

Rural Dynamics in India: A Study of Inclusive Growth and Infrastructure Developments

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Abstract:

Rural development in India is the overall progress in the economic and social conditions of Indians residing in rural areas. Over fifty percent of the people who live in India, the second most populous nation in the world, reside in rural areas. This causes the country to have a high rate of unemployment, an inadequate standard of living, inadequate productive skills, and malnutrition. Rural development has always been a crucial concern for the economic development of developing nations, especially India. The primary tools for the development of the nation's rural areas are the rural development programs. Given that we are aware of the challenges that rural residents have faced from the beginning of time, the moment has come to provide them their justifiable rights. India cannot shine without the rural areas of India shining. Rural and national development are essentially interchangeable terms. With a focus on the vulnerable population's changing lives, this article attempts to assess real performance as well as government endeavors to hasten rural development in India through rural development programs.

A multidimensional concept, rural development refers to raising the standard of living for rural residents. The multifaceted goals of rural development include raising the per capita income of the rural populace, advancing agriculture and related industries, expanding the availability of essential services, and making advancements in all facets of human resources. It is a procedure that improves rural residents' social and economic well-being. The Government of India has developed strategies and implemented programs for the general development of the rural population, especially the rural poor, in order to ensure the success of sustainable development in rural regions. The main goals of rural development plans and programs are to improve work possibilities for rural populations in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, as well as to increase fairness in the production and distribution system. Nevertheless, despite major efforts, the rural poor continue to live in poverty due to insufficient infrastructure, basic utilities, and communication systems.

Keywords: Rural Development, Unemployment, Development Programs, Agriculture

Introduction:

The concept of "Rural Development" is of particular importance and is well-known in both industrialized and developing nations. Rural development is used in a range of circumstances and ways,

and there is no single, accepted definition of it. As a concept, it indicates comprehensive rural area development with a goal of enhancing the quality of life for rural residents. In this respect, it is a broad and multifaceted notion that covers the growth of rural communities' people resources as well as their agricultural and related industries, cottage and village crafts, socioeconomic infrastructure, and community services and amenities. It is a phenomenon that arises from the interactions of numerous institutional, sociocultural, technological, economic, and physical elements. It serves as a technique to enhance the social and economic well-being of a particular population, the rural poor. It is a multidisciplinary field that combines the social, behavioral, engineering, and management sciences with the agricultural and social sciences.

The primary objective of national policy should be to rebuild and expand the rural economy in a way that will result in a more equitable distribution of income from the ownership of productive assets, skills, and labor. The need to create functional rural clusters with improved housing, reliable and convenient energy sources, adequate transport and communication infrastructure connecting it to the wider world, suitable health and educational facilities, access to credit and markets, and culturally vibrant communities that are no longer divided by caste and feudal distinctions based on land ownership and occupation is thus brought into sharp focus.

The idea of integrated development of rural areas gains significance and importance during this process. In order to achieve the total development of people and the geographic area, and thus close the rural-urban divide, integrated development refers to the planning of various aspects of development that cannot be attempted in isolation through a project or even a programme approach. Understanding the unique traits of rural society that contribute to the issues with rural development as opposed to other types of development is essential while working towards integrated rural development.

Inclusive rural development is a more particular idea today than it was in the past. In general, inclusive rural development focuses on raising the standard of living for all rural residents. Three distinct but linked dimensions the economic dimension, the social dimension, and the political dimension are specifically covered by inclusive rural development. Giving the poor and low-income households in particular the capacity and chances to benefit from the economic expansion is included in the economic dimension. The social dimension encourages gender equality and women's empowerment, fosters social development of low-income and impoverished households, and offers social safety nets for vulnerable populations. The political dimension increases the chances for rural residents who are poor or have low incomes to participate in politics fairly and effectively. Rural development entails significant social and economic change for the populace. Increased participation in rural development programs, decentralized planning, stronger enforcement of land reforms, and improved access to financing are required to improve the possibilities for economic development for rural residents. The government's efforts to close the gap between urban and rural areas by raising the standard of living for those who live there are fully described in this article.

