

Rurban Cluster in India under SPMRM: A Review

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Abstract: India is well known for its rich culture, old traditions, ethical values, belief systems, largely celebrated festivals, and linguistic recognition. All of these are well sustained and highly practiced in its villages. With Urbanization and development of the villages, these core and essential part does get compromised. Also, with the growing India's economy and population, it is a great challenge to focus on rural areas. Villages out of urban authorities do remain undeveloped. There are inadequate resources such as manpower, financial resources, etc. It is very easy to find and see the haphazard development of urban areas. There is a huge challenge to fill up the gap between policy and its implementation. Further, the rural population in India, as per Census 2011, stands at 83.3 crores, almost 68% of the total population. Also, the rural population has shown a growth of 12% as well as 2279 rural villages are increased during the 2001-2011 decadal period. Hence, it is very important to develop and make rural areas self-efficient and self-reliant without affecting their real identity as the complete growth of India does depend on it. Restructuration of the rural area with urbanization. There is a need for a well-planned Rurban cluster, stimulation of local economic development, and enhance basic services. And with this objective Government of India has initiated Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) under The National Rurban Mission (NRuM). This paper identifies and understands the issues, challenges, potential, and possibilities of the SPMRM with Gap analysis and Major findings.

Index Terms- SPMRM, NRuM, Rurban Cluster, Rurbanization, ICAP, Surat, Villages.

I. INTRODUCTION

India is well known for its rich culture, old traditions, ethical values, belief systems, largely celebrated festivals, and linguistic recognition. All of these are well sustained and highly practiced in its villages. With Urbanization and development of the villages, these core and essential part does get compromised. Also, with the growing Indian economy and population, it is a great challenge to focus on rural areas. Villages out of urban authorities do remain undeveloped. There are inadequate resources such as manpower, financial resources, etc. It is very easy to find and see the haphazard development of urban areas. There is a huge challenge to fill up the gap between policy and its implementation. Further, the rural population in India, as per Census 2011, stands at 83.3 crores, almost 68% of the total population. Also, the rural population has shown a growth of 12% as well as 2279 rural villages are increased during the 2001-2011 decadal period. Hence, it is very important to develop and make rural areas self-efficient and self-reliant without affecting their real identity as the complete growth of India does depend on it. Restructuration of the rural area with urbanization. There is a need for a well-planned Rurban cluster, stimulating local economic development, and enhancing basic services. And with this objective Government of India has initiated Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) under The National Rurban Mission (NRuM).

URBANISATION occurs as people move from rural areas to urban areas. This generally occurs when a country is yet developing. By Urbanization we mean is the increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities. Today, the studies are made on India categorizing it as Rural India and Urban India. In 1901, 89% of people were residing in rural areas. According to the 2011 census report urban population was 31.2% and the rural population 68.8%. But today it has been decreased to 60%. More and more rural people are moving to cities. And the number of urbanites is increasing. There is an increase in allurements, employment opportunities, service facilities like health, education, recreation. The private sectors are also playing a key role in increasing the number of cities.

RURALISATION is the process of making rural areas self-efficient and self-reliant. It is the process to bring change to stop migration from rural to urban in search of jobs, lifestyle, livelihood, etc. To develop the better formation of villages.

Rurban means a blend of rural and urban. A rural or small-town dweller who adopts an urban lifestyle. Restructuration of the rural area with urbanization can be said as **RURBANIZATION**. The modification of rural areas with needed urban facilities & infrastructure is what Rurbanization is. It helps the development of rural areas without compromising their rich culture, way of living, agricultural areas, etc. The growth of population may rise in urban areas, but India's economical, heritage, socio-economic growth completely depends on these rurban areas.

No single individual can prevent urbanization. Govt. should make law and do some activities for that:

- Give more employment opportunities to villages, open some factories and research centres in rural areas.
- Make schools and colleges, universities in rural areas so that rural children don't have to come to cities for their education.
- Build the concept of the smart village-like smart city.
- Establish some recreation centres like sports in rural areas.
- Daily wages in rural areas should be equal or as per city

- To providing high health facilities, public transportation, communication systems, and technology.

