

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT THROUGH RURAL PROGRESS

Vasya Naik B

Assistant Professor

Department of Economics, Government First Grade College, Ayanur, Shimoga

ABSTRACT:

Rural Development is a comprehensive term. It is essentially focuses on action for the development of areas that are lagging behind in the overall development of the village economy. The Government of India have come up with various useful schemes from time to time like Intensive Agriculture Area Programme. The ultimate economic goals of urbanization and rural development are similar which targets towards ensuring prosperity and equality, so it should be planned in a integrated way and analysing the wealth drain as a consequences of it. The way and means of how to attain India's development through Rural Progress like interlinking of rivers, Pura System, Self-Sufficiency and Sustainability, Agriculture education and local self government.

Key words: *Rural Development, Rural Wealth Drain, Integrated Development, Agricultural Education, Interlinking of Rivers.*

INTRODUCTION:

On 15, August 1947, India woke to a new dawn of freedom. Finally we were masters of our own destiny after some two hundred years of British rule; the job of nation building was now in our hands. The leaders of independent India had to decide, among other things, the type of **economic system** most suitable for our nation, a system which would promote the welfare of all rather than a few.

The presence state of Indian economy as also its likely future, a study of its past is of great help. With the knowledge and experience that it offers, one can perceive the emergency and evolution of the present problems.

The economic conditions of India, before the British came around the middle of 19th century, were almost similar to those which prevailed in other countries at a comparable stage of industrial development. In some respect India, in fact, was better placed for modern growth.

THE SECTOR WISE ANALYSIS OF THE POST-INDEPENDENT INDIA:

Agriculture: Agriculture is the major source of livelihood in the rural sector. Mahatma Gandhi once said that the real progress of India did not mean simply the growth and expansion of industrial urban centres but mainly the development of villages. This idea of village development being at the center of the overall development of the nation is relevant even today. The agricultural sectors as well as industrial sector were in a high degree of development. While trade and transport sectors were just satisfactory, banking was quite a developed sector.

Manufacturing: In the industrial fields also india had attained a high degree development. Industries developed in the cities and the cities expanded. However, rural industries started getting extinct and the villagers or people living in rural areas began to migrate to cities. Due to liberalization and globalization, the industry and service sectors made use of the latest

technology expanded very rapidly. The job opportunities in these sectors are available mainly to the people living in urban areas. They enjoy ultra-modern lifestyles.

Poverty has increased among the villagers or people living in rural areas who depends primarily on agriculture. One third of them live below subsistence level. Under the onslaught of modernization, rural cottage industries are vanishing unable to withstand the competition. Though 60% of the people work in the primary sector, the contribution from this sector to the national income is very low and is reducing year by year. Due to this, the gap between urban and rural areas is increasing gradually. If this imbalance has to be got rid of, and over all development of the country has to be achieved, there is a dire necessity of developing the rural areas first.

OBJECTIVES:

- To analyse whether the schemes of Indian government, for the rural development reach the destiny.
- To realise the change in urbanisation pattern, as the result of rural wealth drain.
- To understand the importance of agriculture education in rural development.

A BIRD-VIEW OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Rural development is a comprehensive term. It essentially focuses on action for the development of areas that are lagging behind in the overall development of the village economy. Some of the areas which are challenging and need fresh initiatives for development in rural India include:

- Development of human resources including
 - Literacy, more specifically, female literacy, education and skill development
 - Health, addressing both sanitation and public health
- Land reforms
- Development of the productive resources of each locality
- Infrastructure development like electricity, irrigation, credit, marketing, transport facilities including construction of village roads and feeder roads to nearby highways, facilities for agriculture research and extension and information dissemination.
- Special measures for alleviation of poverty and bringing about significant improvement in the living conditions of the weaker sections of the population emphasising access to productive employment opportunities

All this means that engaged in farm and non-farm activities in rural areas have to be provided with various means that help the increase the productivity. They also need to be given opportunities to diversify into various non-farms productive activities such as food processing .Enabling them better and more affordable access to health care, sanitation facilities at workplaces and homes and education for all would also need to be given top priority for rapid rural progress.

