

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION

In India more than 70 percent of the population dwells in villages. According to the 2011 census, there are about 6, 38,596 villages constituting more than 100 crores population. The problems of rural masses are terrible conditions and innumerable. Even after 70 years of Independence, people in villages are found to be economically backward, socially oppressed, culturally suppressed, politically exploited, traditionally nullified and in general deprived of facilities like health, education, transportation,

communication and even denied basic amenities like protected drinking water, food, clothing, shelter etc. As a result they are prone to poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, ill-health and multitudes of exploitation.

Vasant Desai (1988) observed that the development, by definition, is the act or process of developing growth evolution with in framework of available resources. Its primary aim in India is the removal of poverty and all the socio-economic evils which are interlinked with it. Rural development is therefore, a consciences effort at raising the standard of living of the people in 6, 38,596 villages in that 5, 93,731 are in habited villages and 44,865 are unhabited villages in India.

According to Desmond Anker "Rural Development Include the strategies, policies and programmes for the development of rural areas and the promotion of activities carried out in such areas (agriculture, forestry, fishery, rural crafts and industries, and the building of social and economic infrastructure) with the ultimate aim of activities a fuller utilization of available physical and human resources and thus higher incomes and better living conditions for the rural population as a whole, particularly the rural poor, and effective participation of the latter in the development process".

The community association is the centre proces of community management. As the principal organization for supplementing conventional services provided by local government it should manage and maintain common properties and service for the community and sponsor and encourage a wide range of community activities.

Being close to the community and endowed with wide powers, the community association is better placed than other agency to identify community needs and ensure that they are met. It should have scope to provide, either directly or indirectly, any services that the community may require in addition to those already provided by the local authority, commercial operators and voluntary organizations.

Murry G.Ross defines community organization as a process by which a community identifies its needs or objectives, gives priority to them, develops the confidence and will to work at them, finds resources internal and external to deal with them, and in doing so, extends and develops cooperative and collaborative attitudes and practices within the community. In other words, community organization is a process and method of organizing the community.

Community organization for social welfare or community welfare organization is the process of bringing about and maintaining adjustment between social welfare needs and social welfare resources in a geographical area or a special field of service.

Community based organizations have been an important facet of Indian service in the society. Community Development had a long history in India even before the launching of the Community Development Programme (CDP) during the period of 2nd October 1952. A number of isolated experiments before independence period influenced by western liberal thought organized voluntary movements which had a powerful impact in different parts of country towards social and economic development. Such movements like Arya Samaj (1875) founded by Swami Dayananda, Rama Krishna Mission (1897) founder by Swami Vivekananda, Theosophical Movement (1893) founded by Anmiebesent, Sarvodaya Movement (1920) by Mahatma Gandhi.

The following important early Rural Reconstruction Experiments were undertaken on voluntary services to bring about improvement in all aspect of community life by changing towards higher standards of living and developing the best type of villages through the Sriniketan Experiment (1921) by Ravindranath Tagore, Gurgaon experiment (1927) by F.L Brayne, Marthandam experiment (1928) by Spencer Hatch, Baroda Rural Reconstruction programme (1932) by V.T Krishnamachari, Sevagram (1930) by Mahatma Gandhi.

PRINCIPAL OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION :

Some of the most important principals of the Community Organizations are:-

- * It should deal with problems which the community recognizes as its problems.
- * It must provide for community self-determination.
- * It must engage for community in an active way in the solution of its problems.
- * It must move at a step that is comfortable for the community.
- * It must encourage growth in the community through solving of problems
- * It must encourage community self-understanding and integration.

CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS :

The major characteristics of the Community Organizations are as follows.

- * Voluntary membership
- * Participatory planning
- * Resource mobilization and utilization
- * Self management
- * Net working
- * Monitoring and self-evaluation
- * Sustainability etc.

OBJECTIVES OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS:

The following are the major objectives of Community Based Organizations.

- * To reduce the dependence on others.
- * To take appropriate decision to solve the problems at right time.

- * To increase the self confidence and skills among the members.
- * To take mutual cooperation between the each members.
- * To gain the significance and respectability.
- * To increase the self-empowerment.
- * To bring awareness among the members about different policies and programmes of government and local bodies.
- * To take initiative to organize the different rural development programmes.
- * To bring awareness among members about mobilization of resources and utilization.
- * To bring awareness among members about working efficiently of other organizations.
- * To increase the modern scientific knowledge about the agriculture, animal husbandry, allied activities, rural artisans, etc., among the members.
- * To undertaken the income generation activities in the society.
- * To reduce the poverty in the society.

Since the programmes, policies and projects started by Central and State Government the major thrust has been on social mobilization, organizing and strengthening the Community Based Organizations. Various measures have been taken to form and strengthen Community Based Organizations so that they can work for the community in a systematic manner for rural areas in different aspects and livelihoods. In the present scenario there is several community Organizations are functioning in the society, but the major Community Based Organizations are given below.