A. *Current Scenario: India*

The rural population in India, as per Census 2011, stands at 83.3 crores, almost 68% of the total population. Also, the rural population has shown a growth of 12% as well as 2279 rural villages are increased during the 2001-2011 decadal period. According to the 2011 census, with a population of more than 10 lakhs, there are 53 cities which will be 87 by 2031. According to the 2011 census, more than 4.6 crore cities in India, including Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata, have populations over 1 cr. India's GDP (at constant 2011-12 prices) was estimated at Rs 26.9 trillion (US\$ 363.49 billion) for the first quarter of FY2020-21.

- Rs 35.35 trillion (US\$ 477.67 billion) in the first quarter of FY2019-20
- So, a contraction of 23.9%

India needs to increase its rate of employment growth and create 90 million non-farm jobs between the 2023 and 2030s. The net employment rate has to grow by 1.5% per year from 2023 to 2030 to achieve 8-8.5% GDP growth between 2023 and 2030.

B. *Problems & Challenges:*

- According to India's growing economy and population, focus on rural areas is a great challenge.
- Villages surrounded by urban areas are left out of proper development.
- There are inadequate resources such as manpower, financial resources, etc. in the implementation of Govt. rural development schemes.
- Better implementation of rural development programs can be ensured only if those responsible for actual implementation are paid reasonably well, appropriately trained, and sufficiently motivated.
- Haphazard development of urban areas can be seen and easily identified.
- Gap between policy and its implementation in urban areas.

C. *Why Rural Area?*

- About 70% of India's population, or 75 cr, live in its 6,00,000 villages.
- More than 85% of these villages are in the plains or on the Deccan plateau.
- The average village has 200-250 households and occupies an area of 5 sq. km.
- Around 65% of the State's population is living in rural areas.
- People living in rural areas have all the right to live the same quality of life as those living in suburban and urban areas.
- There are cascading effects of poverty, unemployment, poor and inadequate infrastructure in rural areas causing slums and consequential social and economic tensions manifesting in economic deprivation and urban poverty in urban areas.
- Hence, India's complete growth depends on the growth of rural areas.

D. *Steps by Government of India for Ruralization:*

- National Rural Mission (NRuM).
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.
- **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rural Mission (SPMRM).**
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA).
- Rajiv AwasYojana.
- Pradhan Mantri gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.
- Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY).
- Bharat Nirman Yojana.
- Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).
- Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

II. CRITICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

The chapter gives an overall introduction to the study defining, basic concepts, required analytical data, its aim & objectives, this chapter gives a brief background and defines the relevance for the study, and explains the methodology & report structure. The various theories to be referred to for the understanding of various issues related to the Rural cluster, to define the "Ruralization". This chapter gives the basic idea of Surat city in terms of Historical background, physical characteristics, Demographic characteristics, Urban Economy, and Rural Area.

A. SPMRM:

In the country, large parts of rural areas are not stand-alone villages but part of a cluster of villages, which are relatively proximate to each other. These clusters typically show growth potential, have economic boosters, and have locational and competitive advantages. Once these clusters are developed, then they can be classified as 'Rurban'. Hence taking this under consideration, the Government of India, has launched the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM), under National Rurban Mission (NRuM) aimed at developing such rural areas by provisioning economic, social, and physical infrastructure facilities. The Mission was launched on 21st February 2016.

Every Rurban cluster in this Mission is going to be developed as a project in which it would be covering economic activities, developing skills, and local entrepreneurship and will provide necessary infrastructure amenities. Down the three years of timeline, these projects are fixed to be completed. Later, there will be operations and a maintenance period of ten years.

B. ICAP:

Integrated Cluster Action Plan (ICAP) is prepared for each Rurban cluster. The ICAP for a cluster will have two components, which will form an integral part of the ICAP and will be undertaken in parallel.

Following are the two components of ICAP:

