

Perspective of Rural Development in the Present Scenario

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Abstract

In India 80% of population is living in the rural area for that such a massive population there is a great demand and requirement to develop the rural areas. For that, At First the people require the Proper basic facilities such as education, health care, housing, drinking water and electricity either free or at a very low amount. The Employment resources are very less near to them so they mostly dependent on farming. The Government of India is already working on that many schemes & polices were started for the rural development such as MNREGA, Mid-Day Meal, Awasss Yojna, and Ayushman Bharat which are very much effective & beneficial for people but still there is a great gap between Urban and Rural areas in which more things are required. For the rural development require to develop Agriculture, health care center, more education & internet facilities and technologies so that the rural people can Grow with The Upcoming Era.

Keywords: Rural Development, Schemes of Government of India, Basic Facilities (Education, Healthcare, Infrastructure, Water resources), Government policies, Woman empowerment, Panchayat Raj, Agriculture & farmers.

India is well known globally for its rapidly growing rural development through its digital prowess, technological abilities and its innovative spirit. India has over 1.3 billion people spread over 650000 + villages 4000 + Smart Towns and Cities, 715 aspirational districts and 8 tier -1 metro cities, the diversity of India in term of demography, languages, culture, custom, tradition, capacities, skills and vocation is unparalleled across anywhere in the world.

Rural Development means a positive change in living standards of rural people who live in a community and people living in villages are agriculturists either they depend upon the agriculture for their livelihood so these people are the backbone of our rural economy.

Rural Development Before Independence

Since ancient times the Indian Rural Eco Systems has been agrarian economy which has been predominantly dependent on agricultures and allied activities. The rural work force has always been dependent upon agriculture as its primary source of income. But now, a shift in the recent few years has been witnessed as the rural youth have started engaging themselves in the various sectors which are not directly aligned to the agriculture.

In the duration of the Lord Curzon India Viceroy (1901-05) major steps were taken in the field of agriculture in his famous Dispatch of 1903. In the early 20 Century rural development marked popular sport when Mahatma Gandhi came back to India from South Africa in 1915 but he actively took part in Indian National Movement in 1919. Mahatma Gandhi started the non-cooperation

movement in 1920 which was the first of its kind movement in which he wanted to mobilize India through ruralise politics.

After the Government of India Act 1935 in which a new department development was constituted in the provinces and through this Act provision further made development in rural economy. In this Act there was a wide range of agrarian reforms under the Govt. of India Act. Rural development received a powerful fillip by the new concept of 'dyarchy' in the provinces. Subjects were divided into 'reserved' and 'transferred' categories. The 'transferred' subjects were under the Act of elected Ministers and the that list contained subject like agriculture, Public Education, Public Health, Cooperative, Local Self Govt. and Animal Husbandry.

AFTER INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

India has launched many rural development programmes since the independence. A first-year plan in 1951 in which various schemes were launched and implemented to reconstruct the rural areas. In 1952 the community development programme 'launched intensive agriculture district programme in 1960, villages housing project scheme in 1957, Smart Farmer Development Agency, trainee rural youth for self-employment 1979, development of the women and children in the rural areas.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PRESENT SCENARIO

With the advent of new technologies like artificial intelligence and block chain, the entrepreneurs can solve the farming woes of the country. These technologies will not only provide inputs on the growing pattern of the crops but also provide farmers with the knowledge of domestic and global demand of the market. The startups can provide farmers with the quality seeds, technology driven irrigation and precision agriculture mechanisms, water conservation and demand forecast based market opportunities in the pre-harvesting phase. They can support farmers by providing them with technology driven solutions for quick harvesting and with proper storage facilities all the above opportunities exist for the startup to and create a real change in the agrarian economy of the India.

COMPONENTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION

Sanitation by nature is a continuous work. The day we stop cleaning our streets they will become dirty again. Further, as Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) in its first phase devoted itself in making India open defecation free (ODF), there was still a lot to be done for effective solid and liquid waste management etc. Thus, achieving ODF status was the first great peak conquered, in a series of many more such peaks. And it is not possible without making everyone aware about it and without taking everyone along.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Training workshops, refresher trainings for sensitisation, awareness generation and technical knowhow are important to build the capacity of human resources to lead and sustain SBM Phase II activities. Capacity of the key stakeholders at the state, district, block and village levels is required to be built to plan, implement and monitor ODF Plus activities, Stake holders include members of village water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), Block Water and Sanitation Committee (BWSC), District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM), Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), Anganwadi, Self Help Groups, CSOs/NGOs etc.

