

# Rural Development in Maharashtra to upgrade the living standard of Rural People

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**Abstract-** Rural development is conceived as strategy aimed at finding ways to improve the rural lives with participation of the rural people themselves so as to meet the required need of the rural area. According to World Bank (2005), rural development is the process of rural modernization and the monetization of the rural society leading to its transition from traditional isolation to integration with the national economy. Also, rural development is perceived as a process of not only increasing the level of per capital income in the rural areas but also the standard of living of the rural population measured by food and nutrition level, health education, housing, recreation and security. Conversely, environmental challenges can limit the attainment of rural development goal with agriculture specifically like Yavatmal District area, in Maharashtra. The basic objective of this paper is to upgrade the living standard of the rural people by providing ways to develop rural parts of Maharashtra and improving food security including those below poverty line (BPL) by restricting the rural-urban migration. However, to provide optimum benefit to the grass-root level, there is a need for coordination among various Government agencies and other institutions engaged in rural development for State Government and Central governments various project. This will also assist to upgrade the living standard of the rural people in Sustainable Livelihood Development of a settlement.

**Index Terms-** Sustainable Livelihood Development, Rural Development, Growth Rate, Literacy Rate, Integrated Watershed Development, Rural Population.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Rural development is the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. Rural development has traditionally centre on the exploitation of land-intensive natural resources such as agriculture and forestry and unskilled labour. However, changes in global production networks and increased urbanization have changed the character of rural areas. Rural development as a concept suggests the overall development of the areas and sustaining improvement in the quality of life of rural people. It results in creating an environment conducive to improve people's capacity and to utilize it fully, without exploitation, on a sustainable basis. It is both the means and end of economic development of a country like India. Today, apart from governments, rural development has become a matter of interest to industrialists,

financiers, bankers and philanthropists as well. In India, a country of villages, it means making the life of the majority, worth to live and thus paying back them the dividend of India's economic growth. Four decades of regulations and two decades of liberalisation, has made India the ninth largest economy in the world (World Bank, 2011), which could grow, second after China, at an average rate of 8.46 per cent, for the aftermath of global economic slowdown (Economic Survey, 2010-11). There are predictions that if the current high growth continues, India will overtake Japan (pre-quake) by 2030 (Economic Outlook – India 2008 to 2010). Today India hosts 11 per cent of the world's richest (Forbes India Magazine 2010) and it is looking forward

the fortunes to trickle down to the rural people. India has 6.4 lakhs villages with a population of 83.3 crores which is 68.84% of the whole India (Census India, 2011). Providing timely and adequate cheap credit to farmers, rural artisans, petty shop keepers, and micro and small entrepreneurs is of paramount importance. It is reported that rural India suffers from a more serious lack of finance than urban Indian. Rural development strategies are a critical component of an inclusive growth strategy for Maharashtra.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dean Jansma and Frank M. Goode, Rural Development Research: "Conceptualizing and Measuring Key Concepts" In this research paper the researcher explain the conceptual basis for rural economic development. She said rural economic development is assumed to be reflected by increase in employment and/or income. The major determinants of income and employment in a given economic space (a rural community) are the quantity of the goods and services sold to and inputs purchased from outside the community and the extent to entering the local area are "recalculated" within the local economy.

Kenneth L. Deavers, "Social Science Contributions to Rural Development Policy in the 1980s". In this research paper author said, rural development policy involves deliberate action by federal, state, and local governments and private institutions and individuals to achieve three goals: (a) improved rural income levels and employment opportunities; (b) improved access by rural residents to adequate housing and essential community facilities and services; and (c) responsible use of rural resources and the rural environment to preserve the quality of rural life. In attempting to achieve these rural development goals, federal policy needs to be guide.

Clark Edwards, "The Political Economy of Rural Development: Theoretical Perspectives". In this paper the author said that the rural and urban sectors of the economy are strongly interlinked. Growth in one sector impacts on the other. The growth process does not appear to be an equilibrium one in which marginal adjustments to opportunity costs eliminates disparities. This rural-urban imbalance is of national concern. It appears to have resulted in relatively densely populated cities and sparsely populated countryside. Rural development can increase economic efficiency, add to the nation's goods and services, and enhance the social and economic well-being of both the rural and urban sectors.

**III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To upgrade the living standard of the rural people by providing ways to develop rural parts of Maharashtra.
2. To know various schemes made by government of Maharashtra for developing its rural areas.
3. To provide optimum measures for restricting rural-urban migration and find out the sources of for sustainable livelihood development in rural area.

