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## Problems in India's rural area and rural development programmes

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### ABSTRACT

*India is a predominantly rural country with a rural population of over 65%. To develop India effectively, it is important to develop villages first. That is why Mahatma Gandhi's future lies in the villages of India. Seventy years after our country's independence, there is no sustainable development in rural areas. In the direction of alleviating these problems, the government needs to undertake different rural development programs. As the countryside embodies its own design, character and elegance, it is necessary to engage the rural population in the effort to alleviate these problems and hire an economist or sociologist with special knowledge of rural meaning and society. The Indian economy is characterized by agrarian dominance. More than 60 per cent of India's population is engaged in agricultural activities for livelihood and survival. The Indian economy wants to make \$ 5 trillion by 2025. The rural economy plays an important role in this sector. The rural economy has the potential to create decent and productive jobs and contribute to sustainable development and economic growth. Promoting decent work in the rural economy is key to eradicating poverty and meeting the nutritional needs of the growing country's population.*

### 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIA'S RURAL ECONOMY

- The rural economy of India has its own distinctive features, unlike those of urban areas.
- The village is a primary institution and it caters to almost all the needs of the rural community.
- The rural economy is highly dependent on nature and agricultural activities. Agriculture and agro-related activities are the main occupation in rural areas.
- The life style of rural people is very simple. Public services such as education, housing, health, hygiene, transport communication, banking, roads and markets are very limited and unavailable.
- Rural people tend to rely heavily on God and on traditional cultural practices. The living standards of most rural people are poor and pathetic. The rural sector is extremely backward and weak in terms of production methods, social organization, and politics.
- Unemployment is a major problem in rural areas, especially in agriculture where prevalent or hidden unemployment is common and seasonal unemployment is a major feature of semi-employment.
- Nearly 22 million people in rural areas are in need of basic necessities such as food, clothing and shelter, living below the poverty line.
- Income is restricted because the rural economy fails to provide employment and self-employment opportunities. The large number of workers are unemployed and their income range is limited.

### 2. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNDERDEVELOPMENT OF INDIA'S RURAL ECONOMY

Several social, economic, political and religious factors have contributed to the underdevelopment of the rural economy in India.

#### 2.1 Economic Factors

Many economic factors are hindering rural development such as:

**2.1.1 Overpopulation:** The growing overcrowding of rural areas is a major obstacle to rural development, creating serious problems such as poverty, unemployment, lack of food, and rising social spending.

**2.1.2 Backwardness and High Dependence of Agriculture:** The oldest form of agriculture in India's agriculture is still practiced by methods such as plowing, timber plowing, rainforest farming, and the absence of modern farming methods is a major cause of backwardness of agriculture as a result. Because of this, farmers are not able to get high status economically. About 56 per

cent of the total population depends on agriculture for employment and for living. Due to this, productivity in agriculture is reduced and the economic development of the economy is no longer possible.

**2.1.3 Semi-use of Resources:** The vast wealth of water resources in the rural areas, where natural resources are available but not fully exploited, is being exported abroad. Rural India's economy is lagging behind due to partial use of these resources.

**2.1.4 Lack of financial facilities:** The financial development of any country, such as banks, non-banking financial institutions, co-operatives, etc. is essential.

**2.1.5 Lack of savings and shortage of capital:** In our rural areas, there is a shortage of income due to high unemployment and poverty. Therefore, lack of capital can lead to the establishment of industries, expansion of employment opportunities, irrigation and infrastructure development.

**2.1.6 Lack of transport links:** Transportation links play an important role in the economic development of any country. Adequate transport links are necessary to market agricultural products in rural areas and to transport industrial products to agricultural production sites. But the lack of adequate transport links in our rural India has hampered rural economic development.

**2.1.7 Poverty and Unemployment:** There is widespread poverty and unemployment in rural areas. Rural people are unable to participate in the development process, to carry out economic activities due to lack of income.

## **2.2 Social factors**

Social factors have a significant impact on the process of rural development. A good and progressive social system is the cornerstone of rural development. But in rural India there are social ills such as bad social practices, caste system, joint family customs, succession, quick and universal marriage, illiteracy. Rural development is hampered by the absence of such a social environment.

**Political Factors:** A sound and progressive political system drives economic development. It is the basis for the rural development of political limitation. But in India, one of the causes of political instability is inefficiency in governance, sluggishness, widespread corruption, and so on.