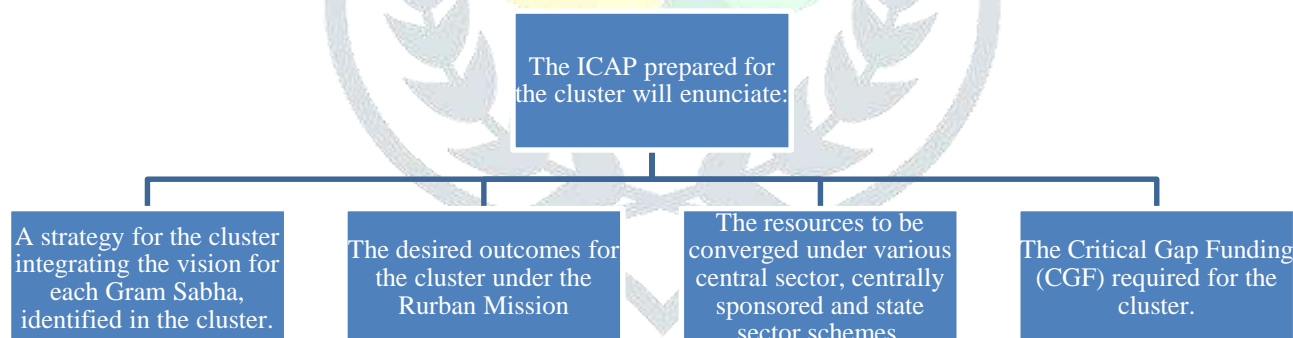
- Socioeconomic and infrastructure planning component
- Initiation of spatial planning.

Socio-Economic and Infrastructure Planning Component: -

The component of the ICAP is designed to rectifying problems and needs in the socio-economic and infrastructure requirements of the cluster, convert the proposed project into the implementation phase, and include various government schemes. This socio-economic and infrastructure planning workout is set to complete within four months and would be forming the base for the next steps of the mission which is the identification of included project components, analysis of funding requirements and critical gap funding, etc.

Spatial Planning Component: -

This component of the ICAP will be initiated after the selection and delineation of the Rurban cluster. The process shall follow the planning norms as laid down in the planning and development guideline URDPFI. The spatial planning component of the ICAP will result in a structure plan/land use plan for the Rurban cluster along with its implementation. The drill for the preparation of spatial plans may be executed over a longer period as mandated by the norms.

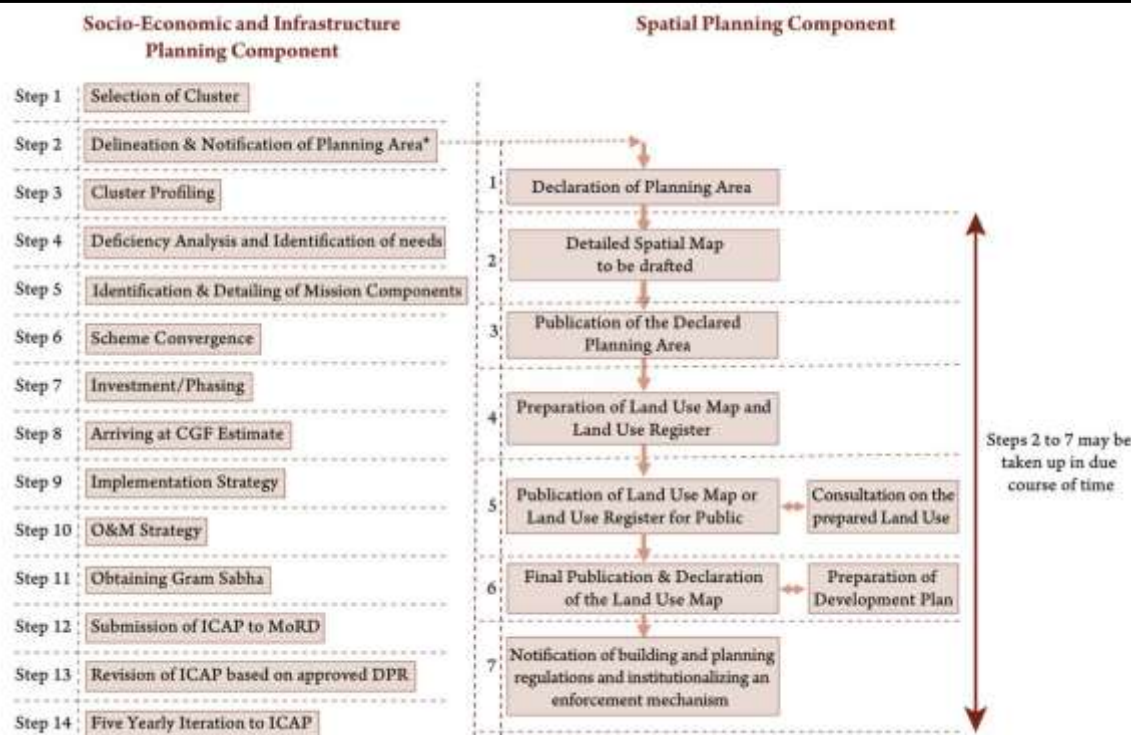


Source: Integrated Cluster Action Plan (ICAP), National Rurban Mission

Figure 1: Enunciate of ICAP

C. Components of ICAP:

ICAP would delineate the cluster areas to form well-planned layouts following the planning norms. Then, the selected cluster area will be informed to the State/UTs and this work will be merged with the master plan of the same.