**IV. RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

India lives in villages. About 70% of its population lives in villages. The vast majority of India Living in rural areas can not be taken lightly in any planning aimed at socio-economic development of the country. It is now increasingly being felt that no planning can be successful unless more and more attention is paid to rural development schemes and poverty alleviation programmes. Therefore, many new schemes to ameliorate the conditions of the rural population are being launched ,and old ones are being completed expeditiously. That this rural bais and thrust has registered a success is evident from the fact that poverty line has come down significantly, from over 67% in 1961 to 26% in 1999-2000.

The implementation of various community development programmes in the first three Five Years Plans and specific poverty alleviation and unemployment removal programmes during the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth FIVE Years Plan was raised substantially and many major structural changes have been effected to achieve the targeted goals of rural development, poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes. Consequently, the number of beneficiaries is rising rapidly. The Constitutional sanction to Gram Panchayat, etc. has further boosted the morale of rural institutions.

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is a major instrument to alleviate rural poverty. The funds for this programme are shared 50:50 between the Center and State. The Scheme is being implemented through the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and the block level functionaries at the grass root level. At present MSRLM is doing greate job to converjace various rural development scheme.

As Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA) Act, chapter III, Section 12 The Authority

shall, in accordance with State Water policy, promote and implement sound water conservation and management practices throughout the State. Water Conservation Work and Techniques. Evaluation of rural development programme done by third party monitoring is the very important factor. To take corrective measures on findings of various studies, the report have been sent

evaluation report were extensively used for restructuring the IRDP and allied programme into SGSY.

*(a) Population growth Rate In Maharashtra*

The total population growth in this decade was 15.99 percent while in previous decade it was 22.57 percent. The population of Maharashtra forms 9.28 percent of India in 2011. In 2001, the figure was 9.42 percent.

*(b) Maharashta Literacy Rate 2011*

Average Literacy rate in Maharashtra is 82.34 percent as per 2011 population census. Of that, male literacy stands at 88.38 percent while female literacy is at 75.87 percent. Total literate in Maharashtra are 81,554,290 people.

*(c) Maharashtra Density 2011*

Total area of Haryana is 44,212 sq. km. Density of Haryana is 573 per sq km which is higher than national average 382 per sq km. In 2001, density of Haryana was 478 per sq km, while nation average in 2001 was 324 per sq km.

*(d) Maharashtra Sex Ratio*

The state contributed 9.28% to India’s population . The Sex Ratio in Maharashtra is 925 females per 1000 males, which was below the national average of 940.

State	Total Population	Rural Population	Urban Population	Rural population Percentage	Rural population Percentage
Maharashtra	11,23,74,333	6,15,56,074 of which 3,00,17,040 are male 3,15,39,034 are female	5,08,18,259 of which 2,67,04,022 are male and 2,41,14,237 are female	54.78	45.22

**V. RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MAHARASHTRA**

The Department of Rural Development through the District Rural Development Agencies is implementing Special Beneficiary Oriented Schemes, Wage Development programmes, Employment and Area Development Programmes. The Government of India from the year 1999-2000 has restructured /modified most of the Rural Development

Schemes. Besides this, the Government of India has also changed the funding pattern of all the schemes from 50:50, 80:20 and 100% and most of the schemes are now being implemented on 75:25 and 90:10 sharing basis between the Central and State Governments respectively. The Special Beneficiary Oriented Schemes, Wage Employment Programmes and Area Development Programmes being implemented by the department of Rural Development.

#### A. Rural development schemes

Some of the major schemes implemented by the Rural Development Department are as follows:

- Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
- Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)
- Sampoornan Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
- Watershed Development Projects/Hariyali Scheme
- Desert Development Programme(DDP)
- Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)
- Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY)
- Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)
- Swarnjayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojna (SJSRY)
- Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)
- Integrated Wasteland Development Projects (IWDP)
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)
- Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra (BNRGSK)
- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)/Aajeevika
- Backward Region Grant Fund
- Intergrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)
- Jalyukta Shiwar.

#### B. District Rural Development Agency

The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) has traditionally been the principal organ at the District level to oversee the implementation of different anti poverty programmes. The primary objective of DRDA Schemes is to professionalize the DRDAs so that they are able to effectively manage the anti poverty programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development and interact effectively with other agencies. The Department of Rural Development is implementing a number of programmes in rural areas through the state Governments for poverty reduction, employment generation, rural infrastructure habitant development, provision of basic minimum services etc. Programmes implemented by the DRDA.

- Panchayati Raj

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
- Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
- Rural Housing (Indira Awaas Yojana) DRDA Administration
- Training Schemes
- Promotion of Voluntary Schemes and Social Action Programme, organization of beneficiaries, advancement and dissemination of rural technology through CAPART.
- Monitoring mechanism.

