

Programmes Launched by the Government of India for the Rural Development in Pre-Economic Reform Era - A Cash Study

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ABSTRACT

Rural development is a strategy to allow a specific group of individuals to obtain opportunities for themselves and their families in order to sustain better livelihoods. The poverty-stricken and vulnerable sections of the society cannot accomplish their desired goals and ambitions on their own. Thus, organizations, agencies, and programs are highly needed to help and assist them. Rural development helps to provide assistance to rural people in order to bring about changes in their living conditions and in fostering health and goodwill. The production and use of natural and human capital, technology, infrastructure services, institutions and organizations, and government policies and programs are necessary if changes are to be made in rural areas. These facets aim to promote economic growth, incentives for jobs, education, technical knowledge, involvement in social, financial, political, cultural and religious activities, and enhancement of the overall quality of life. The policies and programmes have been designed with the aim of alleviation of rural poverty which has been one of the primary objectives of planned development in India. The Planning Commission was set up by a Resolution of the Government of India in March 1950 in pursuance of declared objectives of the Government to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community. The Planning Commission was charged with the responsibility of making assessment of all resources of the country, augmenting deficient resources, formulating plans for the most effective and balanced utilisation of resources and determining priorities. For their betterment and upliftment, Government of India started many projects and developmental programmes through the Five-year Plan.

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INTRODUCTION

Rural development theory is a systematic one, taking into account the number of factors involved. The concept of rural development can be understood as improving the living standards of the rural people along with providing them opportunities for better education and employment. The definition of rural development has been focused solely on economic change for several decades. But the definition was extended at a later stage to take into account the society's economic, political, financial, cultural, technical and psychological structures. In other words, it not only takes into account the development of rural infrastructure, individuals and their overall

living conditions while focusing on rural development, but it also reflects on the development of socio-economic, cultural, political, and technological aspects. In facilitating the advancement of these dimensions, it is important to incorporate new and creative policies, methods and solutions that are considered essential for improving the living standards of the individuals. In fact, to bring about technical progress, individuals should be made aware of the proper usage of technology. (Kumar, 2018)

Rural development is a strategy to allow a specific group of individuals to obtain opportunities for

themselves and their families in order to sustain better livelihoods. The poverty-stricken and vulnerable sections of the society cannot accomplish their desired goals and ambitions on their own. Thus, organizations, agencies, and programs are highly needed to help and assist them. Rural development helps to provide assistance to rural people in order to bring about changes in their living conditions and in fostering health and goodwill. The production and use of natural and human capital, technology, infrastructure services, institutions and organizations, and government policies and programs are necessary if changes are to be made in rural areas. These facets aim to promote economic growth, incentives for jobs, education, technical knowledge, involvement in social, financial, political, cultural and religious activities, and enhancement of the overall quality of life. Reducing poverty rates is a major concern. Thus, it is important for farmers to have adequate knowledge and information on the use of modern and advanced techniques and methods in agricultural and farming practices. (Mishra *et al.*, 1983).

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN PRE-ECONOMIC PERIOD.

Though 70% of our population lives in the villages, but these villages have suffered long neglect under the British rule with the result that the village people had become victims of stagnation and poverty. After independence, it was felt that if rural India was to progress it was not enough if irrigation projects and other rural schemes were started. It was essential that the incrita which enveloped the rural areas, should be removed and the people made aware of the need to adopt, improved methods to bring about rural development. It was with this vital objective in view that the Community Development Movement was launched as an integral part of planned development. Stressing the importance of the community development programme, Nehru pointed out that "These Community projects appear to me to be something of vital importance, not only in the material achievement that they would bring about, but more so because they seek to build up the community and the individual and to make the latter a builder of his own village centre and of India in the larger sense"

FIVE YEAR PLANS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

When India emerged as an independent country in 1947, it inherited this momentum from its immediate past and had, moreover, the nucleus of technical

know-how and even infrastructure in rural development. India has been a welfare state ever since her Independence and the primary objective of

all governmental endeavours has been the welfare of its millions. Planning has been one of the pillars of the Indian policy since independence and the country's strength is derived from the achievement of planning. The policies and programmes have been designed with the aim of alleviation of rural poverty which has been one of the primary objectives of planned development in India. The Planning Commission was set up by a Resolution of the Government of India in March 1950 in pursuance of declared objectives of the Government to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community. The Planning Commission was charged with the responsibility of making assessment of all resources of the country, augmenting deficient resources, formulating plans for the most effective and balanced utilisation of resources and determining priorities. Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Chairman of the Planning Commission. The first Five-year Plan was launched in 1951(Mandal, 2010).

1. First Five-year Plan

The First Five Year Plan (1951-56) Emphasize the significance of the rural population in country's economic progress accepted, the community. development as the method and rural extension' as the agency to "initiate a process of transformation of the social and economic life of the village. Accordingly, the National Extension Service and the Community Development Programme were started in 1952 with the objective of bringing about multipurpose rural development The country was divided into small operational units known as Development Blocks consisting roughly 100 villages with a population.

