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A STUDY ON CONTRIBUTION OF NRIs FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT"

KEY WORDS:

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ABSTRACT

Rural development and improving the quality of life in rural areas has been in force in our planning and developmental strategies. Rural development implies both the economic betterment of people as well as greater social transformation. Increased people's participation in the rural development programmes, better enforcement of land reforms, decentralization of planning and greater access to credit are conceived for providing the rural people with better prospects. (Rural Development, GOI, 2012). Initially, main thrust for development was laid on agriculture, industry, communication, education, health and allied sectors. Later on, realizing that accelerated development can be provided only if governmental efforts are adequately supplemented by direct and indirect involvement of people at the grass root level, the thrust shifted. N.R.I play very significant role in village development and motivating development in various field such as educational, religious, economic, social, cultural, infrastructure, health and many more. (GOI, 2012)

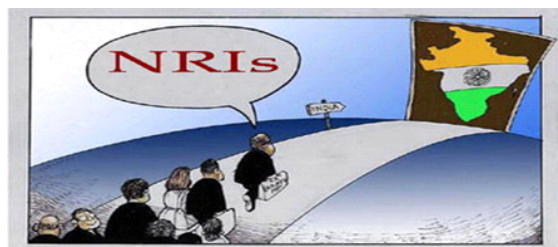
This study focuses on contribution of NRIs in Rural Development. The main objectives of this study are to assess various areas of intervention of NRI's in village development, to explore the role of NRI in village development, to know impact of contribution of NRI on local community participation in village development, to study development observed in villages through NRI's contribution. The sample of the study consists of 80 villagers from Samarkha, Sarsa, Kunjra, Thamna villages of Anand district. The tool of data collection was Interview Schedule. Through this study an attempt has been made to clearly define the areas wherein NRIs have contributed and areas where still there is need for development.

INTRODUCTION

The term rural development is a subset of the border term 'development'. Development is a universally cherished of individual, communities and national all over the world. Development deserve a scientific study and analysis, hence it is not spurring that the subject of development has been studied by scholar of all faith, ideologies and discipline.

India is the country made from 7, 00,000 villages. But town dwellers have believed that India is to be found in its town and the village was created to minister to our need. Generally one has not pushed to enquiry if those poor people get sufficient to eat and cloth themselves with and whether they have a roof to shelter themselves from sun and rain.

India today has 28 States, 770 Districts and 700,000 villages and a total population of 1.03 billion. A State in India is divided into 28 districts. Each District will have about 500 villages. Based on the geographic proximity and size of the village, usually 3 to 5 villages will come under the jurisdiction of 1 Panchayat, the lowest governing body. Each village may have around 800-1000 families. (Singh K.K, 2001)



But now, in recent years there is drastic change in rural area with the initiation of contribution of N.R.I

Since last two decades N.R.I play very significant role in village development and motivating development in various field such as educational, religious, economic, social, cultural, infrastructure, health and many more.

Non-resident Indian (NRI) is an Indian citizen who has migrated to another country, a person of Indian origin who is born outside India, or a person of Indian origin who resides outside India. Overseas Indian and Expatriate Indian are another two terms which are having same meaning.. In common usage, this often includes Indian born individuals (and also people of other nations

with Indian blood) who have taken the citizenship of other countries. A Person of Indian Origin (PIO) is usually a person of Indian origin who is not a citizen of India. (Sahu A., 2006). For the purposes of issuing a PIO Card, the Indian government considers anyone of Indian origin up to four generations removed, to be a PIO. Spouses of people entitled to a PIO card in their own right can also carry PIO cards. This latter category includes foreign spouses of Indian nationals, regardless of ethnic origin. PIO Cards exempt holders from many restrictions applying to foreign nationals, such as visa and work permit requirements, along with certain other economic limitations. The NRI and PIO population across the world is estimated at over 30 million (not including Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan). The Indian government recently introduced the "Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)" scheme in order to allow a limited form of dual citizenship to Indians, NRIs and PIOs for the first time since independence in 1947.

In recent years, NRI contributions have moved from the ubiquitous memorial gates dotting the countryside and sports festivals to developmental projects like schools, hospitals and village infrastructure. The initial contributions were mainly for religious places, later memorial gates and sports festivals became popular among NRIs, as both festivals and gates attracted attention and were a visible proof that the emigrant had prospered in his new life. NRIs have been contributing for setting educational institutions, dispensaries, hospitals, crematoriums, sports stadiums, street lighting, sanitation, and clean drinking water projects. In recent years, there has been a move towards planned contributions that have led to bigger projects being taken up.

