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Rural Development Programmes in India: A Study in the context of Five Year Plans

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ABSTRACT *The Planning Commission is formulated for the implementation of the five year plans of the Government of India. Nehru visited Soviet Russia in 1927. He was impressed by the Five Year Plans of Russia. In 1938, he proposed to adopt the Five Year Plans in India. On the recommendations of the Advisory Planning Board constituted in 1946, under the Chairmanship of K. C. Neogi, the Planning Commission was established in March 1950 by an executive resolution of the Government of India. Thus, the Planning Commission is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. In other words, it is a non-constitutional or extra-constitutional body. The Deputy Chairman of the Commission is responsible for the formulation and submission of the draft Five-Year Plan to the Central Cabinet.*

KEYWORDS : Rural, Plan, Development, Poverty, Economic, Programme.

First Five Year Plan (1951-1956): The 'Community Development Programme' (CDP) was launched on 2 October 1952 by Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru through which emphasis was given to the development of agriculture, irrigation, energy and power, industry and minerals, village small scale industry, transport, employment etc.[1] The National Extension Service Programme, Mettur Dam, Hirakud Dam, and Bhakra Nangal Dam were established as irrigation programme during the plan.2 The Government of India had taken steps providing fund for agriculture workers especially to rehabilitate the landless workers. These workers were granted economic fund, training in agriculture, soil conservation and other related agricultural issues was also given considerable[3]The important also were given in improving the transport and communication, social services, railway services, telegraphs etc. During the First Five Year Plan, five Indian Institute of Technology were set up in five locations in India. To improve the higher education i.e. college and university education the University Grants Commission was set up in India. The target growth of national income of the first five year plan was 2.1% and achieved 3.6 %.[4]

Second Five Year Plan (1956-1961): It focused on heavy industry. The second Plan was based on the Mahalanobis model, an economic development model developed by the Indian statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in 1953. The Khadi and Village Industries Programme, Intensive Agricultural District programme, Tribal Area Development Programme, village Housing Projects scheme were the major programmes of rural reconstruction of the second five year plan.5 The Intensive Agricultural District Program (IADP) was introduced in 1962 for increasing of production with the help of essential elements such as supply of fertilizers, pesticides, improve of seeds etc. The objectives of the plan were increase of national income, reduction of poverty, rapid industrialisation, reduction of inequality in wealth, large expansion of employment opportunities etc.[6] During the second Five Year Plan heavy industries were established like Hydroelectric power projects and five steel mills at Bhilai, Dugapur, and Rourkela were established in India. In 1958, the Atomic Energy Commission was formed under Homi J. Bhabha as the first Chairman. The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research was established as a research institute. The target growth of national income in second five year plan was 4.5% and achieved 3.6%.[7]

Third Five Year Plan (1961-1966): The third plan stressed on agriculture and improvement in the production of wheat, but due to war between China- India in 1962 and also war between India and Pakistan in 1965, the priority of the third plan later shifted to defense industry or Indian Army.8 At the period many cement and fertilizer plants were built. At the grass root level many schools have been started to improve primary education. During this period the State electricity boards and state secondary education boards were formed. States were made responsible for secondary and higher education. State road transportation corporations were formed and local road building became a state responsibility. The target growth of national income was 5.6 % and achieved 3.9 %.[9] Applied Nutrition program, Tribal Development Block Programme, Rural Works Programme, Intensive Agricultural Area Programme, The Rural Industries Projects, High Yielding Variety Programme etc. The Applied Nutrition Programme was introduced in the rural areas in1962 in collaboration with UNICEF.[10]The objectives of the programme were production and distribution of nutritious food for pre-school children, pregnant and nursing mothers. The National Development Council appointed Balwant Rai Mehta as chairmanship to ensure the participation of people at the grass root level. In 1957, Balwant Rai Mahta committee recommended to form the three tiers Panchayatiraj i.e. Gram Panchayatiraj at village level, Panchayats Samiti at Block level and Zila parishad at District level. The three tier system of Panchayatiraj Raj was first adopted by Rajasthan on 2 October 1959. From 1966-1969 the three interim annual plans were made for development.

Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969–1974): This is the first time in the history of five year plan highlighted on the 'social justice' and 'Garibi hatao'. It emphasized on the improvement of poor and down-trodden classes. The Indira Gandhi government emphasized on nationalization of banks and 14 major Indian banks recognized as national bank. Target Growth of the national income was 5.7% and achieved 3.3 %. The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment, Drought Prone Area Programme, Small Farmers Development Agency, Tribal Area Development Agency, and Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme were the major rural development programmes during this period. The Drought prone Area Programme (DPAP) is an area development programme. The restoration of ecological balance, soil and moisture conservation, development of small and marginal farmers and agricultural, management of irrigation resources etc. were the objectives of the four plan.[11] The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE) was launched during tenure of four plans. The Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme (PIREP) was an adhoc scheme. It was started and implemented in areas having different socio-economic conditions on a pilot basis. The Small Farmers Development Agency(SFDA) and the Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency(MFALDA) were launched in the four plan to improve the socio-economic conditions of the small and marginal farmers by providing drug well, pump sets, tube wells and proving loans for animal husbandry, diary, sheep and goat rearing, poultry etc .In 1970-1971 the Tribal Area Development programme(TADP) was started in tribal areas in four states Andrapradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. The objectives of the programme was bringing the tribal areas in the mainstream of economic development of the country in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation development, construction road, land reforms etc. In 1974, the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) introduced during the tenure of four plans to raise the standard of living below the poverty line. The objectives of the programme were the providing minimum elementary education for the children, public health facilities, family planning, preventive medicine, nutrition, improvement of urban slums areas, reconstruction of village roads etc.

Fifth Five Year Plan (1974- 1979): The Hill Area Development Programme, Special Livestock Production Programme, Food for Work Programme, Desert Development Programme, Training of Youth for Self-employment were started in the fifth plan. In 1975-1976 the Ministry of Agriculture initiated The Special Livestock Production Programme (SLPP) on the basis of the recommendations of the National Commis-

sion on Agriculture for providing greater employment opportunities to the weaker sections of the rural mob. Due to internal emergency in 1975, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced the 20- point program o 1st July 1975. The National Commission on Agriculture recommended launching a program for the desert areas. The Desert Development Programme (DDP) was started in 1977-1978 for raising the level of production, income, employment of people of the desert areas. The program started in 131 Blocks in 21 Districts in five states like- Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. Therefore, the program covered both in hot and cold areas of the country. On 15 August 1979 the Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) is launched by the Central Government. The main objective of the programme was to improve the rural youth with necessary skills and technical knowledge to enable them to take self-employment in different vocations. The programme is designed as an instrument for transforming the rural youth into a productive force. From 18-35 ages of the rural youth belonging below the poverty line are eligible for training. Both male and female belonging to SCs/STs were eligible with general categories. The training are imparted through formal training institutions such as Industrial Training Institutes, Polytechmcs, Krishi Vighan Kendras, Nehru Yuva Kendras, Khadi and Village Industries Centres, Voluntary Organisations and also through reputed master craftsmen.[12] The target growth of national income was 4.4 % and actual growth was 4.9 %.

Sixth Five Year Plan (1980- 1985): One-child policy adapted to birth control. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) and 20- point Programme were launched during this period. In 1980, replaced the erstwhile Food for Work and launched NREP. Creation of employment, creation of rural economy, quality improvement of rural poor etc. are the objectives of the NREP. It was implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme on 50:50. The major rural development programmes such as SFDA, MFALDA, NREP, IRDP, DPAP and the MNP have become too well known. They are part of the 20-point programme of 1982.[13]**T**he 20- point Programme launched by Indira Gandhi to the reduction of poverty, inequality, drinking waters for millions, slump improvement, and rehabilitation of bonded labour, implement agricultural land ceiling, minimum wages for farm workers, strengthen IRDP & NREP, increase vegetable oils, family planning, social welfare for SCs/ STs, welfare for women and children etc. were its objectives. In 1982, the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is formulated for the development of women and children especially belonging to the SCs and STs. The target group of the DWCRA is as IRDP. The Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced in 1983 with the objectives of providing employment opportunities for at least 1 member of every landless household. RLEGP was a centrally sponsored programme. The wages for workers paid under this programme partly in food and partly in cash. RLEGP merged with JRY programme. The target growth of the national income was 5.2 % and actual growth was 5.3 %.

Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985–1990): The seventh five plans was constituted with several anti-poverty programmes like National Rural Employment Programmes (NREP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). The plan emphasis on poverty alleviation programme. The major rural development programmes were taken like Integrated Rural Energy Planning Programme, Special livestock Breeding Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, and Million Well Scheme and Indira Awas yojana. On 1st April 1989, Jawahar Rozgar Yogana was launched with merged the earlier two employment schemes namely, RLEGP and NREP. Employment for the unemployed in rural areas, strengthening the rural economic infrastructure and improvement in the overall quality of life in rural areas were the objectives of the JRY. It is a centrally sponsored scheme and expenditure is shared by central government and state government in the ratio of 80:20.The Million Wells Scheme (MSW) programme launched in 1988-1999 providing open imitation wells free of cost to rural poor, small and marginal farmers belonging to SCs/STs and free bonded labourers including scheme of Bhoodhan and land ceiling. Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) is an integrated part of RLEGP. The aim of the Yojana is providing dwelling house to the poorest of the poor of the rural masses belonging to SCs/STs and bonded labourers. The houses should have a smokeless kitchen and sanitary latrine. The target of national growth income was 5.0 5% and its actual growth was 5.8 %.[14]

