

A Study On E.V.Ramasamy's Views On Rural Problems And Development**Magdalene Peter**

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Abstract

Rural development has always been an important issue in all discussion pertaining to economic development especially of developing countries, throughout the world. A large majority of rural people continue to suffer from persistent poverty. The socio-economic disparities between rural and urban areas are widening and creating tremendous pressure on the social and economic fabric of many developing countries economies. These factors, among many others tend to highlight the importance of rural problems and development. Periyar wanted to eradicate the concept of village as a discrimination word among places just as the concept outcast among social groups. One of the areas of focus was in the upliftment of villages. In a booklet called *Village Uplift*, Periyar plead for rural reform. It should be stressed in this context that rural India still forms the largest part of the Indian subcontinent in spite of the ongoing process of urbanization. Thus, the distinction between rural and urban has meant an economic and social degradation for the rural inhabitant. Periyar wanted to eradicate the concept of "village" as a discrimination word among places just as the concept outcast among social groups. Periyar advocated for a location where neither the name nor the situation or its conditions imply differences among people. This paper layout an argument on rural problems and development.

Introduction

Rural development has always been an important issue in all discussion pertaining to economic development especially of developing countries, throughout the world. A large majority of rural people continue to suffer from persistent poverty. The socio-economic disparities between rural and urban areas are widening and creating tremendous pressure on the social and economic fabric of many developing countries economies. These factors, among many others tend to highlight the importance of rural problems and development. Periyar wanted to eradicate the concept of village as a discrimination word among places just as the concept outcast among social groups. This paper layout an argument on rural development.

Defines rural development as is a process of change by which the effort of the people themselves are united those of govt. authorities to improve their economic, social, and cultural conditions of communities in to the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national programme.

Rural development is a process of bringing change among rural community from the traditional way of living to progressive way of living. It is also expressed as a movement for progress. Rural development is a dynamic process, which is mainly concerned with the rural areas. Theses include agriculture growth, putting up of economic and social infrastructure, fair wages as also housing and house sites for the landless, village planning public health education and functional literacy and communication. Rural development is a national necessity and has considerable importance in India because of the following reasons.

- i. About three – fourth of India's population live in rural areas, thus rural development is needed to develop nation as whole.
- ii. Nearly half of the country's national income is desired from agriculture, which is major occupation of rural India.
- iii. Around 70% of Indian population gets employment through agriculture.

- iv. Large amount of raw materials for industries come from agriculture and rural sector.
- v. Growing disparity between the urban elite and the rural poor.

Objectives

- To develop farm, home, public service and village community
- To bring improvement in producing of crops and animals living condition
- To improve health and education conditions and new farming methods improvement of the rural people.
- To improve villages with their own efforts, communication and easy transportation.

Need and Importance of rural development

- To develop and empower human resource of rural area in terms of their psychology, skill, knowledge, attitude and other abilities.
- To develop infrastructure facility of rural area.
- To provide minimum facility to rural mass in terms of drinking water, education, transport, electricity and communication.
- To develop rural institutions like panchayat, cooperatives, post, banking and credit.
- To provide financial assist to develop the artisans in the rural areas, farmers and agrarian unskilled labor, small and big rural entrepreneurs to improve their economy.
- To develop rural industries through the development of handicrafts, small scaled industries, village industries, rural crafts, cottage industries and other related economic operations in the rural sector.
- To develop agriculture, animal husbandry and other agricultural related areas.
- To restore uncultivated land, provide irrigation facilities and motivate farmers to adopt improved seed, fertilizers, package of practices of crop cultivation and soil conservation methods.
- To improve rural marketing facility.
- For the sustainable development of rural area.
- To eliminate rural poverty.
- To solve the problems faced by the rural mass for their development.

As we know the 60-70% of rural population in India lives in primitive conditions. This sorry state exists even after 60 years of independence. Rural Development programmes have urgency in the present condition also. There are many obstacles in the rural development programmes which are as under

The people related problems in Rural Development

- Traditional way of thinking.
- Poor understanding.
- Low level of education to understand developmental efforts and new technology.
- Deprived psychology and scientific orientation.
- Lack of confidence.
- Poor awareness and
- Low level of education.
- Existence of unfelt needs.
- Personal ego.

Agricultural related problems:

- Lack of expected awareness, knowledge, skill and attitude.
- Unavailability of inputs.

- Poor marketing facility.
- Insufficient extension staff and services.
- Multidimensional tasks to extension personnel.
- Small size of land holding.
- Division of land.
- Unwillingness to work and stay in rural areas.

Infrastructure related problems:

Poor infrastructure facilities like water, electricity, transport, educational institutions, communication, health, storage facility etc.

Economic problems:

1. Unfavorable economic condition to adopt high cost technology.
2. High cost of inputs.
3. Underprivileged rural industries

Social and Cultural problems:

- Cultural norms and traditions
- Conflict within and between groups, castes, religions, regions, languages.

Leadership related problems:

- Leadership among the hands of inactive and incompetent people.
- Malafied interest of leaders.
- Biased political will.

Administrative problems:

- Earlier, majority of the programmes were planning based on top to bottom approach and were target oriented.
- Political interference.
- Lack of motivation and interest.
- Unwillingness to work in rural area.
- Improper utilization of budget.

One of the areas of focus was in the upliftment of villages. In a booklet called *Village Uplift*, Periyar plead for rural reform. It should be stressed in this context that rural India still forms the largest part of the Indian subcontinent in spite of the ongoing process of urbanization. Thus, the distinction between rural and urban has meant an economic and social degradation for the rural inhabitant. Periyar wanted to eradicate the concept of "village" as a discrimination word among places just as the concept outcast among social groups. Periyar advocated for a location where neither the name nor the situation or its conditions imply differences among people.

