

A STUDY ON THE RESOURCES OF UZHAVOOR GRAMA PANCHAYAT, KOTTAYAM(DT) KERALA

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Abstract

The Present study mainly focused on developing entrepreneurial policies for rural development with special emphasis on HRD. It shares how one can do meaningful and satisfying R&D work even in a small rural town like Uzhavoor. Progress in understanding the process of relationship between the resources and the scope of entrepreneurship may help the development of new managerial approaches and innovative administrative arrangements to facilitate the collaboration between entrepreneurial individuals and the organizations in which they are willing to exert their entrepreneurship.

Keywords : *entrepreneur, entrepreneurship, Participatory rural appraisal, Village Agro Ecological Information*

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Introduction

Uzhavoor Grama Panchayath is historically important as it is the birth place of the tenth President of India K. R. Narayanan. He was born and grew up in this small village. His schooling days were really challenging as he was hailing from the most backward community and also the communal structure of the then society was so complex and was dominated by local feudal landlords on whom the majority depended for livelihoods.

So far no serious study was conducted on the socio-political and economic changes occurred in this village, where thousands are financially well equipped today but still not willing to take any enterprenial initiative.

Total Territory of the Panchayath is 25.05 Sq KMs. Till 1972 the head quarters of the Uzhavoor panchayat was in Veliyannoor. In 1972 the panchayat was divided and Veliyannoor gram panchayat was formed with Veliyannoor as its head quarters. Uzhavoor became the headquarters of the Uzhavoor panchayat.

Most of its residents are either farmers or engaged in small-scale business, service sector both public and private. Others are non resident Indians commonly known as "Pravasis". The fiscal and social development of area occurred during the last fifty years were primarily because of the progress acquired in the human resources due to formal and professional education availed; and from the export of both refined and unskilled manpower especially to the Middle East and western countries.

The Geography

Uzhavoor is an expanding town in Kottayam district, Kerala in India. It is just 32 km away from the administrative capital Kottayam District. The newly expanded road which connects the city of Palai and beyond famous destinations such as Sabarimala and to the city of Muvattupuzha passes through the city. The City is 177 km from the state capital Thiruvananthapuram.

Uzhavoor is located about 6 km from Kudakkachira, 7 km from Kurichithanam, 6 km from Monipilly, 7 km from Kurianad and 15 km from Palai. Uzhavoor is very famous for its St. Stephen's Church, St. Stephen's College, and the Capuchin Monastery. Uzhavoor belongs to the Kaduthuruthy constituency.

The scenic beauty of the area is quite noteworthy, The place is filled with rubber trees, jack fruit trees, mango trees and coconut trees. Uzhavoor is surrounded by small, but beautiful places like Edakkoly, Poovathumkal, Melareekara and Pius Mount.

The People and Culture

The majority of people in this village are either Knanaya Catholics or Hindus. Karunечи and Sasthamkulam temples are the main Hindu temples in Uzhavoor. The famous St. Stephen's Forane Church of Kottayam Arch Diocese of Knanaya Catholic

community was built in 1631. The grand feast on December 8 and 26 is the biggest events in the town and thousands of devotees from all over the Kerala take part in it. Many people working abroad and in other part of the country visit their home town during this time for family re-union.

The people of Uzhavoor is known for their hospitality and culture. They are friendly and hospitable and live in peace, harmony, and unity. They are famous for their hard work and their efforts to be excellent in all fields.

The Agriculture

Primarily Uzhavoor is an agricultural Panchayath. Since the area was famous for agriculture and agricultural practices, it is believed that the name Uzhavoor came from two Malayalam words Uzhavu (Ploughing or a word related to agricultural practices) and Oor (Place or Region). When translated "The Land Of Agriculture." The panchayat has an upper edge in agricultural cultivation and production. Topography of the panchayat consists of hilly area, plain land, and little paddy fields. Major portion of the cultivable land in the panchayat is utilized for rubber cultivation (around 80 percent). Coconut cultivation comes in the second place. The rest of the land is utilized for the cultivation of tapioca, plantain, paddy, vegetables, pepper etc.

