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Economic Empowerment of the Local People through Employment and Rural Development Schemes and Plans

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Abstract

It is a well-known fact that the local governments are the third tier of governance at the local level. These institutions play a important part in shaping the scenario of rural development through the performance of various plans and schemes introduced by states or central Government in India, particularly after the region of New Panchayati Raj. Keeping this view in mind, most of the scholars and intellectuals have assumed that poverty alleviation through the employment to rural people and some others developmental activities are essentially required in rural areas including agriculture, education, health and sanitation etc. some of the people also assume the fact that Panchayti Raj and its schemes and plans for rural development have changed the scenario of economic development in rural areas. Thus the present paper highlights some theoretical aspects of the economic empowerment through employment for rural people including some schemes and plans introduced by the government for overall development of the local areas in India.

Key-Words: *Economic Empowerment, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Poverty Alleviation, Rural Employment.*

Introduction

The history of empowering the local people economically is very closely related to Panchayati Raj and its role in rural development through various schemes plans for the villagers. Some of the scholars assume the fast that the first attempt for rural development was made in 1885 with an ultimate objective of bringing immediate relief and development of rural areas in Baroda (Gujrat). In 1922, the 'Swaraj Ashram' was established by Magan Lal Gandhi at Boroda. Ashram aimed for preparing the non-cooperation and civil disobedience movement launched by Indian National Congress. It was the major step taken in order to boycott the foreign goods and mass publicity for using homemade 'Khadi Clothes'. Gandhi ji viewed that this would create of quality of self-reliance and self-confidence for rural

development among the rural people. However, in 1943, 'Grow More Food' campaign was also started to increase the level of food production by planning and implementation for short term. Long term improvement programme for agriculture food production is planned and implement it soon.

Objectives of the study

To know about rural poverty in India

To know about the various schemes and plans for rural development.

To know the impact of development activities in rural areas to reduce unemployment

To discuss about economic empowerment of rural masses in the country

Poverty Alleviation and employment Schemes and Plans

Further, it was now being emphasized the rapid economic and rural development can be made possible

Research Methodology

This paper is based on data collected from secondary sources. Further, the data has been collected from various books, journals, magazines, research papers etc. secondary data has been supported by observational facts to pace the research work.

Poverty Alleviation and Employment Schemes and Plans:

Further, it was now being emphasized the rapid economic and rural development can be made possible by implementing the plans and schemes made for this purpose. Now a day, in this present scenario people are educated and they think they know better and also have more politically conscious for the rural population to task of the local governance which is become more volatile as an increased awareness among the local people. Most of the studies have revealed the facts the today rural areas are no longer backward and far from economic growth. Rural areas have their own economy, which contributes very significantly in GDP of the country.

The poor population has been successfully reduced in India to point 27.4% from 54.9% in 1973 to 27.5% in 2004. But now also the population rate still remains unchanged higher the poverty line. So population rate decreases in GDP would be lowest in the sense of employment to the rural people. However, some states have been successful in reducing the share of the poor in the total population. In 2004, Haryana's share was 14% and the share of total India was 28.3% in rural areas of the country. That is why most of

the economics assume that India should implement more and more plans and schemes for rural employment to reduce her poverty line.

S.L. Goel writes, "The rural development programs, designed for the socio-economic transformation of the lives of millions in India, have passed through an interesting evolutionary process. Different types of experiments and a series of strategies have been tried to uplift the rural masses from poverty, morass and depression in the past with different degrees of success and failure also. Through trials and errors, serious efforts have been made to enrich the contents of the rural development programs from time to time; but the goal of emancipating the rural masses from the shackles of poverty, huge frustration and disease does not yet appear to be within our reach. Now strategies, therefore, need to be tried to attain the desired objectives."

The fact is that, the Community Development Program (CDP) was started to meet the demand of the local people for local development works. However, there were some short-comings of this program. Consequently, on 2 October 1959, the Government of India introduced Panchayati Raj starting from Nagauri District, Rajasthan on the recommendation of Balwant Rai Mehta Committee. The committee recommended a structure based on three tiers as: Village Panchayats, Block Samitis and Zilla parishads throughout the country in a uniform structure for rural development.

