

A Sociological Analysis of Panchayath Raj and Rural Development Program in India

K. C. Sharanappa*

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Government Arts Autonomous College, Chitradurga, India

Abstract: India is a country of villages, nearly 70% of its population lives in rural area. According to Mahatma Gandhi “unless the development of villages the country could not considered a developed nation”. The words of Mahatma Gandhi are absolutely true. For the sake of the development of the villages in Karnataka the Panchayath raj system was launched in 1961, later 73 amendment of India’s constitution provides independent power to these Panchayath system and introduced three tier panchayath raj system, such as Grama Panchayath, Taluku Panchayath, and Zilla Panchayath. The main goal of the amendment was to decentralization of the power and grass root level development of the village community. Similarly, the central Govt. has introduced various programs for the comprehensive development of Village Community through the Panchayath raj system. For instance, Pradhana Mantri Grama Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Pradhana Mantri A was Yojana (PMAY-G) Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNEGA) and many more. Keeping this in mind the present studymade an attempt to understand the role of Panchayath Raj institutions in rural areas of Karnataka.

Keywords: constitution, rural area, institutions, panchayath raj.

1. Introduction

Panchayati Raj is the system of local self-government of rural India. It consists of the Panchayath Raj Institutions through which the self-government of villages is realized. The main objective of Panchayath raj institutions are, strengthening social justice, economic development and implementation of Central and State Government Schemes. Along with these aims the Panchayath raj institutions plays a significant role in the development of villages especially, Primary Education, Health, Agricultural Development, Women and child welfare, and women participation in local government etc., it is also considered the grass root level development which ensure the power and self-resilience to the rural community.

A. Aims of Panchayath Raj

- Implementation of the policies and Programs for the development of rural areas.
- Decentralization of power.
- Ensure more power to the people.

The Panchayath raj institutions are the statutorily elected bodies at the villages. The primary objective of the institution is to strengthen the base of democracy and provide autonomy

in terms of power and administration to the rural areas and enable the people of each villages to achieve intensive and continues development.

Rural development is a multi-dimensional aspect, includes overall development of the society with referring strategies, policies, and programs. Development means the growth of each and everyone of the society. Hence, the present study aims to hash out the role of Panchayath raj institutions and rural development program in the development of rural areas keeping the following objectives.

B. Objectives of the study

1. To study the importance of rural development.
2. To analyze the role Panchayath raj instead in rural development.
3. To study the importance of rural economy.
4. To identify the problem implementing rural development program.

2. Methodology

The required data for the study has been collected from secondary data, secondary data has been collected through journals, newspapers, text books, thesis, and internet.

A. Review of Literature

Ashok Mehta committee (1978) was set up to enquire the working of panchayat raj institutions and to suggest measures for strengthening them soon to enable centralized planning and development in order to be effective. The committee suggested the formation of structure, functions and utilizations of financial, administrative and human resources on panchayat raj institution should be determined on the basic of emerging functional necessity of administration of rural development.

Hooja (1978) attempted to review the genesis of the twin concepts of panchayat raj and democratic decentralization in context of their historical perspective and in the light of the development on the eve of independence and since he suggests that there is a need for harmonious working relations between the panchayat institutions and the district administration and the panchayat raj bodies have to work as mutually complimentary and supporting units of one and the same democratic administrations at the state level and not as arrivals contenders for each other’s powers.

S. P. Jain (1999) has emphasized the need for action plan for awareness generation about working over the years that the performance of the grama sabha has suffered due to lack of awareness among the people about the concept and utility of the institution of grama sabha, and their own role in making it successful. Any effort directed towards strengthening this institution, therefore requires a very sessions action plan for awareness generation about various aspect of working of grams sabhas among the people.

B. S. Bhargava (1972) has discussed issues and problems in regard to panchayat raj movement in the country in general and Karnataka in particular. Efforts have been made to discuss major recommendation of the Ashok Mehta committee with a view to highlight issues and problems of great significance in reforming panchayat raj.

Finally suggested the three is a need for rural development, to strengthen the rural infrastructure for development, faith in panchayat raj and timely elections to bodies.

3. Rural Development Programs

1) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)

As per the national rural employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) of 2005, 100 days of employment is guaranteed to any rural household adult who is willing to do unskilled manual work in a financial year. The act addresses the working people and their fundamental right to live life with dignity. If a person does not get a job within 15 days, he is eligible for getting unemployment allowance. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) also highlights the importance of basic right to work.

2) Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY)

Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) was launched in 2001 to provide employment to the poor. It also aimed at providing food to people in areas who live below poverty line and improving their nutritional levels. Other objectives of this yojana were to provide social and economic assets to the people living in rural areas. The scheme did not include the employment of contractors or middlemen.

3) Sarv Siksha Abhiyan

Pioneered by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Sarv Siksha Abhiyan was launched in 2000. It is an attempt to provide an opportunity to all children between 6 and 14 years of age to get free education which is also basic fundamental right. The state and the central government share the expenses of this project.

4) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)

The IAY is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman During 2012-13 as against a physical target of 30.10 lakh houses. This centrally sponsored scheme was introduced during 1989-90 for rural homeless people who are below the poverty line. 60 percent of the target is earmarked for SCs/STs, 15 percent for minorities and remaining 25 percent for general category of people.

Since the inception of this scheme, still 31, December 2012, 301 lakh houses have been constructed. As per the enhanced unit cost of Rs. 1.20 lakh, from 2015-16, subsidy from the center works out to Rs. 35000 and Rs. 85000 is to be borne by

the state.