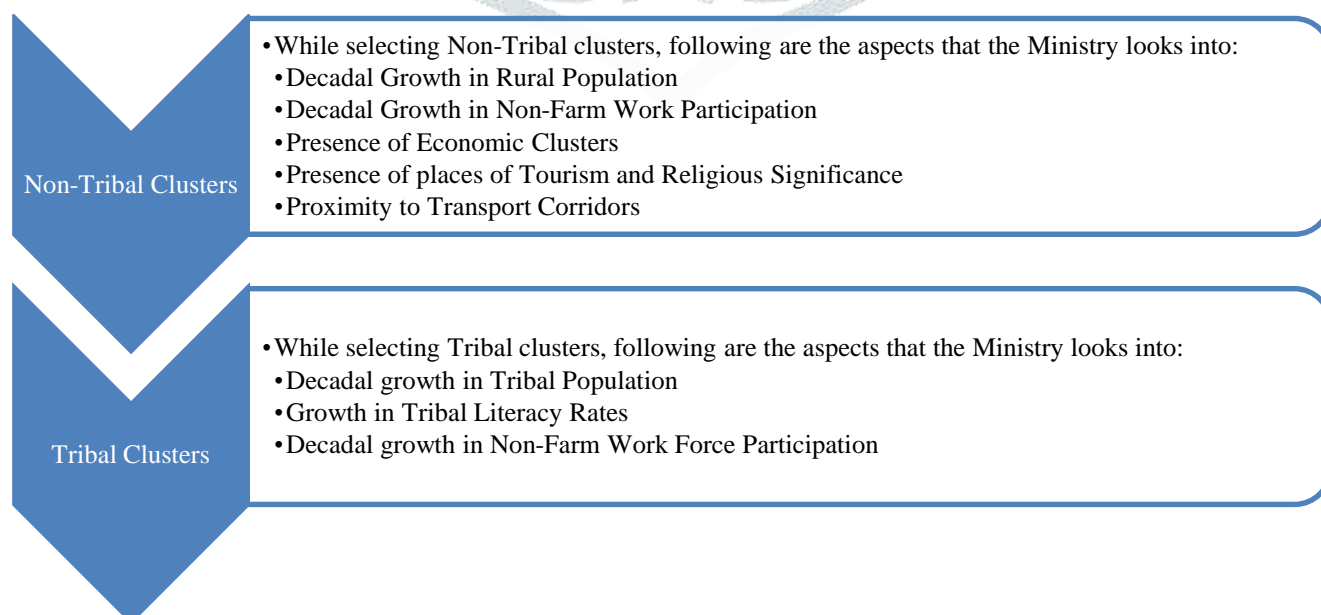
Source: Integrated Cluster Action Plan (ICAP), National Rurban Mission
Figure 2: Component of ICAP.

1.1 Selection of Clusters:

The State governments are responsible for the selection of the cluster, which has to be done, based on the potential for the development of cluster. The clusters need to be selected in a way that they fulfill the criteria mentioned in the ICAP document issued by the Ministry of Rural Development. The document has identified two types of clusters, namely, tribal and non-tribal, and both have different sets of criteria to be fulfilled.

Selected clusters are required to accommodate geographically contiguous villages. However, the population criterion for the selection of villages varies based on the type of the terrain of the region and the type of the cluster (tribal/non-tribal). For non-tribal clusters, the total population has to be about 25,000 to 50,000 in plain and coastal areas and a population of 5,000 to 15,000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas.

The selection of leading sub-districts, both for tribal as well as non-tribal clusters is done by the Ministry of Rural Development, while the State Government is responsible for the selection of contiguous villages that will form a cluster.



Source: Integrated Cluster Action Plan (ICAP), National Rurban Mission
Figure 3: Tribal and Non-tribal selection criteria.