Importance of Rural Development:

The foundation of rural development is a thriving and vibrant agriculture sector, which creates close ties to other economic sectors. The bottom-up approach and effective participation of rural residents and communities in the management of their own social, economic, and environmental goals improve rural livelihoods. This includes empowering rural residents, particularly women and young people, through local cooperatives and other organizations. Rural-urban inequities can be reduced, possibilities

expanded, and the retention of talented individuals, notably young people, in rural regions are encouraged by close economic integration of rural areas with nearby urban areas and the development of rural off-farm jobs. Construction of rural infrastructure, the sustainable management of natural resources, trash, and residues, as well as farming, agro processing, and rural industries all have significant potential to create jobs in rural areas. Access to basic amenities, employment possibilities, and some degree of incoherence in planning relating to the rural-urban split are ongoing problems for rural areas in emerging nations.

To ensure sustainable rural development and to improve the well-being of the country, investments must be made in rural infrastructure, health care, and education. Investments must be tied to the ability to increase revenue and productivity over and above fundamental necessities. It is important to confront how vulnerable the rural poor are to the current financial and economic crises, as well as to climate change and water scarcity. The creation and application of comprehensive methods for coping with climate change, drought, desertification, and natural disasters are among the requirements for the success of sustainable rural development. Rural development typically refers to a strategy for improving peoples' quality of life and financial security, particularly those who reside in inhabited and distant locations. The traditional focus of rural development was the mismanagement of land-intensive natural resources like agriculture and forestry. Today, however, the nature of rural areas has changed due to escalating urbanization and shifting global manufacturing networks.

The mainstay of the nation's overall development continues to be rural development. A third of rural India's population still lives below the poverty line, while more than two-thirds of the population depends on agriculture for their living. In order to raise people's standards of life, it is crucial for the government to be effective and offer adequate facilities. Efforts made to promote rural areas economically are the focus of the phrase "Rural development." Rural development is crucial for the overall economic growth of the country as well as for the majority of the population who live in rural areas. In the country now, rural development is thought to be of noticeably greater importance than in earlier times in the process of the nation's growth. It is a strategy that seeks greater productivity, greater socioeconomic equality and ambition, and stability in the growth of society and the economy.

The primary objective is to make enough nutritious food available and reduce the starvation that affects around 69% of the rural population. Providing for the availability of clothing and footwear, a clean home and surroundings, medical care, leisure activities, education, transportation, and communication is the secondary responsibility. Through the Ministry of Rural Development, the Indian government has consistently prioritized rural development initiatives to improve our nation's rural economy. In particular, the Department of Rural Development and the Department of Land Resources were established to develop various programs for rural India. Since the economy of rural India also contributes significantly, it follows that progress in this area is crucial for both broader social change and the economic improvement of people. In order to give rural residents better prospects for economic development, decentralization of planning, stronger implementation of land reforms, and more access to financing are all necessary. The primary aim of the rural development initiative is to improve the quality of life for rural residents. Given the size of India's rural population, rural development programs are essential. Development in rural areas suggests both larger social and economic improvement for the populace.

The welfare of the millions has been the primary goal of all initiatives and strategies for rural development. Planned efforts have been made to eradicate poverty, ignorance, and opportunity inequity in order to accomplish this. To date, a wide range of programs have been implemented to reduce rural poverty and provide an improved standard of living for rural residents, particularly those who are poor.

The focus of the first stage of planned rural development was on the fields of agriculture, communication, education, and health. In order to improve the quality of life in rural areas and ensure that the benefits of economic reform are distributed equally across society, the Ministry of Rural Development currently places a high priority on health, education, drinking water, housing, and roads. With decades of expertise, it has become clear that engagement of the general public is essential to the success of rural development initiatives if rapid and meaningful development is to be achieved. To give rural residents better opportunities for economic growth, public participation is essential.

