



AN IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND ITS POLICY

Sushil Kumar (PhD. Scholar)

Dr Sunil Kumar Jangir (Research Guide)

Department of Political Science

OPJS University, Churu

Abstract

Conclusion Poverty is a national problem and it must be solved on a war footing. The government is taking a number of steps to mitigate poverty. Eradication of poverty would ensure a sustainable and inclusive growth of economy and society. We all should do everything possible and within our limits to help alleviate poverty from our country.

Keywords: Rural Development, IT Policy, Poverty alleviation

Introduction

India is a country of villages and its development is synonymous with the development of the people living in rural areas. India is a vast and second most populous country of the world. (According to the 1991 census, 74.28 per cent population of our country reside in the countryside) But a big part of this population has been leading an uncertain economic life due to non-synchronization of employment opportunities in agriculture sector because of the fast growing population. Rural development has been receiving increasing attention of the governments across the world. In the Indian context rural development assumes special significance for two important reasons. First about two thirds of the population still lives in villages and there cannot be any progress so long as rural areas remain backward. Second, the backwardness of the rural sector would be a major impediment to the overall progress of the economy. India is predominately an agricultural country and farming is their main occupation. In terms of methods of production, social organization and political mobilization, rural sector is extremely backward and weak. Moreover, technical developments in field of agriculture have increased the gap between the rich and poor, as the better off farmers adopted modern farm technology to a greater extent than the smaller ones. The all India Rural Credit Review Committee in its report



warned “If the fruits of development continue to be denied to the large sections of rural community, while prosperity accrues to some, the tensions social and economic may not only upset the process of orderly and peaceful change in the rural economy but even frustrate the It was therefore felt necessary to national affords to set up agricultural production.” make arrangements for the distribution of fruits of development to the rural weak and backward section of society.

It is rightly pointed out that a purely agricultural country remains backward even in respect of agriculture. Most of the labour force in India depends on agriculture, not because it is remunerative but because there are no alternative employment opportunities. This is a major cause for the backwardness of Indian agriculture. A part of the labour force now engaged in agriculture needs to be shifted to non-agricultural occupations. Literacy, another growth indicator, is more acute in rural than in the urban areas. It is 44 per cent in villages and 73 per cent in cities. Again, more poor people live in the rural than the urban areas. Out of the estimated 210 million poor persons in the country, 168 million are located in villages and 42 million in urban areas. Out of 108 million rural household, 30 per cent are agricultural labour households. Fifty eight per cent of households in the villages are marginal farmers, having less than 1 hectare of land and 18 per cent having less than 2 hectares. These figures show that there is wide degree of diversity in some of the basic socio indicators of development between the rural and urban areas and call for concerted action to alleviate this disparity. The stress on rural development is also due to many constraints facing the rural areas, which generally suffer from inadequate infrastructure facilities and technological advancements. The rural areas are not well placed in terms of even minimum needs like safe drinking water, primary health and road transport. This apart, the rural population suffers from indigence, ignorance and illiteracy. Their traditional outlook towards development has been preventing them from taking full advantage of the incentives offered by the Government. Also, the ownership of land and other assets has been heavily concentrated in hands of a few. It is precisely for this reason that the benefits of rural development programmes failed to reach the rural population targeted for these benefits to the extent expected. Rural development requires a vast infrastructure. Provision of this is no easy task,



because it has to be undertaken by the Government. Private investment in this area has been meager and continues to be so. But the trend of merge investment in the rural sector is gradually changing in terms of economic sustenance. However, evolving an appropriate technology for rural development is not an easy task. Such a technology has to simultaneously achieve the thin objectives of raising growth rates and stepping up opportunities of employment. The setting up of appropriate institutions and co-ordinating their activities are crucial to any rural development strategy. The potential of self reliance in rural areas needs to be exploited in a planned manner. A single approach to rural development would not be effective. In fact, rural development is the product of interaction between various physical, technological, economic, socio-cultural, institutional and environmental factors. Indeed, the rural sector should experience the required changes so that it can join the mainstream of national development and contribute its share for economic development. It has been rightly said, “In the end, however, rural development should not be seen as a package of specific needs but as a transformation of rural like and conditions.”

Review of literature

Imai, Katsushi (2003) according to women working in cities and towns firstly constitute a small proportion to total workers and secondly out of the total members of women workers the majority is engaged in low status occupations. She is of the opinion that the factory employment opportunities to women have declined due to technological changes and this is accompanied by an increase in service sector employment such as public service, medical, health and education.

Washer Jadhav, Vishal (2006) has assessed that 57.3 percent of working women of Delhi are working due to economic reasons and others due to non-economic reasons. According to Mehta rising cost of living along with new trends of modern living resulting in ever widening necessities of life are compelling more and more women to seek employment outside home.



Moore, Mick and Jadhav, Vishal. (2006) model of effort allocation implies that an hour of a man's time produces more of value to an employer than an hour of equally skilled and experienced women who has greater responsibilities. This in true influences both employer's treatment of equally capable male and female employees and worker's subsequent decisions about investing time and energy in household versus market-work. The model implies that small initial disadvantages faced by women in the work-place can lead to extreme results in the division of labour in the household, occupational segregation and earning difference. Even a small amount of discrimination against women in the work place gives men a comparative advantage in market work. Likewise a small "natural" advantage in child-care activities gives women an advantage in household work.

Jennifer Nayyar, Rohini. (2002) in his study about sanitary workers that economics status showed a significant difference according to their age, marital status duration of working, life and position at work.

Poverty alleviation - Strategies and programs for rural development

Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP): First introduced in 1978-79, IRDP has provided assistance to rural poor in the form of subsidy and bank credit for productive employment opportunities through successive plan periods. Subsequently, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) were introduced as sub-programs of IRDP to take care of the specific needs of the rural population.

