

International Book On "Sustainable Village Development : Emerging Ideas"
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Sustainable Rural Development

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Abstract:

Rural development has assumed global attention especially among the developing nation. It has great significance for a country like India where majority of the populations, around 65% of the people, live in rural areas. The present days strategies of rural development in focusing on basic amenities and infrastructure facilities, through innovative programmes of a wage generation and self-employment. This article overviews the role and function of the Government and its programmes for rural development in India. Science and Technological intervention in the field of rural development have been discussed briefly and efforts being made to document some of the appropriate technologies developed by several research institutes, organisations suitable for application in rural areas are listed. Besides the actual realization achieved during the Xth plan and the proposed target and strategy of the XIth plan have been highlighted to showcase the recent trend of developmental activities under the Ministry of Rural development.

Keywords: Rural, Development, Infrastructure, Sustainable, Market

Introduction:

Rural Development in India is one of the most important factors for the growth of the India economy. India is primarily an agriculture-based country. Agriculture contributes nearly one-fifth of the gross domestic product in India. In order to increase the growth of agriculture, the Government has planned several programs pertaining to rural development in India. 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 dairy are the primary contributors to the rural business and economy. Rural development in India has witnessed several changes over the year 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 touchstone for planning, peoples participation is the centre-piece in rural development. Peoples' participation is one of the foremost pre-requisites of development process both from procedural and philosophical perspectives. For the development planners and administrators it is important to solicit the participation of different groups for rural people, to make the plans participatory.

Social Protection Programmes:

- i. Empower women and small-scales farmer, and indigenous peoples, including through securing equitable land tenure supported by appropriate legal frameworks;
- ii. Promote equitable access to land, water, financial resources and technologies by women, indigenous people and other vulnerable groups;
- iii. Support and promote efforts to harmonize modern technologies with traditional and indigenous knowledge for sustainable rural development;



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- iv. Provide access to credit and other mechanisms as well as resources for farm based activities, especially for small-scale farmer, including women in particular, in developing countries to better manage the various risks they face, including price, weather, climate water shortage, land degradation and natural disasters, including by providing aid and promoting the development of agricultural insurance markets;
- v. Protect and ensure sustainable development use of traditional knowledge, including indigenous knowledge in accordance with article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, for the Management of natural resources to address the challenges of sustainable development;
- vi. Facilitate the active participation of vulnerable groups, including women, youth and indigenous people and rural communities, in the elaboration of local and national planning of rural development, taking into account national legislation;
- vii. Build the resilience of rural communities to cope with recover from natural disasters;
- viii. Promote and scale up labour-intensive recovery activities in addition to capital-intensive;
- ix. Support training and capacity-building of rural communities to effectively implement adaptation programmes to climate change at the local level;
- x. Invest resources to enhance research aimed at adapting to the challenges of climate change;
- xi. Foster and strengthen capacities of rural communities for self-organisation for building social capital, taking into account national legislation.

Issues of rural development:

Measures to taken for the rural development, both from economic and social point of view:-

1. Energy: One of our top priorities is giving the poor access to energy. We advocate a better basic energy supply to reduce extreme poverty and promote sustainable development through an efficient energy infrastructure and we rely on renewable energy sources.
2. Transport and mobility's: Mobility gives people access to markets, education and healthcare. Effective transport structures also play an important role in economic development. The transport systems of emerging economies and developing countries, however, are often on the brinks of collapse. We work with our partners to implement sustainable transport strategies.
3. Water: Sustainable management of water, a limited resource, represents a major challenge in view of population growth, urbanisation, globalisation, flooding and droughts. We help our partner ensure that people have access to clean drinking water and sanitation.
4. Forward-looking construction: Construction projects abroad have to factor in the social and cultural effects they will have in the respective country. We work closely with local architects and construction companies, and use local resources. This strengthens the local economy and helps create jobs.
5. Agricultural policy and rural areas: 800 million people are undernourished or malnourished. The development of the rural environment plays a key role in fighting




