



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 8.4
IJAR 2023; 9(5): 349-350
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 26-03-2023
Accepted: 30-04-2023

Dr. Lucy Jajo Shimray
Associate Professor,
Department of Economics,
DMU, Imphal, Manipur, India

Paradigms of rural development & North East (NE)

Dr. Lucy Jajo Shimray

Abstract

Development is a universally accepted and cherished goals of individuals, families, communities and Nations all over the world. It is natural for any human on planet Earth having inherent urge to survive and develop. Given these two attributes development deserves a thorough studies by scholars of all faiths, ideologies and disciplines. It does not have a single definite definition of the meaning of development. However, this article would dwelt on rural development with special on NE with some paradigms of rural development.

Keywords: Paradigms, rural development, NE, human capital model, Gandhian model

Introduction

The term development cannot be a consensus in the meaning as it is subjective and value loaded concept. Basically, it means unfolding, revealing or opening up something which is latent, (Singh, 2009) ^[4]. However, development could be conceptualised as a set of vectors of desirable societal objectives on development index which does not decrease overtime. Therefore, some objectives included in the set are;

1. Increase in real income per capita (economic growth)
2. Improvement in distribution of income (equity)
3. Political and economic freedom.
4. Equitable access to resources, education, health care, employment opportunities and justice.

Rural development is a strategy to enable a specific group of people, poor rural women and men, to gain for themselves and their children more of what they want. That it involves helping the poorest among those who seek livelihood in the rural areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development including those of small-scale farmers, tenants and the landless (Singh,2009) ^[4]. Thus, we can understand the concept of rural development as a process leading to sustainable improvements in the quality of life of rural people specially the poor.

Why rural development?

As far as India and NE in particular are concern India is not found in cities but in its 7,00,000 villages (Singh,2009) ^[4]. To make the country move forward it is sine-qua-non requisite of rural development. Since time immemorial India lives in villages. Our leaders hardly paused to enquire if those poor folks get sufficient food to eat and water to drink and clothe themselves from the sun and the rain. When majority of the population is clothed with poverty whose livelihood mainly depends on agriculture India may not have increase growth rate. Therefore, the need to study rural development is imperative. Mahatma Gandhi himself had strongly advocated development of rural life. In fact, he stressed the importance of villages that if the village perishes, India would perish too. It would be no more India. Thus, the revival of village life is possible only when it is not exploited.

Paradigms of rural development

There are several paradigms of rural development in vogue with many perspectives or view point. There is no universally accepted model of rural development that can totally explain the existing phenomenon and predicts its future course but only a set of propositions. This paper however emphasises on the model of human Capital theory of development and the

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Lucy Jajo Shimray
Associate Professor,
Department of Economics,
DMU, Imphal, Manipur, India

Gandhian model of rural development for the sake of simplicities and justifiability in the context of NE, India.

Human Capital Model of rural development: This model emphasises the importance of human capital investment in the process of economic and social development including those of mental and physical ability through education, training, health care and meditation. Here the simplest and most important of the type is schooling model relating to economic development. Theodore Schultz of (1964) explicitly explain the concept of human capital as an important determinant of economic development too. Subsequently other scholars got interested in the economics of education. Thus, investment in human capital through investing human efforts and money emphasises the need to harness it for the good of the people by respecting the culture and religion, social values and structures. The human capital approach to rural development shifts the emphasis from physical capital formation to human capital and from industrial development as basis for overall development.

Human capital model of development believes on the following three assumptions

1. Human capital and mental capabilities are partly inherited and partly acquired which varies from individual to individual.
2. Human capital directly contributes to development through positive effect of productivity.
3. Human resources are inexhaustible and are available plenty in all developing countries including India.

Therefore, human capital can be substituted for exhaustible non-renewable physical capital in the process of development. This is the path India should choose to bring about overall sustainable development where skilled, experienced and innovative human resources are required. In fact, human resources development through nutrition, health care, appropriate education, training and empowerment deserves the highest priority in terms of allocation of resources for the purpose needed.

Gandhian model of rural development

Gandhiji's model also known as the Father of the Nation was based on holistic and people-centred through non-violence and the goodness of human beings (Gandhiji, 1975). Gandhiji was also influence by Tolstoy and Ruskin and the teaching of Gita. Gandhiji placed more emphasis on moral and spiritual values than economic motive as a means of overall development. Gandhiji's model of rural development is more of people-centred policies based on certain components.

- **Self-sufficient village economy:** Gandhiji's concept of self-sufficiency was not of narrow concept but he realised the need for villages to be able to acquire the things from outside the village which they could not produce within the village itself.
- **Decentralisation:** Gandhiji believed in the happiness of human mental and moral development in order to achieve the supreme goal. This only could be achieved when all economic and political powers are decentralised.
- **Khadi and village Industries:** Ensuring work for all Gandhiji advocated the promotion of Khadi and other village industries as an investment of decentralisation of

production and distribution of basic necessities of life specially people living in the rural areas. Gandhiji was quite apprehensive of the replacement of human labour by machines even though he appreciated the role of new technologies provided it does not affect the level of employment and standard of living which are still indigenous in nature. In fact, the proponents of Gandhian model argue that under the prevailing socio-cultural and economic conditions in India and the NE states., the model is still relevant and is the only alternative for bringing about equitable and sustainable rural development.

Conclusion

It is important to note that in a hillock region of the NE, India it will take time and investment to fully get a productive human being. Research undertaken in both developed and developing countries reveals that for an increase in output, the quality of labour is more important than quantity. One example could be taken from that of Japan. It has almost no mineral or energy resources but has high economic productivity due to high literate, trained and efficient working population. As India is flooded with rural lives development strategies should focus on holistic and equity-oriented strategy with people's full participatory action. Besides, imparting schooling and training to the local farmers so as to equipped them with new technology know how and imbibed the community participation with fullest support. No man can survive alone. He needs a community with healthy work environment free from any kind of injustice. The NE with more than 200 ethnic groups with diverse cultures and traditions. It needs holistic approach for rural development. We can reflect the United Nation's Conference on environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio in June 1992 which heightened the global concern over the deteriorating environment and the search for a more practicable strategies for sustainable development. Sustainable development is development that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

References

1. Agrawal AN, Singh SP. The economies of under development, New Delhi. Oxford University Press; c1970.
2. Dantwala MC. From Stagnation to Growth, Indian Economic Journal; c1970 Oct-Dec 18.
3. Ngozi AA, Okechukwu AC, Chinenye EC. Women involvement in rural community development in Enugu north senatorial zone of Enugu State, Nigeria. Int. J Agric. Extension Social Dev. 2019;2(1):01-06. DOI: 10.33545/26180723.2019.v2.i1a.15
4. Todaro, Michael P Smith. Economic Development, 12th edition. Pearson India Education Services Pvt. Ltd. India. Copyright; c2017.
5. Singh Katar. Rural Development; Principles, Policies and Management'. 3rd edition, Sage publications, India Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi; c2009.
6. Kumar N, Badhwar S. Crop productivity an indicator of rural development: A case study of Sonipat district, Haryana. Int. J Geogr. Geol. Environ. 2022;4(2):191-194.