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Sustainable Rural Development: A Case Study of Kalewadi Nirmal Gram, District Satara (Maharashtra)

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ABSTRACT

Rural development is becoming an important aspect in the studies of Regional Planning. Rural development is social and economical transforming of rural traditional society into modern society and a process through which collective efforts aiming the well being and self reliance of people living in rural areas. The task of planning of rural development has presented number of problems to planning authorities, administrators, implementing authorities and social workers. Different government plans are devoted to all-round balanced development, sustained economic growth and community development. Maharashtra is one of the leading states in the rural development program. State has done exceedingly well in achieving full sanitation and improvement in standard of living through "Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhata Abhiyan" launched by Government of Maharashtra. Satara district is important district in case of Total Sanitation Campaign, achieved 90 per cent sanitation, while some blocks achieved 100 per cent. Kalewadi is one of the "Nirmal Gram" awarded village in the year 2006-07. This village can be a model for the other villages all over the rural India because despite of adversities village have achieved a remarkable sustainable development.

Keywords : Total Sanitation Campaign, Rural development, Sustainable development

1. INTRODUCTION:

Rural development is becoming an important aspect in the studies of Regional Planning. The issue of rural development is linked with the issues of development in general. It cannot and should not be seen in isolation. It is social and economical transforming of rural traditional society into modern society. Rural development is a process through which collective efforts aiming the well being and self reliance of people living in rural areas.

The task of planning of rural development has presented number of problems to planning authorities, administrators, implementing authorities and social workers. Different government plans are devoted to all-round balanced development, sustained economic growth and community development. In other hand these plans are set targets to reduce disparities and achieve balanced development.

Sanitation coverage in rural India has been growing at an impressive rate and playing an important role since 2001. It is mainly due to efforts taken in boosting total sanitation campaign all over India. There are number of programmes launched in India to overcome various economical, social problems along with rural water supply, health, hygiene and sanitation from the beginning of the First Five Year Plan.

Maharashtra is one of the leading states in the rural development program as well as in the Total Sanitation Campaign. State has done exceedingly well in achieving full sanitation and improvement in standard of living is concern. "Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhata Abhiyan" a village cleanliness campaign launched by Government of Maharashtra plays vital role in total sanitation as well as raising the standard of living of the people.

Satara district is important district in case of Total Sanitation Campaign. District achieved 90 per cent sanitation, while some blocks achieved 100 per cent. Kalewadi is one of the "Nirmal Gram" awarded village in the year 2006-07. This village can be a model for the other villages all over the rural India. Taking into consideration this fact I have decided to choose to study present conditions and scenario in this vil-

lage and come to striking results.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Here I have decided to study present status of the Kalewadi village. The study is looks at the achievement of the campaign and also brings forth the possibilities for sustainable development and model village. Hence sets certain objectives to make out study more scientific and relevant. They are-

- I) To study status of the village after achieving the award in the Nirmal Gram Campaign.
- II) To study possibilities of promotion of sustainable development in the Kalewadi village.
- III) To study possibilities of self reliance based economy and increase standard of living of the people.

3. DATA COLLECTION:

The entire research work is based on the data and information obtained from the fieldwork. The object oriented questionnaire is prepared and all data is collected through visiting the Kalewadi Village. Purposive sampling method is adopted to collect the data. The secondary data is collected from the various sources of Maharashtra Government publications, Socio-economic abstracts of Zilla Parishad, Satara, and Gram Panchayat office records.

4. METHODOLOGY:

Different indicators selected for the study. It includes; Agricultural, Household occupation, Socio-economic welfare, and Infrastructure. Different set of sub indicators are also decided for the study purpose. Conditions are assessed and evaluated on the Government authorized norms basis of the Nirmal Gram Campaign.

