

A Study On Problems In Rural Development In India

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Abstract

The Rural development generally refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic welfare of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is considered as a “Silver Bullet” for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. It provides an alternative source of livelihood which will have an impact on reducing migration, restricting child labour, alleviating poverty, and making villages self-sustaining through productive assets creation such as road construction, cleaning up of water tanks, soil and water conservation work, etc. For which it has been considered as the largest anti-poverty programme in India. In this paper, based on the secondary data, an attempt has been made to comprehensively understand the development effort to rebuild the rural life and livelihood on the basis of various secondary data.

Keywords: Rural development; Employment Guarantee Act; self-sustaining; Development projects.

Introduction

Rural development has always been an important issue in all discussions pertaining to economic development, especially of developing countries, throughout the world. In the developing countries and some formerly communist societies, rural mass comprise a substantial majority of the population. Over 3.5 billion people live in the Asia and Pacific region and some 63% of them in rural areas. Although millions of rural people have escaped poverty as a result of rural development in many Asian countries, a large majority of rural people continue to suffer from persistent poverty. The socio-economic disparities between rural and urban areas are widening and creating tremendous pressure on the social and economic fabric of many developing Asian economies. These factors, among many others, tend to highlight the importance of rural development. The policy makers in most of the developing economies recognize this importance and have been implementing a host of programs and measures to achieve rural development objectives.

While some of these countries have achieved impressive results, others have failed to make a significant dent in the problem of persistent rural underdevelopment

Rural

Where the people are engaged in primary industry in the sense that they produce things directly for the first time in cooperation with nature as stated by Srivastava (1961).

Rural areas are sparsely settled places away from the influence of large cities and towns. Such areas are distinct from more intensively settled urban and suburban areas, and also from unsettled lands such as outback or wilderness. People live in village, on farms and in other isolated houses.

Development

It refers to growth, evolution, stage of inducement or progress. This progress or growth is gradual and had sequential phases. Always there is increasing differentiation. It also refers to the over all movement towards greater efficiency and complex situations.

Rural Development

Designates the utilization of approaches and techniques under one single programme, which rally upon local communities as units of action. It provides a large umbrella under which all the people engaged in the work of community organizations, community progress and community relation.

Rural development (rd) is a process, which aims at improving the well being and self realization of people living outside the urbanized areas through collective process. according to agarwal (1989), rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of rural poor.

Scope and Importance of Rural Development

Rural development is a dynamic process, which is mainly concerned with the rural areas. These include agricultural growth, putting up of economic and social infrastructure, fair wages as also housing and house sites for the landless, village planning, public health, education and functional literacy, communication etc.

Rural development is a national necessity and has considerable importance in India because of the following reasons.

- About three-fourth of India's population live in rural areas, thus rural development is needed to develop nation as whole.
- Nearly half of the country's national income is derived from agriculture, which is major occupation of rural India.
- Around seventy per cent of Indian population gets employment through agriculture.
- Bulks of raw materials for industries come from agriculture and rural sector.
- Increase in industrial population can be justified only in rural population's motivation and increasing the purchasing power to buy industrial goods.
- Growing disparity between the urban elite and the rural poor can lead to political instability.

Objectives of the Rural Development

- To develop farm, home, public service and village community.
- To bring improvement in producing of crops and animals living condition.
- To improve health and education condition etc. improvement of the rural people.
- To improve villagers with their own efforts.
- To improve village communication.

Problems in Rural Development**I. People related**

- Traditional way of thinking.
- Poor understanding.
- Low level of education to understand developmental efforts and new technology.
- Deprived psychology and scientific orientation.
- Lack of confidence.
- Poor awareness.
- Low level of education.
- Existence of unfelt needs.
- Personal ego.

II. Agricultural related problems

- Lack of expected awareness, knowledge, skill and attitude.
- Unavailability of inputs.
- Poor marketing facility.
- Insufficient extension staff and services.
- Multidimensional tasks to extension personnel.
- Small size of land holding.
- Division of land.
- Unwillingness to work and stay in rural areas.

III. Infrastructure related problems

- Poor infrastructure facilities like water, electricity, transport, educational institutions, communication, health, storage facility etc.

IV. Economic problems

- Unfavourable economic condition to adopt high cost technology.
- High cost of inputs.
- Underprivileged rural industries

V. Social and Cultural problems

- Cultural norms and traditions
- Conflict within and between groups, castes, religions, regions, languages.

VI. Leadership related problems

- Leadership among the hands of inactive and incompetent people.
- Maladies interest of leaders.
- Biased political will.

VII. Administrative problems

- Earlier, majority of the programmes were planning based on top to bottom approach and were target oriented.
- Political interference.
- Lack of motivation and interest.
- Unwillingness to work in rural area.
- Improper utilization of budget.

Conclusion

Around 70 per cent of the Indian population is living in rural areas. People in rural areas should have same QOL as is enjoyed by people living in sub-urban and urban areas. Furthermore, the cascading effects of poverty, unemployment, poor and inadequate infrastructure in rural areas on urban centres is leading to socio-economic tensions manifesting in economic deprivation and urban poverty. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is considered as a “Silver Bullet” for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in Indian villages. It provides an alternative source of livelihood which will have an impact on reducing migration, restricting child labour, alleviating poverty, and making villages self- sustaining through productive assets creation such as road construction.

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