

Perspectives on Agricultural Concerns and Rural Community Development : A Qualitative Approach for Distribution Dimention

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농업·농촌 지역사회개발에 대한 관점

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요 약

미래사회의 농업-농촌은 다양성과 복잡성을 지닌 도시화된 형태로의 변화를 예견해 볼 수 있다. 이는 인력개발, 기술개발, 시설개발, 문화개발 및 환경개발 등 그 영역과 요구 또한 구체화되고 다양화되는 추세에 비추어 볼 수 있다.

이 연구는 연구자의 관점(qualitative approach)에서 농업-농촌사회 개발 전문가들의 개발 진행과 그 영역들은 무엇이며 어느 영역들에 개발비중을 두었는 지를 알아 보는 데 있었다. 11명의 농업 및 농촌 지역 개발 전문가들의 개발관점은 그 중요성과 영역의 다양성에서 공통점과 차이점이 있었다. 즉, 인력개발과 경제개발 영역에서 공통점을 보였으며, 환경영역 및 문화영역에서 다소의 차이가 있었다.

이제 농업-농촌개발은 "instead of"의 개발접근이 지양되면서 "as well as"의 다각적 접근(multidisciplinary approach)이어야 한다. 또한, 개발의 개념은 성장(growth)이 아닌 유지(keeping)와 진행(process)의 차원에서 이해되어야 한다.

I. Introduction

A. The concept and discipline

Websters Third New International Dictionary (1986, p. 618), defines development as the "gradual differentiation by which the potentialities of a status" or "the act, process or result of developing," and or "gradual advance or growth through progressive changes". The first definition can be found in human growth or any biological orgasms, and the second and third

definitions are always bounded to our impetus and challenges. Events of any development should have a "process" which is on-going, with policies for developing business-oriented services and generally take into account demand for the creation and upkeep of basic infrastructures like water system, electricity, transport, communications, and indigenous organizations. Kaplan (1996, p. ix) stated that "development is recognized as a major challenge, if not the major challenge, facing us all as we move towards the twenty-first century." He went further that there

is no question, however, that those who practice development do so within a terrain which has become highly contested and contentious (p. ix).

The President of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 1996, p. 7) suggested certain disciplines and approaches that are needed in the development agenda in order to gain a better understanding of the driving forces of the socio-economic and political processes of development. Martin (1994), in his lectures titled "Agricultural Extension in Developing Countries" and "Supervision and Administration in Agricultural Extension," categorized development into two broad areas - rural and community development.

In the mission of rural, agriculture, and community development, human resource development could be the top priority in the development distribution process (Griffin, 1994b). However, most development practitioners and academicians in the field have given a lot of attention to economic and agricultural development. Other professionals like Hommann (1993) and Bryden (1991) emphasized practical distributions of infrastructures. Furthermore, Ramsay (1996) pointed out the future perspectives of development distributions in agriculture and rural should consider the culture, history and natural environment for the community. Therefore, the following questions have significant implications for the scope of agriculture and rural community development. The possible answers they provide could lead to a better understanding of the development issue.

i) Which dimensions of agriculture and rural community development have received the greatest attention of professionals and researchers in the field?

ii) What aspects of development are regarded as priorities for the future?

In order to provide helpful answers to these questions, the procedure has been organized into the following areas:

B. Study design, rationale and procedure:
Post-positivistic approach was employed to collect, analyse and interpret data while ethnographic and historical documents were examined and utilized to provide a valid basis for the information collected.

1. Ethnographic conduct :

The Scholastic Data-Base in the Iowa State University Central Parks Library was utilized to gather information on agriculture and rural development. A total of 1,437 documents were found giving relevant information on the subject. Out of these, 249 documents were screened carefully. A further selection yielded 45 documents with the key words of "Development, Distribution," and/or "Development Sector." Finally, the search was narrowed down to only 11 documents with current information spanning the 1990s on development perspectives in agriculture and rural.

2. Historical analysis :

The following authors with current works between 1991 and 1997 were selected to provided relevant information on historical analysis. Adams (1994), Bryden (1991 in OECD), Gabriel (1991), Griffin (1994), Hess et al. (1997), Hinsdale et al. (1995), Hommann (1993), Kaplan (1996), OECD (1991), Ramsay (1996), Twelvetrees (1996).

3. Distribution areas and the descriptors :

The same search process was used to glean out relevant information for distribution areas and the descriptors. The key search words were: Agriculture, Human resource, Social, Economic, Infrastructure, Culture, and Organization, Technology, Communication and Environment.

The descriptors were :

- ◎ = Mainly referenced dimension in the development,
- = Moderately referenced,
- △ = Slightly referenced,
- X = Negatively referenced by the professional
- = Unknown in the document

II. Professionals Perspectives in 1990s Issues

Gabriel (1991) proposed three areas to provide understanding of the rural and

agricultural development process. These are (a) economic - developing a productive foundation for the community or national population through production of goods and services; (b) social - a range of services and opportunities which respond to human requirements; and lastly (c) human - developing people as individuals and in communities, using their skills and knowledge in forming their own society (p. 52). He further pointed out that most attention is usually given to the first of the three areas, with less accorded to social issues, and least to human concerns. This development distribution is gradually being recognized to be inappropriate (p. 53).

Another new perspective for rural development was proposed by Bryden (OECD, 1991, p. 43). He stated "new ways of providing and managing services in rural areas must take into account the needs of local populations, as well as cost, access and quality." The analysis of his views based on four groups of development services is depicted in Table 1.

Table 1. Explanation of the dimensions of the development services by Bryden in OECD(1991).

