



Education and rural development

Dr. Meenakshi

Assistant Professor, Shah Satnam Ji College of Education, Sirsa, Haryana, India

Abstract

Development is a comprehensive and continuous process which brings improvement in every sphere of an area such as quality of life, education, security, and economic well-being. Rural Development traditionally centres on rural modernization, and it is a process which aims to transit isolation of rural area to integrate with national economics (World Bank, 2005). Rural Development plays crucial role for development of a nation.

Rural Development-Development of District-Development of State-National Development

India is one of the major countries that highly contribute to the production of grain (wheat & rice) as well as milk. Rural development will surely be proved to be critical component for overall growth of India. Education is one of the essential components for rural development as it is only education which can bring awareness among rural masses and fosters the process of rural development.

Keywords: rural development, rural modernization, rural urban gap, education, well- being

Introduction

Concept of rural development

Rural Development' a multifaceted and multidimensional phenomenon stands for enhancement, advancement and improvement in every aspect of rural area including its quality of life (Mishra & Sharma, 1979) ^[12], technology, attitudes and believes, infrastructure, culture, basic facilities and living conditions, social and economic well-being. Rural Development traditionally focuses on rural modernization, and it is a process which aims to transit isolation of rural area to integrate with national economics (World Bank, 2005) ^[18]. Rural areas are distinctively established places away from the impact of towns and cities. Rural areas are characterized by an

economy based on agriculture, animal husbandry, cottage industry, tourism, mining, oil etc. In other words, here the population is engaged in primary industry. It is mandatory to consider and entertain each dimension of rural area to bring a complete rural development. 'Rural Development' as defined by United Nations "is a process of change by which the efforts of the people themselves are united, those of government authorities to improve their economic, social and cultural conditions of communities into the life of the nation and enable them to contribute fully to national programme."

Rural Development plays crucial role for development of a nation. The Development Process is described as:



Fig 1

Literature Review

Copp (1972) ^[4] opined that the process of rural development demands collective efforts. Rural development aims to develop self-actualization and wellbeing of rural folk. He further concluded that the target of rural development should be poor people rather than infrastructure. He remarked that for sustainable development and rural development proper

Management of available resources is essential. Goulet (1971) ^[6]; Ball (1974) ^[1] & Me Namara (1973) ^[11] concluded in their studies that development involves changes in the life of the people. It is felt that development would be meaningless unless it is concerned with the individual human being more especially the poor people. Lassey (1977) ^[10] stated that the focal point of rural development need to be on maintenance of

ecological integrity so that a non-stop supply of life helping resources can be imparted. He similarly suggested that appropriate land use, healthful residing situations and alluring surroundings are to be looked after beside socio-economic welfare measures. Singh (1986) ^[16] concluded that if the human resources are not given proper nutrition, health care, education and training and are not effectively utilized, these resources become an impediment to development. But, if they are properly utilized, they emerges as a remarkable asset and a prime component contributing to development. Singh (1988) ^[17] suggested the significance of integrated development planning for proportionate utilization of local resources. Pradhan (1999) ^[14] concluded that the local institutions should also be given priority to mobilize the rural resources. **Ghosh (1967)** found that elected representatives are highly accountable for rural development. Harris (1982) ^[8] opined that these government development program are only seems to be attractive and enveloped in an ideology of modernization. But in reality these are fit for rich cultivators only.

Objectives of rural development

The major objective of rural development is to bring harmonious development in rural area in terms of economy, standard of living, health, society and technology. The target group for rural development must include poor farmers, landless labourers, women and children. The gulf between rich and poor must be eliminated in order to bring rural development in true sense (Chambers, 1983) ^[2], Goulet 1971; Ball: 1974; Chernery: 1974 viewed that development starts from individuals especially poor people. Chernery termed it as 'Growth with Justice'. It would be meaningless to ignore the poor people in the development process. Development stands for socio-economic changes.

