

The Rural India Development Imperative: Reviewing Government Initiatives and Action Plans



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Abstract

There are no universal approaches to develop rural areas. It is a choice influenced by time, space and culture. Only the term Rural Development has worked, to improve the quality of life of rural peoples. In this sense, it is a comprehensive and multidimensional concept, and encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities, village and cottage industries and crafts, infrastructure, community services and human resources in rural areas. As a phenomenon, rural development is the end-result of interactions between various physical, technological, economic, social, cultural and institutional factors. As a strategy, it is primarily an outline of the processes that lead to a rise in the capacity of the rural people to improve their lives, environment and social wellbeing of a specific group of people. There is a large scale migration of the people from rural areas to urban areas, which has its own risk parameters on the urban areas, and still there are many villages in India with heavy population. So the main aim to develop the villages by offering basic facilities, education, employment generation activities, technology etc. The government is running variety of programs and schemes as per need of the area and rural people. In this paper an attempt has been made to present some of the ongoing schemes and programs being offered by the Government for the prolong development of the rural people.

Keywords: Rural Development, Government Schemes, Government Programs

Introduction

Rural Development in India is one of the most important factor for the growth of the Indian 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.



According to 2011 census, rural area has population of 68.84%, whereas urban area has population of 31.16% only. The Government's policy and programs have laid emphasis on poverty alleviation, generation of employment and income opportunities and provision of infrastructure and basic facilities to meet the needs of rural peoples. People's participation is one of the foremost prerequisites of development process both from procedural and philosophical perspectives. For the development planners and administrators have to play vital role for the participation of different groups of rural people, to make the plans effective. The Ministry of Rural Development in India is engaged in legislations for the social and economic improvement of the rural population.

Objectives of the Study

1. To understand the government programmes and schemes for rural development.

2. To study the budget of 2016-2017 of Ministry of Rural Development.
3. To understand & analyze the different programs and schemes of Government for the sustainable development of the rural India.

Different Government programs and Schemes for Rural Development

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act:

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, (MNRREGA) was introduced on September 7, 2005. It provides enhancement of livelihood security, giving at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

MGNREGA Goals

1. Strong social safety net for the vulnerable groups by providing a fall-back employment source, when other employment alternatives are scarce or inadequate.
2. Empowerment of rural poor through the processes of a rights-based Law.
3. New ways of doing business, as a model of governance reform anchored on the principles of transparency and grass root democracy.
4. MNRREGA fosters conditions for inclusive growth ranging from basic wage security and recharging rural economy to a transformative empowerment process of democracy.

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna

This programme was launched in April, 1999. This is a holistic program covering all aspects of self employment such as training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing.

Objective

The objective of SGSY is to provide sustainable income to the rural poor. The program aims at establishing a large number of micro-enterprises in the rural areas, based upon the potential of the rural poor. It is envisaged that every family assisted under SGSY will be brought above the poverty-line with in a period of three years.

Scope

This program covers families below poverty line in rural areas of the country. Within this target group, special safeguards have been provided by reserving 50% of benefits for SCs/STs, 40% for women and 3% for physically handicapped persons. Subject to the availability of the funds, it is proposed to cover 30% of the rural poor in each block in the next 5 years.

Funding

SGSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and funding is shared by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25 respectively.

Indira Awas Yojana

IAY is a rural housing scheme which is being implemented by the Government of India with an aim of providing shelter to the poor below poverty line. The Government of India has decided that allocation of funds under IAY (Indira Awas Yojna) will be on the basis of poverty ratio and housing shortage.

Objective

The objective of IAY is primarily to help construction of new dwelling units as well as

conversion of unserviceable kutcha houses into pucca /semi-pucca to the members of SC/STs, freed bonded laborers and also non-SC/ST rural poor below the poverty line by extending them grant-in-aid.

Scope

IAY is a beneficiary-oriented program aimed at providing houses for SC/ST households who are victims of atrocities, households headed by widows/unmarried women and SC/ST households who are below the poverty line. This scheme has been in effect from 1st April, 1999.

Funding

IAY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme funded on cost sharing basis between the Govt. of India and the States in the ratio of 75:25 respectively.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY)

It was launched on 25th December 2000 as a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide all weather road connectivity in rural areas of the country. The program envisages connecting all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in the plain areas and 250 persons and above in hill States, the tribal and the desert areas.

According to latest figures made available by the State Governments under a survey to identify Core Network as part of the PMGSY program, about 1.67 lakh Unconnected Habitations are eligible for coverage under the program. This involves construction of about 3.71 Lakh km. of roads for New Connectivity and 3.68 Lakh km. under up gradation.

