

# SOCIO ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHHATTISGARH

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## 1. Introduction

Born on November 1, 2000 Chhattisgarh is one of the youngest states of Indian Union.

The State is committed to the welfare of its people by building up a dynamic and progressive

Economy with social justice and equal opportunity for all. About 80 percent of State's population lives in rural areas, largely dependent on agriculture and allied activities for livelihood. The State thus accords high priority to agriculture and rural development.

The Chhattisgarh economy has grown at an annual rate of over 8% during 2000-01 to 2004-05 (at 1993-94 prices), benefiting millions of poor in the State. The percentage of the population below poverty line has declined drastically from 45 in 1999-2000 to 41 in 2004-05. The rural poor comprise 79% of the total poor in the State. Agriculture (including crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry and mining) is the main source of livelihood for the rural people in the State. The sector contributes about one-third to the State's gross domestic product (GDP), and engages over 70% of the labor force. The sector grew at an annual rate of over 6% between 2000-01 and 2004-05. Agriculture is practiced on 35% of the geographical area, and is largely rainfed. Rice is the main crop occupying about 70 % of the area, but has poor yields. The rural economy in the State is dominated by small farmers (<2ha) comprising over 75 percent of the total farm households. The average size of land holdings in the State is 1.4ha, and is likely to decline with increasing population pressure. Under such a scenario, crop production alone cannot provide an adequate livelihood to the majority rural development.

## 2. What Is Rural Development

Rural development can be defined as, helping rural people set the priorities in their own communities through effective and democratic bodies, by providing the local capacity; investment in basic infrastructure and social services, justice, equity and security, dealing with the injustices of the past and ensuring safety and security of the rural population, especially that of women. In India the Department of Rural Development and Rural Development Ministers of all the states are implementing a number of programmes in rural areas through the state Governments for poverty reduction, employment generation, rural infrastructure habitant development, provision of basic minimum services.

## 3. Social aspects of rural development

Rural Development (RD) is a multidimensional and dynamic concept. RD is more than just economic growth and indicates the positive change of social, economic and political sectors along with other aspects. It not only includes upgrading in physical infrastructures but also rise in production and consumption, fulfillment of basic needs as well as improvement in quality of life. The goal of RD has to be the promotion of access in natural, physical, social, economic & human capital and their sustainable utilization for livelihood. Sustainable resource utilization, population management, Information Technology (IT), development of physical infrastructure, education, health & human resources are different elements of a single system in which a change in one of these elements brings about a change in the whole system. In the absent of appropriate technology and competent human resource, our valuable resources have been less productive than they could have been. The implementation of a new technology will require new form of social organization and human

power. Availability of land, water and forest (Natural capital) are not enough. For Economic growth and poverty reduction through proper utilization of Natural capital, "knowledge and skill" (Human Capital) along with joint effort of concerned people (Social capital) is required. Mutual understanding, cooperation, sense of responsibility and social effort can act as a strong weapon to fight against the severe poverty and scarcity of capital and resources. The basic need of a human being is no longer limited to food, shelter and clothing. It is a broad concept and includes education, health and social security as well. But without fulfilling the conventional fundamental requirements, other needs cannot be addressed properly. First priority of development should be poverty reduction and food security which are very much interrelated and cannot be solved without addressing each other. Alternative production and employment through non-agricultural, non-timber profession can contribute to increase the rural income. Only, then we will be able to achieve rest of the basic needs. Technology, consumption pattern and development strategy should be flexible because human needs change along with time. In this context, prevalent educational system seems to be outdated so in order to adjust with time we need to bring radical changes.

#### 4. Economic Aspects Of Rural Development

Chhattisgarh's gross state domestic product for 2010 is estimated at [INR](#) 600.79 billion in current prices. The economy of Chhattisgarh has grown rapidly in recent years with a growth rate of 11.49 per cent in GDP for 2009–2010.<sup>[56]</sup> Chhattisgarh's success factors in achieving high growth rate are growth in agriculture and industrial production.

- **Tea production**

Chhattisgarh State is ranked as the 17th-largest tea-producing state in India. The districts of Jashpur and Surguja are favourable tea production areas. In Jashpur district, the first tea plantation, Brahmishthajaya Sogara Ashram was established under the direction of Pujya Pad Gurupad. Tea production started after two years at the Sogara Ashram. A tea processing unit was established in Sogara Ashram and the unit name set as the Aghor Tea Processing Plant. The forestry department has also started a tea plantation motivated by the Sogara Ashram. In Surguja district, a tea nursery is being developed by the Margdarshan Sansthan Agriculture College in Ambikapur, Surguja.