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) services to guarantee basic physical conditions, and overcome locational disadvantage, such as telecommunications infrastructure, electricity and water supply, waste disposal, roads and transport; 2) services to guarantee basic social conditions, such as education, health services and housing; 3) develops to enterprises: direct or indirect aid (including information management, accounting services, training or research and development) as well as other services (advanced telecommunications services, banking and insurance); 4) services affecting quality of life (sports and cultural facilities, continuing education, and information).

The four dimensions enumerated in Table 1 are closely associated and they need to be dynamically interactive to enhance the effectiveness and success of the development process. Another grand view for development perspectives on Agriculture and Rural

development was elucidated by Hess et al. (1997). According to the authors who were economists by calling, development can be divided into three processes- (i) agriculture, (ii) natural resources and the environment, and (iii) industry and services. Here, the economic factor was the main

focus of this perspective.

Hinsdale and Lewis (1995) argued that community development comes from the people and it is developed by using organization, culture and leadership. They further stressed that the most useful approach in community development is active participation by the people within the organization and in the community. They viewed economics, infrastructures, natural resources as factors that can be worked out by the people themselves. This approach is fundamentally based on human resource development.

Adams (1994) in his book titled "Local Planning and the Development Process," identified four development distributions as land property, market, politics, and public resources. He explained the functions of market economy, agricultural marketing systems, farm land and geographical markets, and articulations between politics and development planning. He tried to categorize the development distributions as natural resources, economic, human resources and social.

Another approach to agriculture and rural development was offered by Hommann (1993), suggested three distributions namely (i) local development, (ii) traffic and transportation, and (iii) housing and methodology for planning. He posed two questions "Whats it like being a planner?" and "What does a planner do?" For a start, a new planner gets to know the local area inside and out. The procedure involves reading all the published materials available, as well as viewing every block of the area personally (p. 63).

In his own work, Twelvetrees (1996), suggested other dimensions for the rural and community development in the modern society. The author introduces Community Development Corporations (CDSs) perspective. The term

"CDC" was originally from "Neighborhood Development," where it was applied to community service organization and united neighborhoods organization. The example of Los Angeles as a new model for national and international community development project was given, where by the community utilized the CDCs to develop organizations based on human resources development.

OECD (1991, p. 7) in the book titled "New Ways of Managing Services in Rural Areas," accounted for a greater proportion of value added products than other productive activities such as agriculture, mining and quarrying, building and public works or manufacturing. According to the organization, the development of services has had a twofold impact on the community in that it has contributed not only to the growth of value added products but also to job creation." For example, services in the broadest sense now account for over 60 per cent of total employment in the OECD countries, and the transfer of labor from farming to services has radically affected rural economies (OECD, 1991, p. 7). According to the report, this expansion of employment in almost all branches of the services sector may be expected to continue over the next decade.

Kaplan (1996), in his own perception, described rural development in relation to biological, human and organizational development processes. The biological process viewed development as human unfolding within the context of organizational dynamics and the biological ecosystem as the development processes. This implies that sustainable farming regarding community development and human labor should be reconsidered in the distribution process.

Finally, Ramsay (1996) in the book titled

“Community, Culture and Economic Development,” prompted a different perspective to bring together knowledge from multidisciplinary sources to focus on a specific problem or topical area. Ramsay did not agree with the economic approach to rural community development because it contended that the benefits and costs of development would be unevenly distributed within the community. Also local culture and history affect the process of development rather than its economics because of perceived threats to the freedom and way of life of the community. The people may resent the results of certain economic growth because of violation of community values and its effect on the quality of life. Presently, Ramsays book is enjoying unique popularity within academic institutions and the development arena.

III. Conclusion and Discussion

The different perspectives and areas on

development is summarized in Table 2 and as can be seen, the main distribution areas of emphasis are agriculture, human, social, economic, infrastructural, cultural, and organizational issues. The selected documents revealed that human resource and economic distribution were received as the greatest attention of researchers and professionals. Human resource development was emphasized as the most positive and moderately emphasized area in the agricultural and rural development perspectives. The economic distribution was treated as a strong area but some negative views were also considered simultaneously. The implication is that economic distribution now tends to gain a second place within the development distribution process. Presently, environmental perspectives, accountability for public resources and human resource development are gaining precedence over and above economic considerations.

Table 2. Results of the major perspectives regarding development distribution areas referenced by the professionals

Professionals	Agri.	Human	Social	Economic	Infras.	Culture	Organi.
Gabriel	△	◎	○	◎	△	X	--
Bryden	--	○	○	△	◎	--	△
Hess	◎	△	--	◎◎	△	--	X
Hinsdale et al.	○	◎	--	△	--	◎	◎
Adams	○	△	△	◎	○	X	△
Homman	--	○	○	○	◎◎	○	△
Twelvetrees	--	◎	○	△	△	○	◎
OECD	△	○	△	○	○	△	△
Kaplan	○	○	X	△	X	△	○
Ramsay	○	◎	△	X	○	◎	△
Griffin	○	◎	--	○	○	--	△

Descriptors: ◎ = Mainly emphasized dimension in the development
 ○ = Moderately and positively emphasized
 △ = Slightly emphasized and/or with negative perspective
 X = Negatively emphasized by the professional
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Some professionals emphasized perspectives of technology, communications and the environment (natural public resource) with human resource and economic distribution areas in the agricultural and rural development. Agricultural concerns are central to rural development activities and general for the concerns nations farming sector and livelihood of the majority of its inhabitants are usually expressed in terms of rural development projects. Rural development, then, integrates economic and social objectives in seeking to create better and more secure livelihoods for rural people. The new paradigm development now implies a qualitative change and is never instead of but always as well as.

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