

CAN WE REBUILD INDIAN VILLAGES? - AN ATTEMPT TO FIND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIAN VILLAGES

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ABSTRACT

Indian country side is not static and the foot prints of dynamic nature of villages can clearly visible in social institutions. The joint families are stepping towards nuclear family, the rigid caste system is under transmission, strict caste and gotra marriages are slowly losing their importance, the wave of literacy is entering into the so called illiterate villages, cash crafts are occupying the place of food crops, villagers are accepting the mechanized agriculture in place of traditional agricultural system, modern entertainment tools are playing a significant role in the area of recreation, the branded blue jeans, coco-cola, western cell phones, rock music etc are reminding us that villages are not isolated. The roots of mass media are reaching the very remote Indian villages. Not only outer world is entering into to the Indian villages but also villagers welcoming the change. Two burning questions use to arise towards present rural scenario and it is immense necessity to find answers to these questions. Firstly, Are the Indian villages destroying? Since the early beauty of villages is disappearing and two million people are migrating from rural to urban area annually, the answer is in dilemma to say 'YES' or 'NO'. Secondly, Can we rebuild Indian villages? Defiantly we can rebuild our country side by enhancing livelihood opportunities in their local area itself. Enhancing the sustainable livelihood opportunities in country side is the positive answer to the above questions. And curiously enough livelihood options in rural India are the key to hundreds of rural-urban problems. This paper is an attempt to find the livelihood opportunities which exist in Indian villages but are not exposed. This work is an exploratory study of my PhD proposal and the ideas are still in the infant stage.

KEY WORDS: Villages, Cash Crafts, Sustainable Livelihood, Jajmani System, Little Republics