Objective of the study:

The study's major goal is to comprehend the significance of rural development in India.

- To examine the wages and productivity of rural residents
- To eliminate unemployment and drastically reduce underemployment
- To provide more quick and plentiful employment chances
- To ensure that those who are poor have a higher standard of living
- To meet needs for things like fundamental healthcare, drinkable water, rural roads, and education.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

Multiple initiatives have been introduced by the Indian government to enhance rural India.

- To analysis of rural education levels
- To evaluate rural communities' public health and sanitation
- To investigate women's empowerment in Indian communities
- To research the development of rural infrastructure (such as irrigation, power, etc.)
- To evaluation Resources for Rural Agriculture Extension and Research
- To evaluating the credit availability for rural residents
- To study rural employment opportunities

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The data used in the current research came from secondary sources. Various rural development organizations annual reports, books that have been published, and research papers have all been used to gather data. Empirical and understandable tables were employed to develop the study's structure. For evaluating the actual performance of rural development in India, many development programs are used.

Programs for Fastest-Growing Rural Development:

The Indian government has developed a number of comprehensive programs for rural development areas, which were also covered in this study along with initiatives and strategies for rural development. The list of government development initiatives for the improvement of the less fortunate in rural areas is provided below:

1. Training to Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM):

Launched: 15th August, 1979.

Objective: The main target of this scheme was to provide technical and business expertise to rural BPL people who are in the age group of 18-35.

Outcomes: This programme has been merged with SwarnJayanti Gram SwarojgarYojna on April 1, 1999.

2. KutirJyotiProgramme:

Launched: 1988-89

Objective: Its main motive was to improve the standard of living of schedule castes and schedule tribes including the rural families who live below the poverty line.

Outcomes: Under this programme, a government assistance of Rs. 400 is provided to the families who are living below the poverty line for single point electricity connections in their houses.

3. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):

Launched: 1995

Objective: National Social Assistance Programme was launched on August 15 in 1995 with the aim of achieving the objective of Directive Principles which are mentioned under Article 41 and 42 of the constitution which states that it is the duty of the state to provide assistance to the citizens in terms of sickness, unemployment, old age in limits of the economic capabilities.

Outcomes: This Centrally sponsored scheme provides financial help to different vulnerable segment of the society like widows, elderly, and people with disability in form of pensions. As per the current government data, the NSAP has around 3 crore beneficiaries and also 1.5 crore state beneficiaries, which makes a total of around 5 crore people who gets the benefit of this scheme.

4. Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY):

Launched: 25th December, 2000.

Objective: The scheme provides food grains to around 2 cr. Below Poverty Line (BPL) families at a very subsidized rate.

Outcomes: Total 35 kgs of food grains is provided to a family. Rice is provided at the rate of Rs. 3/kg and wheat at 2 Rs.2/kg.

5. Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY)

Launched: 25th December, 2000

Objective: The motive of this scheme is to provide better rural road connectivity in order to provide connectivity to the residents with less or no connectivity at all.

Outcomes: It seeks to poverty reduction by promoting access to economic and social services. According to the latest data provided on the PMGSY website, under the scheme the government has completed length of 705,179 km, and a total of 1, 69,129 roads were completed.

6. SampoornaGrameenRozgarYojana (SGRY)

Launched: 2001

Objective: providing better employment opportunities to the poor. Not just this, it also aims to provide food to people in areas who live below the poverty line with the purpose of improving their nutritional levels.

Outcomes: It has some other objectives too which includes providing social and economic assets to the people living in rural areas.

7. SarvaSikshaAbhiyan:

Launched: 2000-2001.

Objective: Its main aim is to make free and compulsory education to children between the ages of 6 to 14, a fundamental right.

Outcomes: This programme was pioneered by former Indian Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee.

Right to education is related to the 86th Amendment to the Constitution of India. Currently its expenditure is shared by the center and state into 50: 50 ratios.

8. Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA):

Launched: 2004

Objective: provide urban facilities in rural areas

Outcomes: PURA aims to provide urban infrastructure and services in rural areas with the aim of creating opportunities other than the cities which will also decrease the number of youth migration from the rural areas to urban areas in search of job and better opportunities

9. National Rural Health Mission:

Launched: 12nd April, 2005.

Objective: Main aim of this plan is to provide accessible, affordable and accountable quality health services even to the poorest households in the remotest rural regions.

Outcomes: Accredited social health activists (ASHA) scheme is also operational under this scheme.

10. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS): Launched: 2nd Feb.2006.

Objective: National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, According to this act main Objective is to develop inclusive rural development and this scheme is an Indian labor law and social security measure that aims to provide 'right to work' to the people falling Below Poverty Line.

Outcomes: It guarantees 100 days employment in a year to the village people.

Fifty percent workers should be women.

Its 90% funding is borne by the central government and 10% by the state government.

Currently around 15 crore MGNREGA cards have been issued in the country, and in total of 28 crore individuals took the advantage of the scheme in the financial year 2020-21.

11. Village Grain Bank Scheme:

Launched: 6th June, 2006

Objective: Main objective of this scheme is to provide safeguard against the starvation During the period of natural calamity or during lean season when the marginalized food Insecure households do not have sufficient resources to purchase rations.

Outcomes: Under this scheme needy people will be able to borrow food grains from the Village grain bank and return it when they have abundant food.

12. AamAadmi BimaYojna:

Launched: 2nd October 2007.

Objective: It's a social security scheme for rural households.

Outcomes: The premium of Rs. 200 per person per annum is shared by the state and central government. V. The insured person need not to pay any premium if his/her age is between the 18 years to 59 years. Under this scheme one member of the family is covered.

13. Prime Minister Rural Development Fellows Scheme

Launched: 2011

Objective: provide short term catalytic support to the District administration

Outcomes:It seeks to achieve two objectives. First is to provide short-term support to the district administration in the underdeveloped and remote areas of the country and another one is to develop

competent and committed leaders and facilitators who are competent enough to serve as a long-term resource.

14. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana / National Rural Livelihood Mission (Ajeevika):

Launched: 2011 (It is also known as Ajeevika, this scheme aims at empowering women self-help model across the country.)

Objective: Main objective of the scheme is to provide efficient and also effective institutional platforms for poor people with the purpose of increasing the household income by improving access to financial services. NRLM also helps in adding skills to the poor so that they can become the active participant in the growth of the Indian economy.

Outcomes: Under this scheme, a loan of 3 lakh rupees is provided at an interest rate of 7% which can be reduced to 4% at the time of repayment. The scheme was funded with the aid of World Bank.

15. Roshni: Skill Development Scheme for Tribals:

Launched: 7th June, 2013

Objective: skill development scheme designed to offer employment to tribal youth

To provide training and employment to an anticipated 50000 youth in the 10-35 years age group, for a period of three years.

Outcomes: As per the Ministry of human resource development more than 50 per cent of the beneficiaries of the scheme will be women only.

16. Swachh Bharat Mission:

Launched: 2nd October, 2014.

Vision: The concept of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is to pave access for every person to sanitation facilities including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems, village cleanliness and safe and adequate drinking water supply.

Objective: The programme is to be implemented by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Outcomes: The Mission aims to triple the growth percentage of toilet from present 3% to 10% by 2019.

17. DeenDayalUpadhyayaGrameenKaushalyaYojana:

Launched: 25th September, 2014

Objective: This scheme is a part of National Livelihood Mission. It aims to provide better career opportunities for the rural youth by providing options to increase the income of rural families.

Outcomes: It primarily focuses on the poor rural youth of age between 15 and 35. Budget of the scheme is Rs 1500 crores to enhance career employability. It's applicable in 21 States and UTs across 568 districts and 6215 blocks to give a better living standard to those people.

18. SansadAdarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY):

Launched: 2014

Objective: Its main objective is to achieve better standard of living as well as the quality of life in the villages. Funding of this scheme is taken from the existing schemes.

Outcomes: SansadAdarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is a rural development scheme launched in 2014 by the Central Government in which every Member of Parliament (MP) will have the responsibility of the development of three villages, including personal, human, social, environmental and economic development of the villages.

19. Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojna (HRIDAY): 2015

Launched: 21st January 2015

Objective: Its aim is to preserve and rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage of the country.

Outcomes: In the initial phase of HRIDAY, 12 heritage cities have been identified which will be rejuvenated and developed. Union Government will provide 500 crore rupees to these 12 cities.

20. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)/ Indira Awas Yojana:

Launched: 2016

Objective: Indira Awas Yojana was given a new name of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana in 2016. This is a welfare scheme launched by the Government with the aim of providing housing to rural poor people in India. The objective of this programme is reach the target of providing home to all Indian citizens till 2022.

Outcomes: Constructing cost of the houses is shared by both, the center and the state. Except Delhi and Chandigarh, this scheme has been implemented in rural areas all over India. Basic facilities will also be provided with the house like toilet, electricity connection, potable water connection, LPG connection etc.

21. National Rurban Mission (NRM)

Launched: 21st February 2016

Objective: The objective of the National Rurban Mission (NRuM) is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well planned Rurban clusters.

Outcomes: The larger outcomes envisaged under this Mission are:

- Bridging the rural-urban divide-viz: economic, technological and those related to facilities and services.
- Stimulating local economic development with emphasis on reduction of poverty and unemployment in rural areas.
- Spreading development in the region.
- Attracting investment in rural areas.

22. Samagra Siksha Abhiyan:

Launched: 2018

Objective: It seeks to provide free education to every child of the country in order to fulfill his or her basic fundamental right. The budget of this scheme is shared between state and the central government.

Outcomes: Center covers 85% of the expenditure and the state shares 15% of the total. Over Rs. 37,383 crore has been allotted in the budget of 2022 to the scheme.

Required socio factors for rural development in India:

Infrastructure:

A rural area's infrastructure and level of development are directly related. Specifically, access to transportation, reliable electricity, and road infrastructure.

Governmental bodies have been able to lessen connectivity problems in certain places thanks to these causes. As a result, the efficiency of the supply of agricultural output to markets in the Indian subcontinent has increased. Therefore, rural residents have more opportunities to earn money.

Education:

It is clear that the degree of education is a key factor in the development of rural areas as a whole. First and foremost, education exposes a person to fresh and original concepts that can help them improve

their social situation. By educating the rural people early on, discrimination between the urban and rural populations can be prevented. As a result, they are available to a vast array of work options across many fields and businesses.

Healthcare:

Healthcare obviously plays a significant role in India's rural development. The rural population is frequently at risk for illnesses that can be prevented with the right healthcare practices. Additionally, this directly boosts their productivity.

They will be able to take part in market competitions that are healthy as a result. A healthy and worthwhile life is ensured by proper healthcare systems, which also lower the mortality rate. **Technology:**

The role of technology in rural development is indisputable. First of all, modern production techniques in various sectors can actively increase their rate of production, which allows for a remarkable rise in the scale of economic activities in rural areas. On the other hand, the technology significantly reduces irrigation and quality issues. Therefore, the presence of appropriate technological means such as pumps, tractors is the make-or-break factor of rural development. In addition, access to clean drinkable water and sanitation is a must for the development of rural areas. In this way, rural residents will be able to benefit from equal income opportunities and sustainable healthcare services.

Market Reforms:

To promote rural development, the government must create market reforms. Market changes increase the life expectancy of rural residents.