5. STUDY REGION:

Kalewadi is situated in the west of the Diskal Village which is near Pusegaon-Phaltan State high way. Absolute location of the Kalewadi is 17° 40' N latitude and 76° 16' E longitude. It is situated at 850 m height from mean sea level, located in Yerela River Basin. Village is surrounded by small hills. The main stream is flowing nearby the village in west to east direction, which meets Yerela River. The major part of the village is cov-

ered by shrubs mainly Bor, Cactus. Neem, Babul, Tamarind, Banyan, and Pimparni are major trees found in the village.

6. ANALYTICAL PART:

A) SOCIAL AND PUBLIC AMENITIES:

Over the years, rural development has recognized as designed framework to improve the economic and social life of the rural poor. It involves the benefits of the development to the poorest among those who seeks livelihood in the rural areas. The rural development concept is multifaceted and hence it interprets in different ways. Maharashtra has reached the stage of development where it is now through the success of overall development crafted by political demands of its time. Clean and healthy village without conflicts is the main thrust of the recent campaign of "Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhata Abhiyan" and "Mahatma Gandhi Tantomukta Gram Abhiyan".

These particular campaigns exert huge impacts on different developmental issues of the rural areas. The Kalewadi like Nirmal Gram awarded village can be role model for other villages. There are possibilities for sustainable rural development that meets the needs of the present without compromising ability of the future generation to meet their own needs. Initially, the health, hygiene, sanitation conditions in the Kalewadi is assessed and come to know some striking features.

i) INFRASTRUCTURE:

The internal roads of Kalewadi are tar roads. Kalewadi is linked with other settlements with tar roads. Kalewadi has underground drainage system. Kalewadi is totally electrified and have a continuous electricity supply. The Street lights are on solar power. Village has good and ample water supply system. The primary school building is well furnished and equipped. There is not a permanent cleaning staff. Villagers are come together frequently to clean the village.



ii) DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT:

Drinking water supply is the most important factor to discuss emphatically. In Kalewadi separate water supply committee is established. Every year water budget is sanctioned in village meetings and implemented. The recovery of the water connection bill is about 85 per cent. It means people are aware of the responsibility.



Provision for annual expenditure for water supply scheme is least. Water testing charges are not collected from the villagers. The scheme is running on no profit no loss basis. There is obligation to panchayat and water supply committee to look after this particular aspect. People are inclined to test drinking water, it will create habit to drink such potable water. Ninety per cent families have an individual water supply connection; hence there is not possibilities of leakages and wastage of drinking water. But few connections are passes through the gutters and are a part of concern. In Kalewadi TLC powder is used regularly for purification of water. Water testing is carried out frequently in Primary Health Centers and scientific laboratories. Hence there is not any kind of epidemic or water borne diseases occurred since last five years.

iii) MANAGEMENT OF SOILDWASTE:

In Kalewadi all the houses use dustbins. People use waste-

bins kept at the public places. In general solid waste is classified. It is collected in 8 to 10 days with the help of carriers and dumped in pits outside the village. All the waste is used to produce compost manures. It is one kind of income source to the Gram Panchayat and it gain good amount every year.

iv) HABITAT, VILLAGE, PREMISES CLEANLINESS:

Cleanliness and tidiness, flower plant and tree plantation is noteworthy in Kalewadi. It is carried out along the roadside and in open space and in front of houses too. In Kalewadi provision of storage of food grains in steel (kothies) container is common practice. Cooking is carried out at well situated kitchen. Scientific way of handling the drinking water, cleanliness of bathroom and sewage water drains through proper manner all these are the common features of the village.