Eighth Five-Year Plan (1992–1997): In 1989-1991 period was an economic instability in India and hence no five year plan was implemented. Between 1990 and 1992, there were only Annual Plans. The privatization and liberalization were started from this period of five year plan. Modernization of industries was target goal of the eighth Plan. During this plan India became as a member of the WTO on 1 January 1995. P. V. Naroshima Rao was Prime Minister and Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister at the time of eight plans. The major objectives of the eight plans were - control rapid population growth, poverty eradication, increase employment, strengthening the infrastructure, develop tourism management, Human Resource development, Involvement of Panchayatiraj in rural development, Nagar Palikas Law, N.G.O'S and Decentralizations of power and people's participation in governmental policies. In this plan, target national growth income was 5.6 % and achieved 6.78 %.[15] During this plan period the major programmes were IRDP, JRY, IAY and MWS.

Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997–2002): Ninth Five Year Plan was formulated from 1997-2002 with the prime objectives like drastic industrialization human development, poverty eradication, self-reliance in economy, increase employment, to provide basic infrastructure of life like education for all, safe drinking water, provide primary health care, food security, women empowerment etc. The growth rate was 5.35% and achieved 6.5%. During 1999-2000 the IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA were merged to form a new self-employment program called rename as Swarna Jayantri Gram Swarajgar Yojana with effect from 1st April 1999. The eradication of poverty, security of nutritional food, water supply, empowerment of women and socially disadvantages groups, provide universal primary education, health, shelter etc. **[16]**

Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002–2007): Under **the 10th five year plan** the Central Government adopted Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) as anti poverty and rural development programme. The earlier self-employment programmes like TRYSEM, SITRA, GKY, IRDP and MWS were merged and a new self employment programme viz. SGSY was launched with effect from 1.4. 1999. During the tenth five year plan under SGSY emphasised to form 1.25 lakhs SHG benefiting 25 lakhs women, establishment of micro enterprises, training for improvement of skill and capacity building, credit linkages vocational training for about 5 lakhs rural women, etc. The erstwhile wage employment Programmes. JGSY and EAs were merged and a new scheme namely Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was launched from 15th August 2001. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) introduced in the year 2000-2001 for road connectivity in the rural areas. During tenth plan a new scheme viz, Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojana was introduced to investigate the real problems of high poverty, unemployment etc. which would remove barriers to growth and accelerate the development process. The scheme is founded by Central and State Government in the ratio of 75:25.The target growth was 8.1% of national income and achieved 7.7%. [17]

Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007–2012): The eleventh five year plan is constituted with two rural development program i.e. Bharat Nirman Programme and flagship program to provide opportunities to improve living conditions as well as livelihoods. The objective of the Bharat Nirman Programme is to impart a sense of urgency to create rural infrastructure by setting time –bound goals under various schemes which form a part of the Bharat Nirman program. Creation of average rate of irrigation, rural roads connectivity for rural development and poverty alleviation in India, rural electrification, pure drinking water etc. were the objectivities of the Bharat Nirman Programme. In order to roads connectivity for rural habitations Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched as a hundred CSS in December 2000. The flagship programs were included National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Integrated Child development services (ICDS), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid- Day- Mill (MDM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). The BRGF has replaced the Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) in order to provide a more participative approach through the involvement of Panchayatiraj institutions. Nirmal Gram Puraskar has been introduced for hundred percent sanitations system in the village areas.[18]

Twelfth Five-Year Plan (2012–2017): The following seven major flagship programmes are operating in rural areas. MGNREGA, NFRLM, IAY, NRDWP, TSP, IWDP, PMGSY,RGGVY**.[19]** Besides these, the Govern-

ment of India launched the other programmes for uplift of the poor classes like village self-sufficiency scheme, Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme, Integrated Sanitary Complex for Women, Clean Village Campaign and Rural Sanitation, Capital programme of Infrastructure Development by rural local Bodies, Construction of village Administrative Officers Office Buildings, Rejuvenation of water Bodies and Rain Water Harvesting in Rural Areas etc.

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, decentralised oriented, collective oriented, improvement oriented, equity oriented, institutional oriented."

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