

RECENT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES / SCHEMES IN INDIA

Abstract

In the vast tapestry of India's socio-economic landscape, the canvas of rural development has witnessed a vibrant transformation in recent years. With a steadfast commitment to inclusivity and sustainable growth, the Indian government has orchestrated an array of visionary schemes aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges that confront rural communities. This introduction delves into the contours of these recent rural development initiatives, illuminating the overarching goals and strategies that underpin the nation's pursuit of holistic progress beyond urban centers. From infrastructural connectivity to employment generation, technological empowerment, and agricultural revitalization, these schemes collectively represent a concerted effort to usher in a new era of prosperity for the heartland of India. As we navigate through the intricacies of these endeavors, the unfolding narrative reveals a tapestry woven with threads of innovation, social empowerment, and a resolute commitment to bridging the rural-urban gap.

Keywords: Rural, Urban, Indian economics, challenges

Authors

Suchithra P

Post Graduate scholar
College of Agriculture
Hassan, Karnataka, India.
suchithrap20@gmail.com

Vidya Shree G

Post Graduate scholar
College of Agriculture
Hassan, Karnataka, India.
vidyashree1700@gmail.com

I. INTRODUCTION

Rural development in India embodies the ongoing advancement in economic and social conditions for people living in rural areas. It's not a single goal, but an ongoing process that significantly contributes to both local and national economic growth. Conversely, economic progress within a region drives rural development. Key goals encompass creating livelihood opportunities, lifting rural residents out of poverty, and enhancing their living standards through modern education, healthcare, and land reforms, as pursued by Indian policymakers. Over the decades following independence, the Indian government has consistently emphasized the imperative of fostering rural development in the country.

Rural development primarily entails creating increased income opportunities for individuals residing in rural regions. According to the 2011 Population Census, approximately 69% of India's populace resides in rural areas, accounting for roughly 833 million people. Consequently, rural development efforts also encompass government initiatives aimed at reducing poverty rates in these regions. A separate government report from 2011-2012 indicated that 21.9% of the population fell below the poverty line, with a significant portion originating from rural areas. Hence, enhancing the economic prospects and viable career options in rural communities is essential. This advancement holds the potential to elevate a substantial portion of the population out of poverty and contribute to the reduction of the Below Poverty Line segment.

Consequently, the rural population necessitates enduring reforms and continual projects aimed at rural development in India, particularly in sectors like agriculture, education, and health. Through concerted efforts and appropriate measures, it becomes achievable to instigate sustainable development across rural areas, ensuring its resilience over time.

Given below are some of the important recent schemes that have been introduced to drive rural development in India.

II. PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA

The Government of India initiated the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on December 25, 2000, with the aim of providing all-weather access to previously unconnected habitations. This program primarily focuses on enhancing the socio-economic conditions of rural communities.

In the context of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), a total of 39,413 kilometers of road and 1,394 bridges have been constructed through different initiatives or aspects of PMGSY. The combined expenditure for these projects, including the state's contribution, in the year 2022 amounted to Rs. 23,364 crore

III. MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MGNREGA) 2005

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) aims to improve the livelihood security of rural households in India. It guarantees a minimum of

100 days of wage employment annually for rural households whose adult members are willing to engage in unskilled manual labor. The central government has announced an increase in wage rates for the rural job guarantee program for the fiscal year 2023-24. Haryana will now have the highest daily wage at Rs 357, while Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh will offer the lowest at Rs 221 per day.

As of December 15, 2022, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has provided employment to 11.37 crore households, generating a total of 289.24 crore person-days of work.

IV. PRADHAN MANTRI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA (PMAGY)

To facilitate area-based development, the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) was introduced in 2009-10. This scheme focuses on the comprehensive growth of villages where Scheduled Castes form the majority population.

Scheme Objective: The primary goal of the scheme is to achieve holistic development in villages where Scheduled Castes make up the majority of the population. This is accomplished through two main approaches:

1. By harmoniously executing pertinent Central and State/UT Government Schemes through convergence.
2. By addressing specific activities that fall outside the purview of existing government schemes, using "Gap-filling" funds. These funds, amounting to Rs.20.00 lakh per village, are provided as Central Assistance.

The Scheme was initiated on a pilot basis in the fiscal year 2009-10. During this phase, a total of 1000 villages were chosen from five states: Tamil Nadu (225), Rajasthan (225), Bihar (225), Himachal Pradesh (225), and Assam (100). These villages were designated as 'Adarsh Grams' by their respective State Governments as part of the implementation.