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- hunger and achieving economic development. We help ensure the people living in rural regions have access to land, water, loans and education.
6. Management of natural resources : The destruction of natural resources often triggers a vicious cycle of poverty and further environmental degradation in developing countries. This makes local development more difficult and has dramatic global effects. We help our partners conserve their natural resources through sustainable management.
 7. Agricultural trade and standards: Agriculture is the most important driver of development in rural regions. Globalisation creates new opportunities, but the overall legal framework is often inadequate and knowledge of international standards is lacking. We help our partners deal with issues such as agricultural trade, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as social and environmental standards.
 8. Gender and rural development: Women contributes substantially to food security and are usually responsible for rural households' survival. Despite significant role, for example in agriculture, women tend to have worse access to resources than men. We support our partners to improve the situation of women in rural areas.
 9. Employment: Millions of people around the world are looking for work or they work inhumane conditions. However, a decent job is the key to escape poverty. The GIZ helps formulate and implement instruments and strategies for more better job in its partners countries.
 10. Financial systems : A stable financial system is an important requirement for a country's economic growth. We are currently advising 35 countries on financial system development. We also support, where possible, existing structures instead of creating new structures or institutions.
 11. Private-sector development: Small and medium-sized enterprises form the back bone of the national economy in many countries. Globalisation is shifting value creation to developing countries in many industries. We help our partner develop a framework for a competitive and sustainable private sector.
 12. Trade: Globalisation create opportunities for economic growth in developing countries. However many of these countries have hardly benefited from trade liberalisation so far. We help our partners draft and implement pro-development trade policy.

Integrated Rural Development Programs (IRDP):

First introduced in 1978-79, IRDP has provided assistance to rural poor in the form of subsidy and bank credit for productive employment opportunities through successive plan periods. Subsequently, Training of Rural Youth for self-employment(TRYSEM), Development of women and Children in Rural Area (DWCRA), Supply of Improve Tool kits to Rural Artisans(SITRA) and Ganga KalyanYojana(GKY) were introduced as sub programs of IRDP to take care of the specific needs of the rural population.

- Wage Employment Programs
- Employment Assurance Scheme
- Food for work program



- Rural Housing
- Social Security Programs
- Land reforms

People's Initiatives for Progress:

Farmers in several states have established cooperatives for processing sugarcane, oil-seed, milks, fruits, and vegetables. With professional management and application of modern technologies, these organisations have brought economic stability and eliminated exploitation by intermediary traders. Encouragement is being given to strengthen such organisation throughout the country. Under a nationwide programme for water resource development, involvement of NGOs as facilitators and formations of water user' organisations have been encouraged to prepare the micro-level plan and implement the project directly. This programme has made a significant impact on the supply of drinking water and greater awareness is being created on the need to conserve water and energy resources. There is scope for promoting such peoples organisations in other fields as well to develop necessary infrastructure required to enhance economic prosperity. Considering the need for promoting people's initiatives and local organisations, Self Help Groups, comprising of poor families have been promoted under the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), through the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) in 1999. SHGs consisting of 10-20 members belonging to backwards socio-economic status encourage the participants to meet regularly collect their savings and disburse it as loan to needy members. During this process, they also discuss their problems and find suitable solutions. Finally, it is the people's initiative which can sustain the development. The Government has the will to support people movement and this is the only ray of hope for sustainable development of the rural poor in India.

Conclusion:

The development programme should identify the problems and options to solve these problems, based on the availability resources and technologies. The agricultural development programme should identify the availability of resources such as quality of the land, quantity of water weather conditions and select suitable crops which are most productive. The project should ensure timely supply of inputs, finance and identify a suitable market where price recovery for the produce will be more. This has been the key to success of many voluntary agencies engaged in rural development. BAIF Development Research foundation a Gandhian organisation, based at Urulikanchan near Pune has demonstrated the feasibility of using low-producing cattle and degraded lands for rehabilitation of the rural poor. A family with their cows or 0.5 ha of land under fruit orchard can earn about Rs. 15,000 to 18,000 per year and lead to sustainable livelihood. The programme presently covers one million families spread over 10,000 villages in eight states.

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