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Community approach in rural development: Changing paradigms

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Rural development has always been an important issue in all discussions pertaining to economic development, especially of developing countries. The socio-economic disparities between rural and urban areas are widening and creating tremendous pressure on the social and economic fabric of many developing Asian economies. These factors, among many others, tend to highlight the importance of rural development. Community projects are of vital importance not merely for material achievements, but much more so because they seek to build up the community out the individual, and to make the latter a builder of his own village centre and also in the larger interest India too. The aim of community development was to bring about economic and social changes in rural areas specially of poor by increasing all round production, and improvements in agriculture, dairy, animal husbandry and related industries, health, education, transport, communications and more important than these is the change in outlook of the people and developing the capacities of individual so that he may master matters of himself etc. Community Based Rural Development is a participatory approach to reducing rural poverty. It promotes collective action by communities by putting them in control of development projects and programs. Community-based organizations generally consist of a number of individual members who organize around a common interest or need. Some are women's associations, self-help groups and rural youth organized to gain access to credit and other services. Community-based rural development grew out of the checkered past of rural development projects and interventions undertaken by the World Bank and other international development institutions since the 1950s. The paradigms related to rural development have been adjusted according to the economic policies, contemporary challenges and the political ideologies. After 1991, the country adhered to the agenda of liberalization, privatization and globalization. Thus a synergy between the three actors (government, market and civil society) is envisioned in order to accelerate the pace of rural development in the post reform era. The thrust in the post reform era is to move towards decentralization and making democracy more engaging by evoking people's participation at all levels. Thus Public Private Partnership (PPP) model should change to Community Public Private Partnership (CPPP) model. The recent incident of Nandigram has further accelerated the need to incorporate this approach in rural development. Thus keeping in mind the interests of the present generation as well that of the forthcoming generations the concept of sustainable rural development has gained wide acceptance.

Biography

Ruchi Singh has completed her MVSc at the age of 27 years from Lalalaj Pat Rai University of Veterinary Science, Hisar, in Veterinary Extension Education. She is Assistant Professor, Department of Vet. Extension. She has published about 8 papers in reputed journals, 12 articles in local language.

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