In the fiscal year 2014-15, PMAGY was expanded in Phase-I to encompass an additional 1500 villages across 11 states. These states were Andhra Pradesh (7), Assam (75), Chhattisgarh (175), Jharkhand (100), Haryana (12), Karnataka (201), Madhya Pradesh (327), Odisha (175), Punjab (162), Telangana (6), and Uttar Pradesh (260).

Among the selected villages, 68 out of 75 in Assam and 9 out of 12 in Haryana were eligible for scheme implementation. Consequently, the total count of villages designated as 'Adarsh Grams' by respective State Governments now stands at 1184

V. DEEN DAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA – NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION (DAY-NRLM)

Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a centrally sponsored program initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development in June 2011. Its goal is to combat rural poverty by fostering diverse livelihoods and enhancing rural households' access to financial services nationwide. Notably, in FY 2021, revolving funds

and community investment funds totaling around Rs. 56 Crore were disbursed to women self-help groups (SHGs), compared to approximately Rs. 32 Crore in the corresponding period of FY 2020. The program provides training on both farm and non-farm livelihoods, along with education on COVID-19 management and the promotion of Agri-Nutri gardens

VI. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAMEEN KAUSHALYA YOJANA (DDU-GKY)

On September 25, 2014, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has undertaken a restructuring of the skill development program within the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), naming it Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). This program aims to elevate skill training programs to international standards and achieve outcomes in line with global benchmarks. DDU-GKY places a strong emphasis on delivering high-quality training programs that yield measurable outcomes, and it aligns with the 'Make in India' initiative, aimed at establishing India as a prime global manufacturing center. It also collaborates with other prominent national programs.

DDU-GKY is a state-driven program that collaborates with the private sector, and it operates by setting goals based on the demands of the market. It stands out among skill training programs by focusing on rural disadvantaged youth and ensuring sustainable employment through rigorous post-placement tracking, retention, and career growth efforts. Quality assurance is achieved through third-party certification conducted by Sector Skill Councils (SSC) under the NSDC. These certifications assess the skills, knowledge, and attitude of trainees. DDU-GKY also encompasses two distinct initiatives: ROSHNI for conflict-affected areas and Himayat for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh's youth, with specific features and funding approaches.

VII. SWACHH BHARAT MISSION – GRAMIN

Launched on October 2, 2014, the Swachh Bharat Mission by the Prime Minister of India aimed to swiftly achieve universal sanitation coverage and prioritize sanitation efforts. In commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on October 2, 2019, the mission achieved the milestone of declaring all villages, Gram Panchayats, Districts, States, and Union Territories in India as "open-defecation free". Over 100 million toilets were constructed in rural India to achieve this. As part of the ongoing efforts to maintain and promote open-defecation free practices, promote inclusive implementation, and ensure accessible waste management facilities, the mission is entering Phase II, referred to as ODF-Plus. In Phase II, also known as Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), ODF Plus initiatives will focus on reinforcing ODF behaviors and addressing the safe management of solid and liquid waste within villages

The Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) has achieved a noteworthy milestone with 50% of all villages in the country now attaining ODF Plus status during Phase II of the Mission. An ODF Plus village signifies the continued absence of open defecation while implementing efficient systems for solid or liquid waste management. Currently, more than 296,000 villages have voluntarily declared themselves as ODF Plus, demonstrating significant progress towards meeting the SBM-G Phase II goals by 2024-25.

Several states have demonstrated outstanding performance in achieving ODF Plus status. Notable among the larger states are Telangana (100%), Karnataka (99.5%), Tamil Nadu (97.8%), and Uttar Pradesh (95.2%). Smaller states like Goa (95.3%) and Sikkim (69.2%) have also shown significant progress. Furthermore, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu, and Lakshadweep have accomplished 100% ODF Plus Model villages among Union Territories. These states and union territories have made remarkable advancements in reaching the ODF Plus milestone and have played a pivotal role in this achievement.

VIII. SAANSAD ADARSH GRAM YOJANA (SAGY)

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY), initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development, involves Members of Parliament directly in Gram Panchayat development. Launched on October 11, 2014, the scheme aims to establish well-rounded model villages. The original objective was to establish three model villages by March 2019, with one of them successfully accomplished by 2016. Subsequently, five such model villages are to be chosen and developed each year until 2024. These 'Adarsh Grams' serve as inspiring role models in areas such as health, cleanliness, green initiatives, and community harmony. They serve as examples for nearby villages, encouraging progress in both development and governance.

