



SWADHYAY PARIWAR'S 'SHRIDARSHANAM EXPERIMENT': A NEW STEP FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Among the various experiments of the most revered Pandurangshastri Athavale (i.e. Swadhyay Pariwar's Dadaji, born 19 October 1920 and died 25 October 2003), the 'Shridarshanam Experiment' is one of the most important, revolutionary, socially useful and agricultural developmental activity. This experiment covers a total of twenty villages. Swadhyay brothers and sisters from these 20 villages participate in this experiment. Swadhyay Pariwar considers this experiment as a 'Yadnya' of twenty villages. To cultivate about fifteen to twenty acres of land, 20 villages and their self-employed citizens participate in it. The area of this experiment is considered to be the area of 15 to 20 acres of land determined by these 20 villages. In a way, this is a 'collective farming' of these twenty villages. But this farming is called 'Divine Farming' by the most revered Pandurangshastri Athavale. The feeling behind it is that 'Divine Farming' means that the farm is not the property of any one person, family, organization or government but is in a sense a 'field of God' created by divine brotherhood. The experiment in the field of agriculture begins with the inclusion of 20 villages in the area. The result of this experiment is that the agricultural produce from this area is distributed among 20,000 people as "Shridarshan's Mahaprasad" and contributes to the economic and social development of that 20,000 people. The Shri

VALMIK CHAITRAM WAGH

1Page



Darshanam experiment has different aspects like religious, spiritual, social and economic. However, the results and effects of this experiment appear to have been positive, mainly on the development of the rural peasantry and the agricultural sector. In this article, the researcher has studied from an economic and social point of view the Sridarshan experiment related to agricultural development and human development run by the most revered Pandurang Shastri Athavale's Swadhyay Pariwar.

INTRODUCTION

It is seen that the most revered Pandurangshastri Athavale has implemented a new experiment in the society through his Swadhyay Pariwar. Through his experiments, he has come up with an innovative approach by combining the cultures of old and his own new ideas. He seems to have successfully carried out all the experiments on the basis of the principle "Bhakti is a social force". He did not limit devotion to religious rites or rituals but made it a social force. He used devotion to set up experiments related to human development. There is a strong opinion, and they have shown this through their various experiments. The experiments of the most revered Pandurang Shastri Athavale are not just theories but direct demonstrations. They are not just statements but quantities. It is not just book philosophy but perseverance. Due to his experiment, devotion got a new dimension and today it has emerged as a force for social development.

The experiments of the most revered Pandurang Shastri Athavale can be divided into two main parts. One is community oriented experiment and the other is educational developmental experiment. The social development oriented creative experiments mainly include Bhaktipheri, Bhavpheri, Vriksha Mandir, Matsyagandha, Amritalayam, Utsav Samaranbh, Divine Brain Trust, Goras, Ghar Mandir, Adarsh Gaon Yojana, Yogeshwar Bhavkrishi and Shridarshan. Socially oriented educational experiments include Bal Sanskar Kendras, Jeevan Pragya Vidyalayas, Shikshan Prayogs, Sanskritik Vichar Kendras, Bhavanirjar, and Philosophy University etc. In this article, the researcher has reviewed the Sridarshanam experiment for the development of the peasantry (Bhumiputra) class in the field of agriculture, one of the most proactive social development oriented experiments of the most revered Pandurang Shastri Athavale.

Objectives of the research:

- 1) To study the nature of Swadhyay Pariwar's Sridarshanam experiment..
- 2) To understand the working method of Swadhyay Parivar's Sridarshanam experiment.

VALMIK CHAITRAM WAGH

2Page



- 3) To review the ShriDarshanm experiments working in India.
- 4) To study the agricultural productivity and its effects on the life of farmers (Bhumiputra) by the revered Pandurangshastri Athavale inspired Swadhyay Pariwar's Shridarshanm.

Research Methodology:

The researcher has used descriptive and analytical study methods. The following two types of data are collected under this method.

- 1) Primary data collection Method
- 2) Secondary data collection Method

In this research article the researcher has used two methods namely primary data collection methods and secondary data collection methods. The primary data is too collected through surveys, field visits and beneficiary interviews. The secondary data is collected through using various available journals, reference books, books, other published and unpublished tools etc.

Sample Selection Method:

The researcher has selected 125 beneficiaries of Sridarshanam experiment for primary data collection and interviewed them directly.

Scope and limitations of research:

- 1) The research presented is related to the Sridarshanam experiment of Swadhyay Pariwar.
- 2) The procedure of 'Sridarshanam' experiment is the same everywhere, so the results can be more or less the same everywhere.
- 3) In the present research article, the study of Swadhyay Pariwar's Shridarshanam has been studied only from economic and social point of view.
- 4) The findings of the present research are based on the response given by the respondents.

Nature of Sridarshanam experiment:

Participated people from about twenty villages are working for Sridarshanam experiment. Shri means *Lakshmi*, the deity of wealth or *Vaibhav* and Darshanam means visual discovery, thought or principle. But in economic terms, Shri means wealth and Darshanam means its visual form created for a specific purpose. It is an experiment of wealth creation, invented in a creative way with a pure intention, with a divine feeling and with a special dedicated thought. Behind this experiment comes the real manifestation of the

VALMIK CHAITRAM WAGH

3P a g e



economic philosophy of the Vedic period. This is an innovative experiment for agricultural development.

