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**PARTICIPATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN INDIA**

**DR. T. VIJAYARAGAVAN**  
**ASST. PROFESSOR (SR.G)**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES**  
**PSG COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**COIMBATORE**

**ABSTRACT**

*The purpose of this paper is to describe the rural development significance with the participation of rural development schemes in India. Rural development aims to improve the well being and self sustainability of people who are living in rural. It is a vital process to bring necessary changes among the rural people. The need for rural communities is a broad range of development goals. Rural people need to be given proper education, infrastructure facilities, entrepreneurial skills and so on. Rural development is a dynamic process, which is mainly concerned with the rural areas which include agricultural growth, economic, social infrastructure, housing and house sites for the landless, village planning, public health, education and functional literacy, communication etc. The Department of Rural Development is implementing a number of programmes in rural areas through the state Governments for poverty reduction, employment generation, rural infrastructure, provision of basic minimum services etc.*

**KEYWORDS**

Rural development, Participation, Development schemes, Infrastructure facilities, Entrepreneurial skills.

**INTRODUCTION**

Rural development is the way of improving the quality life and economic well-being of people. In India rural development is one of the most important areas where we need to expose fully towards the comfortable life of the people. India is primarily an agriculture based country. In order to strengthen further the growth of agriculture, the government has planned several programs to attain the necessary goals in rural development. The Ministry of Rural Development in India is the apex body for formulating policies, regulations and acts pertaining to the development of the rural sector. Agriculture, handicrafts, fisheries, poultry, and diary are the primary contributors to the rural business and economy. The Department of Rural Development is implementing a number of programmes in rural areas through the state Governments for poverty reduction, employment generation, rural infrastructure habitant development, provision of basic minimum services etc. The segment like entrepreneurship, physical infrastructure, and social infrastructure also play a significant role in developing rural regions. Rural development aims at improving rural people's livelihoods in an equitable and sustainable manner. However the primary focus of all rural development schemes are train to rural unemployed youth, eradication of poverty, improve the living standard, skill enhancement, economic independent, nurture entrepreneurial skills, motivate leadership qualities and the like. This paper considers the participation of various rural development schemes in India for the purpose of attaining the steady rural economic growth.

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

India is essentially a rural and agriculture oriented economy. It is essential segment to lift rural areas in a most compete manner. It requires simultaneous action in various sectors. The country needs a permanent mechanism of industry promoting agriculture and urban areas helping rural areas. Agriculture remains the challenging area in our nation economy. The government needs to provide a conceptual and methodological framework for evaluating rural development policy. Rural development is a veritable tool for fighting poverty and achieving economic prosperity at the grassroots level. So the Government of India should take necessary step with regard to community infrastructure facilities such as drinking water, electricity, road connectivity, health facilities, rural housing, education and promoting decentralization of powers to strengthen the panchayat raj institutions etc for the better life of the rural society.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

Ramesh Rangappa in his paper he observed that poverty, unemployment and migration are dominating the nation in 21<sup>st</sup> century. Developing economy forces rural poor to urban migration. NREGA is an economic policy proposal aimed at providing a sustainable solution to the dual problems of unemployment and migration. Its aim is to create employment opportunities for unskilled manual workers and prevent rural-urban migration. MGNREGA has become successful to provide employment opportunities to the needy hands in the rural area and also it as become successful to prevent the rural urban migration in the study area. Ramesh Rangappa and Shripathi Kallurya in their paper analyzed the rural man power utilization in MGNREGA in Raichur. The main aim of MGNREGA is to create employment opportunities for rural unemployed peoples in the gross root level. Therefore, it is important to see how employment generated under MGNREGA in the rural areas.

Sandhya Suri in her study she has been pointed out that rural entrepreneurship can be defined as entrepreneurship emerging at village level which can take place in a variety field of endeavor such as business, industry, agriculture and related activities as a potent factor for economic development. The main aim of this paper is to facilitate economic development and generate employment by providing necessary factor inputs and infrastructure for productive uses in agriculture and rural industries and improving the quality of life of rural people by entrepreneurial empowerment.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To study the need for the focused area.
2. To understand the significance of the rural development through its schemes.
3. To aware the requirement for the development of the rural areas.
4. To know the participation of rural development schemes in India.

