



## Youth Development for Rural Development

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### KEYWORDS :

#### Introduction

In a country like India where most of the population lives in rural areas the rural development can be said to be the main grounds of national development. Large number of villages in the country makes India to be a country of villages. In this background it may be apt to call the rural area of the country as Rural India. The Rural India's main occupation continues to be agriculture Rural development is essentially the main facet of the growth of the Indian economy. Youth has a vital role to play in national development. Youth development is a multidimensional process. Therefore in Indian context especially rural development can be attained by the way of development of rural youth.

#### Objectives of the study

1. To understand the need of youth development for their own self and the society as a whole
2. To study the facets of youth development
3. To highlight the significance of rural development in India
4. To study the role of youth development for the national development
5. To shed light on the contribution of Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension Work Shivaji University Kolhapur in bringing about youth development and so is rural development of its jurisdiction.

#### Methodology :

This paper attempts to cast light upon the significance of education as a tool for development. The researcher has been associated with the Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension Work Shivaji University Kolhapur, Maharashtra for last 23 years. The Department has been instrumental in bringing about the development of rural people of its jurisdiction by the way of education and training programmes. As the researcher intends to put forth her experiences of the programmes and its outcome for the consideration, this paper's views are grounded on the descriptive research methodology.

#### Rural Development –

Many eminent experts and scholars have defined the term Rural Development. However there seems to be no universally acceptable definition of the term. It has been seen differently at different times. In short conceptually rural development means over all development of rural areas. Its main aim is to achieve improved quality of life of people of rural areas by providing them with better facilities, infrastructure and education for socio-economic development.

While many schemes, policies and programmes are being framed for rural development it would be of great help to understand significance of all round development of youth for the rural as well as national development.

#### Youth – An asset to a nation

It is the youth of today who are to be the harbingers of tomorrow. Today's youth are the heralds of tomorrow's new world. They have the capacity to create a good or bad history. Youth are like surging wave of turbulent river which can be channelized for positive developmental motives else can prove disastrous.

India is the second most populated country in this world. However this problem of population had been proving malady for its national development. With the outset of globalization this malady of unman-

ageable population growth seems to be taking the face of country's strength for having one of the greatest sources of manpower. Globalization has given new meaning to one's employability. Easy access and increased demand to human and material resources across the globe has set new standard of one's employability. More than just ability to work the present era of technology seeks for skills and efficiency. As youth are the assets of a nation they should be protected from getting ruined. Youth can ruin their lives by addictions to intoxications, committing crimes for easy money and sometimes owing to lack of guidance which proves a great loss to a nation. Therefore along with other aspects of infrastructure and facilities development it should be the foremost agenda of rural development programmes to make the rural youth healthy mentally as well as physically, competent and employable.

#### The Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension Work, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Youth development is a multidimensional process. Youth development is a process that can be said to have taken place only when youth's health, emotional, educational and social development has been attained. There cannot be comprehensive youth development in true sense in the absence of any of these aspects. Youth development calls attention for sound physical and emotional health, sound education and character building of a youth. Youth, though full of vigor, energy and willingness they lack maturity. Therefore they are prone to fall a pray to misfortune owing to their wrong steps, vices and misconducts and failures at various fronts in their lives.

Continued acquisition of knowledge and skills is a key to continuous personal, professional and social development. Many philosophers and great personalities who have contributed to the betterment of society advocated the aim of education to be life giving and self development. Literacy, beyond its literal meaning of being able to read and write with the understanding of a language, connotes knowledge for leading a healthy life in all its spheres. Therefore in today's world of technology and competition education becomes a necessity for continuous development. One never stops acquiring knowledge all his or her life. Lack of education also leads to lack of awareness and knowledge about physical and mental health of an individual. Education not only enhances confidence of an individual but also accords a feeling of self reliance. In Indian scenario youth residing in urban areas enjoy more infrastructural, educational, health and developmental facilities than that of youth residing in rural areas of the country. As our population in rural areas is more than that of urban areas the number of youth in rural areas supersedes the number of youth in urban areas of India. And that makes the number of youth in India who cannot enjoy many of the facilities in rural areas. Development of youth from rural areas can bring about remarkable results in rural development and so can be in national development.

