

# Mahatma Gandhi's Rural Development Programs And Government Decentralization

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**Abstract:** Mahatma Gandhi's perspective was pragmatic. Sociologists had named him pragmatic role model. Reason for this was that he never made methodologies. His thought and view of point on several subject's has shown that he was a pragmatic person. His way of analysing and doing works were totally practical and scientific. He was stern supporter of reality. As per his experience he had shared many thoughts. He was not a blank personality. During struggle for independence he migrated to different corners of country and he felt the pathetic conditions of villages of India. Due to lack of education, health, electricity, water supply, trade and business, industries etc. The villages were lagging behind and were in drastic conditions. He understood that to upgrade the social democracy of country it is important to make villagers vigilante and revitalizing in the field of politics. Hence he proposed the idea of government decentralization for growth and development of rural areas in country.

**IndexTerms:** Nonviolence , Satyagraha, Decentralization, Panchayats

## MAHATMA GANDHI'S VIABILITY:-

In this way he was not creator of rituals and methodologies. Once while protesting against a government system he said "I HAD JUST TRIED TO ENFORCE THE ETERNAL REALITY IN MY DAILY LIFE AND PROBLEMS." He was not a political philosopher like Hobbs, Roseau, Montesquieu etc. His ideologies and approach was itself based on experience and reality. His way of doing work was also political can scientific. He preferred completeness in work and asked everyone one to get self inspiration instead of debating on useless topics. In this way his actions and thoughts had pragmatism. Hence Occidental scholars had appreciated him. Truth, Nonviolence, Satyagraha, etc were the fundamental of his ideologies. He made it very clear that not only the motive should be genuine but also the the means have to be appreciative. Dr. C. Sitaramayya had written "Gandhi's rules and regulations are not bunches of command but are way in which life should be lived. His ideologies provides us with ancient solutions to the problems of life.

## CONTEXT-

Due to visiting several Asian and African countries Gandhi gained a clear and lucid approach. He had great taste of humanity problems. Besides this study and analysis of family related spheres different religion and saint's, philosopher's sayings had made him pragmatic and rational. As a result of this sincerity, morality, simplicity, good spirit etc. had become speciality of his life. Various letters, documents written by him and his speeches evidences it abundantly.

Basic reason of Mahatma Gandhi's practicality was that during freedom struggle he went to almost every part of country and got chance to feel the tragedy, problems and culture of Indian society. Through this he was able to know the pro's and Con's of society, religious rituals, economic and historic life's reality. He was well acquainted with the I'll conditions of rural areas. He understood that India is country of villages hence for country's development villages growth and development was must. That's why he pressed for rural development for an all-round development and clearly stated before the public that country's future lies in development and progress of villages. His political actions were mainly concerned with rural development actions. He preached the same in rallies and programs of Congress. In this way "Rural development" was at the zenith of Gandhi's philosophy.

## Government Authority Decentralization:-

One of the main objective of his dream which he dreamt for India was administration power decentralization. He also wanted political and economical decentralization. He pressed for decentralization so much because the then central system was based on violence and brutality, which was not supported by the nonviolent society. Because concentration of authority reduces the chance of local self government and administration. It frustrates and dematerializes people and restrict their progress and make there life unusually tough. Actually the idea of decentralization by Mahatma Gandhi was basically inspired from the fact that centralized political and administration conduct goes against the environment which is necessary for persons development from within. Gandhi believed that real human peace depends on humans mental and moral development in a decentralized political and industrial conduct.

Mahatma Gandhi believed that economical and political administration decentralization leads to such democracy which provides real freedom to the civilian and equal chance to take part in administrative systems. Through decentralization the production of

basic necessities of human life becomes efficient. In this way production and consumption prevail in every area and doesn't remain centralized to a corner of country. Hence no need arises to make laws for distribution of properties and profit. Hence machines can also be used efficiently in this way. For long machines have been used extensively for personal gain and profit, as a result of which numerous people's life has become dull and depressed with lot of problems.

Gandhi's intention was that government and its administration doesn't remain concentrated in a region and in hand of some few numbers of peoples but should be equally distributed. To keep up the unity and freedom well protected he framed the idea of central government with sub administrative blocks under it. He also proposed that gram panchayats should be given max to max authority and power. That's why he pressed for administrative power decentralization and said "Decentralization will not only help the villages to develop in efficient way but will also make the social Democratic system powerful and strong and will uproot corruption." Mahatma Gandhi was a farsighted person who predicted the problems India would face in future and provided the remedy that is administration decentralization and rural development. By administration decentralization he also meant that gram panchayat should be empowered enough to look after it's own needs and requirements and make arrangements accordingly. He said "If administration remains in hand of some people it would be very harmful." Mahatma Gandhi wrote about politically and economically perfect village:- My rural self government essence is that let every village be a complete unit of administration. They shouldn't depend on their neighbours for their basic necessities. In this path villager's first preference should be cultivation of crops for food and clothes. Villages should own theatre, public town hall and school. Primary education should be compulsory. Villages administration should be taken care of by group of five members also called panches. Hence, panchayat will be the legislative, administrative and judiciary of village.

