

SOCIAL EVILS –IMPACT ON INDIAN RURAL SOCIETY

(A CONCEPTUAL STUDY)

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Abstract: Social Evils affect society and are problems for the welfare of the society. Indian rural development relates to enhancing the quality of life of people living in village areas. But Social Evils frequently quake the Indian rural and hence there is the necessity to fight against such social evils to ensure a better and secure future and there by a contented life.

KEY WORDS : Social Evils, Forms of Social Evils arresting Rural India, Suggested measures to eradicate Social Evils

Introduction :

Social Evils :

An Evil is usually refer to something which is troublesome and harmful to someone. Social Evils are the issues which affect directly or indirectly the society and are considered as a point of a problem for the welfare of the society. They are destructive to the harmony of the country as a whole. India is on the route of Progress trying to corner a number of problems which are usually termed as social evils. Common Social Evils frequently quake the Indian rural are Poverty, Illiteracy, Dowry, Hygiene and Sanitisation, Domestic Violence, Women safety, Caste System, Gender inequality reflecting in - No Education for girls, Female Infanticide, etc.

Rural Development in India :

Rural development relates to the process of enhancing the quality of life and financial well-being of people living in village areas. As per the report in 2019, 65.53 % of people live in rural India. Yet today, rural development still remains as the main requirement of the overall development of the country. More than 2/3 of the country's people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and 1/3 of rural India is still below the poverty line. Rural development is important not only for the majority of the population live in rural area but also the growth of the rural is necessary to accelerate the speed of overall economic growth of the nation. Therefore, it is important for our country to provide enough facility to upgrade the standard of living Rural India.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY :

The objective of the study is to throw a light upon Social Evils troubling Rural India and suggest observed measures to eradicate those Evils .

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY:

These social evils are really very troublesome to our country as they pull down the quality of the life of the society. Hence there is the necessity to fight against such social evils to ensure a better, safe and secure future and there by a contented life.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

India is on the route of Progress trying to corner a number of problems which are usually termed as social evils. Social Evils frequently quake the Indian rural are Poverty, Illiteracy, Dowry, Hygiene and Sanitisation, Domestic Violence, Women safety, Caste System, Gender inequality reflecting in - No Education for girls, Female Infanticide, etc. These social evils are really a bane to a country and India too as they pull down the quality of the life of the society. Hence strong effort is needed to eradicate them.

Research Methodology:

Secondary data is used as the source for study. Suggestions are drawn based on past reports, Personal observation and opinion.

Major Social Evils badly hunting Rural India :

1. Female degradation:

Various practices in India as well as the personal laws put women to a status inferior to that of men. Polygamy, Purdha system, Sati, Ban on widow remarriage, no education for female child, female infanticide and Child marriage were some of the evils that had a strong impact over the society. Even though some of them are eradicated now, lack of education, sexual harassment at work place, female infanticide, dowry system, no safety for women, domestic violence etc are still prevailing. Hence it became necessary to bring out the women from this degraded position and encourage her to display her true potential.

2. Illiteracy :

Illiteracy has been one issue that is changing in a better way but very slow. It is one issue that can increase the other evils such as poverty, unemployment, population burst and so on. India has been trying to improve literacy level since independence but the efforts need to be strong enough to eradicate this. If compared with the urban India, the state of education is worse in rural India.

3. Hygiene & Sanitation :

Hygiene and sanitation are the basic needs for human life. Due to the huge population in the country and limited accessibility to water, people have limited access to sanitation and hygiene in India. Nearly 600 million people do not have / use toilets and their waste leads to a higher contamination of water. According to the facts, it is estimated that over 80% of the households have a mobile phone but over 730 million people in India still do not have access to clean sanitation and toilets.

4. Casteism : Marriage, social circle, profession hobby etc. are decided by Caste of a person. people from some category suffer of lot of restrictions. Their food, clothing, shelter all are in degraded state. Not only it is inhuman and against the democratic principle of equality, it also a cause of social disintegration. India is a secular state by constitution, but large scale violence have periodically occurred in India since Independence.

