surveys conducted by independent research institutions.

In the final section we have introduced the issue of computerised management information system for rural development at the district level. This was followed by a discussion of the Computerised Rural Information Systems Project (CRISP) which is being implemented to cover all the districts in the country.

4.7 KEY WORDS

Demography: The science of population statistics.

Evaluation: A detailed feedback on the extent of attainment of the objectives of the programme, the delivery system, cost effectiveness, impact, etc.

Infrastructure: The basic facilities like roads, communications, electricity, schools, hospitals etc.

Management Information System: A management device that enables managers to get feedback through timely, accurate, and relevant information on the programme.

User-Friendly: Easy to use.

4.8 SUGGESTED READINGS

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| Government of India, 1984. | <i>Report of the Working Group on District Planning</i> Volume I & II, Planning Commission, New Delhi. |
| Government of India, 1985. | <i>The Seventh Five Year Plan</i> Volume II (Chapter 2) Planning Commission, New Delhi. |
| Government of India, 1985. | <i>Report on Concurrent Evaluation of IRDP</i> , Department of Rural Development, New Delhi. (Different Issues since December, 1985). |
| National Institute of Rural Development 1985. | <i>Rural Development Statistics-1985</i> National Institute of Rural Development, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. |

4.9 MODEL ANSWERS

Check Your Progress I

- 1) a) True b) False c) False d) False e) True
- 2) i) Population census conducted every 10 years. The last Census was conducted in 1991.
ii) Agricultural Census conducted every five years.
iii) Economic Census.
- 3) 1) The National Sample Survey Organisation which conducts socio-economic surveys on a regular basis covering the entire country. The surveys are conducted in rounds of one year duration. Each round cover selected facets of the economy and society.
2) The Sample Registration System which is conducted every year and furnishes data on vital events.
3) The Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission which evaluates different programmes on a regular basis.

Check Your Progress II

1. a) False b) True c) True d) False e) False

Check Your Progress III

1.
 - Retrieval
 - Speed in compilation and dissemination (vertical, lateral, diagonal).
 - Standardisation
4. It shows very clearly the pattern of distribution.