ROLE OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS (PRIS)

As per the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, sanitation is included in the 11th schedule. Therefore, the role of Gram Panchayat (GP) is pivotal in implementing SBM (G). At cutting edge, PRIs play even a greater and very important role in Phase II, especially after the earmarked provision for sanitation activities by the 15th Finance Commission. All institutions and committees working within the GP framework have to prioritise sanitation within their programmes.

ROOTING FOR RURAL EDUCATION

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA SCHEME

Given these challenges, the Government of India has launched Samagra Shiksha – an integrated scheme for school education with effect from 2018-19. It envisages the “school” as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels and subsumes the three erstwhile centrally sponsored schemes – Sarva Shiksha Adhiya (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYAS (JNVS)

The main objective of the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) is to provide good quality modern education – including a strong component of inculcation of values, awareness of the environment, adventure activities and physical education – to talented children predominantly from the rural areas without regard to their family’s socio-economic condition. The Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages opening of one JNV in each district of the country. Altogether, 642 JNVs have been established in the country so far.

MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

Though the Mid-Day Meal Scheme is targeted at young children studying upto Class VIII, it needs to be mentioned as it been one of the most successful programmes for keeping young children from disadvantaged sections like poor, dalits, tribals, girls and children studying in class I to VIII in Government and aided

schools, Special Training Centers (STCs) and madras as and maqtabas supported under Samagra Shiksha, get nutritious mid-day meals in rural areas.

KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYAS

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) have been sanctioned in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) under Samagra Shiksha, which are residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL). In the last three years, 143 new KGBVs have been sanctioned. Presently, 4881 KGBVs are functional with total enrolment of 618138 girls, out of which 330238 (53.42%) are girls belonging to SC/ST communities. A total of 830 KGBVs have been upgraded up to Senior Secondary level under Samagra Shiksha.

- (i) Prevent gender biased sex selective elimination
- (ii) ensure survival and protection of the girl child and
- (iii) ensure education and participation of the
- (iv) girl child through coordinated and convergent efforts.

EMPOWERING THE RURAL WOMAN

MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRA SCHEME

The Government approved in November 2017 the Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) scheme as a centrally sponsored scheme under Ministry of Women and Child Development to empower rural women through community participation.

SAAKSHAR BHARAT PROGRAMME

Saakshar Bharat Programme (operational till March 2018) went beyond the “3” R’s (i.e. Reading, Writing and Arithmetic); for it also sought to create awareness of social disparities and as person’s deprivation on the means for its amelioration and general well-being. This programme was formulated in 2009 with the objective of achieving 80 percent literacy level at national level, by focusing on adult women literacy seeking to reduce the gap between male and female literacy to not more than 10 percentage points.

PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM TOWARDS CHANGING RURAL INDIA

Panchayati Raj system has existed since ancient times in India. Villages used to have Panchayat (council of five persons) who would have both executive and judicial powers or authority to settle disputes in the village. The institution of Panchayat used to represent not only the collective will, but also the collective wisdom of the entire rural community. Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi advocated Panchayat Raj as the foundation of India's political system where a

decentralised form of governance structure is established at each village. The term 'Gram Swaraj' (village self-governance) was the vision of Gandhi ji. He advocated empowerment of panchayats for the development of rural areas.

ORGANISATION OF GRAM SABHAS

- Creation of a three-tier Panchayati Raj Structure at the District (Zila), Block and Village levels
- Most of these posts at three levels to be filled by direct elections
- Minimum age for contesting elections to the PRIs is 21 years
- Only the post of Chairman at the District and Block levels should be filled by indirect election
- Provision for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Panchayats, in proportion to their population, and for women in Panchayats up to one-third seats
- State Election Commission to be set up in each State to conduct elections to PRIs
- The tenure of PRIs is five years, if dissolved earlier, fresh elections to be held within six months; and
- Creation of a State Finance Commission in each state every five years.

