



Rural Prosperity Through "Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana" an Implementation Issues

KEYWORDS

Socio-culture, Panchayati raj, Gram Swaraj, Cultural lenses.

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ABSTRACT *The political map of the world has changed dramatically since independence; the economic scenario has witnessed tremendous changes in the social set-up. Gandhi-ji the father of nation once said "If the villages perish, India will perish too. It will be no more India. Her own mission in the world will get lost." For him rebuilding of the nation could be achieved only by reconstructing villages. The study describes a Village Adoption Scheme "Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana" as a model for energising the rural economy in India and to slow down rural - urban migration which research has shown to be harmful to both; rural and urban people of India and their regions. This study discusses the multi-faceted impact of this village adoption program. The study presented here is designed to use the resources present in socio-cultural, politico-economic, traditional, legal, ethnic, religious layers of the rural society and seeks to enable the region to build upon them to generate resources. An intricate programme of constructive work, which*

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contained socio-economic self-reliance and social equality and decentralized political system. Adoption of villages is a crucial task, which not only requires a comprehensive setup to build-up a complete structure but also under cultural lenses.

INTRODUCTION

After the enactment of 73rd constitutional amendment, various attempts have been made at the national and state levels to strengthen local self-government institutions through diverse means. Strengthening the Panchayati Raj system is key to realising the national goal of "Gram Swaraj". This can only be achieved if all the tiers undertake responsibilities for service delivery and truly work as the local self-governments. Even though over 35% of the people in India are living in poverty. The expectation of democracy is still not achieved as a three tier system of democracy is looking for up gradation to remove the poverty from even up to marginal level. Over 70% of the population living in rural areas is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, important natural resources required for increasing agricultural production, are in shortage and heavily eroded. A majority of these families spend over 90% of their earnings on basic needs such as food, fuel and health care. Over 50% of the rural families who are not able to meet even these essential needs fall under the category of the poor. Hence, the major challenge for agencies engaged in rural development is to provide employment opportunities and food security by making sustainable use of the natural resources and promoting non-farm enterprises. Despite significant advancement in industrial development, Indian economy is agrarian. Therefore, we need to address the problems of the poor to ensure social justice and better quality of life.

The rural communities feel that the Government is responsible for providing all the basic amenities and tackling the basic problems of the rural poor. Though, the available resources are fewer and in the absence of appropriate systems and organizations, even the available resources are not utilized efficiently. Therefore it is necessary to strengthen the existing infrastructure and build institutions at the grassroots level to serve the community, for the betterment of lives of rural people. Some of the problems

which have dragged our farmers to poverty are limited access to natural resources and severe depletion of resources. It has forced rural people to depend on welfare work of government without making any serious effort for their own development.

As Gram Panchayat is the constitutional body to implement various development programs sponsored by the Government, close co-ordination between People's Organizations, NGOs and Gram Panchayat can help in efficient implementation of various development programs. Networking of various organizations at the village level and their participation in the Gram Sabha will help in monitoring the working of the Gram Panchayat and making efficient use of the resources for the benefit of the weaker sections of the society.

However, with over 1.8% annual birth rate, our growing population has raised the annual demand for food to 250 million tons by 2014 A.D. As food security is a prerequisite for economic progress, agrobased rural development deserves attention.

Fortunately, the Government of India has been giving top priority to rural development. In past it has been reported that only 18% of the rural development budget reaches the target rural families and the rest is wasted due to inefficient delivery systems. The pace of progress has remained inhibited and the poor continue to suffer. For the success of planned development program efficient delivery of programme process are required. Recently announcement of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana during address to the nation on August 15th, Prime Minister unveiled a blueprint for this programme.

The scheme encourages Member of Parliament (MP's) from both Houses of Parliament to identify and develop one village from their constituency as a model village by the end

of 2016, and two more villages by the end of 2019, it will cover around 2,500 villages of the 6 lakh villages country-wide.

This is not a rupiya-paisa yojana but a demand-based participatory scheme. In Parliament 800 members of parliament are present and in three years, they can cover 2500-odd villages. Similarly in states this scheme with Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA's) will cover 6000 to 7000 villages. One good developed village can affect an entire peripheral area, and a viral effect could begin. MPs to identify one village with population of 3,000-5,000 in the plains and 1,000 to 3,000 in the hills for socio-economic development of these areas. Member of Parliament can choose any village under adoption scheme except their own or their spouse's. MPs are expected to facilitate a village development plan motivate villagers to take up activities and use of the MPLAD fund "Rs.5-crore" to fill gaps for funds to besides mobilising "additional resources especially from Corporate Social Responsibility" in sewage and water supply schemes.

