

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA : SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

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India is prominently rural country, of which major population is living in rural India . The development of India is concern, with rural development. India's economy cannot move further without upliftment of rural population. India's developmental schemes have always been focused to cater rural problems. Moreover there are many specific schemes which have social perspective. This article is attempted to peep in the various schemes and efforts of government for the rural development with social perspective.

The Priority of India is linked with the revival of development of its rural economy. India is trying to develop rural India with some major schemes and five year plans. Our experience of five decades of planned development has been mixed one. There have been successes as well as disappointments. We have seen significant growth in the spheres of science, medicine technology and agriculture. However in areas like literacy and health progress has not kept pace with growing requirements or expectations moreover, the benefits of economic growth have not been uniformly realized in all sections of society as result of its social problems like malnutrition, unemployment, poverty, high dropouts rates, etc. have persisted over time.

This study will try to bring out significance of rural development in India in social perspective because social development for building human capital therefore investment in areas like education health and medical care, housing and sanitation, drinking water, rural electrification and so on, is considered to be to investment towards process of formation of human capital or human development.

The process of rural development is multi-dimensional, multi-directional, multi-faced in fact it has to tackle not only poverty in the absolute sense but it has to tackle unemployment, Underemployment ignorance, ill health, Sanitation, illiteracy, squalor out mode customs, deep rooted caste system, corruption, and inadequate infrastructure, exploitation, removal or inequalities, etc.

In spite of five years plan many other schemes were implemented. Community Development Programme, (1952), Intensive agriculture District Programme, Small Farmer Development Agency, Marginal Farmer and Agricultural labour Scheme (1970-71), Drought Prone Area Program (1970-71), Desert Development Programme (1977-78), Employment

Guarantee Scheme, Food and Water Programme, Rojgar Yojana, Employment Guarantee Scheme, India Awas Yojana, IRDP, etc are some of the major schemes towards rural development in India.

For almost 75 percent of the total population many programmes have been taken. The planners had a belief that the benefit of development will automatically trickle down to the rural areas and the people, this led our planners to look at development through different five year plans for investment, implementation and assessment of development. By the time the country has implemented five year plan in six decades since independence, now it is time for planners, researchers, state crafts, people representative and social activist to look back of the achievements and its impact on people, The first three five plans gave a lot of importance on the development of agriculture and industry through land reforms, community development and co-operative movement. The anti poverty and growth oriented were put into experiments through oriented were put into experiments through community development approaches. The fourth and fifth five years plan while attacking the poverty directly emphasized social justice through 'Garibi Hatao' programmes minimum need programmes identification of target groups based land and farming size. The sixth five year plan stressed more on strengthening socio-economic infrastructure formulation and implementation schemes for of Tribals.

Social development programmes broadly aim at strengthening the social aspect of human beings by providing an array of services that cater their basic needs like education, health, shelter, sanitation and employment. These programmes primarily target the most vulnerable sections of the society which have so far remained isolated and marginalized from the fruits of development. Thus, in order to bring them into the main stream of development, these programmes focus on providing them access to some basic socio-economic inputs.

It is presumed that on account of poverty, they lack the requisite purchasing power to have these basic services. By covering these programmes to the vulnerable sections and facilitating their movement from the programme to another, these programmes enable them to optimize their benefits and help them to move higher in social development.

Programme on Education : 1. Schemes of Scholarship for primary education. 2. National programme on nutritional support to primary education or mid-day meal. 3. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan 4. Education for all.

Scheme for scholarship for Primary Education : The pre-metric scholarship was started in 1997-98. It was primarily meant for the children of those households that were engaged in unclean occupations like scavenging of dry latrines, tanning, flaying and sweeping. The

scheme, as modified from November 1991, provides scholarship of Rs 25 Per month in classes I to VIII and Rs 50 Per months in classes IX to X in respect of day scholars. However, for hostellers, a scholarship of Rs. 200 per month in classes III-VII and Rs. 250 per month in classes IX-X is provided. There is also a provision of ad-hoc grant of Rs. 500 per annum to be provided to day scholarship as well as hostellers. Additional provisions for students amongst target groups with disabilities has also been introduced from April 1998.

National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Educational or Mid Day meal : National Programme of nutritional support also referred to as the Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme was launched on August 15, 1995 and at improving the involvement, attendance and nutrition level of the students in primary, classes and also simultaneously having a positive impact on their nutritional status. The programmed provides three kilograms of food grain per month to each of the student who maintain attendance level of eighty percent or more every month.

