

SELF-SUFFICIENT VILLAGE OF EASTERN REGION, INDIA

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Abstract: *The future of the world lies in the safe hands of our young generation and they are held responsible in making this world a better place to live. However, it is the moral responsibility of our older generation to guide the youth to achieve better tomorrow for everyone. Youth of today is full of energy, innovative, experimental thoughts and channelize their live. All of us are in need and desire of a comfort, luxury and peace in life. But when it comes to human beings, they always demand for personal happiness and a better environment. There are various ways to achieve personal happiness. Environmental happiness can be referred as a community or nation building. This environmental happiness brings peace and pride for of our surroundings and gives us a feeling of proud ownership. If we succeed in creating peace and better environment for our work and living, then we will be able to create a happy and livable place.*

Keywords: Innovative, Environmental happiness, livable place, nation building, personal happiness.

1. INTRODUCTION

We should very well understand that whatever we are and what all we have received is just because of the country and society. Therefore, it is our duty to return back to the society. The human being essence lies in gratitude. Personal infrastructure is nothing but health, happiness and well-being. With the improvement in our personal "infrastructure" we can bring improvement within ourselves and this will help in our personal and emotional growth. We should be able to return what all we have received in order to help the society. When both these activities are carried out hand in hand than it gives us a great joy and satisfaction. We are more concentrated towards satisfaction in our basic needs and demands. Once we are contending, we can work for the improvement of the environment and help in making it better as well. Helping needy students, cleanliness of our surroundings, energy savings, judicious use of natural resources, etc. can all be part of our work for society. Conservation of energy will help the society. Similarly, whatever we do to help others is also accounted as social work. The mantra which each one of us should follow is to act locally and think on national level. All of us should be able to develop a "can do" approach. Nothing is impossible in front of our strong will power and straightforward attitude. The mind is very

active at a young age and hence the youth of our country is full of innovative ideas. One should always have a positive approach. We should never allow negative things to hinder our way. This is the working approach of nature. Nature never tries to suppress another branch just like a tree. Hence we should never try to bring others down. This is the best mode of development where the entire system is upgraded simultaneously. We should follow nature in whatever we do.

2. CASE STUDIES

Case Study 1: PRADAN Tasar Silk

PRADAN has promoted forest dwellers to strengthen and expand Tasar Seri-culture based livelihoods. PRADAN Tasar silk production contributes 12% of the total production of the country.

The insect, *Antheraea mylitta* Drury, which produces Tasar silk, is found in tropical sub-humid forests. The beige colored Tasar silk is strong and gives better results after dyeing. The trading of tasar is mainly done in the form of a cocoon, yarn and fabric. The people of tribal areas are the rearers of silk worm or production of cocoons. The area covered in for tasar cocoon rearers is Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. These regions are the poor in agricultural productivity in India.

It is a seasonal process. All the family members are involved in the production process at different stages. The earning is only Rs. 5000 for which they spend around 2-3 months in a year in rearing of Tasar silk worms.

The Tribal people of central India produce cocoons which are their source of income. The involvement of women is in yarn producing. PRADAN worked extensively in strengthening and expansion of Tasar Seri-culture based livelihoods for residents of different states i.e., Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha.

The PRADAN's intervention includes:

- Annual income is around Rs. 25000 from the sale of cocoons per hectares.
- Around 6750 hectares of Tasar host tree and planted.

- About 300 grainages are managed by the young members of the committee.
- The productivity of cocoons depends majorly on the hard work of women. More than 1000 women are involved in the production of yarn.
- Around 15-18 tons of Tasar yarns are produced in a year.
- The result of the joint venture of PRADAN with Central Silk Board (CSB), is change in policy, creation of company based model for livelihood promotion.

The annual demand for raw Tasar silk is around 2000 MT. Only 25% of the demand is fulfilled by the domestic production of raw silk. This growth is estimated to provide opportunities for sustainable livelihood for 30000 households in addition. The gap between supply and demand is due to the degradation of forest areas.

The area available for raising Tasar is around 8 million hectares of tropical forest area which is available in the following states: Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Eastern Maharashtra.

Case Study 2: Banka, Bihar

The barren land is transformed into green land in the villages of the Banka District of Bihar State. This transformation helped in the production of lac.



Figure 1: Lacca insects Source: Navhind Times, July 2015

The lac plantation was initiated in the Chandan village of District Banka for which Women's Development Corporation (WDC) collaborated with the Society for Welfare Operational Research and Development. Self help groups also contributed and started their cultivation from three sites of the village i.e., Parhi, Jhingajhal, Durguniya.

