

2. EARLY EXPERIMENTS IN INDIA

Though sporadic efforts were made by various agencies for the uplift of the rural poor through educational means, a nationwide extension organization was introduced in our country during nineteen fifteen fifties, aiming to bring the integrated development of rural India. The following discussion will be useful to know the origin and the development of Extension Education in our country.

During the British rule, there was no spectacular improvement in the standard of living of the rural people. The major contributions for this set back were due to the series of famines, floods etc (from 1875-1901). In order to know the various reasons for these calamities the then British Government appointed many commission. All the commissions while giving's their various recommendations invariably suggested to start an organized rural development work in the country to overcome the above short coming experienced earlier.

A. Scheme for Rural Reconstruction

Individual responsible	:	Sir Daniel Hamilton
Year	:	1903
Place	:	Sundarban (Bengal)
Objectives	:	Achieving overall development by creating model villages.
Execution	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is based on cooperative principles• He organized one cooperative credit society which functioned up to 1916.• In 1924, he organized a Central Cooperative Bank and Cooperative Marketing Society• In 1934 he established a Rural Reconstruction Institute• The Institute provided training facilities in cottage and subsidiary industries.

B. Economic Conference of Mysore

Individual responsible	:	Dr. M. Visweswaraya
Year	:	1914 – 1918
Place	:	Mysore State (Now Karnataka)

Objectives	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve all round progress • Bring related economic development • Give first priority to agriculture
Officials responsible	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District and taluk committees with the respective revenue officers are chairman • Officers of the development departments and the selected non – officials were members.
Execution	:	Committees surveyed the needs and possibilities, listed and examined them in detail, arranged priorities, fixed targets and designed ways and means of attaining them.
Limitations	:	This was discontinued due to the immense load of the programme. The involvement of people in the programme was also limited.

C. Gurgaon Experiment

Individual responsible	:	Mr. F.D. Brayne Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon Dt., Punjab.
Year	:	1920.
Place	:	Gurgaon Dt.,
Objectives	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall – to remove poverty of the people • Abolition of purdah. • Use of improved agricultural implements • Increase the productivity of crops. • Improve the health of the people • Improve the home with special reference to women’s education

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize cleanliness campaigns
Officials responsible	: Village guides were appointed (to provide a single agency for advise) and organized Rural Economics and Domestic Science Schools
Methods followed	: Propaganda through radio broadcast, Magic lantern slide shows, dramas posters, exhibitions, demonstration etc.,
Execution	: Through village guides and schools
Limitations	: More or less one man show. Purely Government backed programme. Not a people's movement. Village guides were lack. In experience, training and had low educational qualification. No plan of work or any organization to keep the work going.

D. Sriniketan

Individual responsible	: Shri. Rabindranath Tagore in Colloboration with Mr. L.K. Elm hirst.
Year	: 1921
Place	: Bolepur near Calcutta where Sriniketan is situated
Objectives	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a real interest in people for rural welfare work. • To study rural problems and to translate conclusions into action. • Help villagers to develop their resources. • To improve village sanitation.
Methods followed	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He established a Rural Reconstruction Institute at Sriniketan. • A group of eight villages was the Centre of the programme. • The activities of the Institute were

development of agriculture, co-operatives, industries and education through village organizations.

- Objectives were achieved by
 - i. Creating a spirit of self – help
 - ii. Developing village leadership
 - iii. Organizing village scouts called Brati Balika.
 - iv. Establishing training centres for handicrafts.
 - v. Establishing demonstration Centres.

- Limitations :
- Programme was limited to eight villages only.
 - Institute could not get much help from Government
 - Over emphasis on cultural aspects of life.

E. Sevagram

- Individual responsible : Mahatma Gandhili
- Year : 1921
- Place : Sevagram in the district of Wardha, Madhya Pradesh.
- Objective : The service to the under privileged with a sense of dedication.

Methods followed: Of wider general interest is the work of the Father of the Nation, Bapuji who considered the village to be the very essence or Indian life. He initiated a rural rejuvenation programme to emancipate rural masses from poverty and misery, and to bring about an all round development of villages, physically economically, socially, culturally and spiritually. He sought and strove to bring about decentralization both in production and distribution of wealth and in administration. In 1921, he started his micro laboratory at Sevagram in the district of Wardha, Madhya Pradesh for conducting his experiment on social,

economic and spiritual renaissance of the villages. He established intensive agriculture and animal husbandry including cattle breeding in the Ashram. The fullest use was made of the local manorial resources including human and animal waste as a demonstration. The basic system of schools was introduced for the education of children and adult alike. “Nai Ta lim’ he called it. Children were to learn through work acquire skill and dignity of manual labour. The school was to be the community centre for the village, radiating knowledge in higher techniques, inspiration and pattern for social behavior, wider knowledge of the world at large and providing recreation of the mind through cultural programmes. While agriculture and animal husbandry could provide food for the belly, village industries and crafts for the hand, the school could do likewise for the mind and spirit. He wanted to train and steer the hand, the head and the heart of the children. He wanted to train and steer the hand, the head, the head and the heart of the children. He desired radical changes in the administration also. To him the centralized administration was like colonial rule. It was immaterial, he felt. Whether the village was ruled by foreigners or by people’s representative seated in Delhi. There should be no rule from above, whether by foreigners or by the natives of our soil. The village must be made responsible for administering its affairs. He wanted real democracy and freedom for the villagers. Thus, Gandhiji’s programmes, it will be seen, were multi – sided toughing on every vital aspect of rural life.