Adult Education or Neo-Literate Programme : The adult education programme has been in operation for quite some time. In fact, its roots could be traced back to the pre independence period also. Though there had been considerable concern over the problem of literacy among the masses since thirties, it was only in the early seventies that the concept of non-formal education gained wider acceptance and the adult education programme started receiving priority, figuring prominently as National Adult Education Programme (NAEP) for the first time in 1998. The NAEP targeted the poor and disadvantaged groups to achieve basic literacy and numeric levels. Provide some functional skills and means for participation in the development process. Similar views were later on shared by the development process. Similar views were later on shared by the National Policy of Education (NEP 1986) and literacy Mission.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan sarva : Shiksha Abhiyan is a historic stride towards achieving the long cherished goal of universalization of elementary education (UEE) through a time bound integrated approach in partnership with state. SSA which promise to change the face of the elementary education sector of the country aims to provide useful and quality elementary education to all children in the 6-14 age groups by 2010.

Education For All : The Right of children to face and compulsory education Act has come into force from April 1, 2010 Every child in a age group of 6-14 years will be provided 8 years of elementary education in an age appropriate classroom in the vicinity of his/her neighborhood.

Any cost that brings child to school will be borne by the state which shall have the responsibility of enrolling the child as well as ensuring attendance and completion 8 years of schooling. No child shall be denied admission for want of documents; no child shall be turned away if the admission cycle in the school is over and no child shall be asked to take an admission test. Children with disabilities will also be educated in the mainstream schools.

This act will also ensure that all private schools shall be enroll children from weaker sections and disadvantaged communities in their incoming class to the extent of 25% of their enrolment, by simple random selection. No seats in this quota can be left vacant. All schools will have to prescribe to norms and standards laid out in the Act no school that does not fulfill these standards within 3 years will be allowed to function.

Poverty Alleviation Programme : The study covered the following four programmes under poverty alleviation : a) Indira Awas Yojana c) Scheme for Rural Sanitation and d) National Programme on improved smokeless chulha scheme.

Indira Awas Yojana : Indira Awas Yojana (IYA) has been one of the most important rural housing scheme. Like National Rural Employment programme (NREPO) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLGEP) in which construction of houses was major activity. Since January 1996, with the restructuring of Jawahar Rojgar Scheme four providing shelter to the rural poor with resources being shared on 80:20 ratio between the center and the states.

The main objective of the scheme has been to construct dwelling units free of cost for the target group of people living below the poverty line who comprised SC/ST, free bonded labourers and also non SC/ST families. The cost norm under IAY has been periodically revised upwards and in its latest upward revision the maximum ceiling of assistance, admissible under IAY has been raised from Rs.14000 to Rs.20000 in areas in the plains and from Rs 15800 to Rs 20000 for the hilly / difficult areas.

Jawahar Rojgar Yojana : Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) was launched as centrally sponsored scheme in 1989 by merging the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RELGP). The main objective of the programme was to provide gain full employment for unemployment and under employed persons, both male and female in the rural areas through creation of rural economic infrastructure, community and social assets and also to improve the quality of life of the rural poor. The programme targeted the people living below the poverty line with preference to be given to scheduled castes/scheduled Tribes and free bonded labourers.

Employment Assurance Scheme : The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was launched on October 2, 1975, the scheme identified backward blocks situated in drought-prone, desert, tribal and hill areas in which the revamped public distribution system was in operation. The scheme was subsequently extended to cover additional blocks and ultimately universalized to cover all rural blocks in the country from 1997. It is a centrally sponsored scheme. The main objective of EAS was to provide about 100 days of assured casual manual employment during the low agricultural season at statutory minimum wages to all persons between the age group of 18 years and 60 years and who are productive and Labour intensive social and community workers. The village panchayats are involved in the registration of person seeking employment and the panchayats maintain those registrations. They are coordinate and monitor the work. A Maximum of two adults per family is to be provided under the scheme. The applicants who register themselves for employment under EAS are issued family cards in which the number of days of employment are entered as and when such employment is given to them.

National widow grants in aid scheme: the scheme provides an economic assistance of rs. 125 in the form of grants in aid to the widow and her children for her family maintenance and education the aid is given to the widow who is less than 60 year of age and is dependent on others with her minor children and is living below the poverty line. The monthly income of such a household should be rs. 250 or less. Further, there is also a provision of re-marriage under which if a person marries a widow of 35 years of age or less then he is entitled to receive an award of rs. 11,000 provided by the government.

Programmes on minimum basic needs : under the minimum basic needs programmes the following three schemes were analyzed (i) public distribution system (pds) (ii) rural water supply programmes (iii) rural electrification.

