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## A STUDY ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA: A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

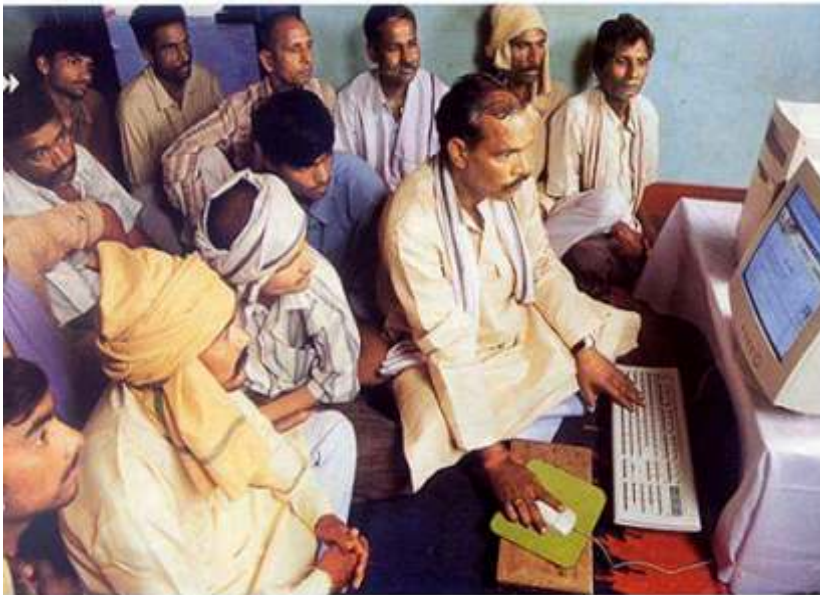


**Bhagwat A. B.**

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### Short Profile

Bhagwat A. B. is working as an Assistant Professor at Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's, Dhananjayrao Gadgil College of Commerce, Satara.



### ABSTRACT:

The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in rural development in India, particularly after independence. Plan documents of both the central and state governments and various committees have emphasized the importance of these bodies in the polity. Five-year plans, specially the second five-year plan, laid special emphasis on the role of Panchayats in rural developments. The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in rural development in India, particularly after independence. Plan documents of both the central

and state governments and various committees have emphasized the importance of these bodies in the polity. Five-year plans, specially the second five-year plan, laid special emphasis on the role of Panchayats in rural developments. Second five-year plan envisaged a panchayat as responsible for village development keeping transformation of social and economic life of rural areas as its goal of development. It says that, the rural progress depends entirely on the existence of an active organization in the village which can bring all the people, including the weaker sections, in to common programmes to be carried out with the assistance of administration. The present study is based on secondary data and the present researcher has descriptive analysis method.

### KEYWORDS

*Rural Development, economic, village, weaker section etc.*

## INTRODUCTION:

The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in rural development in India, particularly after independence. Plan documents of both the central and state governments and various committees have emphasized the importance of these bodies in the polity. Five-year plans, specially the second five-year plan, laid special emphasis on the role of Panchayats in rural developments. Second five-year plan envisaged a panchayat as responsible for village development keeping transformation of social and economic life of rural areas as its goal of development. It says that, the rural progress depends entirely on the existence of an active organization in the village which can bring all the people, including the weaker sections, in to common programmes to be carried out with the assistance of administration. The role of panchayat Raj institutions as instruments of rural reconstruction and development needs no emphasis. They have been reorganized with wider powers and financial resources not merely as institutions of political participation but institutions of social and economic development. Panchayat Raj has come to be associated with two broad images. First, it is a government by itself and second it is an agency of the state government. In the integrated exercise of planning for social and economic development, co-ordinate roles, the present set up is a three-tier representative structure of government where the administrators, elected leaders and local population participate in the developmental effort.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The main objective of the study to evaluate the rural development activities and specific objectives are as follows;

1. To evaluate the rural development activities of gram panchayat.
2. To identify problems of gram panchayat in implementing rural development programmes.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

The Panchayat Raj System is playing important role in rural development. Gram panchayat has taken the responsibility of implementing various rural development programmes of both state and central governments. The study is needed for evaluating the role of panchayat and the impact of the same on the development of study area.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

### Data Collection:

The present researcher has been used various secondary sources such as books, book section, websites, articles, periodicals, govt. reports etc.

### Research Method:

The present study is based on descriptive analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

### Meaning of Rural Development:

The term Rural Development is of focal interest and is widely acclaimed in both the developed and the developing countries of the world. There is however no universally acceptable definition of rural development and the term is used in different ways and in vastly divergent contexts. As concept, it connotes over all development of rural areas with a view to improve the quality of life of rural people. In this sense, it is a comprehensive and multi dimensional concept and encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities - village and cottage industries and crafts, socio-economic infrastructure, community services and facilities, and above all, the human resource in rural areas. As a phenomenon, it is the result of interactions between various physical, technological, economic, socio-cultural, and institutional factors.