5. Poverty : Two-thirds of people in India live in poverty (More than 800 million). The lack of employment which provides a minimum wage to earn their bread in rural areas is driving them to cities such as Bombay, Delhi, Bangalore or Calcutta. Large number of people live without sufficient food, drinking water, without garbage disposal facility and in many cases without electricity. Such poor hygiene conditions cause for diseases such as cholera, typhus and dysentery, in which especially children suffer and die.

6. Superstition : Illiteracy and lack of education pave the way to another social evil that is 'superstition', which is still prevalent in the Indian rural society, even in this modern era. Superstitions like, morning dreams will come true, sneezing once when someone says something will not successfully end, if a cat crosses the path while moving for some work that work will be a failure, seeing a one eyed person or a widow early in the morning is sure to bring a bad day, hooting of an owl and the howling of a dog are all signs of bad luck or death etc. are quite common in our society. Sacrificing animals in the name of 'offerings to God' etc.

7. Unemployment and under-employment: Both exist side by side. Increasing population in rural areas implies immense pressure on land and it led to the migration of people to urban areas in search of job.

8. Lack of Infrastructure : There is a lack of infrastructure in rural areas like electricity, irrigation, credit, marketing, transport facilities, etc.

Suggested Measures to eradicate Social Evils in Rural India

Few areas that demand more focused attention to eradicate Social Evils in Rural India are.

1. Upgrade the rural education system

- ❖ Boost free education : The government must provide free textbooks, library and laboratory facilities to those who come from very low financial background so that they are not left with any reason for not getting educated. This will increase the literacy rate as parents will send their kids to schools if they are not required to bear the expenses of education. The government should take an initiative to establish affordable schools which are pocket-friendly to the middle as well as lower economic groups of the society.
- ❖ Work on school infrastructure : The rural educational institutions do face a big problem of lack of proper infrastructure. Rural schools in rural India do not possess sufficient number of well-trained teachers. Also, the student-teacher ratio is quite improper which makes it difficult to pay attention to every student. To lay a strong foundation for educational, it should start right from the beginning itself.
- ❖ Bring innovative teaching methods : The level of education has gone up in urban areas with newer teaching techniques but the state of teaching techniques is still traditional in rural India. This has to change. These schools must start adopting innovative teaching methods to develop their students holistically.
- ❖ Promote computer literacy : Digital literacy plays major role for fastest growth of countries like India. Computer literacy is very important today as the whole nation is moving towards Digital India. Good thing is that government is very serious about providing such basic amenities to rural India

2. Women Empowerment: In spite of provisions in Indian Constitution for gender equity, Fundamental Rights of women still there is discrimination in practice. In addition to granting equality to women the Constitution has also empowered the State to adopt measures in favour of women. But its effectiveness lies in its strict implementation. In this respect following measures may be taken care of (By Hira Saeed, February 20, 2019) :

- ❖ Equal education to girls without any gender discrimination
- ❖ Provide opportunities to women for leadership and give them decision making roles
- ❖ More Job Opportunities for Women
- ❖ Invest in Women's Entrepreneurial Ideas, Emotionally and Financially
- ❖ Taking Action against Unpaid Labour Work and unfair acts against women
- ❖ Mentoring Women Professionally and Personally
- ❖ Ensure 100 % safety at work place
- ❖ Fair justice to women against domestic violation etc.

3. Eradication of poverty : Rural areas have maximum poverty. There is a serious need for taking steps for the alleviation of poverty. The government intended to reduce poverty by 10% during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012 – 2017). The objectives of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan to reduce Rural Poverty were (Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode) :

- ❖ To create 50 million new work opportunities in the non-farm sector.
- ❖ To remove gender and social gap in school enrolment.
- ❖ To enhance access to higher education.
- ❖ To reduce nutrition deficiency among children of aged 0–3 years.
- ❖ To provide electricity to all villages.
- ❖ To ensure that 50% of the rural population have accesses to proper drinking water.
- ❖ To increase green cover by 1 million hectare every year.
- ❖ To provide access to banking services to 90% of households.