LIVESTOCK – DOUBLING FARMER’S INCOME

Agriculture in India, since independence, is considered as the backbone of Indian economy and farming community is its spinal cord. The Indian agricultural system is the worlds' most diversified and complex system due to great variations in agro-climatic regions. In spite of this, more than 60-65percent of the population is dependent on the agriculture and its allied sectors. Animal husbandry has been the most important integral part of Indian agriculture system since ancient time. It provides livelihood to two-third of the rural population, especially the landless and marginal farmers. That is why livestock is considered as a living bank for livestock owners and act as an insurance against natural calamities and crop failure. In the last two decades, livestock sector has emerged as one of the powerful economic engines in regulating Indian economy and livelihood of rural and fast growing semi-urban population. The population explosion not only reduced the farm landavailability but also has become less profitable for the farmers in India. Under this situation, livestock sector is showing huge potential for growth, investment, income and sustainability. Although the sector has only 5 percent share out of the total agricultural investment, still it is viable and exhibiting a promise for rising the income of farmers due to increase in the requirement of animalprotein. In the past few decades, it has been observed that the growth of the agricultural sector and the income from it, is not up to the mark indicating a steady decline in the agriculture in contribution to GDP. On the other hand, livestock sector has substantially increased its share in the GDP and also showing further potential of

acceleration particularly for the growth of rural economy.

RURAL HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

In Colonial India, most public health efforts were directed towards British residents and Indians who worked for them. As a result, Colonial India was marred with outbreaks of malaria, plague, small-pox, and cholera. In addition to limited access to health services, Indians were also kept away from medical education and serving as mainstream doctors. India's traditional medical practices like Ayurveda and Unani with services of Vaidya and hakims were neglected for an exceptionally long time and suffered due to lack of funds and were constantly projected as inferior by western medicine practitioners. Consequently, the empirical standing of these practices also diminished over time. Along with the idea of an independent India since 1930s, came concerns about the national health. India's public health had suffered immensely under the colonial rule and in a first, Indians were discussing the role of state in welfare and public health. The Government of India Act of 1935 gave more power to the provinces where provision of medical care and preventative health services became state subjects, but once again, the actual implementation suffered due to lack of funds and poor capacity. Despite years of reform and efforts, in 1983, the Government of India's first National Health Policy acknowledged that the efforts to expand western healthcare services had benefited only the upper-class people and failed to serve the urban poor or those in rural India. The policy recommended a decentralised health care system, encouraged community participation, and invited private sector participation. Moreover, inequality in, access to health services increased where women, young children, and elderly were found to have higher levels of morbidity rates. Level of education was found to be inversely related with prevalence of morbidity among different classes of people. Empirical evidence also suggests that poor socio-economic conditions, low education levels, limited exposure to media and lack of health services in rural India were the reasons why they had lower and under-reported morbidity numbers (Ghosh & Arokiasamy, 2009).

The National Rural Health Mission of 2005 has been rightly expanded to provide healthcare services to the urban poor who are under-nourished and under-served as well. However, the rural focus of the programme has gaps that must be bridged. To begin with, focus on incentivising medical staff to serve the rural community is a starting point to ensure all programmes are efficiently delivered. Moreover, instead of launching new programmes frequently, the mandates and budgets of existing programmes can be expanded instead. This creates an opportunity for better fund allocation and staff management. ASHA network that has played a crucial role in health care delivery to rural areas has to be optimally compensated and trained. Private sector participation options, for service delivery and management services have to be explored. Majority of the Indian population continues to live in rural areas. Healthcare is like a public good that is highly associated with a country's economic growth. As we move towards gaining from our demographic dividend in the next 20-30 years, we must ensure quality and timely delivery of services across the country.

INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural development means sustained improvement in the well-being of rural people and a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a group of people thus the rural poor. It involves the extension of benefits of development to the poorest among those seeking livelihood in the rural areas and this group may include small scale farmers, tenants and the landless; and to this many efforts have been made to develop infrastructure in rural areas.

