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Data on Rural Development

69% population reside in Rural India

40% Rural families annually earn less than Rs.11000 / annum

25% villages don't have source of drinking water

68.9% is the Rural literacy in India

61.33% and 38.67% of population reside in Rural and Urban Karnataka

68.73% Rural Literacy in Karnataka

Sex Ratio -979/1000 in Karnataka

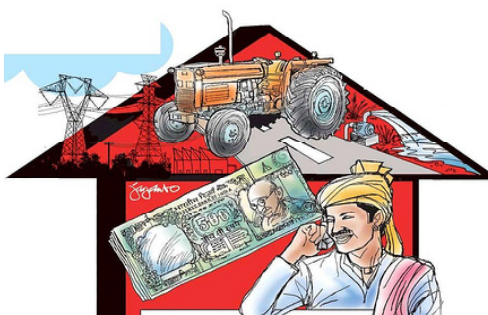
Rural Development-A Holistic Apporach

-Vagdevi H. S. & Deepa T.M

As is rightly said by Mahatma Gandhi 'India lives in her villages'. G Shah defines rural development as "the development of rural areas, often rural development has meant the extension of irrigation facilities, expansion of electricity, improvement in the techniques of cultivation, construction of school building and provision of educational facilities, health care etc." Government has taken steps yet the rural areas are still plagued by problems of malnourishment, illiteracy, unemployment and lack of basic infrastructure.

The objectives of rural development, according to the World Bank, are not restricted to any single department but spread over several, and the resultant mix serves to raise agricultural output, create new employment, improve health and education, expand communication, provide housing etc. Thus, the World Bank defines rural development in terms of improvement in the economic and social life of the rural poor. Thus, the basic objectives of rural development will include organising, developing and utilizing the available resources like land, water, and manpower so as to facilitate equitable opportunity to the entire population dependent on them.

Michael Torado views that, rural development encompasses 1. improvement in levels of living including employment, education, health and nutrition, housing and a variety of social services, 2. decreasing inequality in the distribution of rural incomes and rural-urban balance in



incomes and economic opportunities, and 3. the capacity of the rural sector to sustain and accelerate the pace of these improvements. Hence it can be said that, the vital components of rural development include in its purview ; the transformation

of rural economy, improving standard of living by providing /facilitating basic amenities and also more importantly bringing in improvement among scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, landless labours, small and marginal farmers' socio-economic conditions.

To fulfill these objectives and vision World Bank propounded Integrated Rural Development concept. In the year 1976 at All India Science Congress India accepted this concept. The then Finance Minsiter of India C. Subramanyam view this as "systematic, scientific and integrated use of all our natural resources and as a part of this process enabling every person to engage himself in a productive and socially useful occupation and earn an income that would meet at least the basic needs." So, the very concept of integrated rural development in itself addresses to numerous rural problems like widespread poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, exploitation, inequitable distribution of land, poor health conditions etc. It signifies that various facets of rural development are integrally connected. Rural Development is a holistic concept. K. Om Prakash and G. Satyanarayan rightly observe that integrated rural development embraces all the activities of

(Continued page-2)

Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation

- Nandeesh H.K. & Punithkumar L. M.

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.

Poverty includes multi-dimensional features like deprivation in income, illiteracy, malnutrition, mortality, morbidity lack of access to water and sanitation and vulnerability to economic shocks. This calls for global efforts for a rural focus for development and poverty alleviation. Alleviation of rural poverty has been one of the primary objectives of planned development in India. The problem of rural poverty was brought into a sharper focus during the Sixth Plan. The Seventh Plan too emphasised growth with social justice. The sustainable strategy of poverty alleviation has to be based on generating employment opportunities, enhancing livelihood condition

by providing basic amenities in the process of growth itself.

There are several obstacles to the development of Indian economy; Poverty is one of the most important of them. Reducing poverty is the path to development. India as a welfare state is committed to the development of its people (Vasudeva, 2010). Poverty is a social-economic phenomenon in which a section of society is unable to fulfill even its basic necessities of life. (Kumari, 2013). Therefore government has introduced several policies and programmes to reduce the poverty in India through five year plans. The Planning Commission is the nodal agency in the Government of India for estimation of poverty at national and state levels (Government of India Report 2015). In India poverty is estimated on the basis of

'Head Count Ratio' or on the basis of minimum consumption expenditure. (Kumari, 2013)

Table-1 reveals that poverty ratio has been declining over the decades from 1993-94 and 2011-12. From 50.1% in the year 1993-94 the poverty has declined to 41.8% and 25.7% in the year 2004 - 05 and 2011 -12 respectively in rural areas. In urban areas as well there is a sharp decline in poverty from 31.8% to 25.7 % and 13.5% in the years 1993 - 94, 2004 -05 and 2011 -12 respectively. Poverty in the country has reduced to half from 1993 -94 which was at 45.3% to 21.9% in the year 2011 -12. The annual average decline over a decade of 1993 - 94 to 2003 -04 have increased from 0.74 to 2.18% showing a brighter side of poverty alleviation efforts.