#### C. Comilla Model

The Comilla Model was a rural development programme launched in 1959[1] by the Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (renamed in 1971 the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development). The Academy, which is located on the outskirts of Comilla town, was founded by Akhter Hameed Khan, the cooperative pioneer who was responsible for developing and launching the programme. The main features of the Comilla Model were:

- The promotion of development and of refining of various institutions, both public and private, and establishing a system of interrelationships between them;
- Involvement of both public and private sectors in the process of rural development;
- Development of leadership in every village, including managers, model farmers, women organizers, youth leaders, and village accountants to manage and sustain the development efforts
- Development of three basic infrastructures (administrative, physical and organisational);
- Priority on decentralized and coordinated rural administration in coordination with officials of various government departments and the representatives of public organisations.
- Integration and coordination of the various developing services, institutions and projects;
- Education, organisation and discipline;
- Economic planning and technology;
- Development of a stable and progressive agriculture to improve the conditions of the farmers, and provide employment to rural labour force.

#### D. RIGA Project

The Rural Income Generating Activities (RIGA) Project is a collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, and American University (Washington, DC) that seeks to contribute to the understanding of the income generating activities, both agricultural and non-agricultural, of rural households in developing countries. The RIGA project achieves this by two means. First, through the development of an innovative database of income sources from various developing countries, which is available free of charge to researchers via the project's website. Second, by producing

studies and publications that use the database to analyze pressing economic and policy issues.

### *E. Purpose*

The RIGA Project's purpose is to create an income measure that is comparable within and between countries. According to the RIGA Project website, the key questions addressed by the RIGA Project include:

- What are the relationships between the various Rural Income Generating Activities (RIGAs)?
- What types of RIGAs are associated with poverty reduction?
- What is the relationship between various Rural Non-Farm activities and agriculture?
- What is the link between RIGAs and food security?

In order to answer these questions, the RIGA Project developed a standardized income calculation method that is applied only to country surveys that meet strict criteria of data requirements. The definition of income utilized closely adheres to the one set out by the International Labour Organization. The "Resolution Concerning Household Income and Expenditure Statistics" passed by ILO outlines that household income includes all monetary and in-kind receipts that a household receives, which should include income from wage employment, self-employment, property, own consumption of household goods, and both public and private transfers. Since agriculture remains the principal activity for rural households, the RIGA Project also considers income generated from on-farm activities, both those sold and consumed by the household.

## **VI. MEASURES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### *1. Agricultural output*

The most important factor affecting agriculture output is the availability of water. The length of main canals increased only by 42 miles between 1981-1991 and this increase was just 24 miles between 1991-2001. Each additional irrigated hectare of land gives employment to eight additional labourers. If the State gets its due share of water, one lakh hectares of additional area can be brought under irrigation. Thus, State may be able to produce additional grain worth Rs.1000 crore.

(a) Encouraging cultivation under green house sheds: A number of vegetables, flowers and fruits can be grown under greenhouse shed to get high yield. Some private companies provide consultancy, know-how, seeds and marketing facilities with purchase contract. This is known as high capital-low land-low labour-low inputs high yield strategy.

(b) Farming can also generate quality employment of 12 lakh persons in supervision, packing and transport of farm output.

(c) The indirect subsidies should be given to promote agriculture.

(d) All direct subsidies should be converted in the indirect ones such as agricultural research and irrigation or water

harvesting or water shed management infrastructure or soil conservation or environmental protection or bio fertilisers to be in the "Green Box".

2. Panchayats need to be strongly encouraged by subsidies to build and maintain water-harvesting structures, especially in view of the continuing deterioration in the condition of ponds/water tables

3. The quality of electricity supply is very poor in the rural area and farm sector. This is the main reason that farmers are not willing to pay the power bills. There has been a number of hidden costs in the form of more farm supervision, damage to the water pumps, burning of transformers and increased uncertainty. Since most of the farmers have a flat rate system, thus there is no chance of overuse of the electricity by the farmers. However, this leads to the cultivation of water intensive crops. The SEBs impute all power losses and thefts of all sectors including their own corruption and inefficiencies on the farmers which is not the reality.

4. It is recommended that the State should use the distributed power production model. The electricity farming by solar power not by photovoltaic method but by focusing of sun rays by a concave mirror, wind-mills, bio-mass energy (using dung), biodiesel or solid plastic wastes generated from urban areas should be the new methods of power generation. The people i.e. farmers, co-operatives, municipal bodies, private parties and shopkeepers should be allowed to produce electricity by any method.

5. The investment in agriculture with new technologies can reduce not only the variable costs of farm outputs in short-run but also the risks of farming.