Furthermore, in 1978, the central government created an agency for rural development in every district. Known as the 'District Rural Development Agency' (DRDA). All the funds for rural employment and poverty alleviation were diverted to it which would sanction and monitor progress. The collector was chairman of the DRDA and the Panchayati Raj institutions remained only as agencies of executing rural development schemes and programs.

In order to overcome the situation of rural employment and poverty they thought for the random attack on poverty should be done. In order to secure this objective the 6th five years plan conceived of two important programmes i.e. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and National Rural Employment Programme (NREP). The aim of the programme is to establish self-employment for the poor households through IRDP, for earning increases from the transfer of productive assets. Which help them to cross the poverty level up next the NREP had provided wage employment to fulfil the remaining period of seasons and sporadic unemployment? It was expanded to the large intend to enlarge adsorptive

capacity of labour in rural areas in non-agricultural occupations by making available the infrastructure social-economic which will help them to maximize the productive capacity of rural economy. The IRDP started its in 1980-81 in all the blocks of the country and it was continued till 1st April 1999. In 1992 Indian parliament passed a new Panchayati Raj Act and the previous work lay down on the shoulders of the rural agency of the company.

Then, IRDP had made restriction on the programme as Swarajanti Gram Swarajgar yojana (SGSY) was introduced its aim to self-employment for the rural poor. According to the mid-term assessment of 9th five year plan (1997-2000) launched in October 2000, This programme intension was till 1998-99 for 53.50 million families which had been covered under IRDP expenditure of Rs.13,700 crores. The average investment per family at the level of sub critical to generate income of Rs 200 per family per month.

In 1999-2000, the government of India again launched a new scheme 'Annapurna Yojana to provide food security to the indigent senior citizens who were none came under the targeted public distribution system and who were no employment of their own. Rs. 100 crores was allotted in 2000-2001 to control the scheme. On the basis of recommendation of the Inter ministerial committee constitute to over view the support for administrative last which were permit under various. Programmes and also views for the need of affective agency at district level to support the anti-poverty. This was launched from 1st April 1999 and had fund up to 75:25% in between centre and state. At mean time the Government of India announced a National Housing and Habited Policy in the year 1998 which was launched to provide housing for all and facilitating for the construction of 20 lakhs additional houses unit with a sum of 13 lakhs only in rural areas. For the purpose a plan has action. It has following components:

- ✓ Changing of unserviceable kutcha houses in Indira Aawas Yojana
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana for Rural Areas.
- ✓ Credit- Cum- Subsidy Scheme for Rural Housing.
- ✓ Samagra Aawas Yojana and Rural Building Centres.
- ✓ New Schemes for Rural housing and habitat development.
- ✓ Strengthen for equity contribution by the Ministry of Rural Development to Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited.
- ✓ National Mission for Rural Housing and Habitat.

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Consequently, in the exposition of this housing policy to implement Indira Awas Yojana(IAY), Panchayati Raj Institutions played an important role in the rural India. The National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) were also started in the 6th and 7th plans. But these two programmes were merged in April 1989 with the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY). The JRY was meant to cause meaningful employment opportunities for unemployed and under-employed people in rural areas.

In year 1993 on 2nd October a new scheme Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was launched in drought prone areas especially in tribal and hilly block. On the end of 9th five year plan (1997-2002) the government of India again launched Sumpooran Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) in 2001 in order to provide wage employment to the rural and poor people of area.

- ✓ Creation of Rural Infrastructure.
- ✓ Creation of Demand for Labour.
- ✓ Assurance for paying minimum wages.
- ✓ Strengthening of the finance of Panchayats.

Suggestions

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 launched as it present to strengthen the livelihood security of people in Rural Areas by providing 100 days of work wage employment in the financial year. It ensures job opportunities to unskilled labours in the rural areas to the local people. The implementation of the act has strengthened the women empowerment in economic and political fields. It has been a support structure for the poorest and the most marginalized rural communities. Today this scheme has been implemented throughout the India.

Conclusion

To conclude, we can say that there are some of the other schemes and plans for rural employment and Rural development are as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (April 1, 1999), National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) (August 15, 1995), Pardhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojona(Dec. 25, 2005). Furthermore, the government of India has implemented National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, throughout the country in the regime of United Progressive Alliance (UPA-IIInd). Recently, BJP has launched 'Apna-Jan-

Dhan- Yojana' to strengthen rural people economically. Actually, schemes and plans made for rural development have changed the economic scenario of the India.

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