Wage Employment Programs: Anti-poverty strategies, like assistance to the rural poor families to bring them above the poverty line by ensuring appreciable sustained level of income through the process of social mobilization, training and capacity building.

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS): EAS was launched in October 1993 covering 1,778 drought-prone, desert, and tribal and hill area blocks. It was later extended to all the blocks in 1997-98. The EAS was designed to provide employment in the form of

manual work in the lean agricultural season. The works taken up under the program were expected to lead to the creation of durable economic and social infrastructure and address the felt-needs of the people.

Food for Work Program: The Food for Work program was started in 2000-01 as a component of the EAS in eight notified drought-affected states of Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttaranchal. The program aims at food provision through wage employment. Food grains are supplied to states free of cost. However, lifting of food grains for the scheme from Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns has been slow.

Rural Housing: Initiated in 1985-86, the IAY is the core program for providing free housing to families in rural areas. It targets scheduled castes (SCs)/scheduled tribes (STs), households and freed bonded laborers. The rural housing program has certainly enabled many BPL families to acquire pucca houses.

Social Security Programs: Democratic decentralization and centrally supported Social Assistance Programs were two major initiatives of the government in the 1990s. The National Social Assistance Program (NSAP), launched in August 1995 marks a significant step towards fulfillment of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Land Reforms: In an agro-based economy, the structure of land ownership is central to the wellbeing of the people. The government has strived to change the ownership pattern of cultivable land, the abolition of intermediaries, the abolition of zamindari, ceiling laws, security of tenure to tenants, consolidation of land holdings and banning of tenancy are a few measures undertaken.

S&T Application for Rural Development (STARD): Aims at facilitating development of promising S&T based field groups and innovative technologies related to rural development.

S&T for Women: To promote research, development and adaptation of technology, improve the life, working conditions and opportunities for gainful employment of women especially in rural areas.

S&T Application for Weaker Sections (STAWS): Aimed at the development of economically weaker sections of the society in rural and urban areas.

Tribal sub-plan: Aims at improving living conditions of scheduled tribes based on sustainable science and technology activities

Special Component Plan (SCP): Aims at improving the lot of the poor sections of SC community through intervention of Science & Technology.

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)

National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS)

Annapurna

Drda Administration

Rural Housing – Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)

Desert Development Programme (DDP)

Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)



POLICY PLAN REQUIRED FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN INDIA

1. To promote growth in agricultural productivity and non-farm rural activities. 2. Public investment in rural infrastructure and agricultural research. Agricultural research benefits the poor directly through an increase in farm production, greater employment opportunities and growth in the rural non-farm economy. 3. Credit policies to promote farm investment and rural micro enterprises Policies to promote human capital to expand the capabilities of the poor Development of rural financial markets. 4. Self-Help Group Approach to be strengthened as it is a proven method of empowerment of the poor. 5. Involvement of local communities and people's participation in NRLM and MGNREGS. 6. Decentralization of the programmes by strengthening the panchayati raj institutions. 7. Public Distribution System (PDS) needs to be reformed and better targeted. 8. Provision of safety nets like targeted food subsidies, nutrition programmes and health. 9. Targeted poverty alleviation programmes to continue as the poor of the developing world may not have the patience to wait for the trickle-down effect The main objective of Indian planning is to alleviate poverty. In this regard government has launched many poverty alleviation programmes. Even then no radical change has been undergone in the ownership of assets, process of production and basic amenities to the poor. In this way poverty alleviation programmes have proved failure due to insufficient resources and lack of proper implementation, active participation of poor, proper identification of poor and infrastructure.

CONCLUSION:

Debate on poverty in India has remained mostly in the domain of economists. Poverty is defined in terms of income, expenditure and nutritional value (calorie intake). Social dimension of poverty is a neglected area of study. Poverty is more of social marginalization of an individual, household or group in the community/society rather than inadequacy of income to fulfill the basic needs. Indeed, inadequate income is therefore one of the factors of marginalisation but not the sole factor. The goal of poverty alleviation programme should aim merely increasing the income level of individual,



household or group but mainstreaming marginalised in the development process of the country. The country cannot claim economic growth when sections of the people are marginalised to the periphery of the society. The rapid economic growth process should accelerate the access to services like education and health services for all, especially the marginalised citizens. The government should also aware the rural population about the importance of small family and mortality rate. Poverty give birth too many other problems. Poverty therefore is a complex phenomenon of many dimensions not merely the economic dimension. So government should provide better medical facilities, drinking water facilities and education so that people living below poverty line can improve their lives Yesudian (2000) also suggested that Poverty alleviation programmes should also address the issue of poverty from broader social and economic perspectives.

Reference

Imai, Katsushi. (2003) “The Employment Guarantee Scheme as a Social Safety Net- Poverty Dynamics and Poverty Alleviation”, Department of Economics Working Paper, Ref. 149, March 2003, Department of Economics, University of Oxford, pp 1-35

Jadhav, Vishal. 2006. Elite Politics and Employment Guarantee Scheme, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol 41 No 50, December 2006, pp 5157-5162

Moore, Mick and Jadhav, Vishal. 2006. The Politics and Bureaucraties of Rural Public Works: Maharashtra’s Employment Guarantee Scheme, For: The Journal of Development Studies, November 2006, pp 1271-1300.

Nayyar, Rohini. (2002) The Contribution of Public Works and Other Labour-Based Infrastructure to Poverty Alleviation: The Indian Experience, Issues in Employment and Poverty Discussion Paper 3, Recovery and Reconstruction Department.

Yesudian, C.A.K. (2007), Poverty alleviation programmes in India: A social audit, Indian J Med Res, Vol. 126, pp 364-373.