2. Second Five Year Plan

The second Five-Year Plan (1956-57 to 1960-61) re-emphasized the significance of national extension and community development programmes for rural development and stressed the need to reduce inequalities and regional disparities by paying due attention to the special needs of the less developed areas and so devise investment as to lead to balanced regional development. It made an important modification over the first plan as regards the policy for rural development and triple-direction approach was adopted such as, firstly, to improve the socio-economic facilities and infrastructure viz, schools, health care units, power, road, water supply etc. through the state plans, secondly, special programmes in relatively backward areas and thirdly, to chalk out programmes for decentralized industries particularly to the underdeveloped areas. Apart from this, the

sectoral programmes of community development and local development works were carried further. The Second Plan, in this connection stated that "each district and, in particular, each national extension and community development project area should have a carefully worked out agriculture plan. This should indicate for village the targets to be aimed at the broad distribution of land between different uses and the programme of development."

The second plan was based on the Mahalanobis model, which is an economic development model developed by the Indian statistician P. C. Mahalanobis in 1953. The Khadi and Village Industries Programme, Intensive Agricultural District Programme, Tribal Area Development Programme, Village Housing Projects Scheme were the major programmes of rural reconstruction. The Intensive Agricultural District Program (IADP) was introduced in 1962 for increasing of production with the help of essential elements such as supply of fertilizers, pesticides, improve of seeds etc. The objectives of the plan were increase of national income, reduction of poverty, rapid industrialization, reduction of inequality in wealth, large expansion of employment opportunities etc. (GOI, 1956). Heavy industries were established like Hydro-electric power projects and five steel plants at Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela were established in India. In 1958, the Atomic Energy Commission was formed under Homi J. Bhabha as the first Chairman. The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research was established as a research institute. The target growth of national income in this plan was 4.5% and achieved 3.6%. The main objectives of the Plan were: An increase of 25% in the national income, Rapid industrialisation with particular emphasis on the development of basic and heavy Industries, Large expansion of employment opportunities, and Reduction of inequalities in income, wealth and more even distribution.

The Khadi and Village Industries Programme, Village Housing Projects Scheme. Tribal Area Development Programme, Package Programme. Intensive Agricultural District Programme were the major programmes of rural reconstruction during this Plan Period (Prasad, 2014).

3. Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74)

Growth with Stability' was the main objective of this Plan. The Plan expected to increase the national income at the rate of 5.5 per annum through the growth of agriculture and industries. The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment, Drought Prone Area Programme, Small Farmers Development Agency, Tribal Area Development Agency. Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme, Minimum Needs

Programme and Command Area Development Programme were the major rural development programmes during this period. All these programmes helped to accelerate the overall development of the country but their contribution to reduce the rural poverty or to generate employment was not significant (Planning Commission Govt. of India, 1975).

4. Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79)

The draft Fifth Five Year Plan proposed to strengthen and concretise the target group-oriented programmes started during the Fourth Plan period. During the Fifth Plan, emphasis was to be laid on integrated development both spatial and functional. The important rural development programmes were: Hill Area Development Programme, Special Livestock Production Programme, Food for Work Programme, Desert Development Programme and Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment.

The Janata Government reconstituted the Planning Commission and announced a new strategy in planning. The objective was changed as 'Growth for Social Justice' instead of 'Growth with Social Justice'. The new pattern was the 'Rolling Plan', which meant that every year the performance of the plan would be assessed and a new plan would be made for the next year. The Rolling Plan started with an Annual Plan for 1978-79 and as a continuation of the terminated Fifth Plan.

5. Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85)

The Sixth Plan was formulated after taking into account the achievements and shortcomings of the planning of past decades. The Plan was released in 1981 May. declared the removal of poverty as the foremost objective. The Plan laid stress on rural development and its strategy and methodology for accelerating rural development consists of: Increasing production and productivity in agriculture and allied sectors, Development in resource and income of vulnerable sections of the rural population by providing them access to assets, inputs and marketing services, Formation and Upgradation of skill development programmes to promote self and wage employment amongst the rural poor. Provision of additional employment opportunities to the marginalised poor for gainful employment during the lean agricultural season through NREP, and provision of essential minimum needs.

The major rural development programmes during this plan period were Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programmes, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) and the 20-Point Programme (GOI, 1980-85).

6. Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90)

The Seventh Plan envisages the continuance and expansion of the anti-poverty programmes. The programmes Like National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) constitute the major elements of the anti-poverty drive. However, an expanding economy and dynamic agricultural sectors are the pre conditions for the anti-poverty programmes to succeed. Apart from the rural poor, this Plan also paid attention to the poor people in the urban areas. The Seventh plan strategy focused attention on employment generation and poverty alleviation.