### The Problems Faced for Rural Development in India:

1. The financial, manpower and managerial resources devoted to the implementation of rural development programs are ultimately inadequate.
2. Better implementation of rural development programmes can be ensured only if those responsible for actual implementation are paid reasonably well, appropriately trained, and sufficiently motivated. But this has not been done as yet.
3. It is being increasingly observed that the objectives of one programme conflict with those of others, and there is no institutional mechanism for reconciling them. Consequently, many programmes utterly fail in fulfilling their objectives. In addition, they also affect other programmes.
4. In many cases, instruments of rural development are not properly selected, and their levels are not consistent with the objectives they seek to achieve. This results in the wastage of valuable public resources, and unnecessary delays in achieving the objectives.
5. Honesty, hard work, helping others, thrift and such other virtues indirectly help in economic development. In the Indian context, not much attention has been paid to this aspect of development.
6. Observance of rituals, lack of rational decisions in economic matters, spending huge amounts of money on marriage, birth or death ceremonies, prevalence of the caste system and the joint family system in the rural areas and illiteracy are some of the factors which arrest the rural development in India.
7. The political parties have a vital role to play in rural development. But unfortunately this role has not been effectively realized by any democratic political party so far. The political parties, today, are guided more by party interests rather than by national interests.

In fine, the removal of these problems will accelerate the process of rural development in India. The role of governmental and non-governmental organizations in this regard is, indeed, commendable. But much remains to be done. If we all work together with undivided attention in this direction we can surely achieve success.

### Essential Aspects of Rural Development:

The essential aspects of rural development are as follows:

1. Agricultural development constitutes the crucial aspect of rural development. Agricultural

development is possible through the use of better seeds, adequate fertilizers, manures, and pesticides, adequate supply of water and effective implementation of land reform measures.

2. By effecting changes in the socio-economic institutions, rural development seeks to change the socio-economic structure of the rural community.

3. The effectiveness of the rural development programmes necessitates political non-interference. The persons associated with these programmes should be given adequate freedom to carry out their plans and programmes with undivided attention.

4. The success of the rural development programmes depends on the co-operative orientation and attitude among the ruralites. The functioning of the co-operative societies goes a long way in improving the conditions of the vulnerable sections of the rural set-up.

5. Rural development programmes demand the active participation of the ruralites. While formulating these programmes the opinions, attitudes, drives and interests of the rural people should be taken into account. Further, dedicated and committed village leaders should come forward to guide the masses for bringing about rural development.

### 1. IRDP:

The Integrated Rural Development Programme signifies a programme for improving the living standards of the poorest of the poor living in rural areas and for making the process of rural development self-sustaining. Initiated in 1978-79, the programme was extended to all development blocks in the country in 1980-81. It is based on "the local needs, resources endowments and potentialities." Its objective is to enable selected families to cross the poverty line by taking up self-employment ventures in a variety of activities like agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry in the primary sector, weaving and handicrafts in the secondary sector, and service and business activities in the tertiary sector.

### 2. NREP:

National Rural Employment Programme was launched in October, 1980 as a centrally sponsored scheme on 50:50 sharing basis between centre and states. Generating additional gainful employment opportunities, creating durable community assets and improving the overall quality of life in rural areas constitute the three-fold objectives of the programme. The programme is implemented through DRDA. It has been merged with the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna from April, 1989.

### 3. TRYSEM:

The scheme of Training Rural Youth for Self-Employment was initiated in August, 1979, with the primary objective of providing technical skills to the rural youth to enable them to seek employment in fields of agriculture, industry, services and business activities.

Only youth in the age group of 18 – 35 and belonging to families living below the poverty line are eligible for training. Priority is given to persons belonging to SCs and STs, ex-servicemen and women. The effectiveness of the scheme is affected by several factors such as inadequate coverage, low level of skill, inadequate stipend given to the youth etc.

#### 4. RLEGP:

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme was launched on 15th August, 1983 to generate additional employment in rural areas particularly for the rural landless workers. Under this scheme employment is given to at least one member of every landless family upto 100 days in a year. So far as this programme is concerned, preference in the employment is given to the landless labourers, women, SCs and STs.

Financed exclusively by the Central Government, the programme undertakes several activities such as construction of wells, roads, houses, social forestry etc. Several factors like absence of systematic selection of workers, failure to guarantee minimum of 100 days of employment to workers and malpractice by the contractors stand in the way of the successful functioning of this programme. Like NREP this programme has now been merged into the JRY.