D. *Summary of Literature review:*

1. **Denis, Eric & Zerah, Marie - Hélène. (2014).** Rural-Urban Linkages: India Case Study. This report aims to provide detailed answers to the question of urban-rural linkages in the case of India, excluding the topic of food systems. It even follows the structure indicated in the terms of reference. There are numerous programs both for rural and urban development that can directly or indirectly impact rural-urban linkages. The historical importance of a cluster economy, often supported by regional or sectoral policies, is important. Constitutionally, district integrated planning is a critical tool to ensure rural-urban linkages but its use and relevance vary widely according to states. To understand how rural-urban linkages are politically discussed, it would therefore be important to have collaborator work on the functioning of the district integrated planning committees.[21]
2. **Boda Ramesh (2018)** " Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission as an Initiative of Indian Government for Rural Areas Development Through Rurbanization" Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (IJTSRD), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-2 | Issue-3, April 2018, pp.1945-1947, URL: <https://www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd11121.pdf>. Shyam Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission scheme was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 21st February 2016. The objective is to create a big village with an urban feel. The clusters should include villages with a population of 25000-50000 in plain areas and 5000 15000 in tribal, hilly, and desert areas. Shyam Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission is one such scheme for enhancing amenities in rural areas with urban facilities. In the past rural areas have been neglected in the wake of industrialization.[22]
3. **Kolhe, Neha & Dhote, Krishna. (2016).** Rurban Centres: The New Dimension of Urbanism. Procedia Technology. 24. 1699-1705. 10.1016/j.protcy.2016.05.198. Developing countries like India have experienced a huge shift in the economy from an agrarian base to service-oriented employment. Indian cities unlike the western are not planned; they evolve in layers as a testimony to a different period. As a result of urbanization, the urban sprawl is approaching the rural hinterlands. The rurban areas which are an outcome of urbanization coexist with activities of both urban and rural both. These vibrant communities have the potential for development and contribute to the secondary and tertiary sector both. If it is dealt with in time along with a planned approach it can contribute to the urban development where cities or urban settlements are looked upon as engines of economic growth.[23]
4. **Banerjee, Arpita, and Prasad, Mahavir and Lata, Kusum (2019)** A Geo-Spatial Information Model for Rurban Planning. IS THIS THE REAL WORLD? Perfect Smart Cities vs. Real Emotional Cities. 45-54. ISSN 2521-3938. This report states that the Indian way of planning does firstly focuses on urban settlements comprising approximately 30% of our land area. The rest two-third is composed of spatially isolated rural settlements, which does lack access to desired infrastructure, services, and connectivity. There is a lack of development planning methodology, which is one of the main reasons. But spatial planning is never out of the focus, the most effective way of planning is when it's done for a region, joining settlements in need of physical, economic, and social connectivity. This model gives a way for delivering faster, efficient, and effective plans. Currently, The Indian scenario of planning at the national, state, and local levels does miss out on the non-negotiable values.[20]
5. **Sanhita Rahul Joshi (2019);** Emerging Model Villages in India: A Study of Punsari Village from the State of Gujarat (India); <https://doi.org/10.31297/hkju.19.2.3>. The paper argues that grassroots leadership, community participation, decentralization of powers to local bodies in rural areas, and financial support in the form of various government schemes can bring far-reaching changes in the rural landscape of India. The paper also strongly advocates a view that there still exists a considerable gap in what we call a model village and what an ideal village should be. The paper has attempted to explore the development journey of a smart and model village called Punsari. The author argues that grass-roots leadership, community participation, decentralization of powers to local bodies in rural areas, and financial support in the form of various government schemes can bring far-reaching changes in the rural landscape of India. The paper has highlighted the role played by a local leader whose vision and mission can achieve the impossible. However, there still exists a gap between a model village and an ideal village. The gap can only be filled with the persistent efforts for rural revitalization not only by the government but also with the effective involvement of the local leaders and village folks.[19]

III. FINDINGS

A. *Gap Analysis:*

1. Work done is on either extremely rural areas or extreme urban areas.
2. No proper work done on rurban villages.
3. Proper methodology lacking in Rurbanization.
4. Less assessment was done in rurban areas.

B. *Major Finding:*

1. Bridging the rural-urban divide-viz: economic, technological, and those related to facilities and services.
2. Stimulation of local economic development with a focus on reduction of poverty and unemployment in rural areas.
3. Spreading development in the region.
4. Attracting investment in rural areas.

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