

MAHATMA GANDHI'S AMBAR CHARKHA (GRAMODYOG) AN APPROACH TO MAKE RURAL INDIA SELF SUSTAINABLE – A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we show the Mahatma Gandhi's approach on self sustainable rural india through various approaches such as ambar charkha as a gramodyog. For this purpose, the initiatives taken by government for rural people are also included. Also KVIC has been identified as one of the major organisations in the decentralised sector for generating sustainable rural non-farm employment opportunities at low per capita investment.

The government also gives the different schemes which are helpful to make rural India self sustainable. The ambar charkhas are very economical to all people and it is initial low cost as well as good productivity instrument. All this discussed in this paper.

KEYWORDS: Mahatma Gandhi, Ambar Charkha, KVIC, Rural India, Rural Education.

1 INTRODUCTION

In the Gandhian vision of "Gram Swaraj", self-reliant villages constitute the basic building block of sustainable economy and a human civilization. In such a model, "Gramodyog" or village industries are expected to be the main engine of economic development. To give a absolute push to the process of rural industrialization is certainly a very challenging task. After some year today the Khadi and village industries sector are increases, & has its activities spread over 2.61 lakh villages in our country.& they also uses some technologies for improving the quality of the product. The Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries (ARI) was also set up in India.



Early days in rural area used 'Ambar charkha' method of hand spinning. Each spinning machine is operated by hand, like a hand sewing machine. Each machine can spin eight to twelve threads at a time which increases the production and earning capacity as opposed to the traditional method of spinning one thread at a time. The spinning is done by semi skilled and unskilled women. [8]

2 RURAL INDIA

In India more than half of the population of the country lives in villages, every village should be a self-contained republic. If every village distributes its surplus produce to the poor villagers then there will not be the problem of poverty and starvation in the rural areas. Only this can help to reduced poverty and thus people can be happy and self-reliant. Agricultural sector alone cannot solve the problem of rural poverty and unemployment. That's why Gandhi gives stress on the growth of the rural industries like khadi, handlooms, sericulture and handicrafts. [1].

Gandhian approach has always said about the voluntary wants, the need for self-sufficient village communities and the issues relating to better balance between man and nature. Gandhi wanted to have an ideal society of his own imagination and his economic ideas are very important of his philosophical and sociological ideas. He was interested in the growth of human beings and more significantly the growth of the deprived and underprivileged group of people. [3]

3 CONCEPT OF SELF-SUSTAINABLE VILLAGE

Gandhiji fully understood the effect of western type of industrialization in India. He was conscious of the fact that far industrialization would destroy the Indian society by eliminating our decentralized rural industries and further leads to improvement. The basic view of Gandhiji's economic theory was village self sufficiency or Gram Swaraj. It means that every village should be self sufficient in two basic requirements - food and clothing. Every member of the family will use the charka (ambar charkha) and spin yarn. The village weaver will play the loom and produce the cloth necessary for the village. Similarly, the village should produce its own rice, vegetables etc. Food and clothing will not have to be imported into the village from outside.

By taking above concept Gandhiji make plan of rural reconstruction and started his activities in Sevagram in 1935 to implement his idea of Constructive Programme which included items such as the use of Khadi, promotion of village industries, basic and adult Education, Rural sanitation, upliftment of the Backward Classes, the welfare of Women Education in Health and Hygiene, Prohibition and propagation of the Mother tongue etc.

Khadi mentality means decentralization of production and distribution of the necessities of life. Khadi has to play an important role in the village economy of India. It can give the poor at least three thing such as cloth, work and self-confidence to articulate themselves. Khadi industry has great organizing potentialities in India. Millions of people are involved in production, distribution and consumption of khadi. Gandhiji believed that khadi is one can solve a number of economic and other problems of India and make rural area or village self sustainable.

- i. Spinning wheel give employment opportunities to village carpenters, Blacksmiths, Weavers and can create self-sufficiency in all villages in India. Khadi alone can give encouragement to other village industries.
- ii. Spinning is an honorable and leisurely occupation for the women of India. With the popularization of spinning wheel, women need not go out of their houses for earning their bread.
- iii. Spinning is easy to learn and requires no outlay of capital. The farmers can easily learn and operate the spinning wheel and can spin during their leisure hours to supplement their meager resources. [13].