The secret of Mahatma Gandhi's success as a national movement politician was that he very effectively indulged the common public into the movement and proceeded together with them. In this way we can conclude that he believed in the methodology of all together leaving behind none and for the same reason he did propose rural self government system.

Also rural self government was realized most important not only for economic up gradation but also for government decentralization. He accepted the same as important for social democracy's success and preached its real value from depth. The actual concept was that he had never trusted the government machinery of his time, hence he formulated the notion of village self government

His thinking extract was that people should solve their problems within the sphere of gram panchayat. In this way the hypothesis of rural development was in zenith in context of administration decentralization.

#### **"Terrorist's proliferation in backward areas--**

After independence there is not cent percent development and progress in the villages. This is a biggest tragedy. And as per Mahatma Gandhi's dream a lot of works are yet to be accomplished in respect to administration and government decentralization. Although bunches of law and steps had been undertaken to strengthen the panchayati raj but government's apathy, local politics, lack of political awareness unawareness of government's policy and illiteracy etc. hinders each and every one to get the expected profit, hence Mahatma Gandhi's goal of change and development is still to be accomplished. This is the soal reason due to which several problems have generated and common public is unsatisfied and is devoid from expected life style. Terrorism is one of the greatest problem. It is true that terrorists have sprouted out in the undeveloped backward regions of country.

#### **Terrorists in Santhal Paragna :--**

Surveys had proved that terrorists had set their foot firmly in undeveloped areas of Jharkhand. The rural areas of Santhal Paragna in Jharkhand has come into the clutches of the negative elements that is terrorists and the region has developed prominent problem and threat for government. The root cause of is that this villages lack the facilities of transportation, drinking water, medical aid, electricity, school and education etc. Unemployed educated persons are growing tremendously in numbers. People are forced to live nomadic life due to lack of local industry. After independence government didn't show much interest to work upon this areas as a result of which priest conditions has become drastic. There is also lack of railway services. Several policy has been made for development of these areas but due to corruption and embroilment of issued monetary fund for such plans and policy the local inhabitants are not getting the expected profit. Till date numerous villages of Santhal Paragna are a miles far from development and progress. These villages have mountains of economical, social and daily life related problems and hindrance.

So, it is crystal clear that if terrorism has to be eradicated we have to follow Mahatma Gandhi's path of government decentralization. Famous political researcher Jodge had written "A state should be divided into small parts and each part should be given the power of administration of their own region. Government machinery should be differentiated to small divisions. Localising administration will make it's handling easy so that political policy's real essence and good effect could be felt and seen by every one. It is true that people themselves constitute the society.

In this way it was clear that Mahatma Gandhi was a complete and farsighted political leader and adviser. He had his own way of thinking and doing work. His earthly experience was a developed one. In this context his approach and point of view was very clear. Hence he proposed that rural development is must in order to achieve an all-round development. 'Rural Development' had always been prominent topic in ilhos rally and programs. In this way rural development was on epic in Gandhi's philosophy. Prof. Barkeshwar Prasad Singh had written "Mahatma Gandhi was a caretaker of rural self government. He wanted reestablishment of rural economy in correct order. He was great preacher of peoples freedom and independence. He formulated and remained stick to the policy of government decentralization. Only it could help villages to eradicate corruption. In the post independence period many villages were far off from development. A lot of laws and policies were employed for this regions but expected results were still not budding out. There are no significant change. Hence public is still unsatisfied and undeveloped. They yet living in a degraded life style. And this is a most cardinal pathetic issue which has resulted into germination of several other significant problems. As already stated terrorism is one of those. It has firmed its roots in socially and economically backward regions of Jharkhand. In Jharkhand Santhal Paragna has into gruelling dark environment of of terrorism and naxalites and its basic reason are unavailability of following basic facilities:-Transportation, drinking water, medical aid, education and electric power. Hence to eradicate and uproot the terrorism implementation of Mahatma Gandhi's proposed solution is necessary and rural development and government decentralisation is the primary steps in this fight.

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