



Forest As A Sources Of Subsidiary Employment

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Received- 06.08.2020, Revised- 11.08.2020, Accepted - 14.08.2020 Email : aaryvrat2013@gmail.com

Abstract: *The relationship between forestry and agricultural development has been a fundamental issue in the Indian Forest Policy since its formulation over a century ago. Agriculture forms the backbone of the rural economy of India and compasses the substantial majority of the country's population forests are closely tied to agriculture both through their protective functions (moderating a variety of adverse dimetic and environmental conditions) and through the provisions of wide range of essential forest products including fuelwood, fodder, bamboo, construction timber, wood for agricultural implements and household furniture and a host of 'minor forest products' (including games, tanning, dyes, waxes, medicine plants, edible leaves and fruits, edible and oil-bearing seeds and nuts, honey and bark products used both for local consumption and as cash crops to subsidies farm income. Thus the inter-relationship between forestry and agriculture can hardly offered to be ignored. Due to this fact, the forestry work as a source of subsidiary employment to :ed.d its therapeutic implications with the help of two examples (brief case studies).*

Key Words: paper examines, fundamentals, Marxian philosophies, instruments, socialism, claimed .

- a. The landless labourers and agricultural peasante.
- b. The marginal and small farmers.
- c. Rural artisans like carpentare, blacksmiths, shoemakers, etc.

Poor people living in the rural areas mainly include landless labourers, small and marginal farmers rural artisans, scheduled castes and scheduled, tribes. These people have either no assets or assets with very low productivity few relevant skills and no regular fulltime jobs or very low paid jobs.

Land in the rural areas continues to be an important asset measures of social and economic strength. The mainstay for the majority of the rural population is agriculture and allied activities. There is a continuous decline in the proportion of cultivators of own lands and corresponding increase in the proportion of labourars.

The role of forests has been recognised in generation of employment, improving environment, upgrading economy of forest dwellers and providing fuelwood energy to the masses. As a national policy it has been stressed that :

- (i) Forests need through rationality in operation, large investment and use of new technology so that it can yield a higher surplus.

- (ii) Social forestry programme should be a programme of true plantations by ensuring involvement of people.

- (iii) Conjoint efforts of Government Co-operative Community and Corporate Sectors are necessary to increase production of forest product.

Rural economy and forest development are actually inter development. More beneficiary oriented programmes in forestry sectors should be indentified and implemented. Assistance should be given to tribels and landless people for development income generating programmes based on managing and marketing of forest produce on a sustainable basis. The uneconomic farmer could be helped to improve his dairy and poultry business by providing him additional finance for purchase of milk cattle and fodder, but they are costly and are becoming increasingly difficult even for an average farmers. The small farmers can not produce sufficient fodder due to the constraint on the size of his farm, as a result, he cannot maintain even badly needed bullock. Thus, the very size of holding is an obstacle in improving the condition of the uneconomic farmer and in the given situation, no other remedies, than increase in the size of the farm could be effectives. Far increasing poultry there may not be much



difficulty if initial finance for purchase of birds and poultry feed and medical aid in times of emergency is provided.

Excess of population on land in rural areas in the absence of alternative employment opportunities in village industries, should be observed in urban industries. In spite of much talk about creating and providing aim fuel employment for rural people in the rural works programmes, little has been attempted and much less achieved.

In order to improve and expand employment opportunities for rural landless with a view to provide guarantee of employment to atleast one member of every landless labour household up to 100 days in a year the new scheme of "rural landless employment guarantee programme" was announced by the Indian Government. The important programmes drawn for the help of the rural poor includes.

The integrated rural development programme (IRDP) extended to all the blocks of the country for economic assistance to poorest families to bring them above the poverty line. Under this programme, a total subsidy, shared equally between the centre and the state will supplement credit facilities. In about total locks which are in hilly and forested regions the adopted programme could not improve the income of poorest families because they were neither economically viable nor sustainable. Forests and forest industries in these blocks can play an important role in the economic development of poor families.

The National Rural employment programme (NREP) is expected to generate 300 million to 400 million mandays employment every year. The aid provided by central government for the states for this programme. Apart from employment maximization, the programme aims at strengthening. The rural infrastructure which in true would boost rural economy under this programme the projects of social forestry, soil conservation, minor irrigation and basic amenities to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities have been assigned high priority.

Scheduled caste finance and development corporations are expected to channelizes inputs and

credits, social forestry development and forest based cottage industries are expected to play a major role in their development.

The national dairy development programme aims to cover the poor families in the country. This plan provide additional income and employment. Handicraft, handloom, sericulture and other cottage and small industries programmes etc. aim to provide additional income and employment to the rural people those are poor. Forestry has to play an important role in supporting these programmes.

Rural landless employment guarantee programme (RLEGP) aims to provide employment to atleast one member of every landless family up to 100 days in a year particularly during the been agricultural period social forestry and development of minor forest produce can generate desired employment in the rural areas.

The different forestry programs are generate as a source of subsidiary employment. Later, the harvesting of the forest would also provide employment at a higher level of incomes. Besides the above, secondary employment opportunities in the processing of wood and other forest products would help in creating employment for millions of people, who hitherto have remained unemployed.

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