The people hesitated and did not show interest in this new type of cultivation. But there was a gradual inclination seen towards lac production and they adopted this new cultivation.

Initially 100 households adopted this type of cultivation in which women played an important role. Women became economically self-sufficient, which raised their confidence level and self esteem.



Figure 2: Weavers of Banka, Bihar Source: Business Standards, 2003

The raw material for the production of lac bangles is in abundance in Bihar. In past Bihar had to buy lac from its neighbouring states, but now it is self-sufficient in Lac production. Lac is widely used in food processing, varnish, printing industries and cosmetics.

Case Study 3: Alipurduar, West Bengal



Figure 3: Organic Farming Source: organic World Congress, 2017

Alipurduar is a village in West Bengal, it is a self-sufficient village in, which provides food, health and confidence. Women in this village are involved in growing food in a natural way.

Earlier, people in our country had kitchen gardens to produce vegetables and fruits in their own gardens. But with change in time farming, which was done for food has now changed to commercial farming. The green revolution helped in increasing the production, but on the other hand raised the use of chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides. The change in farming pattern eliminated women's participation in decision making related to farming, although they contributed their labor in the tedious work of farming like sowing, reaping, harvesting and filling up granaries. They were not benefitted from all this.

The collected surplus rice was then saved in their rice bank. This was then shared with villagers during the lean season. After the harvesting, the same is returned to the rice banks. The Annapurna self-help group used self-prepared vermi-compost for growing a range of vegetables.

The following principles of sustainable agriculture for growing fruits and vegetables were adopted:

- Growing multiple crops to help each other.
- Rotation of crops was adopted.
- This kind of cropping system recharges the soil.
- The fertility of soil is improved.
- They used rain water for plants and irrigation purpose.
- Small reservoirs were created to collect rainwater, which can later be used for other purposes.
- Introduction of pot irrigation, in which a sealed pot was placed under the soil in a field after making a small hole at the bottom. With the use of one such pot, it is easy to irrigate 3*5 foot patch of land.
- Duck farm was introduced over a pond. The excretion of the duck will be collected in the pond, which will become food for the fishes.
- Co-dung produced can be used for bio-gas plants for the kitchen.
- The slurry thus produced can be used as fish food.
- The soil is enriched with trees like pigeon pea or bamboo. These can also be used as fodder for livestock and firewood also.

The best or sustainable way of farming is that in which all the elements of nature like animals, plants, insects, etc., come together to give fruitful results, leaving very little waste. Such type of techniques helps in social and economic welfare of the society.

Case Study 4: Bargarh, Odisha

MASS (Manav Adhikar Seva Samiti) encouraged villagers to start their own kitchen gardens, establishment of goat units, poultry farms and set up seed and grain banks, which reduced migration from Bargarh district of Odisha State. This was in addition to their income which reduced their dependency on local moneylenders.

The volunteers from MASS persuaded individual villagers to take up vegetable farming.



Figure 4: Sustainable methods of farming Source: Hindustan Times 2015

They guided villagers as to how to cultivate their land, making it a profitable unit. To fulfill the water demands, a well was dug on their land for water with the help of self-help groups. The returns in agriculture were good and animal husbandry added to their income. With the MASS, people started exploring various schemes for agriculture, launched by the Government. They started in kitchen gardens and vegetable farming with support from seeds from the government. This helped in the enrichment of their daily diet. Seed and grain banks were introduced to reduce the dependency on local moneylenders. Initiatives like this reduced migration in the region, although it was not eliminated completely. This improved condition of the region and its self-sufficiency stressed on the girl child education, which was not considered important in the past.

This model development witnessed up-gradation in social and economic status of the people.

3. CONCLUSION

The inferences taken out after the literature study done are as under:

- The use of renewable helps in the improvement of local environment which will improve the environment globally.
- Invention of new technologies will increase the market for technology providers, which will upgrade the status in turn.
- An organic method of farming should be adopted.
- The principles of sustainable agriculture should be adopted; they are diversification of crops, conservation of soil and water, limited use of bio-resources, multiple crops in a year.
- With the development of livestock, bio gas can be generated from electricity and fuel in the kitchen.
- The villager should themselves be responsible for the maintenance of public spaces, public toilets, cleanliness, etc.
- The children should be made aware of the environment and surroundings as well. They should be taught to keep their surroundings clean.

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