Table -1 Percentage and Number of Poor Estimated by Tendulkar Method

Years	Poverty Ratio (%)		
	Rural	Urban	Total
1993-94	50.1	31.8	45.3
2004-05	41.8	25.7	37.2
2011-12	25.7	13.7	21.9
Annual Average Decline: 1993-94 to 2004-05 (percentage points per annum)	0.75	0.55	0.74
Annual Average Decline: 2004-05 to 2011-12 (percentage points per annum)	2.32	1.69	2.18

Source: Planning Commission

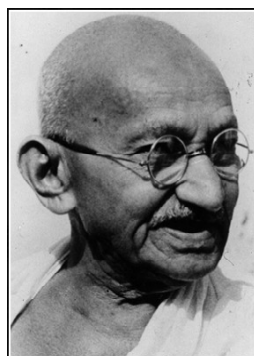
Source: Ministry of Rural Development Government of India 2010-11& 2014-15

Rural Development cont...

Continued from page-1

enrichment and betterment of the overall quality of rural life through appropriate development of manpower, resources, infrastructural facilities and provisions of minimum needs and livelihood. It has far-reaching socio-economic and political implications for the life of the rural people.

Source: Micheal Torado, Economics for Developing World, G. Pathasarathy and T. Mathew (Ed.), Integrated Rural Development Concept : Theoretical Base and Contradictions in Rural Development in India



The Future of India lies in its Villages

Mahatma Gandhi

Major Rural Development Programmes in Karnataka

-Mahamad Musstaf P. S.

The main objective of rural development has been to remove poverty and fill the gap between the rich and the poor. India is predominantly an agrarian country with 72 per cent of its population living in more than five lakh villages. Agriculture is the predominant livelihood occupation and the rural population largely consists of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans. A large part of this rural population (more than 200 million) is still living below poverty line and is the focus of rural development programmes. Every government after the Independence of the country since 1947 has committed itself to rural development. Some of the major programmes under central government are;

1. 20-Point Programme: This has been a major programme of rural development encompassing various aspects of rural people. It was introduced in July 1975 for reducing poverty and economic exploitation and for the upliftment of weaker sections of society.

2. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP): The programme was launched by the centre in March 1976 as a major instrument of the government to alleviate poverty. Its main feature was to enable selected families to cross the poverty line in a given time-frame by taking up self-employment in various activities like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, weaving and handicrafts and services and business activities.

3. Training Rural Youths for Self-Employment (TRYSEM): This scheme was launched in 1979 to provide technical skills (training) to rural youths (between 18-35 years) living below the poverty line, to enable them to seek employment.

4. Food for Work Programme (FWP): This programme was introduced in 1977 with the objective to provide employment to the unemployed/underemployed village persons during the slack season. The wages paid to the workers were in kind, i.e., food grains.

5. National Rural Employment Programme (NREP): This is redesigned programme of FWP, planned for creating additional employment opportunities in the rural areas with the help of surplus food grains. It was started in 1980 as a part of the Sixth Plan (1980-85).

6. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY): This programme came into existence in April 1989 with the merger of the NREP and the RLEGP. Under this scheme, it was expected to provide at least one member of each poor family (BPL family) an employment for 50 to 100 days in a year at a work near his/her residence. About 30 per cent of the jobs under this programme were reserved for women. The scheme was implemented through Village Panchayats.

7. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS):

This scheme was initially started in 200 districts of the country from February 2006 and from April 2008, it has been extended to cover all the districts of the country. The main objective of the scheme is to provide 100 days employment to the rural unemployed.

Development Schemes under Central Govt.

1. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Sadak Yojana (PMAGSY)
2. Bharat Nirman Yojana
3. Indira Awas Yojana
4. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)
5. Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY)
6. National Rural Health Mission
7. National Rural Livelihood Mission
8. National Food Security Scheme
9. National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGA)
10. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme
11. Rural Electrification

Schemes under the Government of Karnataka

1. Anna Bhagya scheme: The scheme aims to provide 30 kilograms of rice per family per month at the price of Re.1/ kilogram to below poverty line (BPL) families across the state. The programme covers a total of 98.35 lakh families (87 lakh BPL cardholders and 11.35 lakh 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana' beneficiaries) across the state. The scheme has tag line of 'Hunger free Karnataka'.