Uzhavoor is a rural Village, situated at the north end of the Kottayam Dt. Though the Uzhavoor village is financially rich and have large quantum of industrial resources, but it is industrially backward. The study is Interdisciplinary one, since it covers study of human resources and socio-economic background of the village

Objectives

1. To find out the recourses (both utilised and unutilised) of the Uzhavoor Grama Panchayath
2. To find out the reasons for the un-utilisation of the recourses

Methodology

The study based on primary as well as secondary data. Primary data are collected by conducting census survey of the area of Grama Panchayath Uzhavoor. The secondary data are collected from published and unpublished records of the Govt. Authorities. The present study is based on the data collected from the records maintained by the Grama Panchayath.

Planning tools used

Primary data were collected through various participatory and interactive techniques so that the needs and requirements of the villagers could be assessed rather than adapting a blanket approach. The following techniques were used

- " Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)
- " House hold survey through Semi Structured Interview
- " Village level Benchmark survey using primary & secondary data collection
- " The emphasis was given on complete enumeration to cover all the households on all the relevant aspects to avoid any extrapolation. Secondary data were collected from Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities, departments, opinion leaders etc.

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) is a methodology to enhance the development agent's understanding of the rural reality for the planning and development of projects; and the feeling of a greater degree of ownership and responsibility in the rural poor for better results and social acceptance of the programme. PRA is used to ascertain needs and establish priorities for development activities. It is always for focusing formal surveys on essential aspects, and identifying conflicting group interests. Areas of application of PRA is in the filed of Natural resource management ,Agriculture Poverty alleviation/women in development programmes ,Health and nutrition .Preliminary and primary education .Village and district-level planning and Institutional and policy analysis.

To collect various types of primary information, some young persons were selected and they helped a lot in creating a social environment for the micro planning process. These members were selected on the basis of some criterions as Leadership quality, Willingness to work as volunteer with community, widely acceptable in the community, have ability to extend planning objectives and developmental information up to community, must be resident of same village. Information collected for this purpose was mainly based on Village description, Natural resources, Water, livestock, land, forest, Pastures, etc. Methods adopted to collect relevant information to prepare micro planning are as follows:

Socio-economic Analysis:

- It was considered most important part of the exercise. Information discussed and analyzed was based on following aspects

Social Aspects:

- Population status, Population growth, Migration, etc.
- Difficulties arises due to adoption of new technologies, Problems in poverty eradication, Reasons of low level of education, Traditions, Enthusiasm if people.
- Problems in land use development and management
- Effect of present social structure on individual or social development
- Present need of farmers and their mutual coordination
- Knowledge and sense of current issues.

Economic Aspects:

To understand the economic condition of the village, following information has been collected:

- Economic activities, Agriculture production, other type of income form agriculture, Benefits of improved agricultural practices, etc.
- Village trades, labor indulged in it and their minimum wages, etc.
- Economic problems in promoting development like ownership of land, investment in agriculture, use of new technology, etc.
- Opinion of community on issues to be added in the micro-planning report like loan, subsidy, extension services, taxes, etc.

Collection of Village Agro Ecological Information (Natural Resource Map)

In resource mapping, participants were asked to locate the village resources like vegetation (forest tress), land use cultivated, uncultivated waste, grazing land, forest land, irrigated land, land ownership pattern through mapping. For analysis of village socio-economic information Social mapping was also conducted to illustrate the layout of houses, streets, hamlets and infrastructure in the village. In addition, the map also depicted the caste distribution of village and population across the section. In order to establish information on cropping systems, trees and livestock. Various exercise like Farming system diagram/ calendar/Matrix were conducted by PRA experts. A matrix ranking exercise was done to compare and study the merits and demerits of various items against a set of criteria such as different tree species against timber, fodder or fruit availability or credit sources against rate of interest, loan availability. The participants themselves generate the criteria against which each option is ranked.

