



RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN KARNATAKA: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

Subhaschandra Linganagouda¹ and Dr. Laxman Kawale²

¹Assistant professor in Sociology, Govt. First Grade College, Deodurga.

²Associate Professor in Sociology, Govt. Degree College and P.G. Gulbarga, Karnataka.

ABSTRACT:

Rural development has assumed global attention especially among the developing nations. It has great significance for a country like India where majority of the population, around 65% of the people, live in rural areas. The present strategy of rural development in India mainly focuses on poverty alleviation, better livelihood opportunities, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities through innovative programmes of wage and self-employment. This article overviews the role and function of the Government and its' programmes for rural development in India. Science and technological interventions in the field of rural development have been discussed briefly and efforts being made to document some of the appropriate technologies developed by several research institutes, organizations suitable for application in rural areas are listed. Besides, the actual realization achieved during the Xth plan and the proposed target and strategy of the XIth plan have been highlighted to showcase the recent trend of developmental activities under the Ministry of Rural Development.

KEYWORDS: Rural development, Employment Guarantee Act, self-sustaining, Development projects etc...

INTRODUCTION:

India is a country of villages and its development is synonymous with the development of the people living in rural areas. India is a vast and second most populous country of the world. (According to the 1991 census, 74.28 per cent population of our country reside in the countryside). But a big part of this population has been leading an uncertain economic life due to non-synchronization of employment opportunities in agriculture sector because of the fast growing population. Rural development has been receiving increasing attention of the governments across the world.

In the Indian context rural development assumes special significance for two important reasons. First about two thirds of the population still lives in villages and there cannot be any progress so long as rural areas remain backward. Second, the backwardness of the rural sector would be a major impediment to the overall progress of the economy. Rural Development in India is one of the most important factors for the growth of the Indian economy. India is primarily an agriculture-based country. Agriculture contributes nearly one fifth of the gross

domestic product in India. In order to increase the growth of agriculture, the Government has planned several programs pertaining to Rural Development in India. Ministry of Rural Development in India is the apex body for formulating policies, regulations and acts pertaining to the development of the rural sector. Agriculture, handicrafts, fisheries, poultry, and diary are the primary contributors to the rural business and economy. Rural development in India has witnessed several changes over the years in its emphasis, approaches, strategies and programmes. It has assumed a new dimension and perspectives as a consequence. Rural development can be richer and more meaningful only through the participation of clientele of development. Just as implementation is the touchstone for planning, people's participation is the centre-piece in rural development. People's participation is one of the foremost pre-requisites of development process both from procedural and philosophical perspectives. For the development planners and administrators it is important to solicit the participation of different groups of rural people, to make the plans participatory.

In India, out of total population of 121 crores, 83.3 crores live in rural areas (Census of India, 2011). Thus, nearly 70 per cent of the India's population lives in rural areas. These rural populations can be characterized by mass poverty, low levels of literacy and income, high level of unemployment, and poor nutrition and health status. In order to tackle these specific problems, a number of rural development programmes are being implemented to create opportunities for improvement of the quality of life of these rural people. Volume 1 Issue V Feb 2014 ISSN 2321 - 7065 41 the term rural development is the overall development of rural areas to improve the quality of life of rural people. And it is a process leading to sustainable improvement in the quality of life of rural people, especially the poor (Ramesh, 2012).

The rural developmental programmes intend to reduce the poverty and unemployment, to improve the health and educational status and to fulfill the basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing of the rural population. To improve the conditions of rural people, Government of India launched some schemes through the planning commission of India such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Rastriya Sama Vikas Yojana (RSVY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), etc. All these schemes are aimed to reduce the gap between rural and urban people, which would help reduce imbalances and speed up the development process.

CONCEPT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

The term is used to mean 'organizing things' so as to change existing conditions in favour of a better state. There may be many variants of development drawing their nomenclature from the sphere of activity where the change is managed or the type of change or the 'method' how the desired change is attained. For several decades the term was used, solely, for economic change, inclusive of the conditions which affect betterment. The concept was later extended to its wider meaning to embrace 'changes' of political, social, cultural, technological, economic and also the psychological frame of society. In its current meaning 'development' is used to express animated change for reaping utmost human potential. Technically, development is the name of a 'Policy' and its 'Consequent programmes', designed

to bring about a desired change' in social, economic, political, or technological spheres of life. It is concerned with the promotion of human capacities: Physical or mental, to attain the cherished social goals. Development is potential-related, and it can be attained to the extent of the existing development potential, which is measured by the 5 Un-exploited resources, talents, margin of sophistication and the 'will power' which implements development policy. Development is the conditioning of progress, and when efforts are laid towards the use of Growth potentials in rural economy and Society, it is rural development.

METHODOLOGY:

The present study is based on the primary and secondary data. Primary data are collected from the respondents belonging to project area with the help of interview schedule and secondary data are collected from the published and unpublished works on the subjects, reports of governments and expert bodies respectively. The study presented in this paper was part of an action research study. The empirical material was collected by various methods (interviews and survey) in private and public higher education system.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To make comparative study of various schemes of poverty evaluation in Karnataka state.
2. To search out characteristics of rural poverty.
3. To identify the factors, which are affecting to the rural Development Programmes.
4. To review in the exacting poverty alleviation Rural development programme in Karnataka and Find out the major constraint in its implementation.
5. To study the various elements related to poverty.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Rao (1987) states that points out that the IRDP in Maheswaran block of Ranga Reddy district has achieved partial success only. According to him, the absence of a proper set-up at the block level was hindering the planning and implementation of programmes. Although the programmes chosen were based on the capacity and preference of the beneficiaries, they were neither integrated properly nor did they form part of any long term strategy. There was no scope of community involvement in planning the rural development programmes and the emphasis was only on giving subsidies to the rural poor from available funds.