2. Krishi Bhagya Yojana: The scheme benefits rain-fed farmers in Karnataka. The Rs 500-crore scheme will be initially implemented in five major dry land zones, covering 45 lakh hectares across 23 districts.

(continued page-7)

Rural Development - Review of XI Five Year Plan

-Srinivasa .D

Rural development programmes cover employment through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, housing via the *Indira Awaas Yojana* and other State schemes and bank support, sanitation through the Total Sanitation Campaign, provision of drinking water via the National Rural Drinking Water Programme, social security through the National Social Assistance Programme, watershed development via the Integrated Watershed Management Programme, road connectivity through the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* and electrification via the *Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana*. It was projected that Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRS's) would properly utilize the funds for development funds as per the local needs and aspirations, create opportunities for employment in rural areas, develop infrastructure and assist the government in removal of poverty. Therefore, since 1959 almost all the rural

departments execute their programmes through PRIs.

The Eleventh Five-Year Plan looks through the past weaknesses in order to frame the new measures for the

overall socioeconomic development of the country. However, for a well-planned economy of any country, there should be a combined participation of the governmental agencies along with the general public. A combined effort of public and private is essential for ensuring the growth of India's economy. The focus of

the eleventh five year plan was integrated local level planning for area development which is policy of inclusive growth. The Plan was started in April 2007. In this period the expert committee suggested action plan for national development giving importance to education, health, employment, poverty alleviation, housing and rural infrastructure with major trust on decentralisation of powers by enhancing more authority to *Panchayats* for programme implementation.

Table-2 shows the targets in specific parameters within the planned period and also the status of it. This is done to bring about the lacunae in meeting the projected target and thereby understand the difference and also appreciate whatever has been achieved.

The plan envisaged to accelerate GDP growth from 8% to 10% where it is been successful in increase in one percent point to 8.1% by the end of plan period. Create 70 million new work

where the target is been achieved. Lower gender gap in literacy which is also been achieved to some extent. Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 per every 1000 live births and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to 1 per every 100,000 live births where IMR is at 40/1000 live births and MMR 200/100,000 live births. Raise the sex ratio for age group 0-6 to 935 and today it is 950. Ensure that at least 33 percent of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of all government schemes are women and girl children, Ensure all-weather road connection to all habitation with population 1000 and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas) and ensure coverage of all significant habitation by 2015, Connect every village by telephone by and provide broadband connectivity to all villages by 2012, Increase forest and tree cover by 5 percentage points, Attain WHO standards of air quality in all major cities within plan period, Treat all urban waste water and increase energy

Table-2 Review of Human Development Parameters

Sl. no	Parameters	Target	Status
1	GDP	9% per year	8.1%
2	Educated Unemployment	Below 5 %	8.28%
3	Dropouts	52.2%	75%
3	Literacy Rate	80%	85%
4	Infant Mortality	28 per 1000 live births	40 per 1000 live births
5	Maternal Mortality rate	1 per 1000 live births	100 per 100,000 live births
6	Anemia 0-6	Half from pervious year	33%
7	Child sex Ratio	935	950
8	Fertility Rate	2.5%	2.1 %

Source : Planning Commission of India 2010-12

opportunities and thus reduce educated unemployment to below 5% but today we have 8.28% of educated unemployment. Reduce dropout rates of children from to 52.2% but it is still 75% and increase literacy rates for persons of age 7 years of age or above to 85%

efficiency by 20 percentage points were some of the other aspects that was chalked out during eleventh plan period.

Source : Planning Commission of India 2010-12

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in India

- Venugopal Gowda M.K.

The *Panchayat Raj* system ensures that the schemes envisaged by the Government of India for Rural development reach the last person in rural India. *Panchayat Raj institution* of rural local self-government forms the last tier of multi order federalism in rural India. This is discernible from the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1993 embedded in the Constitution as Part IX.

The department of *Panchayat Raj* and ministry of rural development have launched various schemes to ensure that the fruits of economic reform are shared by all sections of society. The five primary elements for social and economic infrastructure critical to the quality of life in rural areas are health, education, drinking water, housing and roads. During the Ninth five year plan period, many anti-poverty Programmes have been constructed to enhance the efficiency of the programmes for providing benefits to the rural poor. Self Employment Programmes were revamped by merging the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas, the Supply of Improved Tool-Kits to Rural Artisans, the Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment, the *Ganga Kalyan Yojana* and the Million Wells Scheme into a holistic self-employment scheme called *Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana*. The Eleventh Plan saw induction of huge resources from the Union Budget to the rural and farm sector. This thrust formed the substance of the *Bharat Nirman* Programme. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has provided a major foundational support. Budget outlay of Rs. 74429 crore has been provided under the plan head to the Department of Rural Development for the financial year 2013-14.