This entire categorized information was discussed with the entire community. The community generally has some idea about the problems of key development sector in the some idea about the problems of education in the village but very often this systematic categorized information is revelation for them also. They become aware of the problems of the education of their village. Discussion on probable strategies based on norms also was initiated at this stage.

Household survey

The household survey format was designed to collect overall information from all households of the Kagalabamori village. In order to get authenticate data; the responses were taken mostly from the women. The household survey format enabled collection of data on demographic aspects, land use pattern, livelihood, farming system component, access to basic and public services etc. The purpose of the household survey was to identify the micro level problems that are critical to the holistic and integrated development interventions. Pilot testing of survey questionnaire developed by GVT was done in randomly selected households and necessary revision in sustenance section was made for getting effective and realistic information.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Land Utilized by Agricultural Sector for Each Crop in Uzhavoor

Crop	Area Allocated
Rubber	1800 Hector
Coconut	250 Hector
Tapioca	75 Hector
Cocoa	30 Hector
Banana	30 Hector
Pepper	50 Hector
Arakknut	25 Hector
Ginger	5 Hector
Nutmeg	10 Hector
Turmeric	5 Hector
Vegetables	5 Hector
Paddy	15 Hector
Root Vegetables	5 Hector

Production of crops 2010-11 (production in tones)

Rice			
Autumn	winter	summer	Total
78.579	301.196	69.234	449.009

Sugarcane (Canegur)	3.696
Black pepper	143.169
Curd ginger	139.234
Curd trumeric	60.980
Arecanut	180.585
Tamarind	23.033
Jack (million Nos)	1.170
Banana	6691.459
Other Plantain	2864.567
Pineapple	2052.689
Tapioca	58426.368
pappaya	508.739
Sesamum	
Coconut (Million Nuts)	15.081
Nutmeg	113.300
cocoa Raw	148.653
cashewnut	11.268
Betel leaves	17.760

Holdings 2010-11

Scheduled Caste		Scheduled Tribe		Others		Institutional		Total	
No. of Holdings	Area of Holdings	No. of Holdings	Area of Holdings	No. of Holdings	Area of Holdings	No. of Holdings	Area of Holdings	No. of Holdings	Area of Holdings
210	5518			6582	698566	59	17652	6851	721736

Classification of Land in Uzhavoor Panchayat

Wet lands		Dry lands		Total	
No. of plots (Estimation purpose)	Area (in cents)	No. of plots (Estimation purpose)	Area (in cents)	No. of plots (Estimation purpose)	Area (in cents)
960	31167	6497	587889	7457	619056

Animal Husbandary - details of livestock population - 2007

Cattle				Buffalo	
Exotic & Crossbreed		Indigenous		Male	Female
Male	Female	Male	Female		
0	0	7	1436	8	27

Veterinary Institutions for the Year 2010

Hospital		Dispensaries		Veterinary Polyclinic		ICDP Sub Centers	RPF	
No.	Doctors	No.	Doctors	No.	Doctors	No.	No.	Doctors
0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0

Number of Farms and Slaughter Houses in 2011-12

No. of Cattle farms	No. of Poultry farms for meat	No. of Poultry farms for egg	No. of slaughter houses		No. of Veterinary Institutions
			Orga nised	Unorg anised	
0	0	0	1	1	2

Details of Ponds and Irrigation Tanks

Panchayat Ponds		Irrigation Tanks		
No.	No. Area in cent	No.	No. Area in cent	Present use
5	51	12	93	irrigation

Details of Ponds and Irrigation Tanks

Public Tube wells	Public Bore wells	Public wells	Public Tanks/ ponds	Public Taps	No. of Houses having water Connections
6	0	20	24	12	400