The activities and outcomes will cover broad development indicators such as education, health and nutrition through organising immunization pilot, ameliorate mid-day meal schemes, increasing Aadhar enrolment, setting up "smart-schools" with IT-enabled classrooms and e-libraries, improving panchayat infrastructure under schemes such as MGNREGA and Backward Regions Grants Fund.

A series of measures speak of better implementation of existing and new schemes and laws including Right to Information Act- 2005, National Food Security Act- 2013, National Rural Livelihood Mission-2011, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana-2014, while at the same time emphasising "activities to improve hygienic behaviour" by encouraging bathing among rural village people, use of toilets and exercising for thirty minutes every day. It is a social development in villages through identifying a celebration day for village, a song for village, and opinion of dispute resolution. There will be real-time web-based monitoring and a first review after five months by an individualistic agency. District Magistrates will carry out a baseline survey and then chair monthly review meetings to check the progress. At State-level, Chief Secretary of state will lead an empowered committee on the same and the Minister for Rural Development and Secretary of Rural Development department will chair two national-level committees to review the scheme. Instead of maximising the use of MPLAD funds over the largest possible area in adopted village. MPs will be able to identify the shortcomings in implementation issue of village adoption in rural areas.

2. PROBLEMS OF RURAL INDIA

The time is now fully grown, it requires a strategic change. The developmental programme for rural areas should identify the problems of the poor and address the local rural needs, instead of forcing them to accept earlier plans. The rural families should participate actively in the programme. The weaker sections of the society and women should have equal opportunity. The programme should actively in facilitation of sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection and lead to better quality of life.

Presently, there is no formal mechanism to understand the problems and address their needs. Different organizations created by the Government in the form of various development departments and Panchayati Raj Institutions are

not adequate to service large heterogeneous sections of the rural communities. Hence, the development bureau felt the need to promote different types of grassroots level organisations to facilitate the process of sustainable development. It is required to do the SWOT analysis to review the strengths, weaknesses, opportunity and strength of these institutions and select appropriate organizations for wider replication.

The utility of various types of organisations is dependent on the problems faced by the community. Rural poverty can be accredited to the following problems:

- Limited access to natural resources
- Mortification of resources leading to underneath agricultural productivity
- Livestock related problems
- Outdated technologies
- Deficient supply of deprecatory inputs and finance
- Destitute infrastructure and reinforce services
- Paucity of management
- Frequent failures stem in chronic poverty and dominion on relief
- Lack of credence in outsiders and themselves

3. CAPACITY BUILDING APPROACH AND PROCESS:

Adoption of village in the form of recent Government approved Scheme "Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana" can be placed on the ground by utilising various capacity building measures.

- Training Methodology
- Convergence of Capacity Building Efforts
- Capacity building need assessment
- Training Design and Content
- E-learning
- TV channel and Help lines
- Video Conferencing
- Monthly magazine
- Direct mode; face to face
- Satellite based Distance learning
- Institutional socio-economic Infrastructure and Human Resource
- Logistics Reachability and Training
- Training Inclusion [Gender/SC/ST etc.]
- Sensitisation of Gram Sabha
- Monitoring and Evolution

4. CONCLUSION:

Higher unemployment and low income in the rural areas results in low purchasing power of the rural people, eventually affecting their standard of life. The government has launched several schemes to generate employment, especially in the rural areas. As stated by the data of the National Sample Survey (NSS 66th round), Unemployment which was 7.2 per cent in the year 2000, enlarged to 8.1 per cent in 2010 in comparison to urban unemployment rate which increased from 7.7 to 7.9 per cent during the same period. Social analysts say, ways to improve existing rural jobs and to create additional jobs for more than 100 million need to be found. In rural India employability has emerged a crucial socio-economic issue in India and is a political priority. In this issue we had discussed the potential for creating new jobs through "Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana" in rural areas and how the existing schemes of the government are working on the ground. Village adoption scheme not only cater the unemployment rate but also counter the problem of urban migration from rural areas, by providing urban amenities.