**METHODOLOGY**

Secondary data has been used for this paper. It has been compiled from various sources like journals, books, magazines, newspapers, reports, dissertations and thesis.

**NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Improvement in the quality life of rural people is the important agenda for rural development programme. In India rural development programme is necessary to enhance the life style of rural people. Rural development implies both the economic betterment as well as greater social transformation of people. The basic objective of all rural development programmes has been the welfare of the millions. In order to achieve this, planned attempts have been made to eliminate poverty, ignorance and inequality of opportunities. When we ensure like this people in rural areas could survive independently. So, Government need to take initiation of rural development particularly, agriculture, communication, education and health. The Ministry of Rural Development places importance now on health, education, drinking water, housing and road facilities for better life. Rural development in India has witnessed several changes over the years in its



emphasis, approaches, strategies and programmes. It has assumed a new dimension and perspectives as a consequence. Rural development can be richer and more meaningful only through the participation of clientele of development. People's participation is one of the foremost pre-requisites of development process both from procedural and philosophical perspectives. The rural economy is an integral part of the overall Indian economy. As majority of the poor reside in the rural areas, the prime goal of rural development is to improve the quality of life of the rural people by alleviating poverty through the instrument of self-employment and wage employment programmes.

### IMPORTANCE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A wide spectrum of programmes has been undertaken so far, to eliminate rural poverty and ensure improved quality of life for the rural population. Rural development is a national necessity and has considerable importance in India.

- To develop rural areas as whole in terms of culture, society, economy, technology and health.
- To improve living standard of rural mass.
- To equip rural youths, children and women.
- To empower human resource of rural area in terms of their psychology, skill, knowledge, attitude and other abilities.
- To enhance the leadership quality in rural area.
- To arrange rural marketing facility.
- To develop infrastructure facility in rural area.
- To provide minimum facility to rural mass in terms of drinking water, education, transport, electricity and communication.
- To stabilize rural institutions like panchayat, cooperatives, post-office and banking
- To provide financial assistance to rural entrepreneurs to lift the economically weaken people.
- To develop rural industries such as handicrafts, small scale industries, village industries, rural crafts, cottage industries and other related economic operations in the rural sector.
- To improve agriculture, animal husbandry and other agricultural related segments in a challenging way.
- To restore uncultivated land, provide irrigation facilities and motivate farmers to adopt improved seed, fertilizers, package of practices of crop cultivation and soil conservation methods.
- To minimize gap between the urban and rural in terms of facilities availed.
- To improve rural peoples participation in the development of state and nation as whole.
- To make the sustainable development in rural area.

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Rural Development in India is one of the most important factors for the growth of the Indian economy. It is mainly focuses on poverty alleviation, better livelihood opportunities, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities through innovative programmes of wage and self-employment.

#### MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MGNREGA)

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment to a rural household who volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Indian government sponsored scheme, MGNREGA, aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year. MGNREGA is one of the government's largest flagship schemes, and is the largest job creation programme of its kind in the world. Supporters believe that it is necessary to help rural workers smooth income in times of distress and increase labour market access for marginalized groups. MGNREGA has brought momentum in the financial inclusion of our rural population. Moreover it helps to increase the role of panchayats for better planning and improve the quality under this scheme.

#### PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

The primary objective of the PMGSY is to provide rural road connectivity with a view to promote greater access to economic and social services and thereby generate increased economic and social opportunities in rural India. The rural road connectivity is a key component of rural development, which promotes agricultural incomes and productive employment opportunities in rural India as well as ensures sustainable poverty reduction programme. This rural connectivity is essential for the overall development of the rural areas. There is a close link between rural connectivity and socio-economic aspects, such as, economic growth, employment, education and health care. Habitations, which are unconnected, do not have availability and accessibility to several facilities and socio-economic services.

There are a number of habitations in the country, which are still not connected by All-weather roads or are connected with poor quality roads (due to poor construction or maintenance) which cannot be categorized as All-weather roads. The rationale for launching PMGSY scheme is thus, to redress this situation so that certain opportunities and services (employment, educational, health, transport, marketing facilities etc.), which are not available in the unconnected habitation, become available to the residents.

#### INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA

Housing is one of the basic requirements for human survival. For a normal citizen owning a house provides significant economic security and status in society. For a shelter less person, a house brings about a profound social change in his existence, endowing him with an identity, thus integrating him with his immediate social milieu. It is a social welfare programme, created by the Indian Government, to provide housing for the rural poor in India. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development has since inception been providing assistance to BPL families who are either houseless or having inadequate housing facilities for constructing a safe and durable shelter. This effort has been part of a larger strategy of the Ministry's poverty eradication effort, supporting the development of an environmentally sound habitat with adequate provisions for incremental expansion and improvement. The Constitution of India places rural housing in the domain of State Governments and the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Central Government has been implementing IAY as part of the enabling approach to shelter for all, taking cognizance of the fact that rural housing is one of the major anti-poverty measures for the marginalised. The house is recognised not merely as a shelter and a dwelling place but also an asset which supports livelihood, symbolizes social position and is also a cultural expression. A good home would be in harmony with the natural environment protecting the household from extreme weather conditions, has the required connectivity for mobility and facilities for economic activities.

#### SWARNAJAYANTI GRAM SWAROJGAR YOJANA (SGSY)

It is an initiative launched by the Government of India to provide sustainable income to poor people living in rural areas of the country. The scheme was launched on April 1, 1999. The SGSY aims at providing Self-employment to villagers through the establishment of Self-help groups. Activity clusters are established based on the aptitude and skill of the people which are nurtured to their maximum potential. Funds are provided by NGOs, Banks and financial institutions. The SGSY was somewhat intended to provide self-employment to millions of villagers. Poor families living below the poverty line were organised into Self-help groups (SHGs) established with a mixture of government subsidy and credit from investment banks. The main aim of these SHGs was to bring these poor families above the poverty line and concentrate on income generation through combined effort. The scheme recommended the establishment of activity clusters or clusters of villagers grouped together based on their skills and abilities. Each of these activity clusters worked on a specific activity chosen based on the aptitude and skill of the people, availability of resources and market potentiality. SGSY will ensure upgradation of the technology in the identified activity clusters. It will provide for promotion of marketing of the goods produced by the SGSY Swarozgaris. This would involve providing of market intelligence, development of markets, consultancy services, as well as institutional arrangements for marketing of the goods including exports.

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

The National Social Assistance Scheme (NSAS) or National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a flagship welfare program of the Government of India initiated on 15 August 1995.

The NSAP aims at ensuring minimum national standard for social assistance in addition to the benefits that states are currently providing or would provide in future. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a welfare programme being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development. This programme is being implemented in rural areas as well as urban areas. These are intended to secure for the citizens adequate means of livelihood, raise the standard of living, improve public health, provide free and compulsory education for children etc. At present, NSAP comprises of the following five schemes for BPL persons:-

- i) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
- ii) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)
- iii) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
- iv) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
- v) Annapurna

**COUNCIL FOR ADVANCEMENT OF PEOPLES ACTION AND RURAL TECHNOLOGY (CAPART)**

CAPART is a major promoter of rural development in India. This scheme was by the Government of India in September 1986.

The main objectives of the CAPART are:

- To encourage, promote and assist voluntary action for the implementation of projects intending enhancement of rural prosperity.
- To Strengthen and promote voluntary efforts in rural development with focus on injecting new technological inputs;
- To act as a catalyst for the development of technology appropriate for rural areas.
- To promote, plan, undertake, develop, maintain and support projects/schemes aimed at all-round development, creation of employment opportunities, promotion of self-reliance, generation of awareness, organization and improvement in the quality of life of the people in rural areas through voluntary action.
- CAPART s mandate is to encourage, promote, assist rural action and propagate appropriate rural technologies for the benefit of the rural poor. CAPART envisions playing a dynamic and catalytic role with various governmental agencies and NGOs, influencing public policy and contributes its share towards the many-sided development of rural India. It aims to safeguard the rights of rural poor, improve their living conditions through introduction of appropriate rural technology, acquire marketable skills for rural poor and assist them in their attempt to secure livelihoods through employment and self-employment.

**DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (DRDA)**

District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) are district level development execution and monitoring agencies created under the Indian Societies Registration Act. DRDAs are established for effective implementation of anti-poverty programmes in rural areas at the district level. It is an institution that acts as a delivery agency to support and facilitate the development process. The role of the DRDA is to plan for effective implementation of anti-poverty programmes coordinating with other agencies like Governmental, Non- Governmental, technical and financial for successful programme implementation. They enable the poor rural community to participate in the decision making process. The primary objective of District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) is to effectively manage the anti-poverty programmes, coordinate effectively with other agencies and line departments like Panchayat raj institutions, Banks and other financial institutions, the NGO's and other technical institutions to gather support and resources required for poverty elimination at the district level. Rural development and poverty alleviation programmes are implemented on a decentralized basis, keeping in view the large geographical areas, the administrative requirements and the need to involve grassroots-level officials and the community in the implementation of the programmes. At the central level the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment has been implementing these programmes. The Ministry is responsible for the release of central share of funds, policy formulation, overall guidance, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes.

**PROVISION OF URBAN AMENITIES IN RURAL AREAS (PURA)**

The PURA has all the dimensions to become a business enterprise, which has global dimensions but operating in every nook and corner of our country. It means about the Provision of urban amenities and livelihood opportunities in rural areas to bridge the rural urban divide thereby reducing the migration from rural to urban areas. The objectives of PURA are proposed to be achieved under the framework of Public Private Partnership between Gram Panchayats and private sector partner with active state government support.

- It aims at a comprehensive development of rural areas to generate urban- level incomes, and not mere Poverty alleviation.
- It plans for an investment at urban levels and not the much lower amounts that prevails at present.
- It aims to generate employment for the educated, thereby, halt and even reverse rural-urban migration.
- It treats quality infrastructure as the prerequisite and not the consequence of development.
- It seeks modern industry, investment in social and commercial service instead of rural handicrafts and agri-based small industry.
- It relies on private initiative. It is a for-profit enterprise not dependent on subsidy from the government.

**PRIME MINISTER'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS (PMRDF) SCHEME**

PMRD Fellows Scheme is an initiative of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India in collaboration with State Governments. The Fellowship has the twin objective of engaging young professionals to work with District Collectors in improving the development programmes as well as to build them as a cadre of development facilitators, who will be available as a ready resource for rural development activities over a long term.

**AAJEEVIKA - NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION (NRLM)**

It was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India in June 2011. Aided in part through investment support by the World Bank, the Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services. The NRLM believes in harnessing the innate capabilities of the poor and complements them with capacities (information, knowledge, skills, tools, finance and collectivization) to participate in the growing economy of the country. It would promote SHGs with exclusive women membership. The idea is to reach out to all family members through women. Process of formation of SHGs which includes organizing the women into affinity based groups, developing group norms, practicing Panchasutra (regular meetings, regular savings, regular inter-loaning, timely repayment and up-to-date books of accounts), and leadership development. Promotion of specialized institutions like livelihood collectives, producer's cooperatives/ companies for livelihoods promotion, which will work on scale, ensure backward and forward linkages, access to information, credit, technology and markets.

**CONCLUSION**

Development is a multi-dimensional exercise that seeks to transform society by addressing the entire complex of interwoven strands, living impulses, which are part of an organic whole. Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of rural poor. Rural development is all about bringing change rural development aims to improve the life style of rural people to fulfill their requirement. It is mainly focused to develop the social and economic development of the rural areas. The factors like education, entrepreneurship, physical infrastructure and social infrastructure is always playing a significant role in developing rural regions. Rural development is also characterized by its emphasis on locally produced economic development strategies. The rural economy is an integral part of the overall Indian economy. In order to improve the quality of life of the rural people we need to provide best self-employment awareness programmes, appropriate training programmes, community infrastructure facilities and so on to stabilize the rural economy. It is the time to transform rural economy to impart the need and importance of the rural development programmes to the rural people in a dedicative way.

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