Limitation : Gandhiji set up a very high personal standard which was difficult to reach by common people

F. Marthandam Project

Individual responsible : It was set up by Dr. Spencer Hatch under the auspices of Y.M.C.A

Year : 1921

Place : Marthandam (Then Travancore State).

Objectives : It was intended to symbolize the three- fold development of sprit, mind and body and evolved a five – sided programme, representing a development, not only spiritual, mental and physical but also economic and social. The essential technique of the centre was ‘Self –

- help with intimate expert counsel”
- Methods followed : • From the demonstration Centre at marthandam, about hundred villages were covered through Y.M.C.A. Centres in villages.
- Exhibitions, dramas, Melas, demonstrations and lectures were conducted.
- The extension secretary supervised the work.
- Limitations : • Lack of adequate funds
- Lack of Government support
- Lack of continuous contact with the villagers as the workers were required to return to the Centre in the evenings.
- The religious standing of the institutions.

G. Government of India Act of 1935.

After the Government of India Act of 1935, when the States were given more powers of administration the concept of “multipurpose work” grew. In Uttar Pradesh an ambitious programme or rural development was launched and many new experiments were initiated. For the first time, the Government adopted a coordinated approach to the problems of the villagers, replacing the former excessive departmentalization. It was felt that it would be practical to have one person who will be the friend, philosopher and guide at the village level to give simple and practical solution to rural problems on the spot. And thus, the concept of the Village Level Worker came into being. The coordination of administrative machinery at various levels followed. Village uplift became a government concern.

H. Indian Village Service

- Individual responsible : Mr. Arthur T. Mosher (Directed by W.H. Wiser)
- Year : 1945

Place	:	Uttar Pradesh
Objectives	:	Teach and guide the villagers Prepare the village plan by the villagers themselves. Translate the plan into action by the villagers themselves. Provide incentives to the villagers for work.
Persons responsible	:	I.V.S. Colleges were organized for the purpose.
Methods followed	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All facilities were provided to the workers. Co-operation from Government and other agencies were sought. • Personal contact, informal discussions in groups, demonstrations, visual aids, exhibitions, songs, dramas and literature were used.
Programme organized	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of agriculture through better education and supply and services. • Health and sanitation. • Recreational programme • Development of industries • Training in home making • General education through night school.

I. Firka Development Scheme

Individual responsible	:	Shri. Prakasam (then Chief Minister of Madras)
Year	:	1947
Place	:	Madras State (initially 34 Firkas throughout the state and on April, 1, 1950 it was extended to a other 50 additional firkas)
Objectives	:	Rural reconstruction – The scheme derived its inspiration from the ideal of Mahatma Gandhi “Village Swaraj”

- Official responsible :
 - Collector was put in charge of the scheme.
 - Firka Development Committee formed with officials and non – officials.
 - Trained Rural Welfare Officers.
 - Firka Development Officers to be incharge of 2-3 Firkas.
 - Gramsevaks and Social service volunteers at the grass root level.
- Execution :
 - Gramsevaks and social service volunteers were the vital link in the implementation of the scheme.
 - In the short term plans rural communication, water supply, formation of panchayat, co-operatives and sanitation were carried out.
 - In the long term plans Agriculture, irrigation and live stock improvements, setting up of khadi and Cottage industries were carried out.
 - The short term plans and the long term plans were carried out effectively with the help of various Government departments.
- Limitations :
 - These efforts were found restricted scope.
 - Lack of coordination between officials of the various departments
 - Lack of support from the central authority.

J. Etawah Pilot Project

- Individual responsible : Lt. Col. Albert Mayer of U.S.A.
- Year : 1948
- Place : Mahlwa village about eleven miles from etawah in Uttarpradesh
- Objectives :
 - To see the extent of improvement possible

in production, social improvement, development of initiative, self – compliance and co operation in an ‘average district’.

- How quickly results could be achieved
- Whether results achieved could be achieved
- Whether results achieved could be permanent and can be transferable to other areas.
- Gain and grow confidence of the villagers
- Build up a sense of community living
- Build up a spirit of self help in the villagers so that they can carry on their programme independently.

Official responsible : Trained village level workers were involved to implement the objectives.

