



People's Participation In Rural Development Activities

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ABSTRACT:

Rural Development is a multi-dimensional process which includes the development of socio-economic conditions of the people living in the rural areas, and ensures their participation in the process of development for complete utilization of physical and human resources for better living conditions. In order to provide the rural people with better scopes and prospects for economic development, increased participation of the people in the rural development programmes, decentralization of planning, progressive land reforms and greater access to credit are envisaged. This paper discusses about the people's participation in rural development activities.

Key words- Activities, development, participation, people, rural.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The main objectives of the study are-

1. To know about the rural development.
2. To know about the concept of rural development.
3. To analyze the people's participation in rural development activities.

METHODOGY:

This paper is largely descriptive and analytical in nature. The information is purely from secondary sources of this study.

INTRODUCTION:

In a parliamentary democratic system, the first requisite characteristic is people's active participation in administration. In the context of rural development, since rural development is a people's programme and since people are directly involve in it, it is essential that people should take active part in the rural development activities. Without people's participation in rural development, success cannot be ensured. But this people's participation has caused a serious problem in the successful implementation of rural development programmes. Every programmes which are financially dependent Government invariably have a short life unless citizens participate in them actively and continuously.

People's active participation is very essential for the successful implementation of any rural development programme which has to be backed by technical know-how and guidance from expert administrators. India is an example which is seeking to promote rural development purely through its regular bureaucracy and with little involvement or participation by the people. The active participation, involvement and control of people in the development process-the hypothesis is that within the socio-political context of developing countries, the participation, involvement and control of people give rise to a socio-political system more conducive to the attainment of economic development along with a greater degree of social justice.

CONCEPT OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION:

People's participation in rural development has been emphasised right since the early days of the community development programme. Many scholars have been contributed many definitions on people's participation. There is an unanimous agreement on the necessity of people's participation, but no consensus among the scholars on the element of people's participation. The active and efficient participation in rural development programmes depend on the interest, understanding and co-operation of the people.

In rural development programmes the people can participate directly or indirectly in several ways. Direct participation includes active membership in organizations, taking leadership position positions and getting involved in projects. Indirect participation is helping the programmes of the organizations and projects by making available the necessary resources and assisting the community development officials and leaders. It would be suffice to mention that indirect participation does not mean involvement through the representatives. For the participation of so called "representatives" represent the richer section of the people and seldom look into the interest of the poor majority. The constitution of India is absolutely silent with regard to people's participation in administration. Thus, there is no scope of formal or direct people's participation in rural development under the constitution of India.

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Active people's participation attaches every rural development programme with the people and by which people take share in decision making and in implementing the decisions or programmes . The understanding and co operation between the rural development officials and people is very essential for the success of the programmes. People have to be the build their own village with the support of the rural development officials. It is not possible to develop and channelize the local resources without the involvement of local leaders and people through the community development organizations and programmes. The main objectives of the rural development programme is to secure the full development of material and human resources of rural areas on an area-basis and to develop local leadership and self-governing institutions.

The efficiency and effective functioning of block development officials depend very much on the effective participation of the people in rural development activities. People's participation makes the Government aware of the problems of the community and ensures efficient and smooth implementation of the various rural development programmes. As the rural development programme is for the people so it should certainly be the programme of the people and by the people. Thus without effective people's participation it has not to be possible to make rural development a people's programme. The participation and co-operation of the people are essential for the effective delivery of services and proper implementation of rural development programmes.

The participation of the people in form of consultation, discussion and meeting is desirable for evolving a definite line of action relating to rural problems. It is important to consult the expert as well as the layman of the rural areas in dealing with the rural problems. Before dealing with any important rural problems a good deal of thought and discussions is highly essential between the rural development authorities and the people affected by the problem. Since rural development programmes are very important tools for bringing about social change and therefore people's interests are to be accommodated in every rural development programmes. The policy makers or decision makers must know the sentiments,

motives, wishes and interest of the rural people for better implementation of rural development programmes.

In dealing with the problem of people's participation in rural development programme it would be desirable to discuss whether there is a scope for people's participation in rural development activities. All rural planning laws lay down a process of consultation with the people before taking any action for rural development. The rural development authorities opened up scope for people's participation and make them responsible to the people. The laws made by the rural development authorities responsible for making arrangements for indirect participation of the people in the form of public meeting, discussion and consulting on matters relating to rural problems. By making the rural development a people's programme public interest should be drawn in it and should also be made sensitive to the public opinion.

CONCLUSION:

People's participation in rural development is the active, direct involvement of local communities in planning, decision making, implementation and evaluation of projects, ensuring sustainable growth and empowerment. Without people's participation, it is impossible for administration to function effectively or implemented any plans and programmes properly. Development was carried out for the people, but not by them. Participation has come to be recognized as an absolute imperative for development. Rural development is a people's programme, it is essential that people should take active part in rural development activities. For success of any development programmes, people's participation is most important. Without people's participation, success of rural development activities cannot be ensured.

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