Members of Parliament (MPs) play a catalytic role in the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY). These initiatives identify the Gram Panchayat that will be developed as a model, actively engage with the community, promote the values of the scheme, kickstart entrepreneurial activities, and assist in the planning process. The District Collector oversees SAGY implementation, conducting monthly review meetings with relevant department representatives, chaired by the respective MPs. Furthermore, the leaders of the participating Gram Panchayats are extended invitations to attend these meetings.

IX. START-UP VILLAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME (SVEP)

SVEP was integrated as a part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). DAY-NRLM is a centrally sponsored program that has been operational since June 2011. SVEP, specifically, was introduced as a budget-allocated scheme and received approval in May 2015 as a sub-scheme under the broader NRLM framework. The official guidelines for the implementation of SVEP were subsequently issued on June 15, 2015.

Over the preceding years, a persistent shortfall in both capital and assistance for rural enterprises has been brought to the forefront. The Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program is designed with the aim of playing a pivotal role in addressing and closing this gap.

The primary objective of SVEP is to uplift the rural impoverished population by assisting them in establishing enterprises and offering ongoing support until these enterprises attain stability.

SVEP Emphasizes

- The program aims to create sustainable livelihoods and promote self-employment by providing financial assistance and offering training in business management and soft skills.
- Establishing local community leaders to foster enterprise growth.
- Assisting fledgling rural businesses with essential services like business development, mentoring, finance, and integration with other government programs.

SVEP is rooted in the belief that it will drive non-farm livelihoods, including skill-based work and small businesses, leading to job creation, sustained economic growth, and social advantages. Crucially, the program empowers community-based organizations to make funding choices, democratizing entrepreneurship. SVEP facilitates and backs fledgling and struggling enterprises, enabling their inception and growth. This is achieved through an IT-based workflow system comprising both web and mobile platforms. This streamlined system simplifies day-to-day management and support provision

X. PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY)

Introduced In 2016, The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima YOJANA (PMFBY) is a farmer-centric program aimed at offering insurance protection for various unforeseen events that can result in financial losses within the agricultural sector.. It encompasses scenarios like localized risks, post-harvest losses, natural disasters, untimely rainfall, pests, and crop ailments.

The scheme, guided by the principle 'One Nation, One Crop, One Premium,' strives to make crop insurance affordable and accessible to Indian farmers. Its core objective is to enhance the reach of crop insurance across the nation, particularly focusing on covering the entire cultivated area

XI. PRADHAN MANTRI AWAAS YOJANA-GRAMIN (PMAY-G)

Restructured from Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) to PMAY-G from April 1, 2016. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin(PMAY-G) is a crucial initiative led by the Indian government aimed at realizing the "Housing for All" objective. It plans to provide 2.95 crore permanent houses with essential facilities to homeless and underprivileged rural households by 2024, through the integration of various schemes..

As of December 15, 2022, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) has approved the construction of 2.50 crore houses, of which 2.11 crore houses have already been completed. In the fiscal year 2022-23, out of the planned target of 52.78 lakh houses, 31.43 lakh houses have been successfully finished.

XII. NATIONAL RURBAN MISSION (NRUM)

1. Launched on 21st February, 2016
2. Named as the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

3. The goal is to improve rural areas by offering economic, social and physical infrastructure development
4. The objective is to develop 300 Rurban clusters over the upcoming five years.
5. Envisions creating clusters of "Rurban Villages" that maintain the rural community essence while incorporating urban-like facilities.
6. The mission's objective is to foster local economic growth, improve essential services, and establish well-designed Rurban clusters

XIII. AAJEEVIKA GRAMEEN EXPRESS YOJANA (AGEY)

The Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojan (AGEY) launched on August 2017 is a government initiative aimed at providing rural livelihood opportunities by enabling safe and affordable transportation services in remote and inaccessible areas. This program seeks to enhance the livelihood prospects of rural communities, particularly women, by involving them in the operation of transport services and creating local employment opportunities.

