

The Wheels on the Field

Unemployment, a perilous problem in rural areas.

We don't have a hospital or a high school. The nearest school is at a distance of seven km. Militancy doesn't affect my village, but unemployment does. Most villagers do seasonal business of weaving carpets and shawls, but I want to provide them better and more stable job opportunities," (Terrorism)

Nowadays, India has the fourth largest economic growth in the world. However, the development is not consistent. Productivity, services and communications have significantly developed, but the essential sectors, such as agricultural development in rural areas have not improved. (The Developmental Challenge) According to the World Bank, 43 percent of villagers in rural areas are living below the poverty line. (Economic Growth) Between 1983 ~ 2000, the average unemployment rate was 7.20 per cent. Yet it has increased to 9.4 percent during 2009-10. (Economic Growth) Despite all the programs the Indian government implemented, unemployment in rural areas has become a dilemma. For example in Sundargarh district of Orissa, although the area has steel plants and mines, there are 73438 villagers unemployed including 45643 of men and 19735 of females. (India Business) Clearly industry alone can't solve this challenge. In addition, more than millions of young people don't have access to a proper education system, which leads them to be unemployed. "India is emerging as a major power with the economy registering high growth rates and our cities and urban centers beginning to display marks of affluence. Yet, there is no uniform development, the rural hinterland not being able to march in tandem

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with urban India. More than 70 per cent of our people live in villages - 80 per cent of our poor also live in rural areas. The benefits of economic growth are not percolating to more than two-thirds of the people. The visible symbols of development should not make us forget the problems of the rural areas," said Somnath Chatterjee an Indian politician. (The Developmental Challenge) Due to the uneven development, most of villages suffer from hours of power failure every day and don't even get basic services from the government. (Terrorism) Still hundreds and thousands of villagers are unemployed nowadays. Due to the high growth rates of unemployment in India, the rural areas are in crisis. Unemployment is widespread, despite all the efforts of the government to improve it, and more efficient solutions are imperative.

Unemployment in rural areas is caused by a complex mix of factors such as migration, under-population, corruption, and lack of agricultural asset and proper education. As most of the people in rural areas are moving to cities to seek other jobs, the rest suffer from lacking workers. Migration and unemployment are linked in a complicated vicious circle. As there is a lack of manpower in rural areas, productivity is poor and there is less occupational opportunity in agriculture. Therefore, many farmers become poor even if they work tirelessly. The products are limited, but the value goes down since the quality is not good. Almost 90 percent of rural villages in India consist of less than 2000 people. It causes less usage of small markets and lots of financial problems related to landowners, which makes farmers helpless. (The Developmental Challenge) Often, they get an unmerited loan from usurers and middlemen for surviving. Unfortunately, these farmers mostly cannot repay it. Due to harvest failures, unpredictable and erratic climatic changes

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and unfair price of products, lots of agricultural laborers get impoverished and forcedly got into debt. (The Developmental Challenge) Moreover, there is also a problem with corruption in rural population. From landowners, boss and public officers, agricultural labors get abused mentally and physically. Improper payment, unfair work divisions, waste of public asset and variable discriminations, these contribute to corruption and suppression of workers. (The Developmental Challenge) As well as, the financial problem makes it almost impossible to get an appropriate education for workers and also children. In order to enrich the products, workers skilled in the use of modern agricultural technology are required. The reason is, machines are able to substitute for several labors and technology can provide valuable and efficient or time saving methods in farming. However, still, getting education is exceedingly rare in rural areas. It's their dream to get educated. As a result, many youth workers end up doing physical labors. Generally, many villages do not even have a well-equipped high school. Inefficient government schools and insufficient money for private school, nearly all children work rather than studying. Through these reasons, most of villagers move to cities, causing under-population in rural areas again and aggravating the situation.

