

Department of Development Studies

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Unfolding Rural Dwellers' Perception of Development: Inferring a Native Model of Development (A Valuation of Two Villages of Islamabad) - Mawish Iqbal (2011-2013)

The intention of the study is to exemplify the viewpoint of the inhabitants of rural areas on the subject of development and then generate a native model of development on the basis of views and reflections. The method adopted by the study was grounded theory approach.

Key Findings

1. The findings unravel that a single definition of development cannot be pinned down. For the youngsters of Talhar village development is to have availability of education and health; whereas for youngsters of Gokina village development is also to have availability of education and health along with eradication of child labour.
2. Similarly there is also difference of opinion among the adults in both villages. For the adults of Talhar village development is to have healthy, peaceful and economically sound life; while for adults of Gokina village development is to have food, water, and employment security. This trend of difference in opinions continues among the elders of both villages. Talhar village elders believe that development is correlated to religion, traditions and cultural values whereas the Gokina village elders believe that development is linked to Islamic way of life; however, they believe that development is a condition enjoyed by the rich people.
3. The socio-economic status of the inhabitants of the sampled villages has changed over the last thirty years. However, education, health, and infrastructure are still not in good state. These villages are facing challenges of inadequate infrastructure, less productive opportunities, financial services, social safety networks, etc.
4. The younger educated lot and urbanisation are inculcating change that is visible in the everyday lives of the people, their systems, habits, rituals, and aspirations. The opinion about the state and NGOs role in development is mixed. Local people believe that creating awareness about civil rights is extremely important and it can have sustainable impact.

Policy Recommendations

1. One of the prime lessons learnt is that the people are central building block of development. In light of this, the development authorities must assess the needs of local populace and give credence to local knowledge.
2. The inculcation of sense of ownership and community welfare breeds community empowerment and involvement in development ideas and intervention.
3. The local development authorities and service providers should encourage community participation, infuse spirit of self-help, and realign services to be more equitable, culturally sensitive, and socially apt.
4. Development is a multivariate phenomenon and process. The policy makers and government must make policies of development that address the multi-dimensional quality of development.