



Study on Indian society of Rural Area

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Abstract: - India is one of the rapidly urbanizing nations but still, the majority of the Indian population (61% according to the 2011 Indian census) living in rural areas, rural development is very important for the effective development of the country, they also contribute to the 46% of the national income. In India, the majority of rural areas are crippled with many problems that are acting as barriers to the development of rural areas. The main objective of this research paper is to study and understand the problems and challenges in rural areas which are existing, to discuss and describe the factors for the occurrence of these problems in rural areas. These problems impose their harmful effects on the living conditions of the people and are affecting as a barrier to growth and development. This study helps us to understand the causes of the backwardness of the rural areas and also guides us to the measures, which should be taken by the government to improve the living conditions of the people and the importance of developing the rural system for the overall development of the country.

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Introduction:

In general, a rural area or countryside is a geographic area that is located outside towns and cities with less number of facilities like services and amenities. "All population, housing, and territory not included within an urban area. Whatever is not urban are considered rural." (U.S. H.H.S). Rural areas as those areas with a population of less than 49,000 (tier-3 to tier-6 cities) typical rural areas have a low population density and small settlements (RBI). Almost 70% of India's population living in rural areas contribute to a great chunk of the Indian economy. In rural areas, a large number of populations are dependent on agriculture for their income. Though different countries have different definitions of rural for statistical and administrative purposes, all these rural areas are equally important for the sustainable development of the country and the rural system development should be considered as a part of the country's development. But due to a lack of concern for the development of the rural system, people in these areas are plagued with many problems and the rural system of the country is getting crippled day by day. To achieve the overall development of the nation there is a need to concentrate more on the rural areas to implement the policies and development measures. There are several barriers to the development of the rural areas, to alarm the decision-makers, policymakers, and planners regarding the challenges of the rural system it is necessary to study the problems. The major problems that have been identified by literature review in many

rural areas are poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, homelessness, crime, social evils, lower living standards, lack of facilities, services, and health. From the past 20 years in India, there is rapid growth and development in cities and urban but not in rural areas, this is the main factor for out-migration from rural areas to urban areas. For India's economy to be strong the rural economy needs to grow (World Bank) but rural areas are plagued with numerous problems like illiteracy; unemployment, and lack of basic infrastructure like schools, colleges, hospitals, sanitation, etc., Many policies and programs are implemented by the government organizations with the major objective to promote the well-being of rural communities, but some of these problems directly or indirectly responsible for the mismanagement of policies, schemes, and programs. If these problems are not addressed properly, they further increase and completely affect the rural system and negatively impact the complete balance of the country's development. This research paper mainly aims to discuss the problems of the rural areas in four main components they are problems related to people, agriculture, infrastructure, economy, leadership, and administration these problems guide to the conclusions why they must be concerned and the need to address them in planning and development of rural areas.

Indian society is primarily a rural society though urbanisation is growing. The majority of India's people live in rural areas (69 per cent, according to the

2011 Census). They make their living from agriculture or related occupations. This means that agricultural land is the most important productive resource for a great many Indians. Land is also the most important form of property. But land is not just a 'means of production' nor just a 'form of property'. Nor is agriculture just a form of livelihood. It is also a way of life. Many of our cultural practices and patterns can be traced to our agrarian backgrounds. You will recall from the earlier chapters how closely interrelated structural and cultural changes are. For example, most of the New Year festivals in different regions of India – such as Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Bihu in Assam, Baisakhi in Punjab and Ugadi in Karnataka to name just a few – actually celebrate the main harvest season and herald the beginning of a new agricultural season. Find out about other harvest festivals.

When understanding Indian society, one is required to obtain knowledge about urban, rural and tribal societies. The division of the Indian society is broadly on the basis of urban, rural and tribal societies taking into account their socio-economic characteristics and geographical locations. Urban society is formed with the establishment of industries, offices, educational institutions, training centres and the services sector. In the urban areas, individuals are mostly engaged in non-agricultural occupations and they adopt a western way of life. Individuals learn and acquire awareness of advanced and modern innovative techniques and methods. Provision of health and medical care is also available on a comprehensive scale and individuals belonging to rural and tribal communities migrate to urban areas in search for better living standards (Indian Society: Tribal, Rural and Urban, n.d.).

Rural societies are the societies that are residing in rural areas, where agriculture is stated to be the primary occupation. In rural areas too there have been certain progressions and developments. There has been development of schools, medical and health care centres.

Important characteristics of Indian Rural Society

Reddy (1985) has stated the following as the characteristic of Indian Rural Society.