- * Traditional Associations: These associations exist in certain tribal, ethnic and caste groups, eg tribal panchayats for tribal self-rule.
- * Religions Associations: eg. Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Christianity and Islam.
- * Membership Associations ;eg. Trade unions, peasants organizations etc.
- * Voluntary Organizations : which organizations are registered under society Acts of 1860 section XXI and modification of Society Acts.
- * Watershed Associations.
- * Water user Associations.
- * Vanasamrakshana Associations.
- * Mother Committees.
- * Education Committees.
- * School Management Committees.
- * Self Help Groups.
- * Youth Associations.
- * Mahila Mandals.
- * Cultural Associations etc.

Over the last 72 years of Independence, the Indian economy has made a progress towards self-sustained economic growth, a substantial number of Indians, which can be counted in millions, remain desperately impoverished and can look forward to more objection poverty. As poverty alleviation has been central to the current rural development strategies. The multi-dimensional natures of the programmes make the assessment of project effects vital. In this context the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have play a crucial role in rural development, and effective utilization of natural resources and management, financial management, social mobilization process and other facilities to set up or to expand income generating activities relating to agriculture and its allied activities and non-farm sector and thereby is poverty reducing mechanism as consideration of inclusive growth.

The Central and State Government has responsibilities to ensure the welfare of its citizens, besides

many functions. Overburden by all these functions, the state finds it impossible to tackle them effectively. Besides, resources both personal and material are so inadequate that it would be very difficult for the Government even to attempt on solution of single handed. Therefore, the Government has been given priority to utilization the services of Community Based Organizations may to ensure certain minimum conditions and give material relief, particularly, needs of special groups in the society.

Once target population in a community is sensitized and it is prepared to go in a systematic development process attainable towards sustainable development in their respective community, the basic problem to come across is the lack of cohesiveness among the target population. Unfortunately, political awareness in the rural areas has divided the while traditional communities with strong leadership values and it started hindering the development their communities. It is imperative for one group to criticise and spoil the development activities being taken by another group and vice versa.

The formation and promotion of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) at the community level to overcome the political differences prevailing in these communities in order to attain the community as viable unit for its own development as well as participation and implementation of various development activities of socio-economic and environment etc, which have been sponsored by the Central and State Government for overall community development is the immediate step after successful sensitization.

The following are the areas and approaches of community based organizations to participate for a campaign mode of integrated rural development.

- * Advocacy of Action.
- * Promotion of Innovative Rural Livelihoods.
- * Promotion of Innovative Rural Technologies.
- * Promotion of Right to Participation Campaign.
- * Promotion of Environment Campaign.
- * Promotion of Education and Health Campaign.
- * Promotion of Networking of All Developmental Functionaries.
- * Promotion of Pooling of Physical and Financial Resources.
- * Promotion of Multi-Functional Role for Government Officials.
- * Promotion of Self Help Groups.
- * Promotion of Micro Credit.
- * Promotion of Integrated Watershed Development.
- * Campaigning for Self Reliance and Gram Swaraj etc.

The Government organizations (GOs) Non- Government Organizations (NGOs) have formed the different categories of Community Based Organization (CBOs) in all target villages throughout national level for accessibility to government and Non-Government Organizations programmes in the society. It was also facilitated to regularize the groups meetings, series of training to the leaders as well as animations and sangham members by evolving functional norms and rules of Community Based Organizations. The Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have been continuing its efforts systematic process to empower the poor community at the grass root level through the promotion and strengthening of various groups in the society.

CONCLUSION :

No doubt, the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have been doing very good work and achieved their objectives in respect of weaker sections in the society. The Community Based Organizations (CBOs) taking up different programmes like creating awareness about rural livelihood programmes, leadership abilities, education, empowerment, Health and sanitation, child protection and family welfare,

agriculture, allied activities like poultry, dairy, fishery, sheep rearing, pig rearing, horticulture etc, and water conservation, water usage and management, science and technology especially usage of non-conventional energy like solar energy, wind energy, biogas energy.

The emphasis on Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in 'development' by National and International agencies like the Central Social Welfare board (CSWB), State Social Welfare Board (SSWB), Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) etc, and the World Bank, UNDP etc, requires elaboration, since they have tremendous influence on the formulation and implementation of policy in the recipient countries, the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) role should not be limited to policies and projects implementation, though that seems to be the mode most often used by governments, non-government agencies and 'aid' agencies.

The operational efficiency and the dynamics of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) vary a great deal across the study areas throughout the county. This could be attributed to several factors like historical background of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) formation and internal cohesion, external support provided by promoters, Government and Non-Government agencies, capital formation, and sagacity of leadership etc. There is a need for promoting interactions between the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Government officials and Non-Government Organizations, Institutional and Non-institutional agencies. This is necessary to acquire a more realistic understanding of the harsh realities. The Community Based Organizations (CBOs) should be free from the influence of vested interest also.

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