3.1 INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE RURAL PEOPLE

By taking concept of ambar charkha, the various programme is conducted by the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries (ARI) for employment of the rural people.

3.1.1 Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

Important amendments have been made in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, to make khadi and village industry products competitive in the globalised economy while continuing to generate non-farm employment opportunities in the rural areas.

The KVIC is charged with the functions of planning, promotion, organization and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in co-ordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary. Its main aim is that “providing employment”, “producing saleable articles”, and “creating self-reliance” amongst the people & building up of a strong Rural community spirit. [6]

3.1.2 Employment Generation Schemes

Under the KVIC various type of schemes and programme are implemented in rural area as follows.

- i. Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)
- ii. Prime Minister’s Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)
- iii. Scheme of Fund For Regeneration Of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) [14]

4 AMBAR CHARKHA

The Gandhian economics is of the view that every man should increase his personal income and standard of living by exploiting the existing natural and human resources fully eco-friendly.

The charkha is an extremely simple and inexpensive hand-spinning instrument, constructed from wood or bamboo within hours by any carpenter and so easily available to all, including the weakest. That’s why anybody to produce at very low cost, using easily grown cotton or wool, the most marketable, locally exchangeable and all the year round saleable commodity and basic human need, cloth (khadi), and therefore procure food also in exchange of cloth. There are two types of Amber Charkha which are 6 spindle and 8 spindle Machine used in working process. [7].



Fig.1- Ambar Charkha

From above fig.1 shows the amber charkha has six spindles which is manually operated by a single person. Even in the event of single end break, the operator has to stop the machine to rejoin the same. So there is production loss for about 3 to 5 minutes in case of single end break. Also the human efficiency factor reduces during end of the day after long spinning operation. Either pedal operating (where electricity is not available)

or motor driving system may be utilized in amber charka. This will help the operator to piece the yarn during end break without stopping the machine. Hence, production as well as the daily wages of artisans can be improved. The specifications of six & eight spindle ambar charkha as given below in tabulated form.

TABLE 1:-SPECIFICATION OF AMBAR CHARKHA

SR.NO.	SPECIFICATION	6-SPINDLE	8-SPINDLE
1	Speed	40-45 rpm	30-35 rpm
2	Handle Length	381mm	400 mm
3	Handle Diameter	0.5 cm	1 cm
4	Weight Of Machine	35 kg	45 kg
5	Height Of Machine	508 mm	660 mm
6	With Of Machine	762 mm	914 mm

The village and small-scale industries have been playing an important role in Indian economy in terms of employment generation and poverty alleviation. [4].

5 ECONOMY OF KHADI

Gandhiji used 'Khadi' as a 'Livery of Freedom' and 'tool for self-reliance' during freedom movement. He had also foreseen Khadi as a tool for 'Economic Independence'. For attaining smooth development of the economy, it is imperative to develop all the regions of the country simultaneously. The overall progress of the entire economy depends on the balanced development of all the regions. According to Gandhi khadi is the only industry which can absorb largest number of people and can provide employment to the unemployed at any time of the year without much difficulty and increased the productivity of items.

The small scale industries engaged in manufacturing of khadi gets economic redemption for the raw materials and production costs by Indian government. According to a recent survey done it provides employment to 14.97 lakhs of people, the total annual production of khadi is 111.49 million sq. mtrs. Some institutions in Maharashtra at Nagpur are categorise by khadi as shown below.

TABLE 2:- CATEGORIES OF INSTITUTION IN MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra-Nagpur

Sr. No.	Name & address of the institution	Category	KVIC/KVIB
1	Gram Sewa Mendal, Gopuri, Wardha.	A ⁺	KVIC
2	Nagpur Vidharbha Charkha Sangh Mul, Dist. Chandrapur.	A ⁺	KVIC
3	Nagpur khadi Mandal, Nagpur	B ⁺	KVIC

Under Khadi economy, the capital is under the control of the labour and supremacy of man over machinery can be established. [10].

CONCLUSION

We have seen in the former part of the present paper that Gandhiji was very keen to bring about maximum regional self-sufficiency in regard to food, clothing and shelter in rural areas. Therefore he focus on ambar charkha and spin yarn and provide the employment to unemployed people to make the villages self sufficient.

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