Cattle vaccination is done every year. Cattle sheds are build nicely and disposal of dung in compost pits for producing organic manures. Precaution measures have given priority to control mosquitoes, houseflies, and insects. Facility of crematorium is available outside the village.

v) INDIVIDUAL CLEANLINESS:

In primary schools students learn good habits of cleanliness. They are well dressed, cutting nails frequently, clean hair and keep habit of individual cleanliness. All are using toilet blocks in the school. There is no evidence of any kind of disease among the student. Families are keeping drinking water at proper elevated portion. Spitting at public place is not found in the village. It means that good habits are inculcated in the society.

vi) FAMILY WELFARE PROGRAMME:

People from Kalewadi inclined to use family planning aids. It shows social awareness among the people. Most of the couple opt family planning on a single ward or two wards. Sex determination and discrimination is not found in the village. It reflects from the sex ratio of the village. The sex ratio of the Kalewadi is 1167 female per thousand male. It is strikingly higher than the district's sex ratio.

vii) PEOPLE PARTICIPATION:

People in the village are unite and integrated with secular consensus. There is not any kind of tension, conflicting situation is found since last five year. Equality, and religious cohesiveness, social bonding is found in the Kalewadi, it resulted in village get awarded as Mahatma Gandhi Tantomukta Village in the Maharashtra. Tobacco, guthaka, alcohol, wines are banned in the village. Hundred per cent people participation is found in majority of the activities especially in the developmental work. Water conservation, tree plantation, repairing of roads, all such works are carried out and completed remarkably because of the community participation.

Employment generation program, blood donation program are not commonly found in the villages, but in Kalewadi these programs are organized and get benefitted to stake holders. People show deep interest in traditional festivals, like Ganesh Utsav, Deepavali and fairs. Youth groups, self-help groups, and others are taking active participation in such programmes.



viii) EDUCATION:

Today in the 21st Century we are dreaming of one unite, secular democratic socialized Indian economy. To fulfill this dream education is most important. It is the only way to change the society. It is also important to improve the democratic responsibilities in people. But according to 2001 Census literacy rate in Kalewadi is low 74.00 per cent. Male literacy rate is comparatively higher 87.8 per cent to female literacy rate 62.3 per cent. It is mainly because of orthodox socially bind society is not permitting girls on large scale to take education.

But in recent year remarkable change take place especially after the social movement of "Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhata Abhiyan". There is increase in number of girls taking the education. To increase the proportion of girls in higher education group guidance programs are organized. Now a days there is less gender discrimination as girls are treated as boys in the society, this changes entire social scenario of the Kalewadi. The doors of higher education are open for the girls, the situation is so improved that some highly educated girls in Kalewadi are involved in the fields of engineering, and education. Ultimate result is positive, in the primary school drop outs of the girls decline.

Still it is higher 20 to 30 per cent before 10th standard because social, economic reasons and lack of transportation facility. In recent developmental process this issue becomes insignificant because women participation on social and economical front is increased notably. In Kalewadi significant response is seen in giving individual and general guidance to society resulted in decline of drop out of girls from main stream of education. Guardians are motivated, and elderly care is encouraging in the village. Even gram panchayat is also offering assistance to encouraging girl's education.

B. SOME ECONOMICAL ASPECTS:

i) AGRICULTURE:

Agriculture is the only source of occupation of the rural population of the country. The development of rural areas is receiving top priority in India's development programmes. In recent years sustainable agricultural development is the main thrust of the agricultural study in the country. It integrates three main goals that are environmental, economic profitability, and social and economic quality. Satara district of Maharashtra is agriculturally progressive district. But some part of it is drought prone. Kalewadi is situated in this drought prone area. As like other parts of rural Maharashtra this village is agriculturally dominated.

ii) OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE:

While studying the occupation structure of the Kalewadi come across some striking features. 96.03 per cent people from workforce are directly related to the agricultural activity. The proportion of the total cultivators is 57.09 per cent and proportion of agricultural labour 39.0 per cent. Sharing of workforce on gender basis found that percentage of male is more than the female in total workforce, 66.3 per cent male cultivators against the 57.4 per cent female cultivators. Female agricultural labours are more in numbers 45.9 per cent of total workforce against the 30.2 per cent male agricultural labours. The women participation in agricultural sector shows the dependence of agricultural labor force.

iii) LANDHOLDING AND CROPPING PATTERN:

