

People's Participation in Village Assets Development in Karnataka



Social Science

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ABSTRACT

In the past various governmental schemes were launched but due to lack of participation of people many of the schemes and programmes became standstill without any progressive or partial developments. In the wake of this in recent decades it is presumed that involvement of native people in village developmental activities is vital for village development. Thus, participation of people has now become imperative for development of any region and this holds immensely true in case of rural areas. Thus, the paper focus on the nature of people participation in village development. Thus, the study was done in five districts of Karnataka with the involvements of peoples participation in assets creation.

Introduction

India is primarily agriculture based economy which is even considered as a backbone of our economy and the major thrust lays with the Government is to focus on rural development. The need of the hour for the people residing in rural areas is to avail basic infrastructure like healthy balanced diet, housing, sanitation, adequate safe drinking water, improved health facilities, conservation of land environment and ecology, planned cultivation, social forestry, irrigation facilities, right market for their produce, right price and basic skills in agriculture, non-agriculture activities and rural industries.

For rural development to be effective peoples participation is a must and it would be apt to quote Jawaharlal Nehru who observed that "The real chance of course, from within the village, from the very people living in the village and is not imposed from outside. It is a process of self-development and self-reliance. The outsider can only help a little, give some guidance and push here and there. That little help may, of course, be of the greatest importance or it can light a flame which shed its light over very much wider areas. But the test of success is how far the people of a village shoulder their burdens and have developed a spirit of self-reliance and mutual co-operation". By increasing accountability, public institutions will become more transparent in their operations, enabling citizens to understand how resources are used and decisions made, and providing clearer avenues for grievance resolution. Active citizenship implies a legal framework that enables citizens to effectively articulate their views. In order to channelise development in rural areas, top priority has been accorded to Rural Development, not only in terms of allocations of funds and resources but also through introduction of new programmes and restructuring of the existing ones and complete involvement of local people in local development and administration.

Rural development implies a multi-disciplinary approach which focuses on economic betterment and social transformation of people. In order to provide the rural people with better prospects for economic development, increased participation of people in the rural development programmes, decentralization of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit are vital. Rural development can be effective only when people along with other government authorities share their hands in local development and make them accountable in local area development. In order to entertain the involvement of local people in village development, the Government has planned several programs pertaining to rural development in India. Addressing to this issue the most dream project was Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which became handy by involving both government and the local people in village development.

According to International Labour Organization, participation involved active collectively organized and continuous efforts by the people themselves in setting the goals, pooling the resources together and taking actions which aim at improving their living conditions

Background of MGNREGS

The objective of the Act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The main goals of the act was to ensure employment guarantee and empowerment of rural people and create durable assets through participation of people and thereby lead to social transformation.

The Act was notified on 200 districts in the first phase with effect from February 2nd 2006 and then extended to additional 130 districts in the financial year 2007-2008. The remaining districts have been notified under the NREGA with effect from April 1, 2008. Thus, at present MGNREGS covers the entire country with the exception of districts that have a hundred percent urban population.

Permissible Works under NREGA

MGNREGA works must always belong to the list of 'Permissible Works'. A summary of the list of permissible works is given as below:-

1. Water Conservation and water harvesting.
2. Drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation)
3. Irrigation canal including micro and minor irrigation works.
4. Provision of irrigation facility,plantation,horticulture,land development to land owned by household belonging to SC/ST, or to the land of beneficiaries of land reforms, or to land of the beneficiaries IAY/BPL families.
5. Renovation of traditional water bodies including de-silting of tanks.
6. Land development.
7. Flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas.
8. Rural Connectivity to provide all weather access.
9. Any other work which may be notified by the central Government in consultation with the state Government.

10. Construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra and "Gram Panchayat Bhawan" .

MGNREGS and assets creation

The scheme not only guarantees job with good income but also motivates people in asset creation through self involvement in village development. As per MGNREGA the important objective of the scheme is to create of durable assets and strengthening of livelihood resource. A village can develop in terms of infrastructure only when people consider their area as their own home. Nearly thirty different types of work are identified under the scheme and through these activities assets are created.

Objectives of The Study

The objective of the study is to analyse the major activities done

by the scheme beneficiaries in terms of village development.

Universe

Area selected for the study was Bellary, Davangere, Gulbarga , Mandya and Shimoga districts in Karnataka. From each district two panchayath comprising of 4 villages from each taluk was selected for the study.

Methodology

Simple random sampling method and the sample size consists of 500 beneficiaries each from the districts of Bellary, Davangere, Gulbarga , Mandya and Shimoga

Method Of Data Collection

The data was collected through a structured interview schedule

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table No. 1: Activities done by the people

SLNo	Activities done	Bellary		Davangere		Gulbarga		Mandya		Shimoga		Total	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Flood control	233	46.6	56	11.2	101	20.2	41	8.2	186	37.2	617	24.68
2	Water conservation	41	8.2	128	25.6	137	27.4	96	19.2	304	60.8	706	28.24
3	Road	173	34.6	140	28	109	21.8	112	22.4	8	1.6	542	21.68
4	Foot path	0	0	1	0.2	15	3	0	0	2	0.4	18	0.72
5	Gutter	0	0	114	22.8	0	0	96	19.2	0	0	10	8.4
6	Land development	13	2.6	35	7	10	2	0	0	0	0	58	2.32
7	Forestry	4	0.8	3	0.6	27	5.4	12	2.4	0	0	46	1.84
8	Water conservation and road	13	2.6	9	1.8	48	9.6	45	9	0	0	115	4.6
9	Road and Land Development	23	4.6	3	0.6	10	2	1	0.2	0	0	37	1.48
10	Flood Control, Water conservation and Foot path	0	0	11	2.2	43	8.6	97	19.4	0	0	151	6.04
Total		500	100	500	100	500	100	500	100	500	100	2500	100

The above table illustrates the involvement of people in assets creation in local villages. It is evident that majority of the activities done in Bellary district was flood control followed by construction of road while in the case of Davangere the focus was laid upon water conservation, construction of footpaths and Gutter for the water to pass freely, whereas in the case of Gulbarga more emphasis water conservation and foot path and it is found in Mandya district equal emphasis was laid to construction of Gutter and water related activities. Shimoga being a Hilly area impetus need to be given for water management and equally more emphasis was laid on water conservation and flood control. Thus overall it is found that in asset creation a water conservation formed a major chunk followed by Road and Other developmental activities

Conclusion:

The world is in severe water crisis and the work taken under the scheme shows that much focus was laid upon water related activities which shows a developmental activity. People actively participated in assets creation in rural development

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