

ROLE OF CAPART IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA: AN ASSESSMENT

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Abstract: The CAPART works with the objective of improving quality of life in rural areas, particularly that of the poor and socially disadvantaged sections of the society. People below the poverty line, people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes, bonded labor, women and people with disabilities are priority focus groups for the CAPART. In pursuit of these goals, the CAPART provides financial assistance and resource support to voluntary organizations in conceptualizing, developing and implementing a wide range of projects and development Interventions. The CAPART receives bulk of its funds from Government of India. The CAPART also work in partnership with International donors to facilitate routing of funds to voluntary organizations working for rural development. An attempt has been made here to analyze the role of CAPART for the development of rural India in this paper.

I. INTRODUCTION

In a country like India, villages have had a comparatively smaller share of economic and social infrastructure. Imbalances in regional development, resulting from historical factors, have been perpetuated because the rural masses are not organized enough to articulate their demands. The apathy of the villagers is accentuated by the social and deep-rooted caste hierarchy, a ubiquitous feature of village community, which has a vested interest in continuing the status quo. In short social structure of rural communities is complex and it is a herculean task to change the deep-rooted traditional attitudes and behavioral pattern that is attuned to rapid development. Added to these shortcomings, lack of awareness of their rights and also about their collective action to achieve their rights impede their progress. The present study examines the role of CAPART in rural development of India.

II. ORIGIN OF CAPART

CAPART (Council for the Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Rural Development Government of India, was set up in September 1986 by the amalgamation of PADI (Peoples Action for Development India) and CART (Council for Advancement of Rural Technology) to address specific problems relating to development in the rural areas. CAPART's mandate is to encourage, promote, assist rural action and propagate appropriate rural technologies for the benefit of the rural poor. Government of India has designated CAPART as the nodal agency to lead development work in the rural sector, formulate policies for the betterment of the people, coordinate and control the work of voluntary agencies in this sector.

III. MAJOR ROLE OF CAPART IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Its main objective is to encourage and assist the voluntary activities for implementing projects for rural prosperity. Since inception and up to March 2007 CAPART has sanctioned 24466 projects involving an amount of rupees 909.34 crore and has released rupees 752.61 crore. Some important features related to it are as under-

CAPART extends assistance to Jawahar Rojgar Yojana organization of the Beneficiaries of poverty eradicating programme, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Development of women and Children in Rural Areas and other related organizations.

1. Nature Based Livelihood Enhancement Programmes.
2. Engagement with appropriate rural technologies and knowledge systems to enhance nature based livelihoods.

3. Strengthening institutional base to enhance technology capabilities in the civil society.

IV. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The following suggestions and policy implications have been made for the further improvement in the working of CAPART.

1. At the outset, the scale of support for voluntary organizations would be enhanced considerably in the spirit of 'bringing more hands on the deck' in the war on poverty.
2. The guidelines for various programmes need to be a broad portrayal of the kinds of programmes that CAPART would support with an open-ended framework rather than rigidly defined 'schemes' that reduce the scope for creativity and innovation.
3. A rigorous mechanism for appraisal of proposals that draws on external panels of competent and experienced persons is necessary.
4. CAPART's support must focus on creative and innovative projects that engage with on-going government programmes to increase the latter's effectiveness to generate nature based rural livelihoods and remove poverty. Straightforward beneficiary oriented implementation of natural resource development projects should be discouraged.
5. CAPART recognizes that consortium or network mode of working is effective in pooling competencies, strengthening capacities of smaller organizations and enhancing their impact. Such collaborations enhance the scale of the programme and thus reduce the portfolio of projects to a manageable number.

V. CONCLUSION

The CAPART development is some extent essential for the development of rural India. The government initiative to develop rural people through the actions of CAPART some extent crucial for the development of rural India. The agency like this want more active in the case of rural development. The hope of rural Indian people mostly depend upon this.

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