On loopholes of rural development programmes, **Maheswari (1985)** comments that rural development programmes in India suffer from a high degree of centralization as illustrated by the IRDP. This programme has been formulated in great detail at the central level with little flexibility permitted at the implementation level so much so that in may not be inappropriate to say that this programme is for the people but certainly not by the people and of the people. India is an example of a country which is seeking to promote rural development purely through its regular bureaucracy with little involvement or participation by the people.

On this issue of recovery of IRDP loans, according to **Chandakavate (1985)** an unpleasant aspect of the programme is the poor recovery performance. It is revealed that 6 per cent of them have not repaid at all and the remaining beneficiaries have partly paid the amount of loan. However, the existence of willful defaulters in many instances cannot be ruled out.

SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT:

The primary area to improve should be providing employment in rural areas and improving the productivity of the agricultural sector. Often villages in our countries are not in sync with the urban areas because of bad connectivity. Eventually, this leads to segregation and a social divide between urban and rural areas. In essence, the infrastructure of rural areas should drastically improve. Even after so many years of Independence, stigmas like the caste system still have a grip on rural people.

Quality education can help in achieving the goal of eradication of such social evils. The dwindling literacy rates in rural India, especially for females, are a major matter of concern. There is a need for land and technical reforms. Modern technologies like organic farming should be incorporated to improve outputs and profits. Lastly, people should be given access to easy credit and loans by improving the banking system in rural areas.

It can be easily concluded, that for the development of an economy in both rural and urban areas need to be focused upon. Rural areas need drastic changes in areas like infrastructure, credit availability, literacy, poverty eradication, etc. The schemes that are already in place with the aim of rural development need a new outlook and proper updating. Accordingly, the government needs to act for the upliftment of rural India.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY:

We can know the deepness of poverty in India. We find components to alleviate poverty. We can measure poverty on the basis of absolute and relative criteria. We can know where and how the poverty alleviation programmes are to be implemented. We can measure and identify poverty in rural area. Government can review the alleviation programmes implemented by them, know the present situation regarding the monetary position of our country, by support of the study. Govt. machinery can identify the practical difficulties raised while implementing poverty alleviation programme. Hidden and concealed poverty of rural masses can be identified, measured and steps could be taken accordingly to alleviate poverty. In this way, this study would be immensely important to planners, administrators, policy-makers, Government machinery, Reserve Bank of India, academic community, researcher, future researchers, students and the people as well.

Implementation of the Rural Development Programmes:

- (i) Selection procedure for the poor has been faulty and banks have not been involved in the Same banks must be given a greater say in the selection of the poor.
- (ii) Targets are not linked with the resources, opportunities and capabilities of the poor.
- (iii) Repayment schedules are not reasonable and there is lack of working capital.
- (iv) There has been misuse of subsidy; this may be adjusted with the final repayment of Installment in future.
- (v) Project approach is more viable.
- (vi) High targets for high incidence of poverty areas are not suitable.
- (vii) Very poor people prefer wage employment to self-employment because normally they cannot manage the assets properly.

SUGGESTIONS:

Although concerted efforts have been initiated by the Government of India through several plans and measures to alleviate poverty in rural India, there still remains much more to be done to bring prosperity in the lives of the people in rural areas.

At present, technology dissemination is uneven and slow in the rural areas. Good efforts of organizations developing technologies, devices and products for rural areas could not yield high success. Experiences of many countries suggest that technological development fuelled by demand has a higher dissemination rate.

However, in India, technology developers for rural areas have been catering to needs (with small improvement), rather than creating demand. There is no industry linkage machinery to create demand-based-technology market for rural communities. Besides, there is also an imbalance between strategies and effective management programmes. Propagation of technology/schemes for rural development is slow and there is a lacking in wider participation of different stakeholders.

An ideal approach may therefore, include the government, panchayats, village personals, researchers, industries, NGOs and private companies to not only help in reducing this imbalance, but also to have a multiplier effect on the overall economy.

CONCLUSION:

The rural economy is an example of an agrarian economy. Although farming and agriculture are one of the most important primary activities, the problem lies in the fact that the share in GDP of agriculture sector is on a constant decline. At the same time, about two thirds of India's population depends on agriculture. As a result, the productivity is not up to the mark, with conditions only getting worse. So in order to develop the rural areas the agriculture sector must be improved. Rural development is the process of qualitative and quantitative changes to improve the conditions in rural regions. To develop a stronger economy the rural areas must grow. Rural areas are still bound by many problems such as the nourishment, illiteracy, unemployment and lack of basic infrastructure like schools, colleges, hospitals, sanitation and etc . This has led to youth moving out of villages to work in cities. Our villages need to grow equally as cities and standard of life has to improve for inclusive growth to happen. If rural areas are poor, India will be poor. So to bring out the rural areas and develop them, the rural development is the need. The very names of the programmes indicate the purpose of these. Gandhiji strongly argued for making rural people self-dependent through the setting up of small scale and cottage industries. The small scale and cottage industries have a number of advantages. They require small amount of capital, raw materials available at local areas are properly utilized, rural people get employment, whereas for the setting up of large scale industries large amount of capital and modern technologies are required. This situation inspired the programme makers to set up small scale and village level industries.

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