

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN INDIA (2014-19) - A STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

India is a country of villages and about 50% of the villages have very poor socio-economic conditions. Since the dawn of independence, concerted efforts have been made to improve the living standard of rural masses. The current population of India is approximately 1.33 billion people. India accounts for 17.7% of the World population which is second largest populated country in the World. Of the 1.33 billion population 65% people live in rural areas and 35% people live in urban areas. India has overall growth but rural areas still lack in development. So, rural development is an integrated concept of growth and poverty eradication has been of paramount concern in all the consequent Five Year Plans. The main focus of implementing the Rural Development Schemes is to curb urbanization and sustainable development of rural areas. "If the village perishes India will perish", according to Mahatma Gandhi.

Rural Development comprises of the following programmes in order to develop the rural areas. They are as follows

- Provision of basic infrastructure facilities in the rural areas. Eg- Construction of Schools, Providing Health Facilities, Construction of Roads, Providing Drinking water Facilities, Irrigation and Rural Electrification etc.,
- Improving agricultural productivity in the rural areas through various agricultural policies and programmes.
- Implementing schemes for the promotion of rural industry through agricultural by products and providing rural employment to the rural youth etc.,
- Assistance to individual families and Self Help Groups (SHG) living Below Poverty Line by providing productive resources through credit and subsidy schemes etc.,

ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

At the central level there is a separate Ministry known as Ministry of Rural Development. It has two wings i.e., Department of Rural Development and Department of Drinking Water Supply. The Ministry is divided into department based on the functions. Both the departments are headed by Secretary of the concerned Department assisted by hierarchy of officers. Rural Development programmes are achieved not only by the Ministry of Rural Development there are other Ministries and Departments that are concerned with the programmes of Rural Development. The State Government is directly responsible for the administration of Rural Development Programmes. Almost all the states have a separate Department of Rural Development headed by a Secretary. Above him is the Development Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development. In several states Chief Secretary acts as Development Commissioner cum Secretary. The Union Ministry of Rural Development has initiated some Programmes like National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) which later renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Programme (MGNREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), and Dessert Development Programme (DDP) etc., should be looked after by a single department having a total control on the administration till the block and field levels. So that coordination with other departments were adequately looked after at the state level. There are Joint/Deputy Secretary to assist the Commissioner for the formulation and implementation of these programmes. The District is the basic unit of administration headed by the District Collector. Autonomous agencies were registered to implement the programmes. Each agency consisted of Governing Body with executive staff. Some of the states have Block Level where there is a Block Development Officer assisted by extension personnels, Village Level Workers and some auxiliary staff. The review is made quarterly at the Block Level in general body meeting of Panchayati Samiti under the chairmanship

of the village head with the Block Development Officer as its Member Secretary. By the devolution of power development activities of the administration have gradually increased gaining importance to the Panchayati Samitis in the development process.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES FROM 2014-2019

The Government of India formulates various development schemes for the welfare of the rural people. The Rural Development schemes are formulated by the Centre and implemented in the states. The Rural Development Schemes from 2014-19 are:-

1. National Social Assistance Programme(NSAP)
2. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)
3. National Rural Livelihood Mission(NRLM)
4. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
5. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)
6. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission(SPMRM)
7. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)
8. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyothi Yojana (DDUGYY)
9. Pradhan Mantri Ujwal Yojana (PMUY), and
10. Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana Saubhagya (PMSBHGY-S)

1. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

- This scheme was launched in the year 1995 with the aim of providing social assistance to destitutes.
- It also provides financial assistance to the elderly people, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions.
- This scheme consists of 5 sub-schemes. They are as follows
 - Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) – This scheme is regarding pensions to the old aged people.
 - Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) – This Scheme is meant for widows.

- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) – This scheme is related to individuals with more than 80% of the disability and those who are living under Below Poverty Line.
 - National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) – Under this scheme the financial assistance to the family in the event of the death of the earning person in the family.
 - Annapurna Scheme – Providing food to the senior citizens who though eligible remained uncovered under IGNOAPS. Under this scheme 10kg of rice is provided every month to the beneficiary at the free of cost.
- Besides the Central assistance, States/UT's contribute an equal amount of their share for the above said scheme.

2. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

- This scheme was launched in the year 1996 as Indira Awas Yojana and later on restructured as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in 2015.
- The main focus of the scheme is providing Housing for all by the year 2022. It is a rural housing program that aims to provide a 25 square meter house.
- This scheme is covered with the other schemes to ensure houses have a toilet, Saubhagya Yojana electricity connection, Ujjwala Yojana LPG connection access to drinking water and Jan Dhan banking account for subsidy benefits etc.,
- The government provides financial assistance of 1.2L for constructing the house and 20k for constructing the toilets and provides loan upto 70k in the interest of the beneficiary.
- The expenditure shared by central and state governments are in the ratio 60:40 in plain areas and 90:10 for North-Eastern and Hilly areas.

3. National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)

- In 1999 after restructuring Integrated Rural Development programme (IRDP), Swarna Jayanthi Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SJGSY) was launched and in 2011 and this scheme was restructured as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) succeeded by Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana (DDAY) in 2015.
- The basic objective of this program is to organize the poor in SHG and make them capable for self-employment resulting in improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis.
- The financing of the program is shared between Central and State governments in the ratio of 75:25. In case of North-Eastren states including Sikkim it is 90:10 and completely from Center in case of UT's.

4. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- The scheme was launched on December 25, 2000 by Government of India.
- The purpose of the scheme is launched to provide all weather road connectivity to the rural areas whose population is
 - More than 500 persons and in terms of hilly areas.
 - More than 250 persons in special category states namely North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand.
 - The Desert areas.
 - The Tribal areas.
 - Selected Tribal and Backward districts, and
 - For critical Left Wing Extremism affected Blocks additional relaxation has been given to connect habitations with 100 persons and above.
- Initially it was 100% Centrally sponsored scheme after the 14th Finance Commission recommendation, the expenditure shared by Central and State governments are in the ratio 60:40 for all states except 8 North-Eastern states and 3 Himalayan states (i.e., Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand)

5. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was launched in the year 2005 which was later on renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- This scheme is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to provide right to work to the people falling Below Poverty Line. It guarantees 100 days of employment in a year to the village people and 50% of the workers should be women. The works taken up under MGNREGS should be approved in Grama Sabha.
- The objectives of the scheme are
 - Enhancing livelihood security by guaranteed wage employment. Employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement. Employment is to be provided within 5 kms radius of an applicant's residence and minimum wages are to be paid. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance.
 - To create durable assets such as roads, canals, ponds, wells, construction of school buildings, Toilets, and compound walls etc.,

- The motive behind is to reduce poverty and rural-urban migration.
 - Pro-actively include the lower section into the society and development of social equity.
 - Improvement of productivity of agriculture and regeneration of water resources, and Protecting the environment and nature.
- The financing of the program is shared between Central and State governments in the ratio of 90:10.

6. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

- This mission is launched in February 21, 2011. It is focused on project based infrastructure in the rural areas, which will also include development of economic activities and skill development.
- The main objectives of the scheme is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services and create well planned Rurban clusters.
- There are two categories of clusters under the scheme they are Tribal and Non-Tribal. The selection varies for each category. State identifies the village with growth centers with resources available which results in economic transformation of the region.
- The expected outcomes of the scheme are
 - Covering the rural urban divide.
 - Emphasis on reduction of poverty and unemployment in rural areas, and
 - Attracting investments in rural areas
- It is the successor of Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas (PURA), 2003.
- The funding is from various schemes such as Central sector, centrally sponsored schemes, State sector/sponsored schemes/programmes, CSR funds etc. and Critical Gap Funds (CGF).

7. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

- It is a rural development program launched on October 11, 2011 broadly focusing upon the development in the villages which includes social , cultural development and spread motivation among the people on social mobilization of village community.
- The main objectives of the programme are
 - Development of model villages called Adarsh Grams, and
 - Creating models of local development which can be initiated and developed in other villages.
- Under this program each Member of Parliament will take the responsibility for developing physical and institutional infrastructure in 3 villages by 2019.

- Initially the funds are allocated by the centre. At present no funds are allotted to this scheme. The funds are raised from the existing scheme, MP's Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Gram Panchayats own revenue, Central and State Finance Commission grants and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

8. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyothi Yojana (DDUGJY)

- This scheme was launched in 2015 by Government of India replacing Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuthikaran Yojana to provide continuous power supply to rural India.
- The main objectives of the scheme are as follows
 - Providing electrification to all villages and
 - It focuses on feeder separation (rural households and agriculture) and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution infrastructure including metering at all levels in rural areas.
- The funding from center 85% to special category states (North Eastren states including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand) and 60% of funds to the remaining states.

