



## MAHATHMA GANDHIJI THOUGHT ON RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND ROLE OF VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETIES

### Philosophy

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### ABSTRACT

Indian rural life is far from simple. There are approximately 650,244 villages in India. Each village connected through variety of crucial horizontal linkages with other villages. Gandhiji said that 'If the village perishes India will perish too. Our villages represent our Indian culture and Heritage. Gandhiji had told that, if anything to know about India, then should about its villages. The previous Governments had several projects for development of rural area, and to create employment to the rural people and for upliftment of their life, such as Employment guarantee scheme, pulse for cooli scheme (KooligaagiKallu) Improvement of small farmers' scheme, improvement projects of drought areas. Village development is an integral part of the overall development. A policy of village development is a policy of national development. village development has been an important component of India's efforts towards betterment of living standards of the people and to this end of country has implemented a large number of village development planning's and programmes.

This paper is based on secondary sources. It focus on concepts of rural development, Gandhiji's ideas on reconstruction and role of village development societies.

### KEYWORDS

Trusteeship, Constitutional provisions, Ideal village, decentralization, social transformation, reconstruction.

### INTRODUCTION:

Rural development is an integral part of the overall development. Rural reconstruction concept relate to renovation of the villages for the total wellbeing of the ruralities. According to Gandhiji rural reconstruction is oriented to their social, economical and political development. The Firka development scheme launched by madras government in 1946 aimed at the attainment the Gandhian thought of village swaraj and Bombay government launched sarvodaya scheme. These both programmes promoting the furtherance of Gandhiji's constructive programmes. Village development societies are playing significant role in this and share a major credit in the growth of rural sector which along with government and private sectors contribute to the overall economy of India. Gandhi opposed big state system with centralized authority and instead favoured autonomous village communities because he firmly believed that as a member of the big state it is impossible for an individual to safeguard his individual identity and freedom.

### Historical Background of Village Development:

The thinking of rural development and rural re-constitution programs are the special gift to make " Bhavya Bharath". But in the villages and improvement of the villagers, which has been coming from the days before independence. There are two strong reasons to show the interest about the rural development in India by the British Administration –as said by Maheshwari. Firstly, by this improvement to obtain the financial gain and secondly, strengthen the British Administration in India. But, after realising that the income will flow to the treasury only if the villages become wealthy, they gave concentration towards the improvement of the rural areas. At the time of commencement of 20th century, National Fighters, Leaders had also given their concentration towards the rural development.

Gandhiji's led Non-cooperation movement has succeeded in attracting the govt. and people towards the rural problems. Gandhiji has brought the politics from capital to villages. In 1920, in the national – Indian National Congress Conference held at Calcutta, he gave a call that the work of weaving from each hand in every house should be commenced, as such, lakhs together weaving equipment's which were kept in the corner without any encouragement to be worked again and resolution accepted in this regard.

### OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this study are;

- To know Mahatma Gandhiji's views on rural reconstruction concept.
- To understand the role of village development societies.

### METHODOLOGY:

Information in this study has been secondary sources. A secondary source includes books, Articles, journals and newspapers etc.

### Mahatma Gandhiji's Views on Rural Reconstruction Concept:

Gandhiji believes that the proposed constitution did not provide for panchayats, he had remarked that this was certainly an occasion calling for immediate attention if India's independence was to reflect the people's voice. Resources for Gandhian approach to managing village affairs would be raised from the villages.

In the post independent era, government of India committed itself to bring about a rapid and sustainable development in village India through various programmes. Over the year the thrust of the village development programmes have been on the all-round economic and social transformation of rural areas, through a multipronged strategy, aimed at reaching out to the most disadvantaged sections of the society

In the name of participation often the rich and the powerful in the local rural communities exploit the poor in labour contribution. There have been instances wherein contractors of roads, culverts, school buildings and other kinds of earth works exploit the local community in the name and guise of people's contribution, make profit, showing on records, that they have spent money on those parts of the work which were accomplished by people's contribution.

The theory of trusteeship occupies a major role in the scheme of Gandhian thought of reconstruction concept. In his words, "My theory of trusteeship is no makeshift, certainly no camouflage... It has the sanction of philosophy and religion behind it" (Evolution of political philosophy of Gandhi, Buddhadev Bhattacharya –232)

Indian rural life is far from simple. There are approximately 650,244 villages in India. Each villages connected through variety of crucial horizontal linkages with other villages. Gandhiji said that ' If the village perishes India will perish too ... we have to make a choice between India of the villages that is as ancient as herself and India of the cities which are a creation of foreign domination.

The efforts to re-constitution of villages and towards complete villages started. Gandhiji gave call to the country-men to villages. Because of all these developments new strength. Occurred in the village villages at the same time the persons and institutions which were having interest about the villages, have put their efforts privately in their own manner for improvements of villages. Sri Nikethana Establishment by Ravindranath Tagore and Martha dam Project by Youngmen Christian Association of madras are two examples.

In every country, the encouraging strength of improvement was development projects. All these will be declared by state and central Governments and give directions. In some of the countries, all the activities about the improvements will be directed by the govt and regulate the same. In some other countries, some self-help organizations, Non-government organizations may give equivalent

contribution. R.P Mishra in his "Village Improvement capitalist and social routes" Book he has stated that and by narrating the rural development activities in the countries like Brazil, Nigeria, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Bangladesh, China and Tanzania he stressed about the state and social rolls in this regard.

#### **Role of Village Development Societies:**

Village development society is a group of people like philosophers, farmers, teachers, intellectuals, doctors and lawyers. This village development society mainly focused on health, education, livelihood and empowerment of women among the socio – political and economically weaker sections. It and a great form of society by the villagers and it aim to achieve a strong socially fabricated society. The villagers solve the all problems through the help of government and non government organizations.

Government only cannot do the development programmes. It self cannot decide about the taking development work. Such development programs and projects can only be succeeded if the people also actively participated in the same. As such, the people should participate activity in such programs necessarily with the officials and with the politicians.

People to solve the problems of villages should behave peacefully, in co-ordinate, patiently and through co-operation, adjustment, understanding, discussion and without causing any damage/hurt to the respect, status of any person are any group and should encourage both mentally and physically and others have to respect their opinions and ambitions and also create the mentality and desire to give respect to other rights and freedom and opinions. And for the development of village, a person should forget their self-interest and should strive for the community improvement of person and community. That means the improvement of village depend on the improvement of the person, vice versa. In this direction, people should be made to keep confidence in the democracy to solve the disputes of personal or of groups of their villages.

Village development societies are playing significant role in this and share a major credit in the growth of rural sector which along with government and private sectors contribute to the overall economy of India.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Rural sector is major contribution to the overall GDP of the nation. Rural development Indicates Skills, policies and projects relating to the Rural area development to be implemented. Gandhi does not see state as an arbitrator between conflicting interest between social groups on the one hand between individual and public interest on the other. His understanding of society is such that it has a selfmechanism of resolving conflicts.

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