Bharat Nirman

The President of India, in his address to Parliament on 25th February, 2005, announced a major business plan for rebuilding rural India called Bharat Nirman. The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech of 28th February, 2005, identified Rural Roads as one of the important components of Bharat Nirman and has set a goal to provide connectivity to all habitations with a population of 1000 persons and above (500 persons and above in the case of hilly or tribal areas) with an all-weather road. This comprises 60% up gradation from Government of India and 40% renewal by the State Governments.

Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)

It has been launched by the honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The scheme will replace the existing Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). The DDUGJY scheme will enable to initiate much awaited reforms in the rural areas. It focuses on feeder separation (rural households & agricultural) and strengthening of sub-transmission & distribution infrastructure including metering at all levels in rural areas.

Drought Prone Area Program

This program is basically an area development program and aims at integrated development of natural resources like land, water, vegetation etc. by taking up watershed development projects. The program is being implemented in 10 blocks of the State. Up to the year 1998-99 the program was being funded by Central and State Governments on 50:50 sharing basis but from 1-4-1999 the Government of India have changed the funding pattern from 50:50 to 75:25.

Under this program 318 micro watersheds have been taken up for development in district Bilaspur, Solan and Una for a period of 5 years. During the year 2005-2006 40 new micro water shed have been sanctioned by the Government of India under the program.

Gram Uday to Bharat Uday Abhiyan

This scheme was recently initiated by our honorable prime minister of India Narendra Modi on the 14th April 2016 at MHOW in Madhya Pradesh to develop rural area. The campaign aims to generate nation-wide efforts to increase social harmony across villages, promote rural education, strengthen Panchayati Raj, promote rural development, and foster farmers' progress and also on National Panchayati Raj Day 24th April 2016, honorable Prime Minister will address program on sanitation, a cultural program as well as a sports program, Optimum utilization of funds available with Panchayati Raj Institutions, Social inclusion including welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, person with Disabilities and other marginalized groups.

Government Programs for Women Empowerment "Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao"

Recently to support women empowerment the Present Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched programmes of "Beti bachao, beti padhao".



The main objective of this scheme to encourage birth and education of girls and tackle the low child sex ratio of 918 girls for 1000 boys. The campaign will be initially implemented in the 100 districts, including 12 in Haryana, and across the country where the sex ratio is rather poor.

"Sukanya Samridhi Account"

'Sukanya Samridhi Account' can be opened at any time from the birth of a girl child till she attains the age of 10 years, with a minimum deposit of Rs 1000. A maximum of Rs 1.5 Lakh can be deposited during the financial year. The account can be opened in any post office or authorized branches of commercial banks." The scheme primarily ensures equitable share to a girl child in resources and savings of a family in which she is generally discriminated as against a male child".

Mahila Mandal Protsahan Yojana

With a view to strengthen the Mahila Mandals and to ensure that they are involved in the process of development, the department during 1998-99 has introduced Mahila Mandal Protsahan Yojana. A sum of Rs. 65.00 Lakh has been provided during 2004-05 to provide incentives to Mahila Mandals. The incentives being provided are based upon their performance in various fields such as Family Planning and Child Welfare, Promotion of Small Savings,

Eradication of social evils and participation in literacy campaigns.

Budget of Ministry of Rural Development

In a push to rural sector, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi announced an enhanced budget allocation of over Rs. 8200 crore for rural development including MGNREGA for which funds have been increased by about Rs 3,800 crore. For rural development as a whole, the government have allocated Rs 87,765 crore in the Budget for 2016-17 and Rs 38,500 crore have been allocated for MGNREGA in 2016-17. "If the total amount is spent, it will be highest budget spend on MGNREGA," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said presenting the Union Budget in Lok Sabha.

Funding in Department of Rural Development

Sr. No	Year	Amount (R.S in Crore.)
1	2015-16	79,526.00 (C.r)
2	2016-17	87,765.00 (C.r)

In the last Budget, a total of Rs 79,526 crore were allocated for rural development activities including MGNREGA, for which the allocation then was Rs 34,699 crore.

Underlining that there was an urgent need to focus on areas of drought and rural distress, every block in these distress areas will be taken up as an "intensive Block" under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Mission.

Conclusion

The Rural Development ministry is implementing a number of programs in rural areas through the state and central Governments for poverty reduction, employment generation, rural infrastructure, better quality health services, and better homes to improve standard of living of rural. Government and Ministry is trying to find out the thirsty area, their supportive programs and the result of the many schemes and programs outcome has shown the success and support in the sustainable development of rural India.

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