With the same aim in view, Siriyar wanted farm laborers to be called "partakers in agriculture" and be paid 60 percent of the income, while 40 percent would go to the landowner. In his booklet on rural uplift of 1944, Periyar gave an action program for modernizing villages which mentioned: mechanization of agriculture, that is, ploughing, sowing, digging wells, and harvesting by machines; reformulation of agricultural land to facilitate mechanization and separation of land unsuitable for this for growing other crops; marketing of agricultural products, through farmers' cooperative so that the proceeds would go to the agriculturists; combining villages as a small town for provision of a school, hospital, park, cinema, drama, reading room, library, radio station, roads, bus transport, police station, an educated judge, and shops; organizing mobile exhibitions; establishing appeals courts and providing for field camp of officers for redressal of grievances; and establishing small industries.

Periyar and the *Self-Respect Movement* wanted to reduce Government salaries because they spoiled men's purity. He explained that they want industries producing things necessary for

public welfare to be state-owned. Furthermore, cooperative societies should be introduced to remove the brokers and moneylenders that come between farmers and consumers. Farmers must be helped to get rid of their debts. Litigation and conflicts on account of rules should be reduced and death taxes fixed. Periyar also believed that local boards, municipalities, and cooperative managements must be given more power.

In his rural uplift, he puts every stress on education as the sure way to rational thinking and action which would lead to the abolishment of injustices in society, economic as well as social. Periyar came up with a fourteen-point program which were as follows: "the landless agriculturists should be safeguarded from exploitation by landlords and money lenders, where the government should do everything to see that agricultural workers are not deprived of their scroll land holdings for defaulting payment of rent; co-operative societies and banks should be formed to save the farmers from the exorbitant rate of interest collected by pawnbrokers and money lenders; to reduce the number of cases arising out of the dispute of the ownership of land the Government should itself possess all clear land documents; the laws pertaining to agriculture should be so framed that the actual agricultural laborers get reasonable returns for their labor, and to prevent landlords and middle-men from cornering away the bulk of the agricultural products; like railways, post and telegraphs, waterways and electricity which are now under the control of Government, the other public utilities and services should be taken over by the Government; insurance schemes should be undertaken by the Government itself and to be extended to workers as in the case of other people; legislation should be so framed as to increase the income of public as well as the workers with a view to upgrade their standard of living under income ratio; children should be given facilities for education within the target period;^[11] considering the baneful influence of toddy and other kinds of drink, the government should work towards total prohibition before a specified period of time; the evils of untouchability, discrimination based on birth, superstition and blind belief should be done away with; State Government appointments should be apportioned according to the percentage of population of people and political aspirations; land tax should be levied progressively taxing the rich more and leaving the poor from the rigorous clutches of tax; opportunities to get revenue in the case of local bodies and co-operatives should be enlarged and the management should be vested with the Government servants; and the motto of the public administration should aim at efficiency and a good administration with reasonable expenditure.

Rural Development is a process of change, by which the efforts of the people themselves are united, those of government authorities to improve their economic, social and cultural conditions of communities in to the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national programme. Rural Development is a process of bringing change among rural community from the traditional way of living to progressive way of living. It is also expressed as a movement for progress.

Rural development is a dynamic process, which is mainly concerned with the rural areas. These include agricultural growth, putting up of economic and social infrastructure, fair wages as also housing and house sites for the landless, village planning, public health, education and functional literacy, communication etc. Rural development is a national necessity and has considerable importance in India because of the following reasons.

1. About three-fourth of India's population live in rural areas, thus rural development is needed to develop nation as whole.
2. Nearly half of the country's national income is derived from agriculture, which is major occupation of rural India.
3. Around seventy per cent of Indian population gets employment through agriculture.
4. Bulks of raw materials for industries come from agriculture and rural sector.
5. Increase in industrial population can be justified only in rural population motivation and increasing the purchasing power to buy industrial goods.

6. Growing disparity between the urban elite and the rural poor can lead to political instability. The main objective of the rural development programme is to raise the economic and social level of the rural people.

Solutions

- Expand the budget for agriculture, the governmental investment in rural infrastructure and governmental land-use fee allocated to rural areas;
- Forming a pattern to increase agricultural efficiency and farmers' incomes; Vigorously ramp up oil production, encourage cotton and sugar production, guarantee staple food production including meat, poultry, eggs, milk and vegetables to ease short supply of agricultural products;
- Reinforce agriculture standardization and guarantee safety of agricultural products, prop up agricultural industrialization, strengthen and improve controls on the agricultural market;
- Prioritize water control in rural infrastructure construction, including supporting water conservancy projects on small farmland, encouraging water-saving irrigation, restoring crumbling reservoirs, intensifying farmland protection and soil amelioration, strengthening ecological rehabilitation and stepping up agricultural mechanization;
- Continue to improve rural compulsory education, improve new rural cooperative medical systems, improve the minimum rural living allowance and improve rural poverty alleviation standards; Enforce the legal rights of migrant workers, form an equal employment system for rural and urban labors and explore approaches for the farmers who have a stable job and residence in cities to gain a status as a city resident, establish the mechanisms of regular pay increase and pay guarantee, and enhance their employment, social security, housing and their children's education.

Conclusion

While it should also be noted that off-farm opportunities, on their own, are unlikely to fully address farm income instability issues, the focus of agricultural policies on risk management and income stabilization reinforces the linkages between rural and agricultural policies. It appears that policies designed to facilitate access to off-farm work or to enhance off-farm opportunities, such as rural development programs, could contribute to achieve some objectives underlying agricultural income stabilization programs.

Reference

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