Land use is important part of the agriculture and varies village to village. It is mainly because physiography and population of the village. In Kalewadi land holding per family is about 2.5 acres. Multi-crop combination is dominated in the Kalewadi. Jawar is the major crop followed by Bajara, Wheat (rabbi), Soya bean and Pulses.

iv) CROP PRODUCTIVITY:

The term agricultural productivity means the varying relationship between the agricultural output and major inputs. The condition of Kalewadi is still largely remains backward. The average yield per acre in the Kalewadi is significantly low e.g. 2.52 quintals of Jawar per acre, 1.68 quintals of Bajara etc. It shows very worst situation of agriculture productivity is concern. It is mainly because of physical conditions such as less rainfall in the area and in sufficient facilities of irrigation in the village.

v) IRRIGATION PROVISION:

Supply of water by artificial means to an area is known as irrigation. The sources of irrigation in Kalewadi are affected by the physical factors. Tube wells and wells are major sources of irrigation. There are 12 tube wells 4 wells and 3 percola-

tion tanks, but they are not able to provide better irrigation to cultivable land, hence drought prone conditions prevail every year in the Kalewadi.

iv) OCCUPATION RELATED INFORMATION:

Every man on the earth is struggling for his survival, and fulfillment of basic needs. To meet these needs man is doing certain activities and leads his life. Occupation is referred as the name of the function which a person performs by engaging himself in some gainful activity. Occupation structure of any village provides true representation of working and non working people in the village. In Kalewadi 96.03 per cent of work force is directly related to agricultural activity, only 3.97 per cent are involved in other economic activities. In Kalewadi 1 to 2 persons per family is involved in employment other than agriculture. It is common aspect and well supports the socio-economic conditions in the village.



Employment opportunities in the non agriculture sector are less in village, hence whatsoever involved they are mainly involved in private sector. Sixty two per cent people are involved in private sector. Majority are working within the district. The income range of the people is closely associated with occupation type. These families have monthly income ten to twenty thousand rupees per month. It reveals that their salaries are limited. Other economic activities in which workforce are divided is animal husbandry; poultry, green house, grocery stores, and flour mills etc. The subsidiary occupations of the people are directly related to the agriculture.

Each villager have shown great interest for contribute in development of their own village in terms of money, labour, and giving their own land for developmental activities. Service men, youth, members of self-help groups are helping in raising the funds for construction of roads, maintenance of primary school, plantation etc. It is observed that people are very interesting to make their village more beautiful and resourceful with healthy society.

v) COTTAGE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

Development of cottage, service activity is important aspect at village level. Self-help group, co-operative society and other such organizations combines to develop the cottage service activities at village level. Animal husbandry, poultry, green house, grocery stores, and flour mills like cottage activities are found in the village. These activities are able to generate some employment. Green house consider as a subsidiary occupation to agriculture. It provides ample job opportunities to women. Gerbera, marigold and other flowers are growing in the green house. These flowers are sold in the Vashi, Navi Mumbai, APMC's market.



Self-help groups are plays vital role in financing the cottage activities. Seventy per cent of the cottage activities are getting financial assistance from the self-help groups. Banks and co-operative societies are less involved in the financial support. They are not actively sponsoring, participating in the rural development. It is essential to give technological, financial, and guiding support to the rural community to make them self reliance which will further help to control rural urban migration. Generally Government is not keen to give any kind of financial support or subsidies to cottage activities. But Kalewadi village receives 8.50 lakh rupees for erection of green house, it is ul-

timately owned by the village. Whatsoever income earn from the green house that spent on the village development activities. This is distinct kind of co-operative agricultural practice carried out in the sake of rural development.

vi) SELF HELP GROUPS AND THEIR ROLE:

Self Help Groups are helping in raising the individual income and hence standard of living. Ten to fifteen women with certain motive of economic gain come together is known as Self Help Group. The number of such groups reflects the increasing significance of the movement of self-reliance. There are six Self Help Groups working in the Kalewadi. Each of the group consists of 10 members. The members of the group are regularly attending biweekly meetings. It shows creation of social awareness among the fellow members. Though they are deciding the economic matters in the meeting the social bonding is increasing significantly.