Key points about the Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana

1. **Objective:** The primary goal of AGEY is to facilitate better access to markets, healthcare, education, and other essential services in rural areas through efficient and affordable transportation
2. **Involvement of Women:** The scheme emphasizes the involvement of women in the operation of transport services, enabling them to become entrepreneurs and income generators. This empowers women and enhances their participation in economic activities.
3. **Vehicles:** Under AGEY, rural self-help groups (SHGs), cooperative societies, and other community-based organizations are provided financial assistance to purchase and operate vehicles like e-rickshaws, small buses, and other types of transport suitable for the local terrain
4. **Service Coverage:** The scheme focuses on connecting remote villages to nearby towns and markets, thereby enhancing rural connectivity and reducing travel time for residents.
5. **Funding Support:** The program provides financial support for vehicle acquisition, driver training, and operational expenses, aiming to create sustainable transport services that benefit the rural population
6. **Implementation:** The Ministry of Rural Development, in cooperation with State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs), executes the AGEY program.
7. **Social and Economic Impact:** By improving transportation infrastructure and creating job opportunities, AGEY contributes to poverty reduction, women's empowerment, and overall socio-economic development in rural areas

Overall, the Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana aims to address transportation challenges in rural regions, empower women, and enhance rural livelihoods by fostering sustainable and accessible transportation services

XIV. PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI (PM-KISAN)

PM – KISAN is indeed a significant Central Sector scheme in India that aims to provide financial support to small and marginal farmers.

- 1. Scheme Type and Funding:** PM-KISAN is categorized as a Central Sector scheme, indicating that it is entirely funded by the Government of India. This means that the central government bears the full financial responsibility for the implementation of the scheme.
- 2. Operational Date:** The scheme became operational from December 1, 2018. This is when the implementation of the scheme began, and eligible farmers started receiving the benefits.
- 3. Income Support:** PM-KISAN provides income support to eligible landholding farmer families. The support is provided in the form of direct cash transfers. Each eligible farmer family receives an amount of ₹ 6,000 per year.
- 4. Installments:** The annual income support of ₹ 6,000 is distributed in three equal installments. These installments are usually paid at regular intervals over the course of the year.
- 5. Beneficiary Definition:** The beneficiaries of the scheme are defined as the husband, wife, and minor children of the landholding farmer family. This is the unit considered for the distribution of the benefits.
- 6. Direct Bank Transfers:** The funds for income support are directly deposited into the bank accounts of the eligible recipients. This ensures that the financial assistance reaches the intended recipients without intermediaries.
- 7. Exclusion Categories:** The scheme includes specific exclusion categories, which means that certain groups or individuals are not eligible to receive the benefits. These exclusion categories are defined in the scheme guidelines to ensure that the benefits are targeted to the intended beneficiaries.

Overall, PM-KISAN aims to provide much-needed financial assistance to small and marginal farmers across India. It's part of the government's efforts to improve the economic well-being of farmers and enhance the agricultural sector's contribution to the country's economy.

XV. RASHTRIYA GRAM SWARAJ ABHIYAN(RGSA)

The Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) was a government initiative that aimed to promote rural self-governance and empower Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) to

effectively tackle development challenges and attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The program focused on enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of Panchayats in selected districts.

- 1. Transformation of Aspirational Districts Program:** The Transformation of Aspirational Districts Program targeted the transformation of specific districts that encountered various development challenges, encompassing poverty, public health, nutrition, education, gender, sanitation, drinking water, and livelihood generation. The chosen districts were aligned with the SDGs and came under the jurisdiction of Panchayats.
- 2. Implementation Duration:** The program was structured to be executed as a primary Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) with a planned duration of four years, covering the period from 2018-19 to 2021-22.
- 3. Funding Structure:** Regarding the funding arrangement, both the Central and State governments played a role. Typically, the sharing ratio for the State components of the program was set at 60:40, with the State government contributing 60% of the funds and the Central government contributing 40%. However, in North-Eastern (NE) and Hilly States, a different sharing ratio was established, with a higher Central contribution of 90%. For Union Territories (UTs), the complete funding was supplied by the Central government, covering the entire 100% of the program's expenses.
- 4. Capacity Building Efforts:** The primary objective of RGSA was to bolster the capacity of Panchayats to efficiently carry out their roles and responsibilities, particularly in achieving SDGs and other development objectives. This encompassed providing training, resources, and support to Panchayats to enhance their governance and development capabilities.

The combined endeavors of RGSA and the Transformation of Aspirational Districts program highlighted the Indian government's dedication to fostering local self-governance, addressing development disparities, and attaining sustainable and comprehensive growth throughout the country. These initiatives underscored the importance of empowering Panchayats to play a pivotal role in initiating positive changes at the grassroots level.