Details of Ponds and Irrigation Tanks

L P Schools					U P Schools					High Schools					Special Schools		
Govt.	Local Body	Private		Total	Govt.	Local Body	Private		Total	Govt.	Local Body	Private		Total	Govt.	Private	Total
		Aided	Unaided				Aided	Unaided				Aided	Unaided				
2	0	3	0	5	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0

Details of Ponds and Irrigation Tanks

Higher Secondary Schools					VHSE Schools					HSS & VHSS					OTHERS						
Govt.	Local Body	Private Aided	Un-Aided	plus2 in aided	Total	Govt.	Local Body	Private Aided	Un-Aided	Total	Govt.	Local Body	Private Aided	Un-Aided	Total	CBSE	ICSE	KV	JNV	Total	

No of colleges - Arts, science, commerce

Arts, Science and Commerce				Medical Colleges			
Govt.	Aided	Self financed	Total	Govt.	Aided	Self financed	Total
0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

HEALTH

Details of Medical Institutions - Allopathy as on 31-03-2011

Hospital						Dispensaries						Primary Health Centres			Community Health Centres	Family Welfare Centre	
Government			Private			Government			Private			No.	Beds	Doctors			
No.	Beds	Doctors	No.	Beds	Doctors	No.	Beds	Doctors	No.	Beds	Doctors				No.	Beds	Doctors
1	56	11	3	197	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14

Details of Medical Institutions - Homeopathy as on 31-03-2011

Hospital						Dispensaries					
Government			Private			Government			Private		
No.	Beds	Doctors	No.	Beds	Doctors	No.	Beds	Doctors	No.	Beds	Doctors
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0

Details of Private Lab Facilities(Nos) 31.03.2011

X-Ray	E.C.G	IC Unit	CT Scan	MRI Scanning	Echo Test	Laser Rays	Ambulance	Medical Store	Blood Bank	Clinical Lab	Waste Disposal	Others
1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	2	2	0

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION Details of Roads in Km as on 31.12.2010

National Highway in km	State Highway in km	PWD ROADS in km	Other District Road in km	Village Road in km	Total in km
		1		83.25	84.25

Communication facilities

Head Post Office (Nos.)	Sub Post Office (Nos.)	E.D. Sub P.O's (Nos.)	E.D Branch P.O's (Nos.)	Total (Nos.)	Telegraphic Offices (Nos.)	Telephone Exchanges (Nos.)
	2		2	4		1

Details of Telephone Exchanges as on 31.12.2010

Exchange Type& No	Capacity	Working Connections		
		DEls	WLL	Total
RLU	1750	1212	12	1224

Public Distribution System Details of Public Distribution System

Ration Shops (Nos.)	Ration Card Holders (Nos.)		Maveli Stores (Nos.)	Neethi Stores (Nos.)	Haritha Stores (Nos.)	LPG Connection (Nos.)	LPG		
	APL	BPL					Govt. Agency	Private Agency (Subsidized)	NonSubsidized Private Agency
9	2427	1058	1	2		2048			0

Classification of Residential Houses

Concrete	Tiles/asbestos	Tatched and others	Total	Electrified	Not Electrified
2262	1879	12	4153	4095	58

KUDUMBASHREE - DETAILS OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

NHG Count	NHG Member count	Micro Finance				Micro Enterprises	Collective Farming	Ashraya started (Y/N)	Balasabha
		Thrift (lakhs)	Graded	Linked	M. Grant				
112	2109	55.26	16	15	2	8	22	Yes	39

Panchayat wise number of Social and Cultural Institutions

Public Library	Reading Rooms	Angan wadies	Bala wadies	Rural Education Centre	Community Halls	Sports Clubs	Arts Clubs	Community Radio sets	Community Television Sets	Cinema Theatres	
										No	Seats
3	3	19	1		1	14			4		

Household and Productivity Related Assets

The assets of daily use are mainly mobile phone and bicycle which scores highest. Other assets of daily use are Television (TV) and sewing machine. Women in the villages engage in stitching work, thus, many of them are own sewing machines. Television is the most important source of information and entertainment. Other assets found are two and four wheelers.