6. Maharashtra government has launched a new programme named 'Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan' in a bid to make Maharashtra a drought-free state by 2019. The programme aims to make 5000 villages free of water scarcity every year. "This Abhiyan aims at initiating permanent measures to make the state drought-free by 2019 and to harvest rainwater within the village boundaries, thereby increasing ground water levels," said C Vidyasagar Rao, Governor. Maharashtra is a drought prone area, especially its region of Vidarbha and Marathwada. In 2014, Vidarbha was deficit by 14 per cent, while Marathwada was deficit by 42 per cent, putting both the regions in the category of drought which includes compartment bunding across 4,62,518 he

Incidents of farmers' suicide have become very common in these regions. High dependency on Monsoon rain is the biggest factor behind farmers taking this extreme step. All the existing water conservation schemes will be now accumulated under this scheme. The total work under the scheme includes compartment bunding across 4,62,518 hectares, recharge of 21221 well, and de-silting (ponds, rivers) on 338.71 lakh cubic meters. The Maharashtra government further plans to bring 25 lakh hectares

of land under irrigation in the next three year. It has also set a target to take the irrigation potential from 18 to 41 percent by 2019.

## VII. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

### (a) Rural Roads

Amongst the various components of the infrastructure, the roads in the rural areas have assumed great importance. The development of roads in rural areas would not only provide the basic facility to the villagers but also help in reaching the rural India in its true sense. The rural economy which in other sense is agro economy and the construction of rural roads would provide a major incentive for the development of rural sector, that is, both farm and non-farm sectors. The recent programme of PURA (provision of urban amenities in rural areas) is also an important initiative by the Government of India, in this direction.

### (b) Rural Communication (Telecom)

The second most important component of rural infrastructure is the Rural Telecommunication. After the rural roads, the telecom connectivity forms the most crucial part of the rural connectivity. It connects rural (agro) economy with the rest of the economic development of the country. Irrigation With the limited and scarce irrigation facility, the irrigation potential has not been realised so far. There is enormous potential to be explored in this sector. The wide gap between potential and actual realisation of irrigation is prevailing across the entire rural areas.

### (c) Shelter-Rural Infrastructure (Rural Housing)

The basic requirement of the rural masses is shelter. For the survival of the human beings, housing is most needed. The housing for the poor in rural areas is most crucial. It provides a dignified living standard and ensures the security to the rural masses.

### (d) Rural Energy (Rural Electrification)

Power (energy) is the most crucial component of the infrastructure in the rural area. The adequate supply of energy attracts investments, which in turn help in the establishments of various industries in the rural areas. For the up gradation of this component of rural infrastructure, the Government of India has introduced 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyuttikaran Yojana' in the fiscal year of 2005. Under this programme it is planned to provide electricity in all the villages and the habitants in the rural areas, in the coming four years Rural Energy (Bio-Gas Plants)

For the provision of clean and unpolluted energy to the rural masses, the programme of biogas plant has been introduced in the State. The programme was initiated with the two folds objectives. One was to provide energy for the domestic purposes and the second important objective was to generate enriched manure for the use in the agricultural activities.

### (e) Renewable Energy

The State has also implemented various programmes and policies for the exploration of energy through nonconventional and renewable sources. There are many programmes and schemes related to solar energy, biogas, micro hydel and biomass, the State has initiated measures to explore the energy through these sources.

## VIII. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTION

The role of Panchayati Raj system has also assumed significant importance in the rural infrastructure development in the State. The financial and administrative powers assigned to PRIs would ensure social security, equality and social justice for the people in the rural areas. The concept of Gram Vikas Samities has been implemented in the States. These bodies are assigned responsibilities of execution of development works in the rural areas.

### A. Maharashtra Rural Development Fund

Administration Board has been constituted in the State. For the efficient execution of the development works in rural areas.

### B. Nirmal Gram Puraskar

Launched by the GOI for full sanitization and open defecation- free Gram Panchayats in the State. Under the Restructured Rural Sanitation Scheme the government has provided individual toilets and sanitary complex facilities for the women in the rural areas.

### C. Rural Infrastructure and the Institutional Finance

For any development programme, the provision of finances through the mechanism of institutional finance is very essential. In the State of Haryana, the Government has been persuading to the banking institutions to give importance to the Agricultural and Allied Sector, particularly to poverty alleviation programmes.

## IX. CONCLUSION

Rural development strategies are a critical component of an inclusive growth strategy for Maharashtra. Developing a modern rural development strategy for poverty reduction in Maharashtra in the coming decades requires recognition of institutional and technological changes, as well as of the growing role of a broadly defined and diversified agricultural system Furthermore, the rural poor need to participate in the development and implementation of the relevant policies.

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