Promotion of Rural Livelihood through Non Governmental Organisations

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It is true that the process of economic development involves a shift from agricultural and allied activities to non-agricultural activities. It is however erroneous to believe that the increase in non-agricultural activity should be continued to towns and cities. After all, villages with growing non-agricultural activity will without doubt, become towns in course of time. What needs to be done is that non-agricultural activities in the rural areas need to be focussed upon and strengthened on priority basis. The rural areas remain impoverished with remunerative economic activities initiated to be carried out only in towns and cities. Rural development is a complex process. It can therefore be achieved only through concerted efforts on various fronts. Rural development can be possible if only there is proper balance between service-oriented programmes and development-oriented and self-reliant centred programmes. Hence, the present study will through more light on this respect.

1. Research Problem

Alleviation of rural poverty has been on the development agenda for more than 50 years. In the first three five year plans, the dominant thinking in the policy planning was that poverty could be effectively tackled through general growth process and benefit of growth will automatically trickle down to general poor masses.

The voluntary agencies can ensure people's participation in the developmental process. They can ensure a mechanism of social control over the developmental bureaucracy. The voluntary agencies can seek, more easily than a government department, people's cooperation. People's participation can be ensuring only by genuine grassroots organizations and these alone can keep a watch on the delivery system. The voluntary agencies are best suited to take up sensitive issues.

At present, the voluntary agencies are active in a number of spheres. Some voluntary agencies may not take up development works, but they try to improve the delivery system by placing checks on corruption and inefficiency.

Some voluntary agencies have concentrated on rural technology with the belief that the available technology should come to the rescue of small farmers and artisans. As a result of this, the voluntary agencies are in a position to evolve a low cost delivery system. It is therefore necessary to create a favourable climate for the healthy growth of voluntary agencies. Here we have made an attempt to evaluate the role of NGO (The BAIF Mission) in the state of Karnataka, in catering the needs of the rural people.

2. Objectives of the Study

1. To evaluate the relationship between the role of NGOs and development of rural areas.
2. To study the changes in the quality of life of the beneficiaries including women in the rural areas of Tumkur district after received the assistance of BAIF NGO.
3. To review the economic benefits of BAIF NGO Programme and alleviation of poverty in rural areas of Tumkur district.
4. To suggest the suitable measures for the further effective improvement of NGOs in the development of rural areas in general and BAIF NGO Programmes particular.

3. Research Methodology

This study is based on both primary and secondary source of data. The primary data has been collected from NGOs (BAIF) from Tumkur District in the state of Karnataka, India. The secondary data has been collected from various refereed journals on the subject NGOs and
rural development. Simple statistical techniques have been used to analyse the data. The data and information has been collected up to 2005-06.

4. Analysis and Discussion

Unemployment, underemployment and depletion of natural resources being the root causes of rural poverty, BAIF’s Mission is to create opportunities of gainful self-employment for rural families especially disadvantaged sections, ensuring sustainable livelihood, enriched environment, improved quality of life and good human values. BAIF is a non-political, secular and professionally managed organization. BAIF covers 150 villages, of which 100 are in Tiptur taluk, and the rest in other taluks, which are near to the BAIF operating area in Tumkur district of Karnataka State.

Promotion of micro enterprises in food processing, vermi compost production and rising nurseries etc have opened up opportunities for the families to earn livelihood within their villages without being compelled to migrate to urban centres in search of employment. The above table clearly show that BAIF has did good job in the formation of groups and also rising the savings of the groups through providing necessary training to the groups. The data show the increasing trend in both number of groups and savings in the district. BAIF has promoted various micro-enterprises through SHGs in different parts of the district.

5. Major Findings of the Study

1. The lending programme of BAIF is quite satisfactory. This was mainly because of the linkages with banks under NABARD’s Bank-linkage programme which was started as early as in 1994 in the district.

2. The group members in project areas were having access to more than one revolving credit fund, and a particular type of credit need is met by a particular source. While savings fund at the village level was meeting the consumption needs of members.

3. In case of many households the assets given under poverty alleviation schemes have merely replaced or substituted the original asset and as a result either there is very low or no incremental income from the investment.

4. Suggestions
   - NGOs should concentrate on income generating projects not only in the interests of the beneficiaries, but even for strengthening their own resources base also.
   - NGOs by themselves cannot complete the task of rural reconstruction. NGOs should therefore seek the co-operation of the government departments and the local people.
   - NGOs cannot be a substitute for the government’s role in the rural sphere. These two should be viewed as partners in progress. The relationship between NGOs and government departments should be one of partnership.

References


BAIF various reports.