Objectives Description:

- 1. TO ANALYSE WHETHER THE SCHEMES OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT, FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT REACH THE DESTINY.**

The twelve schemes of rural development in India are as follows:

The main objective of rural development has been to remove poverty of the people and fill the widened gap between the rich and the poor. This has been also vocalized in the policy of the government which says: said, '*Rural poverty alleviation has been the primary concern in the economic planning and development process of the county; rural development which encompasses the entire gamut of improvement in the overall quality of life in the rural areas can be achieved through eradication of poverty in rural areas.*'

Keeping in view the planning policy in mind, various schemes of development, especially the development of agriculture, the main occupation of the rural people, have been introduced.

The major early programmes were:

The ministries of the Government of India have come up with various useful schemes from time to time. These schemes could be either central, state specific or joint collaboration between the Centre and the states. They are:

The important goals of this programme were:

1. Intensive Agriculture Area Programme (LAAP)
2. Intensive Agriculture District Programme (IADP)
3. High Yielding Varieties Programme (HYVP)
4. Rural Industries Project and Rural Artisans Programmes
5. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)
6. Training Rural Youths for Self-Employment (TRYSEM)
7. Food for work programme (FWP)
8. National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)
9. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP)
10. JawaharRozgar Yojana (JRY)
11. Antyodaya Yojana
12. Mahatma .Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MNREGS)

The scheme emphasised on eradication of poverty and reducing income inequalities and removing social and economic disparities and improving the quality of life.

2. TO REALISE THE CHANGE IN URBANISATION PATTERN, AS THE RESULT OF RURAL WEALTH DRAIN:

- a) Urban and Rural Development Should Be Planned Together:** The ultimate economic goals of urbanization and rural development are similar, which targets towards ensuring prosperity and equality. The Constitution of India promises livelihood as a fundamental right. Hence, every citizen of the country whether he lives in is in rural or urban area, has a right to benefit from whatever economic growth the country achieves. Unfortunately, there is a vast disparity in the rates of growth experienced in urban and rural areas. In India, as most economic growth centers around the cities, economic empowerment has a condition - rural migration. Those who migrate to mega-cities achieve faster and greater prosperity, as compared to those left behind in smaller towns and villages.

The projected rate of urban centered economic growth is directly affected by supply of skilled manpower. Rural areas are an essential source for providing this manpower. Rural areas also provide food security and essential re-sources; which are necessary for sustainability of the economy.

Therefore we can say that if urbanization is important for faster economic growth; rural development is important for sustainability and longevity. We need an integrated and balanced approach that ensures equal and inclusive development of both urban and rural areas.

- b) **Integrated Development – Urban V/S Rural:** As Arthur Lewis noted in 1950 in his Theory of Economic Development: "The only, faster and uni-directional, route to bridge these gaps is through shifting rural populations to urban centers". India is finally on its path to urbanization. But with the rapid urbanization the rural-urban gaps are becoming more visible and prominent. These gaps are quiet prominent in rural-urban incomes and livelihoods, employment and prosperity, public services and quality of life.

Over 70% of India's poor live in the villages. The incomes are higher in urban areas while rural areas see extreme poverty. About 70% of rural homes in India lack toilet facilities. Achieving universal sanitation for all is another tedious task that India faces. In all the other parameters, like access to health, education and access to livelihood opportunities, the gaps are clearly visible.

Most governments in India are hesitant when required to make speedier and larger investments in rural infrastructure; such as roads, hospitals, schools and industries. The case made up by most of them is that rural areas provide less fiscal benefits to the government (hardly 20% revenue of the government comes from the rural areas). They fail to realize that if urban areas are important because they provide higher revenue, rural areas are equally important for sustaining the urban areas.