The DPr index is measured and states are ranked based on the three core aspects of Devolution viz devolution of functions, functionaries and finances to PRIs. According to which the table -3 ranks each of the state District *Panchayat*, Block

Table -3 Ranking of States in tier- wise Index of Devolution in Practice (DPr Index)

State	Rank in Aggregate DPr Index				Rank Difference DP-GP
	District Panchayats	Block Panchayats	Gram Panchayats	Overall	
Andra Pradesh	15	19	19	20	-5
Haryana	13	9	18	16	-3
Telangana	14	16	20	17	-3
Uttarakhand	7	14	9	10	-3
Assam	4	6	14	6	-2
Gujarat	9	12	13	11	-2
Jharkhand	19	22	22	21	
Arunachal Pradesh	23	20	24	24	-2
Chhattisgarh	12	10	15	13	-1
Karnataka	2	2	11	3	-1
Uttar Pradesh	17	18	16	18	-1
Bihar	22	21	23	22	0
Kerala	1	1	1	1	0
West Bengal	8	5	12	8	0
Himachal Pradesh	6	7	5	5	1
Maharashtra	5	3	4	4	1
Manipur	24	NA	21	23	1
Sikkim	3	NA	2	2	1
Madhya Pradesh	11	8	6	9	2
Punjab	21	17	17	19	2
Rajashtan	16	13	10	14	2
Tripura	10	4	7	7	3
Tamil Nadu	20	15	3	14	5
Odisha	18	11	8	12	6
Jammu and Kashmir	NA	NA	25	25	NA

Source: Tata Institute of Social Science

Panchayat and *Gram Panchayat* and difference between the two District and *Gram Panchayat*. As per that, Kerala emerges as the top performer followed by Sikkim, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal. Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh are among the poorer performer when it comes to Dpr Index. Strengthening of Infrastructure, improving governance systems, transparency and capacity building can contribute to improving performance of PRIs but in the absence of devolved powers their impact is going to be limited.

Source: Tata Institute of Social Science

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A photograph of a garden bed. In the foreground, there is a row of dark red, curly-leafed lettuce plants. To the left of the lettuce, there are green chives. To the right of the lettuce, there is a dense patch of green leafy plants with small white flowers. The garden bed is bordered by a wooden fence in the background.

Hand-spinning is designed to put millions of rupees in the hands of the poor villagers.



M. K. Gandhi

The Mind of Mahatma Gandhi, p. 409

Rural Development Challenges and Opportunities in India

- Vagdevi H.S. & Shivaprasad B. M.

Globally, India is emerging as a major economy. But, our development is still in its infancy. As per 2011 Census, about 69% of the population still continues to live in rural areas and the much hyped trickle down has not been a success story as yet. Which means that the benefits of the growth is not been percolating to all sections and strata of the society. The Census of 2011 brings out the fact that, 40% of rural families earn less than Rs. 11,000 per annum. Other than this, rural areas face problems of clean drinking water, poor health care and illiteracy which negatively affect the quality of life. About 25% of the villages do not have assured source of drinking water for and about 70-75% of the water does not meet the standard prescribed by WHO.

The major challenges that plagued rural development are;

- ◆ Population – The ever increasing population is increasing the demands on usage of natural resources
- ◆ Depleting natural resources which is directly affecting food security issues
- ◆ Pollution from various source is directly affecting shortage of drinking water
- ◆ Poor access to education, resulting in low literacy where the average literacy rate in rural areas is around 50-65% and when we look at women it is as low as 20-25% among women in backward areas
- ◆ Poor health status with inadequate health care facilities, high child mortality and morbidity and so on
- ◆ Poor infrastructure for receiving timely information on development opportunities, market demand and prices for agricultural commodities, new technologies, forward and backward linkages, credit facilities and development policies of the government.
- ◆ Agriculture is the major source of livelihood but most of the illiterate farmers have not been successful in cultivating their land making it economically profitable. 12-15% of the rural families are landless and among the land holders, 69% are marginal farmers with less than 1 hectare holding and about 21% are small farmers with 1-2 ha holdings. Thus about 90% families own less than 51% land, with a per capita holding of 0.19 ha. Small farmers have work only for 100-120 days for growing one crop in a year, which is not adequate to sustain their livelihood. Hence, they have to struggle to earn additional wages by working in irrigated areas or migrate to urban areas.