The average number of assets related to agricultural activities is high which included agricultural implements, water pump, tube well, and spray pump only in case of APL families. However, the existing number of productivity related assets among APL also does not support the production capacity. The need to provide additional equipment to enhance agricultural production emerged greatly and the requirements have been indicated in the village development plan of respective villages. BPL category were found possessing very inadequate assets.

Source-wise Account Holders Across Prevailing Socio- Economic Category

From the below presented figure it is observed that all BPL families opened their account in nearest service area bank mainly due to MGNREGA as all labour payment has to be transferred to their own Bank account. This is good sign towards inculcating saving habits as well bank transaction. While SC and ST households had their bank accounts, many of APL members did not have account in bank. Saving account holders were found very few in post office.

Among all caste sections, families are migrating to nearby cities for getting better opportunity for wage employment to sustain/improve their lives and below figure revealed that frequency of migration is much more in ST and OBC households followed by SC community. Less migration was seen among better off families.

Right side figure depicts that during migration in a year, OBC, SC and General category migration seems comparatively more productive in terms of earning and they are used to go as skilled workers in nearby cities and earned better wages in comparison to local employment and this shows stress migration gradually shifting towards opportunity migration. There is need to create more opportunities for employment within the village and arrest the increasing trend of out migration from the village.

Vocational Education in the Village

Interestingly, the need for vocational training appears to be very high in the village of Uzhavoor. However, as mentioned earlier, gender disparity here is also indicative of extremes. More men compared to women want to undertake vocational training. Vocational training was more popular among youngsters in the age group of

19 to 32. The nature of trainings in demand is also determined by gender. For example, it is observed that women are keen to learn nursing due to the fact that the occupation as a Staff Nurse could be undertaken in and outside the country with very high perks. Similarly, trainings/occupations that are perceived to allow women earn from home appear to be in demand such as home based enterprise or cottage industry. Women expressed desire to undertake training occupations like teaching. Inclination towards market driven training was evident from interest in latest avenues of income generation - for example desire to take training in mobile phone repairing among men and computer training among women and men.

Courses in Demand among Males: Engineering, Pharmacy, Hotel Management, Motor winding, Carpentry, Welding, Electrical Repairing, Driving, Automobile Mechanic, Computer training, Water pump repairing, Mobile repairing are the courses in demand among males.

Courses in demand among females: Nursing, Engineering, Pharmacy, Food Science, Tailoring, Computer, Soap production through home (cottage Industries), Production of home-made sweets are the courses in demand among females. The objective of the trainings for both men and women was income generation. However less women preferred to start their own business while men were inclined to either find a job or start an enterprise, with greater interest in cottage industries.

Conclusion

This is a study on the resources of rural Uzhavoor. This work has mostly focused on developing entrepreneurial policies for rural development with special emphasis on HRD. I have written an account of what we could accomplish at the research on its human resources and to show how much more needs to be done in the area of providing basic amenities to the rural population of Uzhavoor. I hope it inspires and helps others who are so inclined and it is my fervent hope that some bright research-minded reader will take up this challenge.

I would like to share how one can do meaningful and satisfying R&D work even in a small rural town like Uzhavoor with hardly any facilities. And it is my hope that the study will inspire some youngsters to follow this dying vocation of doing R&D in entrepreneurial opportunities for rural areas. Doing R&D in entrepreneurial opportunities in any setting is a challenging task but more so in rural setting and especially when there was no model to emulate.

Progress in understanding the process of relationship between the resources and the scope of entrepreneurship may help the development of new managerial approaches and innovative administrative arrangements to facilitate the collaboration between entrepreneurial individuals and the organizations in which they are willing to exert their entrepreneurship.

For rural development it is essential that single-minded focus on doing meaningful work becomes the paramount purpose in life. How we can teach this to youth is the biggest challenge and I try to engage the students on this subject at any opportunity I get.

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