## **2.3. Religious factors**

Superstitions, traditions, ancient religious beliefs, are an integral part of Indian society. Such religious factors have ignored economic progress and hindered rural development.

## **3. WAYS TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA**

The achievement of rural development in India is not an easy task. Development is a complex process and can be called an art because in rural areas such as development, poverty, illiteracy, caste, class system, social traditions, anti-religious beliefs, lack of developmental sentiment among people, etc. It is a very difficult task to accomplish. For that, the economy needs to be on the path of development through different programs and industries.

- The Gandhi Way
- Path of the field
- Group route
- Service area route
- The Comprehensive Path
- The Partnership Path

### **3.1 Programs undertaken by the Government for the Rural Development of India**

India is a country dominated by a rural sector. All-round progress of the country will only be a dream except the development of rural areas in our country. It is known that villages are the backbone of the country. But the villages that are deprived of most of the facilities are unable to make a proper contribution to the progress of the country. There have been some efforts in rural development by some individuals and institutions in different parts of the independent Eastern country to improve the quality of life of the people by reducing regional inequalities in terms of people's earnings, industrialization, transport, accessibility and connectivity between towns and villages. Steps taken at Sevagram, Rabindranath Tagore's work at Shantiniketan, Spencer hash attempt at Marthamakam, F, L at Brahmagava, Brain works, Firka development project in Tamil Nadu.

#### **The main features of the Rural Development Program can be described as follows**

- ❖ Building permanent assets in rural areas.
- ❖ Creating additional employment opportunities for the rural people.
- ❖ Achieving agricultural development and modernization.
- ❖ Transformation of the social, economic and political system of rural India.
- ❖ Developing small scale and home industries.
- ❖ Improvement of basic facilities such as transport, drinking water, education, health and sanitation in rural areas.
- ❖ Carrying out various programs to help the income of the rural poor.
- ❖ Achievement of comprehensive improvement of rural areas.

### **3.2 There are various programs for rural development which are now in existence and are as follows.**

**3.2.1 Community Development Program:** The Community Development Program can be defined as the project of leading the rural community on the path of progress through the efforts of the government and the people, utilizing resources effectively in the interests of the whole community. The program was launched on October 2, 1952. It is a people's movement. The government offers financial and technical assistance. In 1952, only 55 areas were selected for community development purposes. The project was later extended to all sectors. Various community development programs include agriculture development, irrigation facilities, transportation, connectivity, health care, adult education, housing and supplementary employment, development of good industries and agriculture.

**3.2.2 National Extension Service:** The program was launched on October 2, 1953. The Community Development Program and the National Area Service Scheme are one and the same. One of the main objectives of the National Area Service is to provide people with the information they need. This enables people to develop the necessary attitude towards development.

**Comprehensive Rural Development Program** This program is the oldest and most comprehensive project on poverty alleviation. The program was launched in 1979 in only a few taluks in the country. Then in 1980 it was extended to all sectors. The nature of this program is to provide assets to the beneficiaries through bank loan and government subsidy. Under this scheme, beneficiaries below the poverty line in rural areas are selected through rural meetings every year. Beneficiaries to alleviate poverty by purchasing and maintaining assets with credit and subsidy money. Making income and employment. Expanding infrastructure in rural areas such as banks, milk producers' cooperatives, marketing system. The main objective of this program is to try to alleviate rural poverty through all these factors. The project has a wide variety of activities. Many activities such as animal husbandry, agriculture and home industries are carried out here.

**Jawahar Rozgar Scheme** In the last year of the Seventh Five Year Plan, the Jawahar Rozgar Plan was implemented. The Jawahar Rozgar project was named after combining the two existing National Rural Employment Program and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programs. The scheme was implemented in 1989. The main objective of the scheme is to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed and provide them with life skills. And to provide additional employment opportunities for men and women who are unemployed and semi-employed in rural areas. Creating assets that provide benefits, which can help improve people's living conditions in the rural setting. Scheduled Castes and Tribes have to be given priority when giving employment. And there is a provision for women to reserve 30 percent of their jobs. There is a rule that workers should be paid a minimum of the minimum wages set by the government, in the form of grain and the remainder in cash.

**3.2.3 Scheduled Caste and Tribal Development Program:** The welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which is one of the most vulnerable sections of the society, has been implemented with special interest in the Five Year Plans. The main objective of the project is to identify the areas where the majority of the tribal population resides and utilize the funds to implement the project and to build a decent governance structure and appropriate personnel.