XVI. PM-KUSUM (PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN URJA SURAKSHA EVAM UTTHAAN MAHABHIYAN)

The PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) Scheme has a dual purpose: it aims to ensure energy security for Indian farmers while aligning with India's commitment to increase the share of electricity generation from non-fossil-fuel sources to 40% by 2030, as outlined in its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

The PM-KUSUM Scheme, launched in 2019, comprises three key components.

1. **Component A:** Establishment of 10,000 MW of decentralized grid-connected renewable energy power plants on barren land. This involves setting up renewable energy power plants (REPP) with capacities ranging from 500 kW to 2 MW by individuals, farmer groups, cooperatives, panchayats, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and Water User Associations (WUAs) on barren or fallow land. Solar panels can also be installed on stilts above cultivable land, allowing crops to grow beneath. These power projects are placed within a five-kilometer radius of sub-stations to reduce transmission costs and losses. Generated power will be purchased by local DISCOMs at predetermined tariffs.
2. **Component B:** Installing 17.50 lakh stand-alone solar agriculture pumps. This component supports individual farmers in adopting stand-alone solar pumps with capacities up to 7.5 HP to replace existing diesel pumps or irrigation systems in off-grid areas lacking grid supply. Higher-capacity pumps can be used but with financial assistance limited to 7.5 HP.
3. **Component C:** Solarization of 10 lakh grid-connected agriculture pumps. Farmers with grid-connected pumps are assisted in converting them to solar power, which is used for irrigation purposes. Any surplus solar power generated can be sold to DISCOMs (Distribution Companies) at predefined tariffs. It is notable that the scope of the PM-KUSUM Scheme was modified based on the learning from the first year of the implementation.

XVII. SURVEY OF VILLAGES AND MAPPING WITH IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY IN VILLAGE AREAS (SVAMITVA)

SVAMITVA is a Central Sector Scheme operated under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Following a successful pilot phase in nine states in 2020-2021, the scheme was officially launched nationwide by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day, which falls on April 24, 2021. It represents a transformative step towards establishing definitive property ownership in rural inhabited regions through the utilization of drone technology for mapping land parcels. Under this scheme, 'Record of Rights' is provided to village household owners, along with legally recognized ownership cards such as Property cards or Title deeds.

The implementation of SVAMITVA is a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Revenue Department, State Panchayati Raj Department, and Survey of India. These entities work together to drive the successful execution of the scheme. The SVAMITVA scheme encompasses several facets, including the promotion of property monetization and access to bank loans, the resolution of property-related disputes, and the facilitation of comprehensive village-level planning. Ultimately, SVAMITVA serves as a fundamental step toward realizing true Gram Swaraj (self-governance) and empowering rural India to become self-reliant.

The scheme endeavors to achieve the following goals:

1. Establish precise land records in rural areas to assist in planning and minimize property-related conflicts.

2. Promote financial stability among rural residents by enabling them to leverage their property as a valuable asset to access loans and other financial benefits
3. Determine property taxes, contributing directly to Gram Panchayats (GPs) in states where devolved, or adding to the state's revenue in other cases.
4. Create survey infrastructure and Geographic Information System (GIS) maps that can be employed by multiple government departments and agencies.
5. Enhance the quality of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) through the utilization of GIS maps for better preparation.

XVIII. CONCLUSION

Rural development schemes in India play a pivotal role in molding the socio-economic landscape of rural areas. These initiatives serve as catalysts for positive change by addressing various challenges and fostering holistic growth. Through schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), and Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY), the government strives to uplift rural communities.

However, the effectiveness of these schemes greatly hinges on community involvement and ownership. Social mobilization and community participation are integral for successful implementation. These programs empower rural individuals to actively shape their destiny and contribute to their own progress.

In conclusion, rural development schemes in India are integral to addressing challenges, enhancing living standards, and fostering sustainable growth. By combining government support with community participation, these initiatives pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for India

REFERENCES

- [1] Himanshu Pandey, Vijay Kumar Agarwal, "A Study on Development Schemes of Rural India", International Journal of Engineering and Management Research, Volume 12, Issue 3, June 2022
- [2] Dr. P. SRINIVASA RAO, "Rural Development Schemes in India – A Study" IJRAR Volume 06, Issue 1, January 2019
- [3] Dr. K. Satyanarayana "Rural Development In India – A Way Forward", International Journal Of Creative Research Thoughts, Volume 9, Issue 10 October 2021
- [4] Santanu Panda, Arup Majumder, "A Review Of Rural Development Programmes In India", International Journal of Research in Sociology and Social Anthropology, 2013, 1(2) : 37-40