Methods followed :

- Broadening of the mental horizon of the villagers, so that he might not only accept new and tested ideas but that those ideas might become self generating and self perpetuating.
- It dealt with the villagers land, his tools and his surroundings.
- The method of approach was educative and persuasive rather than corrective.

Execution : Full cooperation of other departments was enlisted and demonstrations were conducted.

Result :

- The project was found successful and the pattern was accepted for the starting of Community Development project.
- Villagers participated very well.

- Through planning and an integrated approach to village life.

K. Nilokheri Experiment

Individual responsible	:	Shri S.K. Dey (Later union Minister for Community Development and Cooperation up to 1965).
Year	:	1948
Place	:	Nilokheri
Objectives	:	Rehabilitate 7000 displaced persons from Pakistan Establish essential services like health, education, public works, power supply, marketing, shopping recreation etc.,
Official responsible	:	This project was under the supervision of the Ministry of Rehabilitation at the centre.
Execution	:	The township also offered extension services in Agriculture. Animal Husbandry, village and small industries. In addition the township arranged supply and services and training for village artisans, crafts man and young farmers. The scheme was also called ‘Mazoor Manzil’

The Weakness of the above rural Experiments

It may be noted that nearly attempts at village uplift were characterized by initial enthusiasm, the attainment of many desirable objectives, followed by a period of declining activity and usually ending in abandonment of the scheme. The failure has been due to the following factors:

- a. The attempts were mostly based on individual initiative inspired by humanitarian considerations.

- b. Government backing and financial support was not forthcoming in sufficient measures.
- c. The attempts were mostly isolated, uneven and discontinuous.
- d. The staff employed was inadequate, inexperienced, untrained and hurriedly selected, ignorant of local conditions who could hardly command any respect or influence in the village.
- e. The objectives were ill-defined or lopsided in their development. Little attempt was made to study the peculiar conditions of the villages and to adapt the programme to its need.
- f. Plans, programmes and organizations were lacking, weak or unbalanced.
- g. Parallel, programmes of supplies, services, guidance and supervision were not developed.
- h. The need for proper methods and skills of approach to the task was not fully realized.
- i. Research and evaluation was lacking
- j. Association and co-ordination with other development departments was very limited.
- k. The involvement of village people in thinking, planning and executing village development was not properly achieved.

From the results of the past efforts we can learn that public participation is an integral part of any programme for its success. This can very well be brought by extension education only.

So when the community development programme was launched during October 1952, extension education was also introduced because, community development programme's aim is to seek the all-round development of the community. On the other hand Extension education helps to educate the masses in things that are needed for their self improvement which alone can bring about the all round development of the rural community as a whole. Hence, it can be emphasized that India's Rural Uplift Programme is both a Community Development Programme and also an Extension Education Programme.

Firka Vikas Yojana: The government of Madras (now Tamil Nadu) decided to make efforts for the development of villages at Firka level. The first programme began in 1946. Among Pre-Independence project, this was the biggest project.

Objectives: (1) All-round development of rural people. (2) To develop the means of drinking water and communication. (3) To develop the committees of panchayat and co-operatives. (4) To develop animal husbandry, farming and irrigation facilities. (5) To introduce khadi and cottage industry.

Scope: (1) To select Firkas (villages) considering the possibilities for development in the production of handloom cloth and other cottage industries and alleviating backwardness. (2) This work was started from 34 to 84 Firkas till 1950.

Baroda Village Reconstruction Project: Shree B.T. Krishnamachari in Baroda in the Gujarat State initiated this Project in 1932. This Project Continued for a long period.

Objectives: (1) To improve the life style of rural people rapidly. (2) To spread education and industrialization. (3) To develop the necessary factors for the progress of agriculture.

Scope: (1) This Project was started in the district of Navsari in the Gujarat State. (2) Many programmes such as gardening, poultry-farming, beekeeping, spinning and weaving were organized. (3) Re-stabilization of 'Panchayats' and other programmes of village progress were organized. (4) The adult education had been extended.

Working System: (1) By personal education and contact by the village guides. (2) To use the school teacher of village in the extension of programme. (3) To use the traditional means of extension.

Grow more Food Campaign: This campaign, started in 1942, was continued after getting the independence. The main object of this campaign was to fulfil the need of food, which had been created due to the Second World War. This campaign was the first one to be organized on a national level. In this campaign, the new seeds and chemical fertilizers were distributed among the farmers. Agricultural departments of state governments organized this campaign.

Achievements: (1) After spending a lot of money, some problems were tackled in the end. (2) The crop production increased due to new seeds and chemical fertilizers provided to the farmers. (3) From this campaign, the production of cotton and jute increased appropriately.

Limitation: (1) Its work field was limited. (2) The campaign was deemed to be temporary hence the work was done. (3) The economic help, the distribution of good seeds and fertilizers could be available only on some places. Most of the agricultural fields were not benefited from these facilities and could not get the desirable results.