

Full Length Research

Basic Facilities in India for Rural Development*

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Rural Development has been an integral part of nation's socio-economic development. It is one of the most important factors for the growth of the Indian economy. In India, out of total population of 121 crores, 83.3 crores live in rural areas (Census of India, 2011). Thus, nearly 70 per cent of the India's population lives in rural areas. These rural populations can be characterized by mass poverty, low levels of literacy and income, high level of unemployment, and poor nutrition and health status. In order to tackle these specific problems, a number of rural development programmes are being implemented to create opportunities for improvement of the quality of life of these rural. The policy and programs of rural development aim at alleviating rural poverty, generating employment and removing hunger and malnourishment accompanied by the enrichment of the quality of human life. This article overviews the role and function of the Government and its' programmes for rural development in India.

Key Words: Rural Development, Basic Facilities, Development Project

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INTRODUCTION

Rural development in India has been subjected to a lot of experimentation. The problem of rural development, however, is not merely one of development of rural areas but of the development of rural communities to dispel ignorance and poverty and assist the process of creating a self-reliant and self-sustaining, healthy modern little communities. Rural development aims at improving rural people's livelihoods in an equitable and sustainable manner, both socially and environmentally, through better access to assets (natural, physical, human, technological and social capital), and services, and control over productive capital (in its financial or economic and political forms) that enable them to improve their livelihoods on a sustainable and equitable basis.

India is a country of villages and about 50% of the villages have very poor socio-economic conditions. Since the dawn of independence, concerted efforts have been made to ameliorate the living standard of rural masses. So, rural development is an integrated concept of growth

and poverty elimination has been of paramount concern in all the consequent five year plans. Rural Development (RD) programmes comprise of following:

- Provision of basic infrastructure facilities in the rural areas e.g. schools, health facilities, roads, drinking water, electrification etc.
- Improving agricultural productivity in the rural areas.
- Provision of social services like health and education for socio-economic development.
- Implementing schemes for the promotion of rural industry increasing agriculture productivity, providing rural employment etc.
- Assistance to individual families and Self Help Groups (SHG) living below poverty line by providing productive resources through credit and subsidy.

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

Housing is a fundamental human need; it is a basic requirement for human survival as well as for a decent life. Housing is not just for individual families alone, it is for the community.

IAY provides an opportunity for reinventing people as builder and promoting a kind of “revenue participation”, with government participation in the indigenous process of the people to house them.

Indira Awaas Yojana is essentially a public housing scheme for the houseless poor families and these living in dilapidated and kutcha houses with a component for providing house site to the landless poor as well. The scheme is designed to enable Below Poverty Line (BPL) households identified by the community through Gram Sabhas following criteria suggested for such identification from time to time, to build their houses or get house sites with financial and technical assistance from the government.

Convergence

(i) Toilet: For all IAY houses, construction of toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) is mandatory. The state government should put in place a system which facilitates the, covering fund flows, accounting, reporting etc. It should be ensured that the beneficiary has to approach only one agency for the IAY and NBA components.

(ii) Drinking Water: Potable drinking water should be provided to all IAY households by converging the state and central government programmes relating to drinking water. Also drinking water wells can be constructed using MGNREGA for an individual house or a group of houses.

(iii) Electricity: Electrification should be provided under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuti Karan Yojana (RGGVY) or any state, scheme and in areas where there is no electricity, solar lights should be provided.

(iv) Land Development: The lands of individual beneficiaries or habitats may be developed using MGNREGA. The scheme can also be used for soil conservation and protection, bio-fencing, planting of avenue trees, construction of playgrounds etc.

(v) Connectivity: Connectivity may be provided in the form of paved pathways, road using MGNREGA and relevant state schemes.

In order to bring about convergence a state level meeting maybe held exclusively for the purpose by the Chief Secretary by January of every year in which all the state level departments / agencies responsible for different

schemes maybe called and an action plan for convergence prepared to ensure that there is automatic and simultaneous convergence in favor of IAY beneficiaries, as they all belong to families in real need. The Gram Panchayats have the most critical role to play in the actual implementation of the scheme.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)

By merging the two erstwhile wage employment programme – National Rural Employment programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was started with effect from April, 1, 1989s on 80:20 cost sharing basis between the centre and the States. The main objective of the Yojana was additional gainful employment for the unemployed and under-employed persons in rural areas.

