

# Government Rural Development Policies and Schemes in India

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**Abstract**—Rural development implies both the economic betterment of people as well as greater social transformation. Increased participation of people in the rural development programmes, decentralization of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit are envisaged for providing the rural people with better prospects. Initially, main thrust for development was laid on agriculture, industry, communication, education, health and allied sectors. Later on, realizing that accelerated development can be provided only if governmental efforts are adequately supplemented by direct and indirect involvement of people at the grass root level, the thrust shifted. 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: 'Rural poverty alleviation has been the primary concern in the economic planning and development process of the country ... 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.'

**Keywords:** Government Rural Development policy, Government schemes, Rural development in India, challenges.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Indian Government, at all levels, announces Welfare Schemes for a cross section of the society from time to time. These schemes could be either Central, State specific or a joint collaboration between the Centre and the States benefits, scheme.

In October 1974, the Department of Rural Development came into existence as a part of Ministry of Food and Agriculture. On 18th August 1979, the Department of Rural Development was elevated to the status of a new Ministry of Rural Reconstruction. It was renamed as Ministry of Rural Development on 23rd January 1982. In January 1985, the Ministry of Rural Development was again converted into a Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which was later rechristened as Ministry of Agriculture in September 1985. On July 5, 1991 the Department was upgraded as Ministry of Rural Development. Another Department viz. Department of Wasteland Development was created under this Ministry on 2nd July

1992. In March 1995, the Ministry was renamed as the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment with three departments namely Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development and Wasteland Development.

In order to ensure that the fruits of economic reform are shared by all sections of societies five elements of social and economic infrastructure, critical to the quality of life in rural areas, were identified. These are health, education, drinking water, housing and roads. To impart greater momentum to the efforts in these sectors the Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Gramdoya Yojana (PMGY) and the Ministry of Rural Development was entrusted with the responsibility of implementing drinking water, housing and rural roads component of PMGY.

During the Ninth Plan period, several anti-poverty Programmes have been restructured to enhance the efficiency of the Programmes for providing increased benefits to the rural poor. Self Employment Programmes were revamped by merging the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), the Supply of Improved Tool-Kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), the Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), the Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and the Million Wells Scheme (MWS) into a holistic self-employment scheme called Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

## 2. OBJECTIVE AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study makes use of secondary source of data collected from the publications of Government of India, Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, World Bank, and IMF, UNCTAD and other than books, Journals etc. The study was Planned with the following objective.

1. To analyse the effect of government policy in the rural development.

2. To identify those areas where the government policy and schemes has succeeded.
3. To identify the areas in which government policy has failed to deliver to the masses.
4. To suggest the policy suggestions.

### 3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Regarding loopholes of Rural Development Programme, Meheshwari (1985:217)22 comments that Rural Development Programmes in India suffer from a high degree of centralization as illustrated by the IRDP. This programme has been formulated in great detail at the central level with little flexibility permitted at the implementation level; so much so that it may not be very inappropriate to say that this programme is for the people but certainly not by the people and of the people. India is an example of a country which is seeking to promote rural development purely through its regular bureaucracy with little involvement of participation by the people.

### 4. GOVERNMENT RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND SCHEMES IN INDIA

#### Land Policy

Land policy is a crucial element in a rural development strategy. It is well known that distribution of land and other assets is much skewed in India, as the large majorities have small land holdings. This has a direct impact on the ability to earn incomes in rural areas. Land reforms including the protection of the rights of tenants are one of the primary means of transforming rural societies. It has also been contended that productivity levels of small farms are often greater than those of large farms.

#### Technology Policy

Improvement in technologies available to rural societies can have a big impact on them. On the one hand, it is essential that newer technologies are adapted to rural societies and on the other, it is necessary that existing technologies are extended in rural areas. Technological planning, research and development are very vital ingredients of rural development. In India, the agricultural sector is particularly vulnerable to the ravage of the weather. Technological improvements can play a vital role in insulating agriculture from the effects of weather. Rural societies are also characterised by large scale unemployment on the one hand and low productivity on the other. Therefore care has to be taken when new technologies are introduced in rural areas.

#### Agricultural Policy

Agriculture remains the main avenue for providing incomes and employment in rural areas. Needless to say, agricultural planning is vital for rural development strategies. The

balanced growth of the agricultural sector can play an important role in creating better conditions for those depending on this sector.

#### Employment Policy

Given the extent of unemployment problem in rural India, the need for well formulated employment programmes can hardly be over stated. Such programmes can insulate fluctuations in rural incomes on account of poor weather conditions. Agricultural employment is often seasonal. Under these conditions, rural employment programmes can ensure better spread of employment through the year.

#### Education Policy

In India the problem of illiteracy is particularly acute in rural areas. The lack of education can act as a constraint in furthering rural development. Rural societies, are also characterised by wide spread inequalities in the distribution of incomes and assets. The lack of education creates a situation in which this problem is perpetuated..

#### Research and Extension Policy

Research and extension is a very important ingredient of rural development strategies. Research enables furthering knowledge which is appropriate to rural cultures and extension ensures that the gains are actually delivered to the target groups. Trained staffs are very important for any rural development programme since they actually interact with the community for whom the programmes are meant.

#### Rural Institutions Policy

Rural institutions need to be reformed and utilised for successfully carrying out rural development. The institutional aspects of rural societies are often ignored when strategies are formulated. The institutional structures such as panchayats need to be nurtured so that there is popular participation in rural development. These structures can act as powerful agents in actually implementing the development strategies. Since rural settlements are spread out and are often isolated, they cannot be monitored successfully from outside. Contrarily, local monitoring by institutions such as panchayats can actually ensure that programmes are successfully implemented and that the target group actually benefits from such programmes. Rural institutions such as banks and co-operatives can also play a vital role in rural development.

#### Price Policy

The use of price is also a crucial element in a rural development policy. Agricultural produce has to be priced in such a manner that the farmers enjoy adequate returns. The price policy through the use of subsidies can act as a means of providing essential items of mass consumption to people residing in rural areas. This is particularly essential for those below the poverty line. The spread of the public distribution

system through its network of ration shops in rural areas can be used to solve this problem.

## 5. PROGRAMS AND SCHEMES OF MORD FOR IMPLEMENTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

The following major programmes and schemes are being operated by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in rural areas to implement the rural development policies in India:

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for providing wage employment.
- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) for self employment and skill development.
- Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for providing housing to BPL households.
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for construction of quality roads.
- National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for social pension.
- Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for improving the productivity of the land.
- Council for Advancement of Peoples's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART).
- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission, National Rurban Mission (NRuM).

### Challenges in Implementation of Government policies

- Un-realistic and improper planning at the Gram Panchayat level.
- Quality, durability and usefulness of assets.
- Low awareness of the programme and less public participation.
- Lack of outcome based monitoring.

- Poor maintenance of records.
- Inadequate coverage of persons with disabilities and of women in some States.
- Non compliance with transparency and accountability provisions.
- Inadequate capacity of functionaries.
- Lack of adequate number of technical staff.

## 6. CONCLUSION

It can be said that today we are in a better position where in government provide many facilities for the development of Rural economy. There is an economic role for government in a market economy wherever the benefits of a government policy outweigh its costs. Government often provide for National defense, address environmental concerns, define and protect properly rights, and attempt to make markets more competitive. Most government policies also redistribute Income.

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