

# PAST AND PRESENT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN INDIA

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**Abstract:** In India, almost 60 per cent of the people live in rural areas. Most of them are below poverty line. But, this situation must be overcome and it is the duty of every government. If this condition is not eliminated, the country will not be able to progress in future. For this reason, the government initiated various welfare programs to develop the rural regions. This article is going to discuss about the various rural development programmes in India. These programmes are classified into two major parts and they are as follows: (1) Pre-Independence Period rural development programmes and (2) Post-Independence Period rural developments. This information collected on the basis of secondary data.

**Index Terms:** Integrated Rural Development Programme, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajohar Yojana, Community Development Programme.

## 1. Introduction:

Rural development is a versatile phenomenon. From the beginning period of planning process, this development is the main aim of planned development in India (Gosh, 1964). The core problem of widespread poverty, growing inequality, rapid growth of population, growing and rising unemployment all find their origins in the stagnation and other retrogression of economic life in rural areas. This concept is an essential factor for developing countries like India.

Most of the populations are residing in rural areas in our country. These people's main livelihood is agriculture and its related activities (Bhattacharya, 1983). This development does not refer only to growth of cultivation. It is also related to education, public health, sanitation, family welfare, social security, employment and income generation, farm management, poverty eradication, increase productivity, technological training, infrastructure development and etc. Amartya Sen's (1999) central theme is related to developing the ability to improve the individual's own life. Main objective of this study is to understand the past and present situation of rural development programmes in India. It is based on secondary data. It collected from various books, journals, government reports and working paper.

## 2. Main Objective:

- To understand the evolution of rural development programmes in India

## 3. Methodology:

This study is based on the secondary data of information. It collected from various books, journals and government reports. This study classified into two major categories and they are as follows:

- 3.1. Pre-independence Period Rural Development Programmes
- 3.2. Post – Independence Period Rural Development Programmes

### 3.1 Pre-Independence Period:

British administration presumed that no progress in the economic condition of the rural poor, particularly the farmers, was possible without radical changes in their outlook for which the initiative should be taken by people themselves and not by the government. As a result, better agronomic practices remained confined in research and demonstration centers and few specific parts in the country and there was not adequate transfer of technology to the rural areas.

#### 3.1.1. Martandam Experiments:

This experiment was started in Martandam (near Kanyakumari) under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). In the year 1921, it was organized by Spencer Hatch and Paul. Main objective was self-help with intimate export course. The scheme gave importance to spiritual development along with socio-economic development of people. It undertook various functions including improvement of cottage and part-time industries, a literacy campaign training rural workers and co-operations. Pande (1967) had accused the programme for having been staffed by and focused on Christian.

#### 3.1.2. Tagore and Elmhurst's early experiment or Sriniketan Experiment (1922):

This experiment was started in 1922 near Sriniketan in West Bengal. Tagore and Elmhurst introduced this experiment. Its main objective (a) to apply modern techniques and giving assistance to rural people (b) to reduce the manpower problems in rural areas (c) help to eliminate the caste and communal problems and moneylenders' problems in this area (d) help to development the Indian rural people (e) to provide village-oriented education, and finally (h) to establish primary health centre in rural areas.

#### 3.1.3. Gurgaon Experiment (1933):

Brayne introduced this experiment in 1933. It imposed the western ideas, technologies, and values on rural Indian villages. Because of this powerful administrative position he was able to impress his preferences on some rural people. Changes resulting from his efforts were superficial and short-lived. It showed that no matter how many good intentions might underlie a

government development programme, the end result would not be disappointing. This experiment attacked many perennial problems and shortcomings of village life with a multifaceted programme including projects to modernize institutions, improve the basic necessities in rural areas and spur agricultural productions (**Terry Alliband, 1980**)

#### **3.1.4. Firka Experiment:**

This experiment was introduced in Madras State in 1947 and it was started from the principles and ideas of Mahatma Gandhiji. Its main objective was to improve rapport between the villagers and rural welfare departments like agriculture, industries, irrigation and animal husbandry. Another important aim was overall development of both individual and rural areas. These scheme six important centres of activity were namely agriculture and village industries, sanitation, health and housing, village education, village organisation and village culture. Rural water supply and health improvement were the top priority with better communications and improvement agricultural practices following closely.

#### **3.1.5. Gandhiji Experiments:**

Mahatma Gandhiji proposed various rural development experiments. His assessment of the problems of rural India played a significant role in shaping his ambitious, idealistic, swaraj program. His experiments constituted a holistic indictment of village life (**Gandhi, 1962**). His main goals were related to alleviate the poverty, improve health and sanitation, education, self-discipline and standard of living in the rural areas. He believed that a truly satisfactory village-based civilisation was technically feasible and eminently desired for India.

#### **3.2. Post – Independence Period:**

In the post – independence period, certain specific strategies were adopted exclusively for rural development, initiated with the Etawah Pilot in 1948 to Roshni: Skill Development Scheme for Tribals (2013).

##### **3.2.1. Etawah Pilot Project (1948):**

During 1948, one of the most important and well – known international rural development projects undertaken was the Etawah Pilot Project. Alfred Mayor played a major role to implement this project. The experiment was inaugurated at Mahewa district in Uttar Pradesh. The project's main goal was comprehensive, holistic modernisation of rural villages through self-help and rural people's participation in development activities. It was implemented through the planning advisor, three American assistants, six Indian agricultural specialists and village level workers. They performed their functions on village and town planning, co-operation and administrations.