All the Self Help Groups have joint bank account which is operated by the President and the secretary. All the members have individual bank account. The banks are giving short term and medium term loans to these groups. They are redistributing these loans as per requirements of the fellow members.

Training is most important feature in the motivation and development of the Self Help Groups. In Kalewadi, Phoenix Organization, Satara conducts different kind of training sessions. Mainly it involves how to keep accounting and how to get different kinds of loans from banks for cottage and individual benefits.



In Kalewadi two groups are working in the green house. The members of these groups are getting daily wages for working in this green house. Vermiculture is the other important activity carried out by the Self Help Groups in this village. The members of the Self Help Groups earn 1000 rupees per month and annually about twelve thousand to fourteen thousand rupees. Women from such groups are saving money. These savings are utilized for women empowerment by giving financial assistance to fellow members. These groups are involved in cultural and educational programs. In Kalewadi under the educational program they distribute books, note books and food stuff in the school.

7. CONCLUSION:

Sustainable rural development is an out-put of scientific way of expressing and analysis of human resources, natural re-

sources and man and environment relations as core subjects. Human resources are playing vital role in any kind of developmental process. Adoption of natural environment and optimum use of physical factors all depends upon the human resources. In Kalewadi rural development process is initiated through the "Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhata Abhiyan". Rural development is started with small pace, takes momentum and sooner will be achieved sustainable development.

Infrastructure in the Kalewadi is noteworthy especially concern to roads and accessibility primary school building, water supply provision, drainage system and electricity supply etc. Provision of potable drinking water supply and precaution measures for purification and looking after the scheme in the village is an ideal system. Individual cleanliness as well as premises and village cleanliness become a habit of the people. Vaccination for animals and their proper caring is notable.

Social awareness among the people regarding to the family planning is very much mature as people from Kalewadi inclined to use family planning aids. Most of the couple opt family planning on a single ward or two wards. The sex ratio of the Kalewadi is 1167 female per thousand male shows abandonment of sex determination and discrimination.

People in the village are religiously cohesive, socially bonded, united and integrated with secular consensus hence not any kind of tension, conflicting situation is found since last five years.

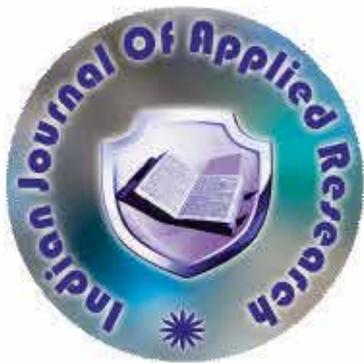
In recent years remarkable changes have taken place especially after the social movement of "Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhata Abhiyan". There is an increase in the number of girls taking education. In Kalewadi a significant response is seen in giving individual and general guidance to society resulting in a decline in the drop-out of girls from the main stream of education. Guardians are motivated, and elderly care is encouraging in the village. Majority people are involved in traditional agriculture practices.

Agriculture is not modernized and mechanized and irrigated. It is not economically viable because per acre productivity is less still it is an important source of livelihood for the people. Employment opportunities in the non-agriculture sector are less in the village, hence whatsoever involved they are mainly in the private sector. Other economic activities in which the workforce is divided are animal husbandry; poultry, green house, grocery stores, and flour mills etc.

Self-help groups play a vital role in financing the cottage activities. Seventy per cent of the cottage activities are getting financial assistance from the self-help groups. Banks and cooperative societies are less involved in the financial support. They are not actively sponsoring, participating in the rural development. It is essential to give technological, financial, and guiding support to the rural community to make them self-reliant which will further help to control rural urban migration.

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