4. Develop agricultural field: As India is primarily an agrarian economy supporting 60% of the population, reviving agriculture and allied sectors is a critical issue and the need of the day to pay sufficient attention.

5. Infrastructure Development (e.g. electricity, irrigation, transport, communication, technology etc.) : The development of rural infrastructure is needed as it can promote economic growth, improve the standard of living of people and reduce poverty by generating employment opportunities, increasing standard of living by ensuring access to basic goods and services.

6. Availability of sufficient Credit : There is a need for credit in rural areas for crop production i.e. to purchase seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, water, electricity, repair of equipment etc., for harvesting. Rural people need loans for starting small business also.

7. Creating Employment opportunity :

- ❖ Agriculture is one of the main sectors that are helping in the revival of the Indian economy. By improving the infrastructure for growing and processing produces, and improving transportation facilities to enable them market their produce, can create a large number of employment opportunities.
- ❖ Encouraging non-farming activities, such as dairy farming, fisheries etc. can create ample opportunities.
- ❖ In the past few years, the service sector has become the most important sector for the economy. It is wise to utilise this opportunity and establishing service industry such as IT services companies, media offices etc. in rural areas and can generate large number of employment opportunities.
- ❖ Encouraging work from home facilities & part-time jobs can enable many rural women to take up jobs as it provides for flexi time in work, avoid travelling to job spot / premises, can manage house hold responsibility simultaneously, enable them caring the children etc.
- ❖ Approximately 51% of MSMEs are in rural India. Strengthening small and medium industries and providing the necessary assistance to MSMEs can create ample job opportunities.
- ❖ Encouraging entrepreneurship among rural youth and training them to impart adequate skills, that can contribute for improving the rural economy.
- ❖ At present, many start ups are working to help in marketing non-farm activities such as handicrafts, handlooms etc. Special incentives to start ups that are generating employment opportunities in rural India will be helpful.
- ❖ Setting up labour-intensive industries, agro-based industries, Solar plants and other clean energy industries can create many jobs and also helps in transforming towards sustainable development.
- ❖ Skill development programs help rural people to get jobs that require professional skills.
- ❖ Azim Premji Foundation suggested increasing MGNREGA workdays from 100 to 200 to compensate for the lack of employment opportunities in rural areas. This is very much needed at this pandemic time, as many people are unemployed .