##### **3.2.2. Community Development Programme (1952):**

The main objective of this programme was related to (a) transformation in the outlook of the people (b) inculcation of the spirit of self-reliance (c) generation of the habit of co-operative action through popular bodies, and finally, (d) these three to lead to new enlightenment, strength and hope (**Jain & Krishna Murthy, 1985**). This developmental activity programme was characterised as a programme and implemented by villages themselves, with the technical and financial assistance from the government (**Government of India, 1962**).

##### **3.2.3. Intensive Agricultural Development Programme (IADP)(1960):**

This programme was initiated during 1960 -61. It was implemented in 15 selected districts in India. The major objectives of IADP was to achieve rapid increase in agricultural output through better access to technical, financial and administrative resources. It was named as 'IADP' (Government of India, 1963).

##### **3.2.4. Drought Prone Areas Programme (1973):**

During 1973 – 74, this programme was launched. Its main aim was to reduce the inauspicious effects of drought on production of crops and cattle and productivity of land water and human resources ultimately guidance to the drought proofing of the affected zones (**Sandeep Joshi, 2000**). It was also made to assist the overall economic progress and for developing the socio-economic progress and for developing the socio-economic conditions of the poor and unimportant selections inhabiting the programme area. It was implemented in 947 blocks of 155 districts in 13 states of India. In 1997, it covered 9.46 crores hectares of land and the government allotted Rs. 1992 crores towards this project.

##### **3.2.5. Food for work programme (1977):**

In 1977, Food for work programme was started to augment the funds of state government for maintenance of public works on which large investment had been made in the past by utilising available stocks of food grains. The main objectives of this programme were (a) making of additional gainful employment in rural areas so as to improve income and the consequent nutritional levels, (b) to establish durable assets and strengthening the rural infrastructure, and finally, (c) utilisation of surplus food grains.

##### **3.2.6. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (1980):**

This programme was launched in 1980. It was a major scheme to alleviate rural poverty through creation of additional self-employment opportunities for a target group living below the poverty line. It needed co-ordination at the level of Panchayati Raj Institutions level. The need for local elected organisation to supervise, co-operation and arrange for feedback was increasingly being felt by the state governments themselves and it was here that Panchayat Raj as a system could provide the answers.

##### **3.2.7. Jawahar Gram Swarjohar Yojana (JGSY) (1989):**

In 1989, National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Labourers Employment Guarantee Programme were merged with Jawahar Rojhar Yojana. It was redesigned as the Jawahar Gram Swarjohar Yojana in the 1999 – 2000. The prime objective of this scheme was creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village

level and assets to enable the rural poor to improve opportunities for sustained employment. The second objective was to generate additional employment for the unemployed poor in rural areas (**Government of India, 1989**).

### 3.2.8. Million Wells Scheme (1995):

This programme was introduced as sub-scheme of National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Labourers Employment Guarantee Programme in 1988 – 89. In 1995, these two schemes merged with Jawahar Rojghar Yojana. Million Wells Scheme was separated from Jawahar Rojghar Yojana and it became an independent scheme from 1996 onwards.

### 3.2.9. Ganga Kalyan Yojana (1997):

In 1997, this scheme was started all over India. Its main objective was to provide irrigation through exploitation of ground water to individuals and groups of beneficiaries of small marginal farmers below poverty line.

### 3.2.10. Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) (1999):

Government of India introduced this new self-employment programme for the rural people with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1999. It was amalgamation of various erstwhile self-employment schemes like IRDP, Training for Rural Youth Self-Employment, Supply of Improved Tools for Rural Artisans, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas, Ganga Kalyan Yojana, Million Well Scheme. SGSY main function was to improve the self-government, skill building and technology as well as infrastructure development including marketing facilities.

### 3.2.11. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) (2006):

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme renamed as “MGNREGS”. It is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to provide ‘right to work’ to the people falling below poverty line. Main aim of this scheme is to provide 100 days employment opportunities for rural landless. This opportunity must be only on non-agricultural period. It recommended that minimum of 50 per cent of work allotment must be for women. Almost 90 per cent of funds allotted from central government and remaining received from state government.

### 3.2.12. National Rural Livelihood Mission (2011):

In 2011, this scheme was updated from the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY). This mission (Aajeevika) is aimed to empower the women’s self-help group model across the country. Under this scheme govt. provides loan up to 3 lakh rupee at the rate of 7% which could be lowered to 4% on the timely repayment.

### 3.2.13. Roshni: Skill Development Scheme for Tribals (2013):

This scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Rural Development in the year 2013. Main aim of this scheme is to develop the skill and it designed to offer employment of tribal youth in Naxal affected districts in India and its second objective is to provide training and employment to an anticipated 50000 youth in 10 to 35 years for a minimum three years period. It providing more importance for women beneficiaries because, almost 50 per cent allotment for this gender only. It is designed in light of the Himayat project model, which was launched in Jammu and Kashmir has been implemented in Sukma, Chhattisgarh, and West Singhbhum, Jharkand, on a pilot basis over the last 18 months.

## 4. Conclusions:

In British – Indian government, all these rural development programmes and experiments took care to see that development activities were linked with the cultural traditions of the nation. They had some limitations in terms of limited coverage, the indifference of the government technical support and their being isolated experiments.

In Post – Independence period, Government of India was implemented lot of rural development programmes to improve the rural life. Most these schemes performed well. But, some of the scheme did not reached the really needy peoples.

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