Furthermore the objectives are explained here:

- To build and improve infrastructure: The very first step to develop rural area is the improvement and use of infrastructure facilities such as education, housing, electricity, industries and so on (Myrdal, 1972; Pratap, 2001; Copp, 1972) ^[12, 4]. Following are some infra related aspects:
 - Educational Institutions
 - Water Facility
 - Panchayat Bhawan
 - Playground for children
 - Roads and Transportation
 - Sanitation
 - Housing
 - Power (Electricity)
 - Post and Banking
 - To bring improvement in agricultural productivity, animal husbandry and other related areas.
 - To improve quality of life and health of rural people.
 - To bring and improve technology.
 - To make rural people self-reliant (Mishra & Sharma 1979) ^[12] by developing rural industries i.e. rural craft, handicraft, and small scaled industries etc.
 - To arrest environmental depletion and degradation.
 - To bring gender balance.
 - Singh (1986) ^[16] pointed out that development is not only

an increase in income and infrastructure facilities but it also brings about changes in the attitude of the people.

- To bring a desirable change i.e. change in the traditional and dogmatic beliefs and acceptance of scientific reasoning. Development is not only implementing government package program but it means to develop and to obtain a desirable change of the rural people. When development occurs, an external as well as internal change of situation is expected.
- To empower rural folk through knowledge, skills and education and bring dignity to them.
- To aware them for their rights and duties.
- To bring sustainable development.
- To motivate participation of rural folk in the development of nation.
- To bring political awareness.
- To improve living conditions.
- To make optimum utilization of renewable natural resources.

Principles for rural development program

- **Strategic:** Rural Development Program should be planned. In such planning time, funds and other resources should be mentioned.
- **Utilization of resources:** Human resources and other natural resources play a prime role to accomplish these development programs. Therefore, resources must be assigned a prior weightage.
- **Comprehensive & Sustainable:** The development program must be comprehensive and continuous in nature. Development should focus on all the aspects which are essential for rural development.
- **Objectivity:** Government must focus on ideology of development rather than modernization. There should be objectivity in these rural development program i.e. these must not be influenced by rich people or their benefits.
- **Transparency:** Transparency is an essential principle for rural development program. This principle would make these program more reliable.
- **Practicability:** The development program must have practicability in nature. These should ensure economy of cost and time.
- **Gap Bridging:** There exists a wide gap among poor and rich people. The development program must bridge that gap.
- **Participatory:** These must invite the participation of government and non-government agencies in order to realize the end.
- **Elasticity:** There must be flexibility in such program, so that these may be modified according to need and resources.
- **Decentralized:** Decentralization is an effective component of democracy. Decentralization will allow the participation of maximum people.
- **Try out:** First and foremost the rural development program must be implemented in a sample area. After the desirable modifications have done, these should be implemented at state or national level.

- **Local Needs:** The preference must be given to local needs.

Education for rural development

Education and Development are the two sides of the same coin. Education facilitates the development process and on the other hand development focuses on increasing the educational facilities. Education is known as the fundamental tool and an important factor for bringing development and making the development process continuous and comprehensive.

- **Education as Back Bone for Development:** Development would be incomplete if it fails in bringing universal education. Education provides a strong base to development process. It is one of the major dimensions of development process. Motivating and fostering education means motivating and fostering development in rural areas.
- **The aim of Education is development:** The aim of education is to bring development in every sphere of a nation i.e. economic, social, cultural etc.
- **Education makes development continuous and comprehensive:** The word comprehensive stands for the development in all aspects of a region. Education is the most powerful weapon and leads to get desired results in simulating development on a national level. The education level of a region determine the pace and direction of development process.
- **Education as motivating factor for development process:** Education
- **Education brings awareness among masses:** Education is an investment that brings awareness among rural folk and has a great impact on a nation. The ability of a person to deal with problems, challenges and participate in life events depends on his education level.
- **Education and development are two sides of the same coin:** Education is mandatory for rural development. On the other hand, it is said that education is the result of development. Both are positively related i.e. an increase in the rate of educated people strengthens the development process.
- **Education as an essential component for development:** Education is an essential component of rural development as it plays a crucial role in long term growth. It is accountable for human resource development and only human resources are capable to bring development in other areas.
- **Education helps in bringing social transformation:** Education brings awareness and positivity among rural people and contributes in bringing social development and social transformation. It motivates to eliminate social evils and bring development in true sense.

