

# DEVELOPING VILLAGE INDIA

STUDIES IN VILLAGE PROBLEMS

NEW DELHI  
IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
INDIA

X 9(J): 75. 2

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U. N. CHATTERJEE, D.Phil., D.Sc., F.N.A.Sc.

To  
*Indian Peasants*  
with whom now lies the  
deciding vote and power



## PREFACE

**T**HE eyes of the world shift to India today, as one would mark, and the story of how new life is being brought to India's villages is obviously one of the few happy pages of her history. I feel all the more certain that we have lot of work to do. Work to do for millions of people with whom now lies the deciding vote and power. The Indian village must adjust itself to the conditions of the 20th century life, for the fact that the average annual income of the peasant is only sixty rupees is a sad comment on India's progress.

As an anthology of significant writing it stands for a re-affirmation of values, and as such every individual piece in each section should be eagerly read and discussed. The flow of manuscripts has been enormous, and it was not possible to utilize the whole material in a single publication. The contributors, as might be noted in the biographical notes, are authors with outstanding experience and authority. Every piece, in one form or other, decides the tempo of progress, for it carries modern scientific outlook and dramatic force of statement.

Now that every country is busy planning, India clearly cannot be left behind. For centuries, the Indian peasant has used the old plough and sickle ; for centuries, he has suffered from inhuman toil and drudgery. The time to repaint the picture has come. The primitive peasant economy dating from five thousand years old Mohenjo Daro period must be replaced by scientific development and scientific technique, so that the peasant gets leisure for educational and cultural pursuits.

Folk art, folk-dances, folk-songs—all have been given their place in the whole scheme, for they are the heartbeats of the village. There is always a soul behind every folk design, and as such it must be preserved. Every folk-dance is the real self-expression of the tribe or community, and as such, it must survive. Every folk-song is a window into the mind and heart of the people and as such it deserves every encouragement.

Complete with an up-to-date bibliography of literature on Rural Development subjects, this publication should be useful to Development workers and others interested in the problems of the village.

*Developing Village India* has been planned by Mr. M. S. Randhawa, Secretary, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, who has been assisted by a devoted band of workers. Dr. U. N. Chatterjee has worked indefatigably in making this publication a success. Mr. N. S. Bisht has prepared some significant diagrams and rendered invaluable help in arranging the illustrations. And Mr. Devendra Satyarthi brought new ideas and new outlook : he is responsible for treatment of entire material and the artistic layout.

My grateful acknowledgments are due to all the learned contributors, and especially the Press Information Bureau for many valuable photographs.

New Delhi,  
July 4, 1946.

DATAR SINGH.

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