

# **Early Extension Efforts in India (Part-2)**

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## **Class outline:**

1. Gandhian Constructive Programme
2. Indian Village Service
3. Firka Development Scheme
4. Etawah Pilot Project
5. Nilokheri Experiment
6. Adarsh Sewa Sangh
7. Contribution of V.T. Krishnamachari
8. Reasons for the failure of past efforts in community development work in India

## **Gandhian Constructive Programme/ Sevagram attempt (1923)**

- This was started under the guidance of **Mahatma Gandhi** in 1923 at **Sevegram** in Wardha.
- The objectives of the project were to provide service to the underprivileged for achieving self-dependency and basic education to the people.
- The main activities were organization of training centres for cottage industries, removal of untouchability, stressing women's education and basic education.

### **Limitations:**

- No well defined methods.
- Gandhiji set very high personal standards which were difficult to reach.

## Indian Village Service (1945)

- This service was established in 1945 by **A.T. Mosher** of New York and **B.N. Gupta**.
- The objective of this organization was to assist the village people to realize the best in their own villages by developing individuals, voluntary leaders and local agencies to enable them to become capable of helping themselves and others.
- India village “**Colleagues**” were appointed in this.

## Firka Development Scheme (1946)

- This scheme was Government sponsored and aimed at the attainment of the **Gandhian ideal of Gram Swaraj** by bringing about not only educational, economic, sanitary and other improvements in villages, but also by making the people self-confident.
- It was first started in 34 firkas throughout the state and to additional 50 firkas later on in 1950.

- The scheme aimed at provision of water supply, formation of Panchayats, organization of cooperatives, programmes for sanitation, agricultural, irrigational and livestock improvements and the development of Khadi (hand made cloth) and other Cottage Industries.

### **Limitations:**

- These efforts were found restricted in scope and lacked co-ordination.
- Lack of direction, support and encouragement from the central authority.

## Etawah Pilot Project (1948)

- This was started by **Lt. Col. Albert Mayer** of USA in Etawah (UP).
- It was supported by government.
- Finance was also provided by 4-point programme of America.
- The project was started on a pilot scale to study the following objectives:

### Objectives:

1. To see what degree of production and social improvement, initiative and co-operation could be obtained from a compact area.
2. To see how quickly results could be achieved.
3. To see whether results achieved could be permanent and reproducible in other areas.

- In this project, village level workers were trained and appointed.
- The activities included increasing farm yields, soil conservation, animal husbandry, village sanitation and social education.
- The project was found to be successful and the pattern was accepted for the community projects.
- Finally, this project was merged with National Extension Service (NES).

### **Nilokheri Experiment (1948)**

- It was originally started at **Nilokheri (Haryana)** to rehabilitate 7000 persons displaced from Pakistan.
- The architect of this project was **Shri S.K. Dey**.
- The scheme was also called "**Mazdoor Manzil**" aimed at self sufficiency for rural-cum-urban township in all the essential requirements of life.
- The scheme was started in an area of 1100 acres of swampy area.

- A township with a population of five to six thousand was developed without any difficulty to house essential services like health, education, public works and power supply and provide facilities for marketing, shopping, recreation etc.
- The colony had a school, an agricultural farm, polytechnic training centre, poultry farm, piggery farm, horticulture garden, printing press, garment factory, engineering workshop, soap factory, etc.

### **Adarsh Sewa Sangh, Pohri (Gwalior)**

- This plan of rural reconstruction was put into operation in 232 villages, falling in the **Jagirdari of Col. Shitole**.
- It aimed at increasing the per capita income of villagers.
- In each village, a village **Reconstruction Society** was formed and the important items of work were compost making, deep ploughing, improved breeding and management of cattle etc.
- The Sangh published a monthly journal "**Rural India**" which was devoted to Planning and Community Projects.



## **Contribution of V.T. Krishnamachari**

- He did a fine work in rural reconstruction as Dewan of Baroda in the Sarvodaya Scheme in Bombay and the Firka Development Scheme in Madras.

### **Reasons for the failure of past efforts in community development work in India**

- The attempts were mostly based on individual initiative, inspired by humanitarian considerations.
- Government backing and financial support was lacking.
- Attempts were sporadic in nature.
- Staff employed was inadequate, inexperienced and untrained.
- Objectives were ill defined and irregular in their development.
- Plans, programmes and organizations involved were weak and were unbalanced.

- Parallel programmes of supply and service, guidance and supervision were not developed.
- Need for proper methods and skills of approach to the task were not fully realized.
- Association and co-operation with other development departments was very limited.
- Research and evaluation were lacking.
- Involvement of village people in thinking, planning and executing village development was not properly achieved.