**3.2.4 Arrival Possible Areas Program:** The program was started in the rural area of 1970-71 for the relief of the famine, with permanent work in areas affected by severe drought. Creating employment through labour intensive works such as small, medium and large irrigation projects, land conservation, forest development, construction of rural roads. Resolving drought were the mission of the program. The aim is to increase the incomes of the vulnerable, while ensuring the efficient use of land and water resources and human resources.

**3.2.5 Rural Young People Training Program for Self-Employment:** The program was launched in 1979. The purpose of this program is to provide technical expertise to the youth to carry out agriculture and related activities, industrial services and business activities. Since its implementation, 15 lakh people have been trained so far.

**3.2.6 Small Farmers Development Organizations:** These institutions have been set up to assist small and very small farmers and landless laborers in economic development. They help farmers to adopt better technology.

**3.2.7 Small Farmers and Agricultural Workers Organization:** Small Farmers 'and Agricultural Workers' Institutions are set up with the Small Farmers Development Institutions on the recommendation of the Rural and Re-evaluation Committee. The goal of these organizations is to help small-scale growers utilize their small holdings to the maximum producers. The organization provides assistance to the farmer farmers to undertake activities such as horticulture and animal husbandry.

**3.2.8 Development Program in the Highlands:** This program is one of the many programs included in the 5th Five Year Plan. This program has been implemented mainly in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. It is implemented for the development of smallholder areas.

**3.2.9 National Rural Employment Program:** In 1977, the Janata Party at the Center implemented a wage program for mercenaries, with the aim of increasing the income and nutrition of the village population through the development of the rural system, using additional foodgrains as wages. In 1970 the project's National Rural Employment Program was renamed. The idea of additional employment opportunities for the unemployed in rural areas. Construction of permanent assets to strengthen the basic structure of the rural system. The main objective of this program is to improve the nutrition and quality of life of the rural poor.

**Swarna Jayanti Gram Swaraj Scheme** This program was an own employment program. The program was launched in 1999. The Swaraj Jayanti Gram Swaraj Gar scheme has been implemented in place of its own employment programs such as the Women and Child Development Program and the Million Well Project in comprehensive rural development areas. The program is designed to take into account the weaknesses of all previously implemented own employment programs. The main goal of the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swaraj car project is to bring every family out of poverty line for three years to get help. Another purpose is to utilize the capacity of the poor in rural areas.

**3.2.10 Jawahar village prosperity project:** The program was launched in June 1999. The main objective of this program is to develop infrastructure in rural areas. This program needs to be implemented by the gram panchayats. The Jawahar Village Prosperity Project aims to create infrastructure and own assets for the benefit of the community in rural areas. Jawahar village prosperity

scheme has been implemented as a central awarding scheme. The Central Government and the State Government account for 75% of the total cost of the project. In the Union Territories, the full cost is borne by the Central Government.

**3.2.11 Complete Rural Roasters Project:** The project was launched on September 24, 2001. Jawahar Village Prosperity Plan and Employment Guarantee Scheme Is a centrally rewarded project. This is basically a food program for work. One part of the wage is paid in cash and the other part in the form of food grains. The program aims to create rural assets, alleviate the undernourishment, and alleviate the problem of unemployment in backward and poorer areas.

**3.2.12 National Employment Guarantee Scheme:** On the advice of the National Advisory Committee, the Government of India adopted the Act in 2006 to implement the National Guarantee Scheme. Initially, the project was implemented in 200 districts of the country and later expanded to all other districts in the country. Providing employment opportunities. Raise the wage earning potential and minimum

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

India is a country dominated by a rural sector. All-round progress of the country will only be a dream except the development of rural areas in our country. It is known that villages are the backbone of the country. But the villages that are deprived of most of the facilities are unable to make a proper contribution to the progress of the country. There have been some efforts in rural development by some individuals and institutions in different parts of the independent Eastern country to improve the quality of life of the people by reducing regional inequalities in terms of people's earnings, industrialization, transport, accessibility and connectivity between towns and villages. Steps taken at Sevagram, Rabindranath Tagore's work at Shantiniketan, Spencer hash attempt at Marthamakam, F, L at Brahmagava, Brain works, Firka development project in Tamil Nadu.

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