

Issues of Rural Backwardness in India and Suggested Remedies Indian Reformers

Dr. Suresh E. Ghumatkar

Asst. Prof. and Head, Department of Economics, Balbhim College, Beed.

Introduction:

Rural population in India is more than two third of Indian population according to the census of India 2011. More than sixty percent of population depended on agriculture and allied sector for their livelihood. In that sense agriculture sector is remain backbone Indian Economy even today. This sector promotes industry and service sector by both demand and supply side. It is found that, there is a positive relationship between changes in growth rate of agriculture in present year and changes in second year growth rate of industrial sector. Rural economy solely depended on the primary sector. Without development of agriculture no one can imagine rural development. The sector also played pivotal role in making economy self reliance in primary goods which create credibility of nation in the world. Tenth five year plan quoted 'Agricultural development is central to economic development of the country'¹.

International Fund for Agriculture Development quoted, "75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas and most are depended on agriculture for food or income". More than 3 billion people live in rural area in developing countries of the world and majority depended on agriculture sector for their livelihood. Agriculture is proved as an engine for poverty and hunger reduction. GDP growth is more effective for that purpose than growth in any other sector. The experience of Sub-Saharan Africa tells growth in agriculture reduces poverty up to 11 times faster than growth in other sector².

The present research paper focuses on the need of primary sector development in the development of rural area. The causes of backwardness of rural area are being seen explained by Indian thinker about rural development. The present research paper focuses on the need of primary sector development in the development of rural area. The causes of backwardness of rural area are being seen explained by Indian thinker specially Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Tukdoji Maharaj.

India's place in the World:

India's rank in Global Hunger Index is 102nd out of 117 countries of the world, which was 55th rank in the year 2014. Pakistan's rank was 106th in GHI in the year 2018 and now in 2019 it jump on 94th rank. It shows, India's rank is decreased compare to the Pakistan. Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Nepal, and Bangladesh are too ahead of India³. It is so because of less investment of India's Government of the agriculture sector and rural development. According to the actual cost of central government on agriculture and allied sector was 63259 crore rupees in 2018-2019. It was 0.33 percent to the Gross Domestic Product of India⁴. In the budget 2019-20, the budget estimate on the sector was 151518 crore rupees but according to the revised estimate only 120835 crore rupees will be spent which is only 0.59 percent to the GDP at current prices. The central budget for 2020-21, budget estimate on this sector is 154775 crore rupees which will be 0.69 percent of the GDP according to the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman estimated if actually the said figure expend⁵.

India's rank in Human Development is 129th among 189 countries with only 0.647 HDI value. India comes in medium human development nation category. India's position in Inequality Adjusted Human Development Index is worst with the index value 0.477 and at 130 ranks. It shows India poses more inequality. Gender Inequality Index shows 122nd rank of India with 0.501 value of GII, 76.7 employments are vulnerable in India according to the HDR-2019 and only 60 percent population using at least basic sanitation facilities⁶.