Having understood the significance of development of youth for national development a host of development schemes and programmes have been introduced time to time. Increased employability of people especially of youth has been the focal point of most of the schemes. Fast growing technological development has not only facilitated the communication but also has facilitated the access to manpower anywhere across the width and breadth of the globe. The globalization has created a need of skilled manpower. It has given a certain standard to one's employability. In today's world of competition the meaning of employability has been moving from just being able to carry out an activity to being able to carry out an activity

skillfully and efficiently. Therefore the quest of skilled manpower has created opportunities irrespective of the locations. While this has allowed import and export of suitable candidates on foreign lands, the expectations for employment has been setting some standards for one's employability. Rural development in India has experienced different treatments. The main objective has been to attain rural development by improving quality of life of rural people of the country. The quality of life can be improved by the way of increased employability and better facilities.

With an aim to reach out to and take education to the masses the Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension Work was established in 1982 by Shivaji University, Kolhapur. The Department of Adult and Continuing Education & Extension Work offers various kinds of need based (short duration) Continuing Education Courses. Along with the programmes in Leadership and Human Resource Development, Quality of Life Improvement, Individual Interest promotion, Social and Citizenship, Role Awareness etc. Department also caters to orientation and training in Life Long Education to teachers, students, social workers administrative staff etc. The department acts as link between University & affiliated colleges and society at large. The department has been instrumental in attaining all round development of people especially of rural areas of the department's jurisdiction by the ways of organizing various programmes for their socio-economic, spiritual and health development. With regards to cast light upon the contribution of the Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension Work in rural youth development following are some of the programs organized by the department.

**Personality development**-A great deal of success in life depends upon one's personality. Personality does not merely connote external appearance but is constituted of one's attitude, traits and impact of the environmental factors. With a view to attain all-round development for better life the The Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension Work, Shivaji University Kolhapur organizes personality development programmes for the youth in rural areas of its jurisdiction. The feedbacks of the beneficiaries of the programmes speak about efficacy of the programmes in positive transformation of their personalities and increased quality of life.

**Youth Counseling**- Youth owing to absence of experience and maturity are likely to get on to the path of vices. This in many cases may result in severe consequence on their lives. Youth undergo many biological changes and so do emotional confusions. Therefore they need proper counseling at this stage which they seldom get. Therefore in order to facilitate youths development through guiding them at right time youth counseling programmes are organized by the department at regular intervals.

**Adolescent education**- Often entrapped in perplexed condition due to ongoing biological and so of emotional changes, youth need education about their health and sexuality. Most of the time their Inquisitive queries remain unanswered and in turn they continue to

suffer the complexity of the situation. Right guidance at right time can help in removing many obstacles in one's emotional health. Considering the significance of physical and health education the department organizes adolescent's education programmes for youth. Different aspects of healthy life like practicing yoga, exercises, cleanliness and hygiene etc. are covered in the programmes. The programmes prove very helpful in clarifying their doubts and giving them knowledge about their health issues.

**Skill development** -Increased economic status can increase the quality of life. And economic status can be raised by increased employability. Therefore with this view various skill development programmes like Computer and legal literacy, environment education, spoken English, communication skills, disaster management, event management, time management, home appliances and mobile repairing, share market course, imitation jewelry making, cane furniture making etc. are organized by the department. Feedbacks given by the beneficiaries are the testimony of effectiveness of programmes of their increased employability.

### Conclusion:

India is the second most populated country in this world. Large number of villages in the country makes India to be a country of villages. Youth has a vital role to play in national development. In country like India where most of the population lives in rural areas the rural development can be said to be the main grounds of national development. Rural development in India has experienced different treatments. Along with other aspects of infrastructure and facilities development it should be the foremost agenda of rural development programmes. Continued acquisition of knowledge and skills is a key to continuous personal, professional and social development. Many philosophers and great personalities who have contributed to the betterment of society advocated the aim of education to be life giving and self development. It should be the foremost agenda of rural development programmes to make the rural youth healthy mentally as well as physically and competent and employable. The Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension Work has been instrumental in attaining empowerment of people especially of rural areas by organizing various programmes for their socio-economic, spiritual and health development. The feedbacks of the beneficiaries of the programmes speak about efficacy of the programmes in positive transformation of their personalities and increased quality of life. Therefore it may be concluded that for the development of rural areas of India the development of youth residing there becomes necessary and the youth development can be attained by various lifelong learning programmes.

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