- **Agriculture**

Agriculture is counted as the chief economic occupation of the state. According to a government estimate, net sown area of the state is 4.828 million hectares and the gross sown area is 5.788 million hectares.<sup>[57]</sup> Horticulture and animal husbandry also engage a major share of the total population of the state.<sup>[58]</sup> About 80% of the population of the state is rural and the main livelihood of the villagers is agriculture and agriculture-based small industry.

The majority of the farmers are still practising the traditional methods of cultivation, resulting in low growth rates and productivity. The farmers have to be made aware of modern technologies suitable to their holdings. Providing adequate knowledge to the farmers is essential for better implementation of the agricultural development plans and to improve the productivity.<sup>[59]</sup>

#### 5. Agricultural products

The main crops are rice, maize,<sup>[60]</sup> *kodo-kutki* and other small millets and pulses (*tuar*<sup>[61]</sup> and *kulthi*); oilseeds, such as groundnuts (peanuts), soybeans<sup>[62]</sup> and sunflowers, are also grown. In the mid-1990s, most of Chhattisgarh was still a monocrop belt. Only one-fourth to one-fifth of the sown area was double-cropped. When a very substantial portion of the population is dependent on agriculture, a situation where nearly 80% of a state's area is covered only by one crop,

immediate attention to turn them into double crop areas is needed. Also, very few cash crops are grown in Chhattisgarh, so there is a need to diversify the agriculture produce towards oilseeds and other cash crops. Chhattisgarh is also called the "rice bowl of central India".<sup>[57]</sup>

Kodo Millet is used as Life Saving Medicine in Chhattisgarh, India Bastar Beer prepared from Sulfi.

## 6. Irrigation

In Chhattisgarh, rice, the main crop, is grown on about 77% of the net sown area. Only about 20% of the area is under irrigation; the rest depends on rain. Of the three agroclimatic zones, about 73% of the Chhattisgarh plains, 97% of the Bastar plateau and 95% of the northern hills are rainfed. The irrigated area available for double cropping is only 87,000 ha in Chhattisgarh plains and 2300 ha in Bastar plateau and northern hills. Due to this, the productivity of rice and other crops is low, hence the farmers are unable to obtain economic benefits from agriculture and it has remained as subsistence agriculture till now, though agriculture is the main occupation of more than 80% of the population.<sup>[59]</sup> In Chhattisgarh region, about 22% of net cropped area was under irrigation as compared to 36.5% in Madhya Pradesh in 1998–99, whereas the average national irrigation was about 40%. The irrigation is characterised by a high order of variability ranging from 1.6% in Bastar to 75.0% in Dhamtari. Based on an average growth trend in the irrigated area, about 0.43% additional area is brought under irrigation every year as compared to 1.89% in Madhya Pradesh and 1.0% in the country as a whole. Thus, irrigation has been growing at a very low rate in Chhattisgarh and the pace of irrigation is so slow, it would take about 122 years to reach the 75% level of net irrigated area in Chhattisgarh at the present rate of growth.<sup>[59]</sup> Chhattisgarh has a limited [irrigation](#) system, with dams and [canals](#) on some rivers. Average rainfall in the state is around 1400 mm and the entire state falls under the rice agroclimatic zone. The Large variation in the yearly rainfall directly affects the production of rice. Irrigation is the prime need of the state for its overall development and therefore the state government has given top priority to development of irrigation.<sup>[57]</sup> A total of four major, 33 medium and 2199 minor irrigation projects have been completed and five major, 9 medium and 312 minor projects are under construction, as of 31 March 2006.

## 7. Industrial sector

### Power sector

Chhattisgarh is one of the few states of India where the power sector is effectively developed. Based on the current production of surplus electric power, the position of the State is comfortable and profitable. The Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB) is in a strong position to meet the electricity requirement of the new state and is in good financial health. Chhattisgarh provides electricity to several other states because of surplus production. In Chhattisgarh, [National Thermal Power Corporation Limited](#) (NTPC) has [Sipat Thermal Power Station](#) with a capacity of 2,980 MW at Sipat, Bilaspur; GMR Power in Tilda and [Korba Super Thermal Power Station](#) with a capacity of 2,600 MW at Korba, while CSEB's units have a thermal capacity of 1,780 MW and hydel capacity of 130 MW. Apart from NTPC and CSEB, there are a number of private generation units of large and small capacity. The state government has pursued a liberal policy with regard to captive generation which has resulted in a number of private players coming up.<sup>[63]</sup>

## 9. Conclusion:

Rural development of Chhattisgarh is a great history in Indian economics. after 1st November 2000 it is created and till now also development process is continued. Chhattisgarh is the fastest growing state of India.

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