



The Role of Government in Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development

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Abstract

Poverty alleviation aims to improve the quality of life of those people who currently are living in poverty. Poverty reduction is set of measure for economic and humanitarian. The current paper explains meaning of poverty, Role of the government and strategies adopted by the government for alleviating poverty. The different projects by the government are good initiatives for rural development, but more efforts are required to finish the poverty from the base.

Key Words: Alleviation, unemployment, eradicate,

Introduction:

India is a developing country. Rural development and poverty alleviation is the main issue for any developing countries. In India, around 65% people living in rural area. Rural development initiatives are taken to improve the standard of poor living in the remote area of villages. Rural development in India is one of the most important factor for the growth of Indian economy and poverty alleviation. The aim of the paper is to eradicate the poverty from India, increased unemployment, higher productivity, higher income, clothing, housing, and education.

What is Poverty?

Poverty is generally of two types: Absolute poverty and Relative poverty.

Absolute poverty is synonymous with hardship and occurs when people cannot obtain adequate resources to support a minimum level of physical health. Absolute poverty means about the same everywhere, and can be eradicated as demonstrated by some countries.

Relative poverty occurs when people do not enjoy certain minimum level of living standards as determined by a government, it is vary from country to country, sometimes with the same country.

Poverty can be defined as the lack of basic needs that are necessary for one to lead a relatively comfortable life. Such requirements may include shelter, clothing, food, education, and healthcare. Poverty can either be relative or absolute because whereas other people may be comfortable with their lives, they may be deemed to be living in poverty when compared against those who are extremely wealthy. Tribal people, Dalits and labour class including

farm worker in village and casual workers in cities are still very poor and make the poorest class in India

Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the study are to elucidate the concept of rural development, to examine poverty alleviation programs implemented by the government and effects of such programs on rural life. Rural development aims to improve basic requirements of rural like sustainability in terms of social and environment, Provide them proper finance, jobs, pure air, clean houses, child education, hospitals and all those basic requirement which will be needed to fulfil the basic need of human being.

Role and function of the Government to eradicate poverty

Government policies and programs are important for the alleviation of poverty. It helps in creating employment and generates income opportunities. The Ministry of Rural Development in India formulate policies, regulations and Act pertaining to the development of rural sector. Another project Bharat Nirman by Government of India with co-operation of state government and Panchayati Raj Institution is also an important step towards the improvement of rural sector.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 was introduced by Ministry of Rural Development, for improvement of living condition of rural sector of India. The ministry is having three departments.

- (1) Department of rural development
- (2) Department of land resources and
- (3) Department of drinking water supply.

Ministry of central government are engaged directly or indirectly for implementation of programs and schemes for the development of rural areas like ministry of agriculture, health

and family welfare, new and renewable energy, science and technology, women and child development and tribal affairs etc. Government also trying to support Panchayat Raj Institutions in terms of power and finance for development of grass-root workers. Grama Sabha, NGOs, Self-Help Groups and PRIs have been accorded adequate roles to make participatory democracy meaningful and effective.

Strategies and programs for rural development

In India more and more people living in rural area. Rural economy is an important part of overall economy. The basic goal is to improve the quality of life of the rural people by allocating poverty through the instrument of self-employment and wage employment program.

Various programs and strategies of the government for the rural development are as below:

1. Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP):

The program was launched by the government by the Government of India during 1978 and implemented during 1980. The aim of the program is to provide employment opportunities to the poor as well as improve their living conditions. Rural artisans, labourers, marginal farmers, scheduled cast and scheduled tribes, economically backward classes with an annual income of less than Rs. 11000 are benefited under this program. 25% subsidies provided to the small farmers, 33.33% to the marginal farmer and 50% to SC/ST families and differently abled people. IRDP are implemented by District rural development agencies, block staff at the grassroot level, state level coordination committee at state level, ministry of rural areas and employment. The scheme is funded on a 50:50 basis by the central and state government.

2. Wage Employment programs:

The program gives 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 and training. It is for many objectives. It not only provide employment opportunities during lean agricultural seasons but also in times of floods, draughts and other natural calamities. It also involves in Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameed Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Rural Employment Gurantee Act (NREGA) etc. NREGA aims to improving the livelihood security of the people in rural areas by guranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year, to a rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The objective of the Act is to create durable assets and strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor.

3. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS):

Employment Assurance Scheme was launched in October 1993, it covers 1778 drought-prone, desert, tribal and hill area blocks. The primary objective of the EAS is to provide gainful employment during the lean agricultural season in manual work of all able bodies adults in rural areas who are in need desirous of work, but cannot find it. It is implemented on the cost sharing basis between the central and state government in the ration of 75:25. But in case of union territories, the centre provides entire funds under the scheme. The scheme had Central allocation of Rs.1990.00 crore during 1998-99. Complete Central share had been released to States/UTs. As per reports received upto March, 1999 against total availability of Rs.3357.15 crore, the utilization reported is Rs.2819.76 crore and the employment generated is 4165.31 lakh mandays. Since inception of the scheme, the total number of registered wage seekers is 4.29 crore.

4. Food for work program:

The program was started in January 2000-01 as a part of employment assurance scheme in Chaatisgarhm Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orrisa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. Later it was expanded to form a part of any wage employment

scheme of the central or state government being implemented in the notified districts during period of natural calamities such a drought, flood, cyclone or earthquake. 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.

5. Rural Housing:

Rural Housing project is initiated in 1985-86. The Indira Awas Yojna (IAY) is the main program for providing free housing to families in rural areas. The yojna target community of SCs, STs, and labourers. The rural housing program gives pacca house to many BPL families. The Housing of the Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has extended its activities to the rural areas, providing loans at a concessional rate of interest to economically weaker sections of low-income group households for construction of houses.

Other Action Plans for Rural Housing are:-

1. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)
2. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojna (PMGY): Gramin Awaas
3. Credit cum Subsidy Scheme for Rural Housing
4. Samagra Awaas Yojana (SAY)
5. Rural Building Centres (RBC)
6. Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitat Development
7. National Mission for Rural Housing and Habitat

6. 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 fulfilment of the Directive Principle of State Policy. The NSAP has three components:

- a. National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)
- b. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
- c. National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS)

The NSAP is a centrally-sponsored program that aims at ensuring a minimum national standard of social assistance over and above the assistance that states provide from their own resources. The NOAPS provides a monthly pension of Rs. 75 to destitute BPL persons above the age of 65. The NFBS is a scheme for BPL families who are given Rs. 10,000 in the event of the death of the breadwinner. The NMBS provides Rs. 500 to support nutritional intake for pregnant women. In addition to NSAP, the Annapurna scheme was launched from 1st April 2000 to provide food security to senior citizens who were eligible for pension under NOAPS but could not receive it due to budget constraints.

7. 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. Furthermore, a land record management system is a pre-condition for an effective land reform program. In 1987-88, a centrally-sponsored scheme for Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA & ULR) was introduced in Orissa and Bihar.

Conclusion:

The paper concluded that in any developing country, poverty alleviation and rural development initiative are important issues for the growth of the nation. About 65% of the population is living in rural area. Meaning of poverty is explain in the paper. The work of different department of government and initiatives taken by them is explained in the paper. These programs are implemented all over the country. It provide basic facilities like

education, infrastructure, housing, schools, hospitals and employment. Research reported that the programs are not giving remarkable result. More attention should require for the same.

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S. No.	Years	Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) RDP/SGSY Total Allocation (Centre and state) in Rs. crore	Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) RDP/SGSY Total Expenditure in Rs. Crore	Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) RDP/SGSY Lakh Families Swarozgaries	Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) JRY/JGSY Total Allocation (Centre and state) in Rs. Crore	Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) JRY/JGSY Total Expenditure in Rs. Crore	Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) JRY/JGSY Lakh Families Swarozgaries	Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) EAS Total Allocation (Centre and state) in Rs. Crore	Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) EAS Total Expenditure in Rs. Crore	Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) EAS Lakh Families Swarozgaries
1	1997-98	1,133.51	1,109.54	17.07	2,499.21	2,439.38	3,955.89	2,460.48	2,904.97	4,717.74
2	1998-99	1,456.28	1,162.28	16.77	2,597.03	2,525.48	3,766.41	2,485.15	2,882.18	4,279.36
3	1999-2000	1,472.34	959.86	9.34	2,205.58	2,032.45	2,683.08	2,431.46	2,182.61	2,786.17
4	2000-2001	1,332.50	1,116.27	10.3	2,192.96	1,929.23	2,683.17	2,082.27	1,861.11	2,183.92
5	2001-	774.5	555.15	6.25	2,493.0	699.07	860.79	1,730.9	530.9	666.2



	2002				1			2	2	7
Total	1997- 2002	6,169.1 3	4,716.1 7	56.92	11,687. 93	9,625.61	13,949.3 4	11,190. 28	10,36 1.79	14,63 3.50