The intention of the government in launching this new anti-poverty scheme is also to increase wage employment in rural areas. JRY was launched with the objects like:

- i. To generate additional gainful employment for the unemployment and underemployed persons, both men and women from the rural areas.
- ii. To create the productive community assets for direct and continuing benefits to the poverty groups and for strengthening rural, economic and social infrastructure.

Twenty Point Programme (TPP)

Twenty Point Programme initiated in the year of 1975 and restructured in 1982, 1986 and again in 2006. The TPP consists of 20 points and 66 items. Main provisions of the schemes:

1. Garibi Hatao (Poverty Eradication)
2. Jan Shakti (Power to People)
3. Kisan Mitra (Support to Farmers)
4. Shramik Kalyan (Labour Welfare)
5. Khadya Suraksha (Food Security)
6. Sabke Liye Awaas (Housing for All)
7. Sudh Pey Jal (Potable Drinking Water)
8. Jan Jan Ka Swasthya (Health for all)
9. Sabke Like Shiksha (Education for all)
10. Mahila Kalyan (Women Welfare)
11. Bal Kalyan (Child Welfare)
12. Samajik Suraksha (Social Security) through Rehabilitation of handicapped and orphans and welfare of aged.

1. **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (1980)**

The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is a benevolent social welfare measure adopted by the Central Government of India and implemented through the agency of different state governments. The idea is to help the overall development of every family in any village in India, by raising its Standard of Living, by making the individuals (particularly those who are economically backward or live below poverty line) self sufficient.

2. **Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)**

The Employment Assurance Scheme (hereinafter mentioned as EAS) launched on October 1993 in some parts of the country was extended to all rural Panchayats Simites in 1997-98. It envisages creating additional wage employment opportunities at the time of acute shortage of wage employment through manual work undertaken for creation of infrastructure by the rural poor living below the poverty line.

3. **Jawahar Gram Smridhi Yojana**

Jawahar Gram Smridhi Yojana (hereinafter called JGSY). JGSY was launched on 1st April, 1999 by restructuring the earlier JRY to ensure employment of rural infrastructure and generate wage employment for unemployed rural poor.

4. **Swaran Jayanti Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)**

SGSY was launched on 1st April, 1999 by amalgamating erstwhile. Integrated Rural Development Programme, Training Rural Youth for Self Employment and primarily to improve the family income of the rural poor. It covers all aspects of self employment and beneficiaries assisted through credit-cum subsidy programme.

5. **Schemes for Handloom Weavers and Artisans**

The office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles extends financial assistance under a central plan scheme, the work shed-cum-housing scheme which is having subsidy, loan and beneficiaries contribution components.

6. **National Rural Health Mission**

The government has recently launched National Rural

Health Mission which seeks to provide effective health care to rural population including unorganized sector labourers throughout the country.

7. **Antoyoday Ann Yojana**

The scheme launched in 2001, this scheme was intended to create food security in India in the following of five years. It was targeted to the poorest of poor.

8. **Training Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM)**

The scheme aimed at providing basic technical and entrepreneurial skill to the rural poor in the age group 18-50 years enable them take up income generation activities. The scheme had been merged into Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) with IRDP, DWCRA etc. from April 1999.

9. **Mahila Samridhi Yojana**

In October 1993, the Government of India launched a scheme called Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY). This is central sector plan scheme implemented through the network of post offices in rural areas. MSY encourages every rural adult common to open an MSY account in her village post office in which she may deposit her saving for an amount up to Rs. 300 per year, with a one year lock in period in which government contribution is 25%.

10. **Vande Matram Scheme**

This is a voluntary scheme wherein any obstetric and gynecological society of India and private clinics can volunteer themselves for providing safe motherhood services. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the maternal mortality and morbidity of the pregnant and expected mothers by involving and utilizing the vast resources of specialist / trained workforce available in the private sector. The scheme intends to provide free antenatal and post natal check up, counseling on nutrition, breastfeeding through public private partnership etc.

11. **Bharat Nirman Programme (2005)**

The government of India launched a time bound plan under Bharat Nirman in 2005 for implementation during the four year period 2005 to 2009. The following activities are being taken up under this programme:

- (1) Creation of additional irrigation potential.
- (2) Electrification of uncovered villages of 2009.
- (3) To construct houses for rural poor.
- (4) Every village to be connected by telephone.

12. Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yozana

Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yozana was launched w.e.f. September 2011; the scheme aims at providing wage employment in rural areas and also food security, along with the creation of durable community, social and economic assets.

13. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana was introduced in 2000-01 with the objective of focusing on village level development in five critical areas, i.e. health, primary education, drinking water, housing and rural roads, with the overall objective of improving the quality of life of people in the rural areas.

14. Samagra Awaas Yojana

Samagra Awaas Yozana has been launched as a comprehensive housing scheme in 1999-2000 on pilot project basis in one block in each 25 district of 24 states and in one Union Territory with a view to ensure integrated provision of shelter, sanitation and drinking water.

15. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programmes (RLGEP) (1983)

This scheme based on providing employment to landless farmers and labourers.

16. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

PMGSY launched in December 2000 aims to provide all weather connectivity to all the eligible unconnected rural habitations. It provides employment to rural poor in addition to systematic upgradation of the existing rural road network.

17. Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)

In response to a court case, in 2001 the Supreme Court of India directed state governments to provide mid day meal for primary schools, setting in place a statutory

right.

The provision of cooked mid-day meals in primary schools is an important step towards the right to food. Indeed, mid-day meals help to protect children from hunger (including "classroom hunger", a mortal enemy of school education), and if the meals are nutritious, they can facilitate the healthy growth of children. Mid-day meals also serve many other useful purposes.

The scheme has since been expanded across India, of course, such a scheme cannot be expected to eradicate malnutrition in India; indeed, the attendance of children at primary school has not increased beyond 50% in many parts of the country.

18. Food for Work Programme

Food for work programme was initially launched w.e.f. February 2001 for five months and was further extended. The programme aims at augmenting food security through wage employment in the drought affected rural areas in eight states. The workers are paid the balance of wages in cash, so that they are assured of the notified minimum wages. This programme stands extended up to March 31, 2002 in respect of notified "natural calamity affected districts."

The two other major food security programmes are the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and the Integrated Child Care Development Scheme (ICDS).

19. Aajeevika Skills 2009:

Its origins in the 'Special Projects' component of the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). Besides helping to reduce poverty, it rides on the hopes and aspirations for a better quality of life in large sections of the rural poor. Aajeevika Skills aims to skill rural youth who are poor and provide them with jobs having regular monthly wages at or above the minimum wages.

20. Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana 2009:

To improve the present status of women in Agriculture, and to enhance the opportunities for her empowerment, Government of India has announced "Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana" (MKSP), as a sub component of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and decided to provide support to the tune of Rs. 100 crore during 2010-11 budget.

21. Integrated Programme for Old Persons 2008

The main objective of the scheme is to improve the

quality of life of the older persons of providing basic amenities like shelter, food, and medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing through providing support for capacity building of government and non government organization, Panchayati Raj Institutions / Local Bodies and the community at large.

Assistance under the scheme will be given to the Panchayati Raj Institutions / Local Bodies and eligible non-government voluntary organization for the following purposes:

- (i) Programmes catering to the basic needs of older persons particularly food, shelter and health care to the destitute elderly.
- (ii) Best interests of old persons etc.

Programmes under the Scheme

- (i) Maintenance of old age homes.
- (ii) Maintenance of Respite Care Homes and Continuous Care Homes.
- (iii) Running of Multi Service Centres for Older Persons.
- (iv) Maintenance of Mobile Medical Unit.
- (v) Running of Day Care Centres for Alzheimer's disease Patients
- (vi) Physiotherapy Clinics for Older Persons
- (vii) Disability and hearing aids for older persons
- (viii) Mental Health Care and Specialized Care for the older persons.
- (ix) Helpline and counseling centre for old persons or any other activity which is considered suitable to meet the objective of the scheme.

CONCLUSION

Rural Development is the main pillar of Nation's Development. In spite of rapid urbanization, a large section of our population still lives in the villages. Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of programmes aimed at sustainable holistic development in rural areas. The thrust of these programmes is on all round economic and social transformation in rural areas, through a multi-pronged strategy, aiming to reach out to the most disadvantaged sections of the society.

There is a general feeling that despite of huge allocations made by Government of India through Central Schemes//Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the developments in basic infrastructure and amenities/facilities are not perceptible, especially in rural areas of the country. Further, the standard of living of the people is still very poor and the employment opportunities to the young people are still considered to be very limited

and inadequate.

Since, most of these Schemes are in operation for a pretty long time. Though the Government has taken several initiatives i.e. legislative measures and social security schemes / programmes to improve the lot of this segment of working class, still the coverage is miniscule. The need of the hour is the convergence of all development interventions at the grass-root level so as to enhance necessary infrastructure in the backward regions.

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