The major rural development programmes of this plan period were: Integrated Rural Energy Planning Programme, Special Livestock Breeding Programme,

Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Million Wells Scheme and Indira Awas Yojana (GOI, 1985-90).

7. The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97)

The Eight Plan has recognised the need for a re-orientation of planning in keeping with the process of economic reforms and restructuring of the economy.

8. The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

The objectives of the Ninth Plan evolved from the Common Minimum Programme of the Government and the Chief Ministers' Conference on basic minimum services. The suggestions are as follows: i. Priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generate productive employment and eradication of poverty, ii. Accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices, iii. Ensuring food and nutritional security for the vulnerable section of the society (Prasad, 2014).

Table 1. A brief Description of Plan Period Programmes and Policies on Rural Development.

Plan Period	Programmes	Policies On Rural Development
1 st Five-year Plan (1951 -1956)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CDP ➤ National Extension Service 	Community development as method and National Extension service as the agency
2 nd Five-year plan (1958-1961)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Village Housing project scheme ➤ Khadi and village industries programmes ➤ Multipurpose Tribal development Blocks programmes 	Co-operative farming
3 rd Five-year plan 1961 - 66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Applied National programmes ➤ Rural industries project 	Panchayati Raj three tier model of domestic decentralization
4 th Five-year plan 1967-1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drought prone area Programmes ➤ Cash scheme for rural development ➤ Small farmers development agency ➤ Pilot projects for tribal development 	Area based programmed
5 th Five-year plan 1974-1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hill area development Programme ➤ Special livestock production program ➤ Desert development programme ➤ Whole village development programme ➤ IRDP ➤ Training of rural youth for self-employment 	Introduce the concept of basic minimum needs
6 th Five-year plan 1980 - 1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Rural employment programme ➤ Development ➤ Development of women and children in rural area ➤ Rural landless employment guarantee programme 	Emphasis on strengthening the socio-economic infrastructure in rural area alleviation rural poverty and reducing regional disparities.
7 th Five-year Plan (1985-90)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jawahar Rozgar Yojna wage Employment Programme ➤ Intensive Agriculture area programme ➤ High yielding seed variety programme 	Introduces a major programme for rural poor in merging two programmes, i.e., NREP and RLEGP into one VIZ JRY

8 th Five Year Plan (1992-97)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana ➤ National Social Assistance Programme ➤ Rural Group Life Insurance Scheme ➤ Mahila Samridhi Yojana ➤ Employment assurance scheme 	Focus on human Development through special employment Programme, integration of poverty alleviation programme for Rural Development
9 th Five Year Plan (1997-2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jawhar Gram Samridhi Yojna ➤ Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) ➤ Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana ➤ Annapurna ➤ Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) ➤ Food for work Programme ➤ Mahila Madal Protsahan Yojana (MMPY) 	Emphasis on growth with equity cluster approach generate adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty
10 th Five Year Plan (2002-2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Rural Employment Guarantee Act-2005 (NREGA) ➤ National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) ➤ Social Security Scheme ➤ Backward Region Grant Funds (BRGF) ➤ Jatropha Plantation Programme (JPP) 	Focus on Agriculture, animal husbandry and dairying, Development of waste and degraded land, Khadi and Village Industry and Rural Water Supply Sanitation
11 th Five Year Plan (2007-2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integrated Watershed Development Management Programmes (IWDMP) ➤ National land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP) 	Emphasis on poverty reduction/ensuring rural and urban livelihood and Bharat Nirman & Flagship Programme
12 th Five Year Plan (2012-2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MGNREGA ➤ Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) ➤ National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) ➤ Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) 	Sustainable <i>Development</i> for Rural Transformation. Skill <i>development</i> of large number of rural poor youth for employment
13 th Five Year Plan (2012-2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) ➤ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee ➤ Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) ➤ Swachh Bharat Mission 	Transformation in housing, sanitation, electrification, access to food, healthcare, insurance, access to school education, employment guarantee, welfare pensions, and special care for the differently abled, aged, and infirm.

CONCLUSION

Five-year plan in pre economic reform era in India aims to achieve a high and significant rate of growth through structural economic transformation, a progressive improvement in living standards, the eradication of unemployment and poverty, the provision of the material foundation for an independent social economy, and social justice. To mention a few, there were achievements of self-sufficiency in food, stagnant changes in the structure of economy such as fall in the shares of non-agricultural sectors, the expression and diversification of the industrial sector and growth in scientific and

technical manpower. In spite of this, performance with regard to rural development had not been very impressive with a population growth rate of 2.2% per annum, there has not been qualitative improvement in the standard of living of people. Also there has been a little change in the overall income inequalities and majority of the population still live in the state of poverty. However, it is anticipated that the nation would gradually eradicate poverty with the aid of the current strategy for rural development through programs for reducing poverty, a varying acceptance of the growth with social justice concept, and the adoption of a decentralized planning process.

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