Working system of Sridarshanam Experiment:

At present, this experiment is done by purchasing at least twenty acres of land and doing Divine Farming. A total of 15 *Swadhyayi* brothers from five different villages stay together for three days at a time. While no one owns this Divine Farming and these people who work in this farm are not even laborers, they are active *Swadhyayi people* who work for the sake of worship. They are called worshipers or priests. According to the verse in the song of Shrimad Bhagvad Geeta-

“Yath pravrutirbhutanam yen sarvamidam tatam / swakarmana tambhyachrya siddim vindati manvah ||”

(The Geeta 18|46), inevitably wealth comes from it and it produces economic income. This created wealth or income is called Swadhyay Pariwar's *Lakshmi*.⁴

In this experiment, people of all castes and religions come together as activists. All kinds of discrimination between them are forgotten here. They work there willingly and happily with the brothers they get. They live happily together for three days. They do not have any ego of caste, money, position, race or education. It promotes intimacy and emotional connection. Mutual emotional upliftment. Here you get to see divine cooperation and divine coexistence. Therefore, this experiment is called "the experiment of social change through human creation". The most revered Pandurangshastri Athavale (Dadaji) says, "This is a divine coexistence is a design commune". The ideology behind this is to increase devotion through the role of devotion and to manifest divine friendship". There is no place for any kind of material selfishness. All the participants in this experiment are worldly. Taking care of his family life and responsibilities, he performs his deeds as a devotee of God and dedicates himself to work here as a servant of the Lord. We try to achieve the goal of development of our whole life by creating harmony and goodwill through good thoughts. Also, during the experiment, new concepts, experiences and basic research in the field of agriculture are exchanged through collaboration, which has an overall effect on the development of the agricultural sector and, alternatively, the development of the country.

Working Sridarshanam Experiments in India:

The Venerable Pandurang Shastri Athavale (Dadaji) Inspired Swadhyay Pariwar's Sridarshanam is a work for the socio-economic and cultural upliftment of human beings through the creation of impersonal wealth, distribution of it into needy people and socio-economic development of the society. According to the information received from Nirmal

VALMIK CHAITRAM WAGH

4P a g e



Niketan Office, Mumbai, these experiments are being carried out in 22 places in India under the guidance of Reverend Jayashree Srinivas Talwalkar (Swadhyay Pariwar's Didi) after the founder of Swadhyay Pariwar, Reverend Pandurang Shastri Athavale. These experiments are mainly seen in the three states of the India i.e. Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and the newly formed state of Telangana. Most of these experiments are in Gujarat state and so far these experiments are working in 19 places of 18 districts. The experiments are also being carried out in three districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states of India.

Effects of Sridarshanam Experiment on Agriculture and Farmers' Lives:

This is a revolutionary and innovative experiment carried out by the revered Pandurang Shastri Athavale (Dadaji) inspired Swadhyay Parivar. The reason for this is that the wealth in *Shridarshan Prayog* literally acts as *Mahalakshmi* in Indian culture. This property does not belong to any one private person or organization but it belongs to God, the Father of all. This wealth is used as '*Ishwar Prasad*' to see the needy brothers in the society. The distribution of this wealth contributes to the socio-economic development of the BPL or poor farmers. From it man stands. Intimacy develops in them and divine coexistence and holistic approach begins. None of the people in the vicinity of this experiment remain beggars or hungry. It is seen that self-confidence is created in them. Innovative experimental methods in the field of agriculture can be easily implemented there. If there is any innovative ideas on agricultural productivity, it is exchanged. As a result, it benefits the entire farmers in the nearby experimental area. Agricultural productivity increases. This seems to have had a positive effect on the overall development of the agricultural sector as well as the development of the livelihood of the farmers.

CONCLUSIONS:

Respondents in the state of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the context of the 'Shridarshanam' experiment of the most revered Pandurangshastri (grandfather) Athavale.

- 1) According to the opinion of 125 Respondents, It was clarified that this experiment has brought about a radical change in their lives. They have made social and economic progress. There has been a positive change in their outlook on life.
- 2) Self-confidence is created in them and the feeling of inferiority, sadness and inferiority in the mind is reduced and they are experiencing self-esteem.
- 3) The farmer (Bhumiputra) who participated in this experiment is experiencing the qualities of equality, mastery, unity and sentimentality.



4) The virtue of honesty is evident in them from the point of view of "this farm land is not the personal property of anyone but it belongs to God, that is, to all of us".

5) Since new experiments, concepts and experiences about agricultural technology are being exchanged in the field of 'Sridarshanam', it seems that the agricultural sector has benefited from the participants in the Sridarshanam area as well as the surrounding villages. 125 out of 125 respondents are of the opinion that this has increased the productivity of the agricultural sector. This leads to the conclusion that the 'Sridarshanam' experiment has succeeded in bringing about a positive change in the development of agriculture and the development of the lives of the farmers concerned.

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