Apart from these other generic problems like; lack of peoples' participation in planning, designing, implementation and monitoring of the programmes, little or no gender focus, high administration costs, multiplicity of agencies, leakages due to the intervention of middlemen and so on.

Rural development is a multi dimensional concept and thus the prospects should address all these aspects. Some of the strategies include;

- ◆ Assured livelihood; the government programmes should facilitate for substantial income for economically backward class for their sustainable development

◆ Women participation so as to decrease drudgery and help them to be partners in development

◆ Development of Water resources so that the development of watersheds can be of some relief

◆ Development of infrastructure specially in this globalised era will facilitate education, health, sanitation and other basic amenities to reach rural people effectively

Apart, from all these, it is also important that NGOs and SHGs play a active role in facilitating the transformation of socio –economic status of rural poor.

Source: Nair, Indira (2014) 'Challenges of Rural Development and Opportunities for Providing Sustainable Livelihood', International Journal of Research in Applied, Natural and Social Sciences

Major Rural Development

(continued from page-3)

3.Yeshaswini Cooperative Farmers Health Care

Scheme: was introduced in the year 2002. This is a self funded health care scheme and the first and one of its kind in India. This facilitates health care amenities to co –operative farmers.

4.Ganga Kalyana Scheme : The scheme provides financial assistance to farmers for exploring ground water resources. Irrigation facility is provided to the agricultural land through lift irrigation scheme utilising the perennial source of water. Wherever perennial water sources are not available, bore wells are dug underground.

5.Bhagya Jyothi Scheme: provides electricity to the economically weaker sections of society. The scheme provides facility for at least one electric bulb at homes with absolutely no power supply at all.

6.Bhoochetana scheme: It is an initiative to revive agriculture by introducing Dry land Farming.

Source : Ministry of Rural Development Government of India 2010-11& 2014-15

DRDA Status in Karnataka vis-a-vis Other States

-Gayathri.R

The DRDA's (District Rural Development Agency) was originally created to implement the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Since its inception the District Rural Development Agency has been the principle organ at the district level to oversee the implementation of different Central Government poverty alleviation programmes. Later, these agencies were entrusted with number of programmes under the aegis of both state and central governments. DRDA being headed by a Project Director and staff and divided into seven different wings viz. Self Employment Wing, Wage Employment Wing, Watershed Wing, Engineering Wing, Women's Wing, Accounts Wing and Monitoring Wing. Specific functions are assigned to each wing for effective functioning. However, it is to be noted here that the wing structure as envisaged is not followed by states.

This has led to DRDA being an agency that coordinates scheme implementation rather than being a body of knowledge on rural development. An evaluation study was envisaged to contribute and

Table-4 The position of DRDA's vis-a-vis Panchayats at different states in India

ZP's merged with DRDO	DRDA separate but chaired by ZP chairperson	DRDA separate chaired by CEO of ZP	DRDA separate chaired by District Collector	Others
Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan	Assam, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal	Gujarat	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Punjab, Tamilnadu, Kerala, West Bengal	Sikkim has separate DRDA chaired by Secretary.

Source: Annual Report, Ministry of PRI, GOI, New Delhi

improve the planning and implementation of DRDA projects and programmes within the realm of poverty reduction/alleviation programme. The study focused on understanding the operational structures and the working systems adopted by various states & districts, and specific learning experiences of state functioning. It was found in the study that there was no clear cut understanding on the functions of DRDA across India. Hence the DRDA guidelines were spelt out and the functions of DRDA were clearly defined as follows:

- DRDAs are not the implementing agencies, but can be very effective in enhancing quality of implementation through overseeing the implementation of different programmes and ensuring that necessary linkages are provided.
- DRDA is a supporting and facilitation organisation and needs to play an effective role as a catalyst in development process.
- DRDA is visualised as a specialised and professional agency. It will continue to watch over implementation of RD programme to ensure effective utilisation of funds as well as develop a greater understanding of the process necessary for poverty alleviation/reduction.
- It will need to build synergies among different agencies for most effective results.

• The role of DRDA thus will be distinct from all other agencies, including Zilla Parishad. The evaluation study thus focused attention of assessing the role performed by DRDA and identification of factors that facilitated the performance and more importantly factors that led to suboptimal achievements of DRDAs in relation to the role set for DRDAs.

Source: Annual Report, Ministry of PRI, GOI, New Delhi

University with Potential for Excellence of University Grants Commission was awarded to the University of Mysore in the disciplines of Science and Social Science. In Social Science, the focus area of study is '**Media and Social Development: A Case Study of Karnataka**'. The **Newsletter ABHYUDAYA** is an initiative to create awareness in the area of media and social development by encouraging Project Fellows to submit contributions in interdisciplinary areas of social sciences.

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