Infrastructure is the backbone of any country. It plays a very important role in supporting nation's economic growth and the same is the case with India. When we talk about rural infrastructure in the country, then it is crucial for agriculture, agro industries and poverty alleviation in the rural areas. Rural infrastructure provides essential production conditions which is required for social and economic growth and for promoting the quality of life in rural areas. The development of rural areas is slow due to improper and inadequate provisions of infrastructure as compared to urban areas.

The government's effort is to reduce poverty and increase the quality of life of the rural poor by introducing various major and minor schemes and programmes related to rural infrastructure. This comprises of transport including rural roads bridges; water and sanitation which includes irrigation (dams, channels, embankments, etc.), waste management, water supply etc.; communication including telecommunication and telecom services; and social and commercial infrastructure viz. housing, education, sports, hospitals, tourism and post-harvest storage infrastructure for agriculture.

SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin): Under the "Housing for All by 2022" slogan, the Government has initiated the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme w.e.f 1st April, 2016 to provide pucca houses to all rural homeless and those households living in kutcha and dilapidated houses. In addition to the rural housing, the Government of India has also aimed at providing a dignified life to the beneficiaries by providing basic amenities such as improved sanitation, piped drinking water, electricity & gas connection, etc under convergence with existing Central and State sponsored schemes. The PMAY-G has entered its Phase-II w.e.f 1st April, 2019. The Scheme provides assistance for construction of 2.95 crore pucca houses for eligible rural households by March, 2022 in phases; one crore houses in Phase-I (2016-17 to 2018-19) and 1.95 crore houses in Phase II.

WATER AND SANITATION

"Jal Hi Jeevan Hai" (Water is Life). Water is an essential commodity and the whole world is focussing on the scarcity of potable drinking water. Water stress related issues are now a serious concern across the country. The government is proposing comprehensive measures for one hundred water stressed districts. A very focused safe water (Jal Jeevan Mission) and comprehensive sanitation program

(Swachhh Bharat Mission) have been launched to support the health vision. That would reduce the disease burden on the poor.

Jaldeevan Mission (Har Ghar Jal): Jal Jeevan Mission, is aiming to provide piped water supply to all households. The Prime Minister announced the Jal Jeevan Mission from the Red Fort on Independence Day, 2019. The government has approved Rs.3.60 lakh crore for this Mission. It envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. The programme also implements source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting. The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission.

COMMUNICATION

The government's vision is that all "public institutions" at Gram Panchayat level such as Anganwadis, health and wellness centres, government schools, PDS outlets, post offices and police stations will be provided with digital connectivity. So, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections through Bharatnet had linked 100,000 gram panchayats. It was proposed to provide Rs.6000 crore to Bharatnet programme in 2020-21.

BharatNet: BharatNet is the world's largest rural broadband network project which is to provide broadband connectivity to all the 2.5 lakh gram panchayats (GPs) across India.

The scheme implemented in two phases. Under Phase-I, the target to connect one lakh gram panchayats is completed. Around 19952 out of 27534 kms of lossy optical fibres (OF) cables of BSNL replaced by new cables. Moreover, additional work front of 26264-gram panchayats were given to complete one lakh gram panchayats of this phase but at present work is under progress in these gram panchayats.

CONCLUSION

In India there are many problems in the rural area of country such as housing education, health care facilities and drinking water. The rural development needs strong political will and strong planning. The Mahatma Gandhi had the strong vision for the ideal society through which the social change can occur. In the field of the rural development, a lot of success is achieved but it needs to be more strong efforts to achieve the complete goal of the ideal society.

There is a need to create a rural knowledge platform active collaboration between the public and private sector. This will provide the expertise into village and generate employment. This inclusive growth we need to fill the gap between Bharat and India. For this the internet and artificial intelligence are being used extensively around the world to facilitate sustainable agriculture to finance the re-engineering of these rural development models. "Atma nirbhar Village Bond" could be issued to raise resources. Thus, there is a need for developing a sustainable rural-urban model India to centre of the developing model. From the above it is evident

that rural development is a most for the economic development of a country. Agricultural progress is essential to provide food from growing non-agricultural labour force, raw materials for industrial production and saving and tax revenue to support development of the rest of the economy, to earn foreign exchange and to provide a growing market for domestic manufactures.

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Notes and References

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