1. The village is the unit of the rural society. Its people carry on the business of living together within a distinctive framework of caste and social custom. Caste is a dominant social institution permeating social and economic relations. Traditional caste occupation mostly prevails. Co-operative labour of different castes is required not only for agro-economic activities but also for socio-religious life. The large villages have within its population all the occupational castes, have a comparatively more integrated and self sufficient economic as well as socio-religious life than smaller villages.

2. The village as a social and cultural unit possesses a basically uniform organisation and structure of values all over India. Many problems are common to the entire Indian country side.

3. The ethnic, linguistic, religious and caste composition of a village largely determine its character and structure. Some villages of hamlets are inhabited almost exclusively by certain castes as in the case of Agraharams for Brahmins. Even in a village with mixed population the different castes usually live in different sections of the same village. Inter caste rivalries are present.

4. Women do not have full equality with men in several aspects of life.

5. Indian rural society is predominantly based on agriculture. Possession of land carries with it social and prestige value, besides being considered as an economic asset. In many villages, the land is mostly distributed between two or more castes, or among a few families, or between one big land owner and the rest of the community. Landless labourers and tenants constitute a considerable part of the population depending on agriculture.

6. Every village has its own organisational set up, authority and sanctions. It has its growing body, the panchayat, based on local tradition since long, but now constituted on a regular basis according to provisions of Panchayat Raj.

7. Social distance or isolation has a bearing on the nature of the organisation of a village and of its view on the world. Availability of or nearness to modern means of transport or communications also modifies the setting and fabric of a village.

8. Village settlements are generally governed by certain regional and local traditions. The layout of the village, construction of the house, the dress, the speech, and manners follow the set pattern of the cultural area. Each village possesses an individual of its own. Some have a reputation for generosity, hospitality and fair play, while others are notorious for their meanness and corruption. Some villages are known for their co-operatives, while some are noted for their litigations and factions.

The important characteristics of the Indian villager was summarised by Reddy (1985) as hospitality, feminist traditionalism, fatalism, religiousness often combined with superstitious beliefs, leisure attitude to life, and low standard of living. Nevertheless most villagers are capable to change and will respond to the teachers whom they trust even though their past sad experiences make them conservation and hopelessness about the future. They are eager to learn how to help themselves and they represent paternalism.

Social Interdependence

One of the great themes pervading Indian life is social interdependence. People are born into groups—families, clans, subcastes, castes, and religious communities—and feel a deep sense of inseparability from these groups. People are deeply involved with others, and for many, the greatest fear is the possibility of being left alone, without social support. Psychologically, family members typically experience intense emotional interdependence. Economic activities, too, are deeply imbedded in a social nexus. Through a multitude of kinship ties, each person is linked with kin in villages and towns near and far. Almost everywhere a person goes, he can find a relative from whom he can expect moral and practical support.

In every activity, social ties can help a person and the absence of them can bring failure. Seldom do people carry out even the simplest tasks on their own. When a small child eats, his mother puts the food into his mouth with her own hand. When a girl brings water home from the well in pots on her head, someone helps her unload the pots. A student hopes that an influential relative or friend can facilitate his college admission. A young person anticipates that parents will arrange his or her marriage. Finally, a person facing death expects that relatives will conduct the proper funeral rites ensuring his own smooth passage to the next stage of existence and reaffirming social ties among mourners.

This sense of interdependence extends into the theological realm. From birth onward, a child learns that his “fate” has been “written” by divine forces and that his life is shaped by powerful deities with whom an ongoing relationship must be maintained.

Rural Development planning

The perspective, orientation, and approach for rural development in India have changed from the time of independence to date, rural areas are the backbone of our country about 61% of the population is still residing in the rural areas of India so there is a need to concentrate more on the rural areas for the overall development of the country, but the basic problem of these rural areas are the challenges and acting as barriers for the development of the rural areas. These challenges are responsible for less development in rural areas, individuals are migrating to urban areas for better facilities and amenities, but many urban areas are overpopulated and becoming unlivable. Rural development is essential and these rural problems needed to be address and proper policies must be implemented for sustainable development of the rural areas, though there are several schemes implemented for rural development, they are still in a state of neglect and under-development, as a result of past legacies and

defects in our planning process and investment pattern. The main objectives identified for rural development are to improve the availability and widen the distribution of the basic needs among all the rural people, to improve and raise the standards of rural people by enhancing the better education, employment, social-economic living standards. The World Bank suggested elements for effective planning and implementation of Rural Development Programs are The National plan of action for supporting regional policies and adequate local level monitoring for achieving the objectives, Greater decentralization with effective machinery at the regional and local level to coordinate the sectoral activities of national departments operating in the regional and local departments, Participation of the rural poor in the planning and implemenation process through local government and other group organization / voluntary organizations.

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