Achievements through rural development:

- ▶ 69% of India-833 million people live in rural areas.
- ▶ Rural literacy is 69%, urban literacy is 85%
- ▶ Increasing rural - urban interconnectedness
- ▶ Linkages of urban rural labour markets
- ▶ Growing rural purchasing power and rising aspirations
- ▶ 42% Rise in rural non-farm employment
- ▶ 80% habitations connected by roads.
- ▶ 43 % BPL households electrified.
- ▶ 55% households with electricity
- ▶ 94% villages electrified
- ▶ 45% gross irrigated area to gross cropped area.
- ▶ 78% households collect water within or near premises
- ▶ 31% of households with access to piped water.
- ▶ 31 % of households with latrine facility.
- ▶ 62 % village panchyath's with broad band coverage.
- ▶ 58.22% of rural tele density.
- ▶ 77% of rural habitations have achieved a fully covered status of drinking water (4o litre for capita per day)
- ▶ Rural Sanitation Coverage 60%. 1511451 villages, 85 districts and 3 states have been declared ODF (Open defecation free)

- ▶ Rural sanitation facilities to attain an open defecation free India by 2nd October, 2019.
- ▶ 90% of rural households are provided with adequate and safe piped water supply with at least 80% of household connections.

Finding:

- To find rural demography
- To understand rural unemployment
- To understand rural credit and indebtedness
- To find problems of rural industrialization
- To implements of rural development programs
- To establishment of Institutions for rural development
- To find problems of rural migration
- To understand rural labor

Suggestions:

- Proper presence of advanced facilities for irrigation to all land types in India. As a result, farmers can boost their agricultural output and create economic opportunities for themselves.
- Credit facilities on access to the necessary ingredients of farming such as fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds. Subsidies on electricity used for farming purposes ensure that the rural population saves more than it spends.
- Combat with social inequalities and discrimination in rural areas to create a sense of unity. This sense of social unity will lead to the formation of an economic class whose aim is to boost production and ensure rural development.
- Make sure that there are adequate training sessions for farmers to equip them with modern agricultural measures. Besides, farmers should also be aware of agricultural policies, land reforms, and market prices for the best use of their resources.

In addition, any improvement in current agricultural markets also makes sure that they can accommodate the economic contribution of the rural population. In these ways, one can ensure a sustainable growth curve and desirable rural development of India.

Solutions:

- To introduce modern techniques for agriculture in rural areas to contribute to an increased productivity rate. As a result, the role of rural development is to establish sustainable and affordable technology to increase production in a national market.
- To ensure consistent rural infrastructure development in India. In addition, this process should involve all local rural populations. Consequently, they will gain the agency to make large-scale economic decisions that lead to area-based financial development.
- To bridge the gap between local governing bodies and the Central administration for better economic communication. On top of that, rural development aims to provide executive powers to panchayath's for carrying on the policies framed by experts.
- Finally, the objective of rural development is to use natural resources within a territory to ensure maximum economic benefit for inhabitants. This also includes important land reform measures to boost the agricultural output and productivity of every individual involved.

Conclusion:

The New Rural Paradigm was created as a reaction to the evolving circumstances in rural areas. According to statistical evidence, agriculture is no longer the primary source of employment and income in rural areas, and numerous of these areas exhibit economic growth comparable to that of urban areas. In turn, this caused changes in how governments approach rural policy. The emphasis on expansion has a significant impact on rural development plans. However, it necessitates a wealth of data as well as the participation of sub-central organizations that share information on underutilized assets, new demands, and transient patterns in rural areas. These organizations could be regional councils, corporations, or other intermediary parties. At the same time, organizations that advocate on behalf of a particular group, such as national farmers' associations, are losing influence. In the European Union, where finances for direct payments to farmers have been decreasing in favor of or as assistance for rural development, this is particularly visible.

Today, a fresh narrative is required to make it clear to all individuals that rural areas contribute significantly to achieving national goals, such as economic growth and prosperity. With beneficial results for both, the contributions are different from but complementary to those made by urban areas.

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