The effects of unemployment affect the whole population in the country and are essential to get solutions. Most of the population of India is dense in rural areas. Still many people are residing in villages. Virtually most of rural population takes part in the small-scale agricultural industries. Mostly, a country hardly develops without an improvement in rural areas. Recently, agricultural benefits and investment haven't improved to the detriment of economic stagnation. (The Developmental Challenge) Small-scale industry

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such as food products, textiles, machinery and other manufacturing sectors in rural areas control the entire industries in India. According to economists, they estimated that a small industry sector has been running about 40% of total rates of output produced from the larger industries. (What is the Role) This evidently shows the significance of small-scale industries in rural areas in the economic development of India. In addition, they support the growth, development of large industries and maintain the balance of whole industry in India. Therefore, it's possible that high rate of unemployment can cause general economic depression. Not only the overall economy, but also there is an impact for agriculture.

Unemployment depreciates qualities of agricultural inputs, products and labors. Moreover, it affects productivity that tends to trap the farmer deeper in poverty. (Industrialization) A decline of quality and high price, consumers may refuse spending on the products.

Agricultural failures of marketing in nation make the government necessarily import products from abroad, which is considered to be unnecessary waste of national assets. As a result, high unemployment rate in rural areas possibly influence the entire Indian economy and citizens.

Due to the high rate of unemployment in rural areas, there are already certain possible solutions we must maintain, and some new ways out to be considered. First of all, it is agreed that Industrial development and agriculture should be improved equally. Excluding agricultural growth can result in industrial delay throughout India. It's indispensable to assist agriculture with gaining modern science and technology from urban industries. (The Developmental Challenge) Unbalanced growths create a huge impact to overall economy since "small-scale industries" is the major power for larger production.

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Many economists believe that “small-scale industries” has superior possibility of occupational aid for prospective employees than large and medium ones. As small industries are vital components of larger ones, large industries would be encouraged only when these were needed as complimentary to the medium and small ones. Currently, the state government of rural areas in the organized sector was on medium-scale industries as it had long-term potential for employment and it also required less land to commence. The government arranged to set up medium-scale industries surrounded by small ones.

(Industrialization) This plan offers an opportunity to enhance the value and worth of agriculture in rural areas as farmers are employed in small unit occupation. Furthermore, rising small scale industries have assisted to create an environment for rural population to find jobs without difficulty. Also the government has decided to implement more variable kinds of prosperity schemes for rural areas in India. (Opinion) Not only for economy, but they have arranged several programs for the advancement of rural population to escape from destitution. The government’s ambitious plans for rural reform have provided welfare for the poor. The program includes programs for providing primary education, basic medical services and insurance for rural villages. (Economic Growth) This is expected to ameliorate the harrowing situation and raise the deprived standard of living in many rural areas. In addition, the state governments have attempted to supply more opportunity for young job seekers. For instance, the state government has implemented successfully a prosperity-program for providing courses of possessing a license for motor vehicles for unemployed youth and school dropouts. (SSIs) These allow the villagers in next generation to get proper education and occupation without migration. Although, several programs already have launched, there are not still applied in most of rural areas yet. Some schemes

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need to be upgraded and some of them need to be reformed. The state governments should continue running these plans appropriately and eradicate corruption inside.

Emerging high rate of unemployment in rural areas has become a significant, colossal and inevitable problem for Indian economic growth. Nowadays, it turned out to be impossible to advance the economy unless the crisis is solved. The problem is widespread, and considerable amount of unemployed rural population have been living in dire poverty. Fortunately, the government has eventually discerned a certain terrible predicament in rural areas. It is the government's duty and responsibility to maintain and complete the programs they arranged without corruption to create sufficient occupational opportunities for prospective employees. Through these programs, more efficient education, healthcare and useful agricultural equipments will be provided for helpless farmers. The reason why it's an urgent problem is that more than half of Indian population are living in rural areas, and if the government disregard it, it will causes other severe problems in urban areas due to migration. For future of rural areas, farmers and India, the government must continue to work on it precisely. Then it's possible for India to meet another enormous economic boom. "For that we have to carry on board our large rural populace as well to actualize the dream of developing the nation. The wheels of industry and commerce could rotate smoothly only with a strong agriculture and prosperous rural hinterland." (The Developmental Challenge)

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