During the last eleven years (from 2004-05 to 2014-15) 8,40,038 houses have been constructed under the scheme.

5) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

The PMGSY was launched in December 2000 as a fully funded centrally sponsored scheme with the objective of providing connectivity to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network with a population of 500 persons and above (as per census 2001) in plains areas and 250

Persons and above in hill states, since inception, projects, totaling about 4,74,584 km of road to connect 1,26,176 habitations have been cleared with an estimated cost of Rs. 1,42,946 crore including upgrading.

During 2012 a total of 3,63,652 km road length has been completed and new connectivity has been provided to over 89,382 habitations by the states, work on a road length of about 1,07,739 km is in progress. 82 percent were already connected by December 2017 and work-in progress on the remaining 47,000 habitations was on track for completion by March 2019.

6) Rural Water Supply Programme

Rural water supply projects for providing drinking water supply facilities in rural areas of the state providing safe drinking water supply is included 20-point program and the targets are fixed for coverage of habitations. About 73.91 percent of rural habitations are fully covered under the provision of safe drinking water provision of at least 40 liters per capital per day of safe drinking water provision of at least 40 liters per capital per day of safe drinking water, during the eleventh five-year plan, the coverage up to 31 March 2012 was 6,65,052 (83.23 percent). Rural drinking water supply increased considerably under Bharat Nirman from Rs. 4,098 crore in 2005-2006 to Rs. 10,500 crore in 2012-13. Census 2011 reported that 84.2 percent rural household as having improved drinking water source with tap water, hand pumps, and covered well consulting the major source.

7) Central Rural Sanitation or Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)

According to census 2011, only 32.7 percent of rural households have latrine facilities. The TSC renamed the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyana (NBA) Aims to transform rural India into 'Nirmal Bharat' by adopting a community saturation approach and achieve 100 percent access to sanitation for all rural households by 2022. Allocation for the NBA has increased from Rs. 1500 crore in 2011-12 to Rs. 2500 crore in 2012-13.

Since 1999, over 8.97 crore toilets have been provided to rural households under the TSC/NBA. A total of 12.5% lakh school toilet units 4.24 lakh anganawadi toilets have also been constructed with increasing budgetary allocation and focus on rural areas, the number of households being provided toilets annually has increased from 5.96 lakh 2002-03 to 88 lakh in 2011-12 in the year 2021-13 more than 27 lakh toilets have been provided to rural households. A total of 28,002 gram panchayats, 181 intermediate panchayats and 13 district panchayats have been awarded the Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) in the last seven years.

8) Integrated Rural Development Program

Implementation of the IRDP provided income generating

assets and self-employment opportunities to BPL families in the village since the last few years. Most of the families purchased assets belonging to the primary sector. These included pack animals, cows and mithuns and pigs some beneficiaries set up shops. There is not much scope for the secondary activities in the area, majority of the beneficiaries was of course found happy with their new assets that have increased the flow of income to the family. This activity has created not only self-employment for the etc. beneficiary but also wage employment opportunities for a few others.

9) *Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozar Yojana (SGSY)*

This programme was launched in April 1999. The families living below the poverty line belonging to rural areas are assisted under this programme – individually as well as in groups (self-help group), funds to be received under the scheme are shared by center and state government in the ratio of 75:25 rations. Assistance is provided for income generating activities. After 6 months of the formation of a self-help group of Rs. 10,000 is provided as revolving fund and after completion of 2nd grading (one year) subsidy @ 50% subject to maximum of Rs. 1,25,000 is provided to a Self Help Group.

10) *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)*

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the renamed scheme of national Rural employment guarantee act which enacted by the parliament as an Act no. 42 of 2005. The act provides a guarantee for rural employment to households whose adult members volunteer to do un-skilled manual work not less than 100 days in a financial year in accordance with the scheme made under the act.

4. Suggestions and Conclusion

In India Panchayath raj institutions playing a vital role in the

development of rural areas, specifically monitoring the rural development programs with helping to identify the real beneficiaries. The aim of the constitution is also the same. Yet the Panchayath institutions and the representatives are not able to extend their power independently. The main reason for this drawback is illiteracy, ignorance, and political background of the representatives. The Government officials and high level beurocrates doesn't exhibit their cent percent effort for the development of rural areas. Hence the gramasabha must involved in the plan formulation, implementations, monitoring, and evolution process. The NGOs may have arranged the job awareness programs to the members of Gram sabha. The presence of women in grama Sabah is must. The government and NGOs should provide proper training to the women to active participate in Gramasabhas.

References

- [1] Report of the Ashok Mehta Committee on PRIs, August, 1978, New Delhi.
- [2] Jain S. P. (1999) "Gram Sabha – Tark before the nation", Kurukshetra, October.
- [3] Bhargava B. S (1979), "Panchayathi Raj Institutions: An Analysis of Issues, problems and Recommendations of Ashoka Mehta Committee", Ashish publishing house, New Delhi.
- [4] <http://planningcommission.gov.in/plans/mta/m>
- [5] Sudesh Kumar Sharma "Panchayat Raj in India", Tririmurti publications, New Delhi, 1978.
- [6] Report of the committee on panchayat Raj Institution, Government India, New Delhi, 1978.
- [7] Hooja B, "Panchayat Raj versus Decentralization of Administrations", Indian journal of public Administrations, vol. 24, no.3 July-Sep. 1978.
- [8] Mishra, A. K., N. Akhtar & S. Tarik.2011. "Role of the panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development (An Analytical Study of Uttar Pradesh)". Management Insight 1(2):37-40.