Public distribution system : the public distribution system (PDS) is one of the key components of the government's food security system in India. It has been an instrument for ensuring the availability of certain essential commodities at affordable prices to the poor. The government and the food corporation of India (FCI) process and stock food grains which are released every month for distribution through PDS network across the country. In addition to sugar, edible oils and kerosene food grains, mainly rice and wheat are distributed to the public via a network of fair price shops (FCS)

The PDS till recently, was a general entitlement scheme for all customers without targeting. However the mounting food subsidy bill increases in the minimum support price (MSP) and the prime concern of the economic reforms to curtail subsidy and the other forms of non-plan

expenditure, forced the government to abandon open ended coverage under the scheme. However coverage of the poor continued under targeted distributed system (TDS).

Rural water supply programme : every since the launching of the five year plans, efforts have been focused on bringing about more areas under safe drinking water by creating necessary infrastructure to cater to its growing demand. The formation in the year 1986 of Rajiv Gandhi National drinking water mission (RGNDWM) is the principal coordination agency. Under the ministry of rural development is one such major step in this regard. The main objective of this mission is to provide safe drinking water to all the village in the country in a cost effective and time bound manner.

Programmes on rural electrification : the programmes on rural electrification is formulated and executed by the state electricity board (SEB) on behalf of the rural electrification corporation (REC), which is a nobal body to look after the pace of rural electrification. It was ser up on july25, 1969 on the recommendations of all india rural credit review committee was of the view that extensive irrigation was only possible through energization of pump sets and also accepted the fact that the SEB's were cash starved and were not in position to undertake this imotant and gigantic task. It, therefore recommended creation of separated funds to cater to the needs of financing rural electrification programmes in the country. The REC has adopted project approach for sanctioning loan for rural electrification to the state electricity Boards.

The programme of rural electrification involves the supply of electricity for two types (a) production oriented activities like minor irrigation, rural industries and so on and (b0 electrification of village where provision has been made to cover the socially disadvantaged section of society.

Few schemes are have been introduced during the earlier 10th plan for rural development.

Rural poverty : rural poverty is largely concentrate in the landless and marginal farmers. Access to land therefore assumes importance in any anti-poverty strategy in rural areas. The programmes of action for land reforms ninth plan is included following. I) detection as well as redistribution of ceiling surplus land. Ii) up-gradation of land records on a regular basis. iii) tenancy reforms providing for recording the rights of tenants and share croppers iv) consolidation of holding v) preventing alienation of tribal lands vi) providing access on a group basis on the poor on wastelands and common property resources vii) leasing-in and leasing-out land will be permitted within the ceiling limits and viii) preference to women in the distribution of ceiling surplus land and legal provision for protecting their rights on land.

National rural health mission (NRHM) : this scheme was launched on April 12, 2005 with the objective of providing greater access of the rural care facilities. Major components of the schemes include training of health volunteers, providing more medicines and strengthening the primary and community health centers, NHRM has an initial outlay of RS. 6731 crore in 2005-06.

National food for work programme : the national food for work programme (NFEP) was launched on november 14, 2004. The scheme has been merged with the national rural employment guarantee programme (NREGP). The scheme is 100 per cent centrally funded scheme, and it was implemented in 100 most backward districts of the country. The programme promises to provide 100 days of work per person for below poverty Rs. 5400 crore and 37 lakh tone of food grains. Allocation 2004-2005 to Rs. 1000 crore in 2005-06.

Conclusion and suggestion : the analysis of these various programmes show that government has been quite concerned about addressing the socioeconomic disparities that have cropped up in the course of the implementation of various plans. Some of the changes in rural India have taken place in various spheres such as land reforms, agriculture, credit supply, village industries, welfare services, food and health sector, yet these services and programmes are still inadequate and the poor are unable to gate the required facilities and benefits from the programme. There is no co-ordination between the different programmes undertaken in the rural areas. There is also lack o supervision over the field staff, resulting in in-efficiency and neglect of duty. In order to important of the rural poor the following strategies may be given consideration.

Administrative set-up of the rural development should be reformulated considerably. An officer of class one cadre should be appointed exclusively for rural development. The present system of assigning responsibility to the district officer should be discontinued Since he does not find time to look into the various programme of rural development seriously. The Headquarters of all village officials serving that area should be located in the Central Villages.

Sufficiently trained the responsibility and possible corrupt practices found among the staff members should be checked the tendency of the personnel should be viewed. Seriously and should be curbed by the close supervision of the higher officials.

Very few evaluative studies are conducted on the implementation of target group oriented or area oriented schemes. Therefore the evaluation of these different sources at different states should be conducted so that these schemes can be implemented effectively.

It is suggested by some that certain in directed economic policies such as improving soils, carrying out through water surveys, and affective water management policies in addition to providing economic benefit will prove more beneficial for improving the conditions of the rural poor. Intensive training of technical knowledge should be organized at the village level for the farmers at village level. A plentiful supply of inputs is more essential than credit and it will automatically reduce corruption and other malpractices.

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