Urban development dream cannot be achieved if we do not overcome these developmental disparities and ensure integrated development goals involving both urban and rural areas. For this to happen we need the fruits of economic growth to cross urban boundaries and reach all nooks and corners of the economy. Thus, on the one hand we need to give more space to rural production, on the other hand we need to ensure transfer of economic benefits from urban to rural areas.

3. **TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Here in, discuss the influences on food and farming of an increasingly urbanized world and declining ratio to food produces to food consumers. Urbanisation has been under pinned by the rapid growth in the world economy and in the proportion of grass world product and of workers in industrial and service enterprise. Globally, agriculture have met the demands from this rapidly growing urban population , including food that is more energy-,land, water- and green house gas emission-intensive. But hundreds of million of urban dwellers suffer under – nutrition. So the key issue with regards to agriculture and urbanization are whether the growing and changing demands for agricultural products from growing urban population can be sustained while at the same time underpinning agricultural prosperity and reducing rural and urban poverty.

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Findings and Suggestions:

India's progress lies on the progress of Villages

1. Water scarcity can be solved by interlinking of rivers

Many states have proposed for interlinking of rivers due to scarcity of water in their state and hence the central government is working on few projects like:

- a) Mahanadi – Godavari – Krishna – Pennar – Cauvery
- b) West flowing rivers, North of Bombay and South of Tapi
- c) Ken with Chambal
- d) Division of some water from west flowing rivers

Interlinking of rivers will reduce the poverty and floods and distribute water equally it will also have commercial importance on a longer run and will provide employment and new occupation for the people living in and around this canal.

2. PURA: (PURA=PROVIDING URBAN AMENITIES IN RURAL AREAS)

Providing urban amenities in rural areas is an excellent project conceptualized for rural development by the former president of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. In this model, four ways of linking villages is planned:

- a) Under physical link, a group of 15-25 villages will get mutual road links.
 - a. Around these villages, there will be a ring road. In addition, they will get electricity link.
- b) Knowledge link involves establishing a school, a higher education institution and a hospital at a distance of every 5-7kilometers.
- c) Electronic link involves providing modern telephone and telecommunication services to the villages.
- d) Economic link involves establishing a proper market-yard within the group of villages. This yard should enable the villagers to sell all of their products and by their daily necessities.

3. Self sufficiency and sustainability:

India has been experiencing the increase in the production in food grains particularly after the introduction of new agricultural strategies – Green revolution, White revolution, Golden revolution etc., with new agricultural practices the annual growth rate of 3.5% in food grains in 1980s is the hallmark green revolution that enabled India to become self sufficient in food grains and even a marginal exporter.

Sustainability is very important concept in food grains and domestic consumption which is a resultant after self sufficiency. The importance and the value of protection of Desi-cows is the most important principle towards saving the old world from both moral and spiritual

degradation. The difference between A1 and A2 is much realised by the people and A2 is abundantly observed in local bread cattle. Domestic consumption should be given much more importance like production and consumption of local goods using local raw material which will raise the self sufficiency and sustainability of rural India towards developed India.

4. Agricultural education and urbanization:

Globalisation and Urbanisation combined with greater educational and employment opportunity in urban areas have additionally produce form labour availability in many countries. Rural and urban areas are no longer spatially disconnected given the advances in information and communication technologies. Farm labour today, faces global competition. This growing opportunity cost of labour has particularly drawn young men away from rural, increasingly leaving agriculture in the hands of rural women.

The education which is the main reason for the rural youth to move towards town and cities is, depleting the human resource from rural side. The educated youth are not ready to go back to their farm fields and they want only white collars job. Instead if their education is targeting towards betterment and innovation in agricultural field, will have a positive effect in converting rural agriculture in modern and efficiency strategy.

5. Power full local self government

Panchayat raj institutions play a major role in enabling the rural people to participate in rural development. They can help to provide the rural community with basic facilities of roads, drains, drinking water, street lights, toilets, school and hospital buildings, market-yard etc. Through encouragement of primary and middle school education, adult education, technical and vocational training, and expansion of health and hygiene facilities, panchayat institutions have striven to develop human resources too.

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