Upgrading education system through rural development schemes

Education is boon for economic development, cultural development, human resource development, social development therefore it needs a crucial place in rural development programs. There is need to provide infrastructure facilities to promote education. Students will be infatuated

when they will get healthy and hygienic conditions to study and to play. The structure of education is based on basic education and primary education. Therefore, the government and administrative must focus on it. Moreover, there must be provision of higher education in order to promote girl education. Promoting higher education may have direct impact on the development of a nation and its economy. Education system should emphasis on agriculture practices, skills and knowledge which will be helpful in increasing productivity. Education is the first step to bridge rural urban gap. Education is a powerful weapon for alleviating poverty and facilitating self-employment. India is particularly an agrarian country of zamindars i.e. owner-cultivator farmers. It is one of the major countries that enormously contribute to the production of grain (wheat & rice) as well as milk. There is need to plan and implement many schemes to uplift socio-economic status of rural area. There is need to work hard to minimize the rural urban gap. The principal concern for the agricultural regions and underprivileged sections of the society will allow to the emergence of various moves and social awakening. The development strategies and public policies should be committed to ameliorate the standard of life of the people. There are many factors and resources that influence the level of rural development such as social structure, availability and management of natural resources, man power, culture, political factors, economic conditions and technology. There is need to bring integrated and sustainable development in rural areas by utilizing these resources. The issue of rural development needs attention from all political parties, administration and the governments both at national and state levels. It is gaining vital importance even in the process of planning at the national level. It is well known that rural population in almost all the states of India is enormous, with a large number of people living below poverty line. In such situation, there is need to create some channels among government, developmental agencies, non-governmental organization and rural people to bring desirable socio-economic changes and to fulfil the needs of society.

References

1. Ball AG. The Nature of Rural Development in Priorities in Rural Development, Guelph, 1974.
2. Chambers Robert. Rural Development; Putting the last first, Longman, London, 1983, p 147.
3. Chenery H, Ahluwalia H, Bell C, Duloy J, Jolly R. Redistribution with Growth, Oxford University Press, London, 1974.
4. Copp JH. Rural Sociology and Rural Development, Rural Sociology. 1972; 37:515.
5. 533.
6. Goulet DA. The Cruel Choice: A New Concept in the Theory of Development, New York, Chapter-2, 1971.
7. Harris John. Rural Development, Theories of Peasant Economy and Agrarian Change, Hutchinson University Library, London, 1982.
8. Kothari CR. Rural Development, Strategy for Rural Development. New Delhi, Manak Publications Pvt. Ltd, 1991; 1.
9. Lassey William R. Planning in Rural Environment, McGraw Hill Book Company, New York, 1977, 2.

10. Namara ME, Robert S. The Significance of Habita4 Finance and Development. 1973; 13(1):5.
11. Mishra Sharma Kaushal SN. Problem and Prospects of Rural Development in India, Uppal Publishing House, New Delhi, 1983.
12. Pratap Mal. Infrastructural Development for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mohit Publications New Delhi, 2001, 225.
13. Pradhan P. Role of Institutions in Rural Community Development, Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) Tokyo, 1999; 27-49.
14. Sharma, Aruna, Rajagopal. Planning for Rural Development Administration. Rawat Publications, Jaipur. 1995.
15. Singh Katar. Rural Development: Principles, Policies and Management. Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, 1986.
16. Singh Surendra. Rural Development and Planning, Shree Publishing House, New Delhi, 1988.
17. World Bank. Rural Infrastructure in Africa: Emerging Strategies, Findings World Bank, Washington. 2001; 191:4. <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>