#### 5. JRY:

Jawahar Rozgar Yojna was launched in April, 1989. It is pre-eminently a wage employment programme. Under the scheme, it is expected that at least one member of each poor family would be provided with employment for 50 to 100 days in a year at a work place near his / her residence. About 30 per cent of the jobs under this scheme are reserved for women. The scheme is implemented through Village Panchayats. It covers 46 per cent of our population.

So far as the impact of JRY is concerned, Ruddar Datt and K.P.M. Sundharam rightly opine, "The overall impact of the JRY in generating employment has been much below the target laid down. JRY has helped the weaker sections to acquire a house or provided access to drinking water or improve sanitation, but yet much remains to be done to make a perceptible improvement in the quality of life.

#### 6. JGSY:

The Jawahar Gram Samridhhi Yojana is the restructured form of Jawahar Rozgar Yojna. This scheme is in operation from 1999. It is implemented only at the village level to create village infrastructure and generates employment opportunities to alleviate poverty.

#### 7. Antyodaya Programme:

Antyodaya means the welfare of a person standing at the end of the queue. In other words, the programme is oriented to uplift the poorest of the poor in the countryside. The scheme was introduced during the regime of Janata Government in 1978. So far as the operation of this programme is concerned, every year five poorest families of every village are identified and selected. Efforts are made for the economic betterment of these families.

#### 8. DPAP:

The Drought-Prone Area Programme was launched at the time of the mid-term appraisal of the Fourth Five Year Plan for drought prone areas. Reducing the severity of the impact of drought, stabilising the income of the weaker sections of the rural community and restoring the ecological balance constitute the basic objectives of the programme.



During the Fourth Plan, DPAP was purely a central sector scheme with 100 per cent financial assistance from the centre. From the Fifth Plan onwards, this scheme has been operating with funds being shared between the centre and the states on a 50: 50 ratio.

#### 9. DDP:

The Desert Development Programme was launched in 1977 – 78 on the recommendation of the National Commission on Agriculture in the hot desert areas of Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat, and the cold desert areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

However, with effect from 1979-80, it has been operating as a central sector scheme with funds being shared between the centre and the states on a 50: 50 ratio.

#### 10. FFWP:

The Food for Work Programme was launched in April, 1977. It aimed at making wage payment in food grains at subsidized prices to the ruralites living below the poverty line. FFWP was implemented by the development administration, without any help from labour contractors.

#### 11. DWCRA:

The scheme of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas was introduced in 50 districts in 1982-83. The major thrust of DWCRA is to improve the socio-economic status of rural women through the creation of income-generating activities in a district on a self-sustaining basis.

#### 12. EAS:

The Employment Assurance Scheme was launched in 1983 and expanded in phases to cover the whole country in 1996. It aims at providing 100 days of employment to two members of a rural family in a year. The secondary objective is the creation of economic infrastructure and community assets for sustained production and employment generation.

#### 13. SGSY:

The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana was launched in April 1999 replacing earlier programmes like the IRDP, the TRYSEM etc. This programme is instrumental in the setting up of a large number of industries through bank credit and subsidy.

#### 14. PMRY:

The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is a self-employment programme for the educated unemployed youth. This programme has been implemented since October 2, 1993 to provide employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youths in the country. The minimum qualification required under the scheme is matriculation (passed or failed) or having undergone a government sponsored technical course for a period of six months or ITI passed.



#### 15. JPRGY:

The Jai Prakash Rozgar Guarantee Yojana has been launched in 2002 to provide employment guarantee to the unemployed in the most distressed districts of the country.

#### 16. NSAP:

The National Social Assistance Programme was conceived by the central government to provide social assistance to poor households. The programme came into force from 15th August 1995 and includes three schemes as its components such as National Old Age Pension Scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme and National Maternity Benefit Scheme.

#### 17. Rural Housing Scheme:

Indira Awas Yojana was launched by the government in 1985. Under this scheme house is given free of cost to SC/ST families and free bonded labourers. The cost norms under IAY have been changed from time to time. With effect from 1st August 1996, the ceiling of assistance for house construction under IAY is Rs. 20,000 per unit in the plains, and Rs. 22,000 per unit in hilly and other difficult areas.

The scope of IAY has been extended to include non-scheduled rural poor. Under the Ninth Five Year Plan, Samagra Awas Yojana has been launched to ensure integrated provision of shelter, sanitation and drinking water to poor rural households.

#### CONCLUSION:

The Rural Development is an ongoing or continuous process. Rural Development Department is primarily responsible for planning, implementation and monitoring of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes designed by the Government of India for rural poverty alleviation. The creation of self-employment opportunities for the people of below poverty line with improving the overall quality of life in the rural areas and empowerment of women in socio-economic and politics are important issues of the five year plan in India. To improve the rural areas it is necessary popular participation in policy making. The rural development would be time-bound oriented, participatory orientated, decentralized oriented, collective oriented, improvement oriented, equity oriented, institutional oriented etc.

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