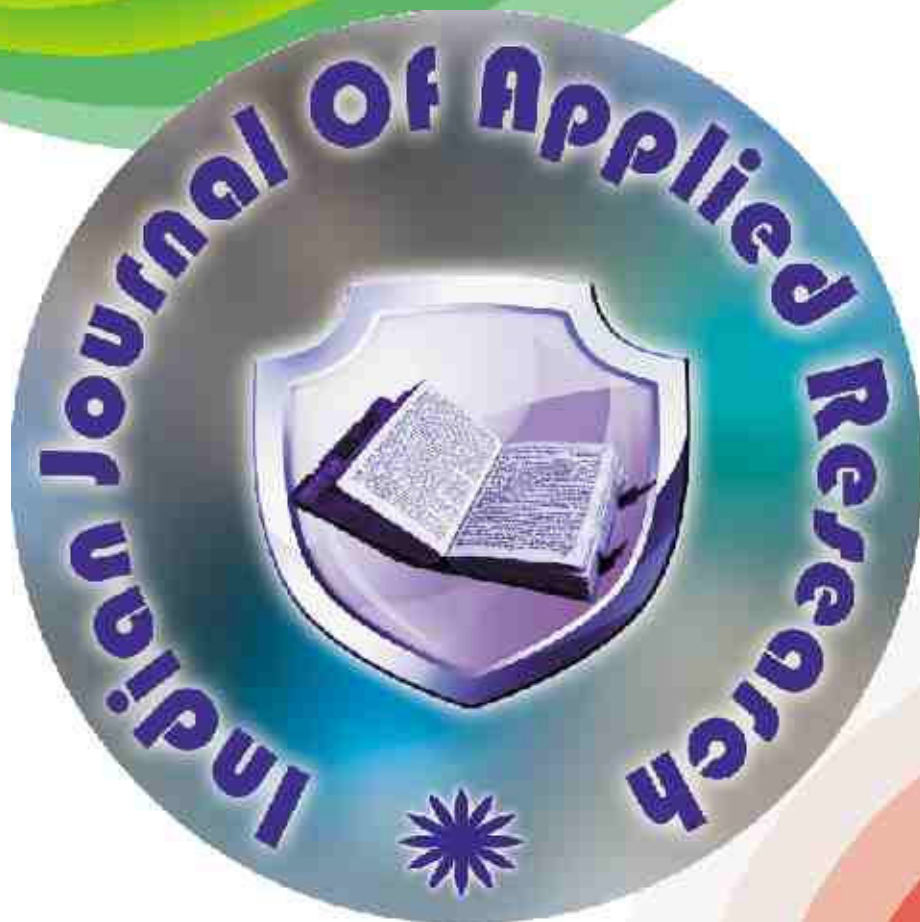


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Rural Industrialization And Employment Generation In India-an Evaluation

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Keywords : Rural, Industrialization

Introduction:

Unemployment problem is a global phenomenon which has been affecting all the countries to a greater or lesser degree. Not only in India but also in advanced countries like the U.K. and U.S.A. which have making rapid development in large scale industrial growth the problem of unemployment is causing a serious concern. However, in a developing country like India Rural industries can play an important role for providing employment avenues to the rural people. Again, with the globalization of economy, employment opportunity in the organized sector is also come down to near zero. Further, outside the organized sector, agriculture was the only major employment generating sector in the past, which has now almost stopped to absorb any more labour due to automation. This situation has placed a big challenge before the nation, the policy makers and people in general, asking for remedial action.

However, Rural Industrialization is not only important as a means of generating employment opportunities in the rural areas with low capital cost and raising the real income of the people but also for the development of agriculture and urban industries. Therefore, without promoting rural industry it would be impossible for the Government to solve the problem of unemployment in India up to a large extent.

Rural industries are those industries which are based on local materials and manpower resources and catering mainly to local needs. They can be classified as under:

- Agricultural processing and allied industries;
- Animal husbandry products industries;
- Building materials;
- Ceramics and allied industries;
- Miscellaneous industries.

According to Khadi and Village industries Commission, rural industry or village industry is the one which is located in the rural area and produces any goods or renders any service with or without use of power and in which the fixed capital investment per head of an artisan or a worker does not exceed rupees 50,000.

But, the definition of village industry has been recently modified by the government so as to enlarge its scope. Accordingly, any industry located in rural areas, village or town with a population of 20,000 and below and an investment of Rs. 1. Million in plant and machinery is classified as a village industry.

Present scenario of rural industries:

The development of rural industry has been one of the important elements of industrial policy in India. Rural Industries play an important role in the development of national economy in general and rural economy in particular.