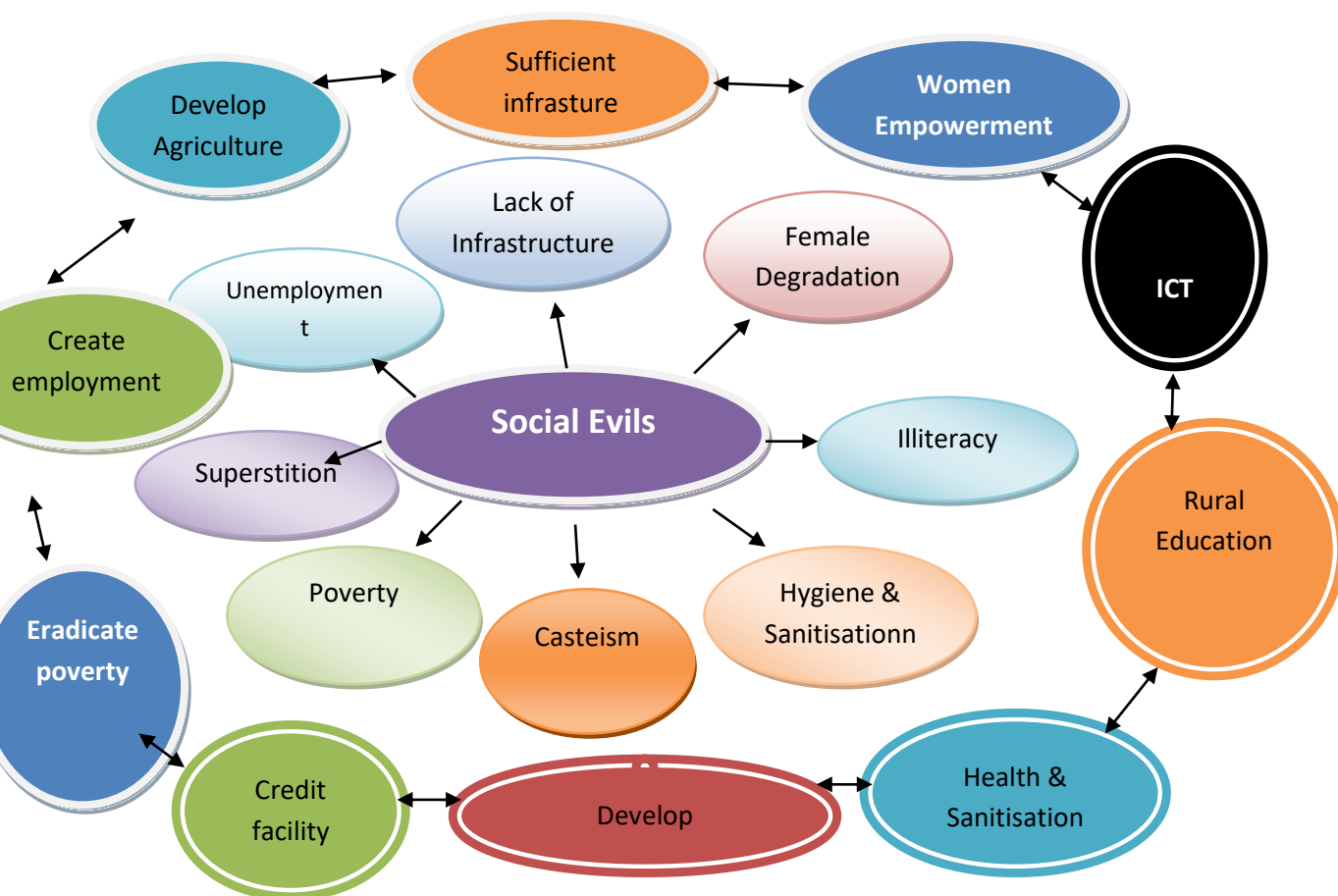
- ❖ Establishing advanced healthcare facilities in rural India is very much needed. This will not only benefit everyone to access health care facilities but also create many employment opportunities in rural areas.
- ❖ For any industry, transportation facilities & the required infrastructure is very important. Developing infrastructure can boost up the rural economy to a higher level.

8. Public health and sanitation Rural areas lack proper health facilities. Better health facilities are necessary for physical growth. Establishing a stronger health care and quality improvement structure assuring rural health, are required.

9. Development of Productive resources: There is a need to improve the quality of human resource in rural areas. It can be done through improving the literacy rate (especially female literacy), Skill development, Industrial training etc.

10. Investing in an information and communications technology infrastructure : With ICTs rural communities can acquire capacity to improve their living conditions and become motivated through training and access the technology to their day to day life. Our country is progressing technologically. However, the fruits of this advancement has not yet reached the rural areas. There should be a growing awareness among people about education.

Chart given below shows the common social evils trouble Rural India and Suggested measures to overcome them.



Conclusion :

At present due to this pandemic, we are caught between the dilemma of saving lives or protecting livelihoods. Most of the daily wage earners, unorganised labour class and those at the fringes of our society are badly affected and still suffering due to current pandemic. Due to migrant labourers returning home with no cash or savings, village communities are stressed due to the loss of income, and the added mouths to feed.

In fact no matter how advanced a country is, still there may be numerous factors that need attention. In this respect NGOs in India have come out with a strong response and playing a major role in re-building phase. These social evils are really a bane to a country and India too as they pull down the quality of the life of the society. Hence there is the necessity to fight against such social evils to ensure a better, safe and secure future and thereby a contented life.

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