

Peoples Institution for Resource Poor Village Development

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ABSTRACT

In rural area more than 65 per cent population dependent on agriculture and the major part of agriculture in India facing scarcity of water, which is main resource for agriculture development. Due to the resources depletion there had been a major shift in cropping pattern and life style in rural area. There is no scope for alternative enterprise for income generation in majority area. There is need to think about suitable extension strategies for sustainable development of rural India. Peoples institutions which are the groups or association formed by villagers is the suitable alternative, which play a pivotal role in rural development. With consistent efforts by NGO, Govt. departments, Banks etc. on peoples institution (the village committee formation from formal, informal groups, which is a focal point for efforts to be done) offer efficiency, effectiveness and equity of developmental activities. Strengthening of peoples institution with regular meeting and training is the process and efforts for development. Coordination and a good combination of bank staff, committed NGO, Govt. dept and enthusiastic SHGs, interest groups and village committee would produce results in terms of Natural resource management, improvement in agriculture, availability of water and fodder, animal husbandry enterprise, micro enterprises, recognition of gender roles, change in social status, capacity improvement of farmers.

Keywords: Peoples institution, Village development

INTRODUCTION

Peoples Institutions are the groups or association formed by villagers. Peoples Institution in the village play an important role in around development of the village. In rural area the main occupation is farming and majority population are depend on agriculture. For agriculture the availability of water the vital resource for agriculture decreasing day by day, facing drastic depletion due to severe drought and over exploitation leading to high vulnerability. Due to the resources depletion there had been a major shift in cropping pattern and life style in rural India. There is no scope for alternative enterprise for income generation in majority area, needs to think about suitable extension strategies for sustainable development of rural India and at the time, peoples institutions is the suitable and efficient alternative which play a major role in rural development as experienced by many organizations.

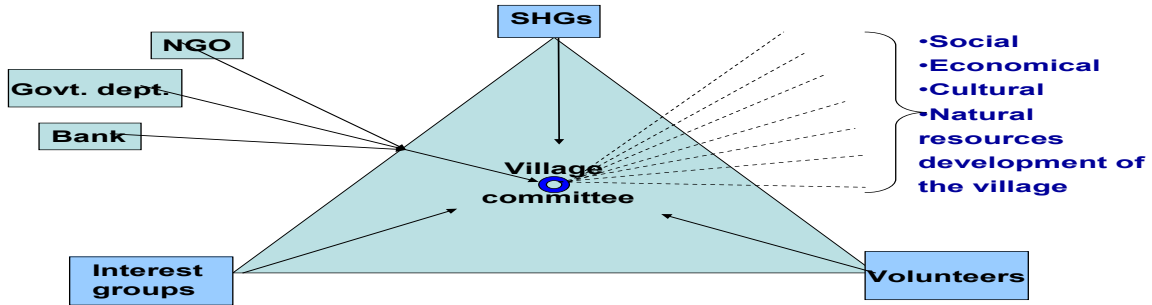
There are many strategies of extension, privatization and developing the role of the individual entrepreneur.

Extension professionals have always sought to reach the 'grass roots', the small farmers. Success in this area has been limited, however, and relatively wealthy farmers have been the first, and sometimes only beneficiaries reached. The time has come for extension to use extension methods, to identify clearly the problems, priorities, resources and institution / social structures within which the poorest groups carry out their quest for survival. The group approaches in extension are there fore needed for :

- (i) **Efficiency** : in terms of the resources required to reach large numbers of beneficiaries, group approaches / peoples institution offer widespread coverage reinforcement at low cost;
- (ii) **Effectiveness** : group approaches result in better projects for more people in less time than do individual approaches.
- (iii) **Equity** : in protecting the resources, rights and economic security of the poorest members of the society.

Most effective approach (model) for village development

If we see the development in a form of process, then it would be like this :



Integrated efforts are required with cooperation and coordination among Non Government Organization, different Govt. depts. / funding organization and Banks. Individual effort by only any of them will not yield the result, so integrated efforts and integration of various approaches is the need of the time.

Components of the model

1 Village committee : village committee (which is the focal point for efforts) formed with the representation from SHGs, Interest groups and Volunteers (Para extension workers from the village).

(i) Self Help Groups (SHGs) : Self help group is homogenous in nature, having common goal, formed voluntarily and having 11 to 20 members in each group.

Strengthening of SHG with support and guidance for regular motivation and encouragement for income generating activities / micro enterprise, intra loaning, linkage with financial institutions etc.

SHGs doing welfare activities jointly in the village, like tree plantation, forest protection, water harvesting and conservation, eradication of edicts and bed habits, village cleanliness and sanitation, nutritional status of family etc, in participatory mode.

(ii) Interest groups : Adverse livelihood conditions hasten the process of collective function. The members having common interest in terms of crop cultivation, occupation, problems etc. in common, maintain their interest and motivate / encourage them to strengthen bondage, and

help in find out solution to their problems.

(iii) Volunteers : Volunteers are the person or Para extension worker from the village, Being one of them, helps in better coordination and easy approach for awareness and implementation.

2 Non Government Organization : (NGO) helps in community organization, formation of SHGs, interest groups, volunteers, village committee. Motivation and training on every aspects and helps in project implementation.

3 Govt. Dept / Bank : These provide financial support for micro enterprise or group activities, provide technical support and training to members of the peoples institution.

Strengthening of peoples institution

Continuous / periodical technical as well as organizational training / meeting is essential for capacity building of the members. Periodic experience sharing forum on SHG between partners (SHG, Bank, NGO). These are the process and efforts required for strengthening of peoples institution.

Regular meeting

Periodical meeting and discussion helps in review the progress, sharing of experiences provide motivation to members, identify strength and weak point, and future plan of action in the direction of stated objectives.

Training to members serves the following major objectives

- ♦ Behavior is concerned with developing characteristics such as commitment, personal warmth, caring and professional excellence in the trainee.
- ♦ Self awareness is concerned with knowledge and attitudes towards oneself.
- ♦ A viable support system must be available to enhance the trainees' technical knowledge base by expanding and improving their competence.
- ♦ From a global perspective, increasing an individual's skills to solve the problems.
- ♦ Sometimes, trainees possess the required knowledge and skills but lack of desired motivation.
- ♦ Orientation is concerned with providing clearly stated, well articulated and generally understood expectations regarding procedures, conditions, policies, resources and norms found within the functional frame work of the institution.

Outcome

Effective coordination and a good combination of bank staff, committed NGO, Govt. dept and enthusiastic SHGs, interest groups and village committee would produce results.

The focal point - Village committee and its other components achieve good results in terms of Natural Resource Management, waste land development, forest protection, afforestation, water harvesting and other village development activities.

In long run solve the problems which improve agriculture, fodder and fuel availability, NTFP, availability of fodder and water encourage the animal husbandry

enterprise, crop diversification and stable regular income. Changes in roles within families. Recognition of gender roles and agreeing on adoption of beneficial values to overcome changing social needs and challenges. Capacity improvement of farmers in team building and simple resource management technologies and methodologies.

Future strategy

Following strategy needs to be kept in mind to develop the farming community by this approach :

- ❖ Group approach – should get particular emphasis.
- ❖ Inter departmental coordination and Association with NGOs.
- ❖ Use of information and communication.
- ❖ Bottom up – farmer centered and demand driven extension.

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