The Table-1 shows several parameters regarding the present scenario of rural industries in India from 1991-92 to 2003-04.

Table-1 : Present scenario of Rural Industries in India

Year	Production (Rs. in crore)	Employment (No. of persons in lakh)	Sales (Rs. In crore)
1991-92	2264.16	35.96	2526.36
1992-93	2524.35	38.05	2810.13
1993-94	2876.58	39.41	3232.01
1994-95	3234.35	40.27	3578.33
1995-96	3504.22	42.75	3861.77
1996-97	3889.86	43.38	4232.90
1997-98	3895.21	42.49	4319.38
1998-99	4476.48	44.44	4953.18
1999-2000	5613.41	46.88	6137.41
2000-01	6491.69	50.51	7384.55
2001-02	7140.52	54.16	8383.49
2002-03	8126.30	57.87	9815.71
2003-04	9228.37	62.58	10988.17

Source: Southern Economist, January 15, 2005, Vol43, No. 18

It is observed from Table-1 that the level of output produced by rural industries went up from 2,264.16 cores in 1991-92 to 9,228.27 cores in 2003-04. The number of persons employed in the rural industries increased from 35.96 lakhs in 1991-92 to 62.58 lakhs in 2003-04. Similarly sales have gone up from Rs. 2,526.36 cores in 1991-92 to Rs. 10,988.17 cores in 2003-04. Thus, it is visualized from the above data that the production, employment and sales of rural industries are continuously increasing. These facts only underline the significant role of the rural industries in the development of Indian economy particularly in rural economy.

Employment in Rural Industries and other Industry sector:

It is true that the problem of unemployment and under employment can not be solved in our country unless some supplementary avenues are devised for the rural areas. The growth of employment in rural industries and other industry sector are shown in Table-2.

Regarding the employment in organized sector it is found that employment in Public sector has decreased from 192.10 Lakhs persons in 1991-92 to 187.73 Lakhs persons in 2001-02. During the same period employment in private sector shows a slight increase. It was 78.46 Lakhs person in 1991-92 which rose to 84.32 Lakhs person in 2001-02.

Amongst the all industrial sector, small scale industries occupied top position in providing employment in the year 2001-02. During the year 1991-92 there were 129.80 Lakhs persons in small scale industries which went up to 192.23 Lakhs persons in 2001-02. Thus, there increased employment of 62.43 Lakhs persons during this period (Table-2).

Table-2 : Employment in Rural Industries and other Industrial Sector.

Sl.No. Industrial Sector	1991-92	2001-02	Increase/decrease No. of persons (in Lakhs)
	No. of persons (in Lakhs)	No. of persons (in Lakhs)	
1. Organised Sector:	270.56	272.06	1.5
a. Public Sector	192.10 (42.6)	187.73 (35.6)	-5.37
b. Private Sector	78.46 (17.4)	84.32 (16.0)	5.86
2. Small Scale Industries	129.80 (28.8)	192.23 (36.5)	62.43
3. Khadi & Village Industries:	50.16	62.56	12.40
a. Khadi	14.20 (3.2)	8.40 (1.6)	-5.80
b. Village Industries	35.96 (8.0)	54.16 (10.3)	18.20

Sources:

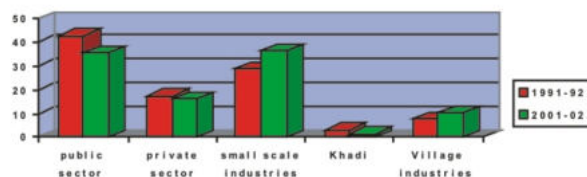
1. Laghu Udyog Samachar, Vol. 26-27, No. 9-2, April-September 2002
2. Economic and political weekly, September 18, 2004

Note: The figures in the brackets indicate percentage in the total of respective industrial sector.

The village industries also show an increasing trend for providing employment opportunity to 54.16 Lakhs persons in 2001-02 which was 35.96 Lakhs persons in 1991-92. But, the growth of Kahdi Industries shows a decreasing trend.

The following Bar Diagram (Fig.-1) shows a comparative analysis of employment generation in Rural Industries and other industrial sectors.

Figure 1 : Comparative analysis of employment generation in Rural Industries and other industrial sectors



Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that rural industries are the driving force for offering employment opportunities at the place of residence to a large section of people. It can remove the regional imbalances by initiating industries in most neglected and backward areas. Rural industries can provide full time and part time employment to rural people along with their principal occupation of crop and animal husbandry. Therefore, rural industrialization is a key for rural development and rural prosperity in India.

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