9. Pradhan Mantri Ujwal Yojana (PMUJ)

- This scheme was launched on May 2016 to provide 5 crore free LPG connections to women of poor households and after reaching the target they have increased the connection to 8 crore LPG connections at present.
- It will ensure
 - The reduced pollution from fossil fuels by universal coverage of cooking gas in the country and protecting the women health from the health hazards.
 - Better quality of life of women in rural areas, and
 - Protection of the environment.
- The scheme increased the consumption of by 56% from 2014 to 2019.
- It is centrally funded scheme.

10. Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana-Saubhagya (PMSBHGY-S)

- This scheme was launched on September 25, 2017 to provide free electricity by last mile connectivity to all remaining un electrified households in rural areas and poor families in urban areas. The main outcome of the scheme is
 - Environmental upgradation.
 - Increased economic activities, and
 - Enhanced connectivity through the road, radio, television, and mobiles etc.,

- Rural Electrification Corporation acts as the Nodal agency for operation of the scheme throughout the country.
- The Government of India provides funds to all States and U.T'S.

The below Table-I shows the expenditures spent on Rural Development Schemes from 2014-2019

TABLE-I

EXPENDITURES SPENT ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES FROM 2014-2019

S.NO	NAME OF THE SCHEME	EXPENDITURE SPENT ON THE SCHEME FROM 2014-19 (IN CRORES)					INCREASE/ DECREASE OF FUNDS FROM 2014-2015 TO 2018-2019
		2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	
1	MGNREGA	32976.69	37335.69	48215.33	55166.06	61829.55	28852.86
2	PMAY-G	11105.54	10116.20	16074.37	22572.29	19307.95	8202.41
3	PMGSY	14188.32	18289.87	17922.87	16862.12	15417.55	1229.23
4	NRLM	1413.22	2499.16	3158.02	4327.20	5783.48	4370.26
5	NSAP	7086.71	8616.41	8854.07	8694.22	8418.47	1331.76
6	SPMRM	2	32.05	599.44	553.25	432.61	430.61

Source: <https://rural.nic.in/press-release/status-rural-development-scheme-2>.

From the above Table-I, the expenditure spent on MGNREGA increased drastically from 2014-15 to 2018-19 and the highest fund was allotted in the year 2018-2019 and the lowest fund was allotted in the year 2014-2015. The expenditure spent on PMAY-G decreased from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016 and increased from 2015-16 to 2017-18 and decreased from 2017-18 to 2018-19 and the highest fund was allotted in the year 2017-2018 and the lowest fund was allotted in the year 2015-2016. The expenditure spent on PMGSY increased from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016 and decreased from 2015-16 to 2018-19 and the highest fund was allotted in the year 2015-2016 and the lowest fund was allotted in the year 2014-2015. The expenditure spent on NRLM increased drastically from

2014-15 to 2018-19 and the highest fund was allotted in the year 2018-19 and the lowest fund was allotted in the year 2014-2015. The expenditure spent on NSAP increased from 2014-15 to 2016-17 and decreased from 2016-17 to 2018-19 and the highest fund was allotted in the year 2016-2017 and the lowest fund was allotted in the year 2014-2015. The expenditure spent on SPMRM increased from 2014-15 to 2016-17 and decreased from 2016-17 to 2017-18 and increased from 2017-18 to 2018-19 and the highest funds are allotted in the year 2016-2017 and the lowest funds are allotted in the year 2014-2015.

CONCLUSION

Rural Development has achieved greater importance in the process of development of the country. Rural Development schemes are implemented to bring overall improvement in the quality of the life of people in rural areas through employment generation, strengthening of livelihood opportunities, promoting self employment, skilling of rural youth, provision of social assistance and provide other basic amenities. The drawback is the lack of awareness of the schemes to the rural people due to illiteracy. By bringing awareness by making them know the availability of the schemes they get there targeted outcome of development. Implementation of online subsidies as it can avoid middle men resulting in reduction of corruption. The coordination of the other Departments are also necessary for the Rural Development. The timely allocation of the funds by the States to the rural areas also plays important role for their effective functioning.

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