The gram panchayat and development committees in villages have identified projects that the village needs and sought funds from NRIs belonging to that region. Alternatively, some NRIs have come together and contributed funds for a project selected by the village committee. This has led to an increase in contributions. However, it is not always a rosy picture throughout the region. On occasion, political factionalism and petty, local conflict in the villages have reared their ugly heads and seriously hampered the implementation of projects, putting off the NRI donor from involvement in village activities. The lack of guidance and spontaneous, unorganized contribution by NRIs had led to unplanned and unorganized activity, the government policy of matching grants has helped to some extent in diverting NRI contribution to developmental projects, but there is not much awareness of the government scheme among the NRIs and villagers as yet. The NRIs see what is happening in other villages and the desire of NRIs to contribute is deepening further.

According to a World Bank report, nearly six million Indians working abroad sent home 30 billion dollars during 2008 making India, the top receiver of migrant remittances.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study consisted of 80 respondents Samarkha, Sarsa, Kunjra, Thamna villages of Anand district. The objectives of the study are (1) To study various areas of intervention of NRI's in village development (2) To explore the role of NRI in village development (3) To know impact of contribution of NRI on local community participation in village development. (4) To study development observed in villages through NRI's contribution. The variables include, all aspects pertaining to the personal information like age, caste, religion, occupation, marital status, education, monthly income, etc. are considering as an independent variables and Living pattern, developmental parameters of village are considering as a dependent variables. The data has been collected by adopting Simple Random Sampling with the help of Interview Schedule and of course by observation method. Descriptive Research Design has been selected for this study.

FINDINGS

Table showing the contribution of NRI in village development.

Particular	frequency	Percentage
Yes	63	78.75%
No	17	21.25%
TOTAL	80	100

Table showing contribution of NRI for development in different sector in villages.

Particular	frequency	Percentage
Education	73	91.25%
Economic	36	45%
Health	32	40%
Social	31	38.75%

Table showing the contribution of NRI in construction of water tank in village.

Particular	frequency	Percentage
Government	48	60%
NRI	54	67.5%
Local	19	23.75%

Table showing that the contribution of NRI in marriage hall in villages.

Particular	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	73	91.25%
No	7	8.75%
TOTAL	80	100

Table showing contribution of NRI for the development of backward classes in villages.

	Particular	frequency	Percentage
A	YES	18	22.5%
B	NO	62	77.5%
	TOTAL	80	100%

Table showing whether NRI organized any programme for agriculture development.

	Particular	frequency	Percentage
A	Yes	16	20%
B	No	64	80%
	TOTAL	80	100%

Table showing the people's participation in village development.

Particular	frequency	Percentage
Yes	76	95%
No	4	5%
TOTAL	80	100

Conclusion

Respondents were under the age group of 51 – 61 years, and majority was illiterate males. Villagers were mostly engaged in agricultural activity. They were active members of different committees observed in villages.

Villagers were aware about various facilities in villages provided by Government. They found village development process quite positive. Villages have schools up to secondary education. Villagers were aware about various facilities provided by NRI and Government in school wherein they find that NRIs have contributed more for improvisation of school facilities NRI contributes services to the poor students such as scholarship, free ships, note books, school dress etc. Villagers consulted P.H.C. for their health problems and they are satisfied with the services.

At regular intervals health check-ups/ camps were organized by Government in villages. Contribution of Government was mainly in construction of R.C.C road and drainage system. While NRI contribute more for construction of water tank, marriage hall, school building, village entrance gate, temples, beautification of village and many more.

Villagers did not find any contribution of NRI in upliftment of backward classes. After passing decades of independence still today socially, economically and culturally backward class people were neglected by mainstream of the society, which was a hindrance to overall development of the village and country as a whole. NRIs also have provided economic assistance to villagers and also have provided them with partnership in land ownership. Villagers were interested in their own village development and willing to participate any activity which enhanced well-being of local community people. According to villagers development of the village relies on active participation and enthusiasm of local community in different village development programmes well as active role played by elected personnel of the village i.e. Sarpanch.

RECOMMENDATION

NRIs have not contributed for youth development. Some constructive inputs are required so that energy of youth can be channelized and can be used for village development. This can include organizing training programme, educational programme, computer classes, training basis on vocational etc. A backward class needs concentration of NRIs. So based on need assessment programmes for development of socially and economically backward class should be arranged. Village economy depends on agriculture so NRIs should give necessary inputs for development of organized agriculture. New techniques should be introduced to have maximum output from the agricultural sector. NRIs have to organize training programme for the farmers such as lectures on increasing production, guidance about proper use of pesticides, different crops, advanced technologies etc. Farmers' cooperative can also be initiated for better development.

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