



Rural development and its challenge in the context of village.”

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Abstract

India is a land of villages. The country cannot think of any development unless the development of 5,65,000 approximate villages takes place. India lives in villages where 75 percent of her population lives. Thus, the development of villages is a condition for balanced economic development. In spite of a number of efforts made for promoting the development of rural poor through a number of programmes, the conditions of the people have remained by and large static and the number of rural poor is frighteningly large. Nearly forty percent of our population live in absolute poverty. The number is estimated to be over 31 crores. The main causes for this are unemployment and under employment. Therefore, the need of the hour is sound organisation and efficient management of rural development programmes. This research paper to be discussed “ Rural development and its challenge in the context of village.”

Keywords: Rural Development, Transformation, Decentralization, Enforcement, Communication Development, Demographic features

Introduction—

Rural development normally refers to the socio-economical development of the people living in the rural areas. When we say rural areas, it can be defined as a environmental location that is situated away from towns and cities. Such areas are generally sparsely populated and have lesser number of facilities. According to the definition of the rural development:-- All population, housing, and territory not included within an urban area are considered as rural areas. As per RBI, Rural areas are those areas that have a population of less than 50,000 . Typical rural areas are characterize by low population density and small settlements. That being said, people living in the rural areas have a giant donation towards the economy of India. India, being an agriculture-reliant economy, has a large number of people living in the rural areas whose income is dependent on agriculture. Not just that, over 75% of India’s rural population make significant contributions to the overall economy of the country. This brings us to the importance and need for rural development in India. Easier said than done, with huge extents of rural areas all across the country, there are several hurdles and challenges in the way of rural development in India. In this article, we will discuss the various issues and challenges associated with rural development in India. From the areas that pose the greatest challenges to the details and complications, let us take a look at which areas of rural India need urgent attention. People in the rural areas definitely lead a simple life. But that does not mean that there are no problems in their lives. Rural areas have a range of problems related to their social and economic conditions as well as other infrastructural amenities, healthcare, education and a lot more. India having a huge population and a great extent of rural areas, managing and addressing these issues can be a really challenging task.



• **The following are some of the key issues in rural development:**

- Lack of education
- Land reforms.
- Development of human resources.
- Measures for poverty alleviation.
- Lack of industries.
- Development of infrastructure.

Some other issues are:--

Lack of education

One of the key problems existent in the rural areas of India is a major lack of education facilities. A huge portion of the rural population of India continue to remain uneducated even in today's time. The educational infrastructure is seriously poor in India and a huge number of villages in India do not even have schools. Even if some villages have schools, a lack of infrastructure leads to these existing schools not having any or adequate teaching and non-teaching staff. A lot of educational facilities are not in working conditions as well. When talking about the key issues of rural areas of India, it must be mentioned that every factor is related to each other and also greatly affects another. For instance, the lack of education in these areas leads to poor economic growth. Not just that, it is also a reason that has contributed to the increase in traditionalism, and superstitious beliefs among the people living in rural areas. Due to a lack of formal education, rural people also have lesser chances to qualify for a job.

The root to a majority of problems in rural areas is inadequate education. This is why, education is one of the key areas that needs to be looked into while aiming for the development of rural areas. With the growth of education facilities individuals can get the basic literacy skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. Not just that, with better literacy skills, they would also have better abilities to take up a job or achieve employment.

Education will also lead to awareness and people can step up with better decisions for themselves and their sustenance. It will definitely make for better economical conditions in the longer run. That being said, when we say education, the key area that needs to be addressed is the schooling of young minds. Rural areas lack enough schools and proper schooling facilities. This is one of the key areas that needs to be looked into. Improvement in the schooling infrastructure in the rural areas of India will lead to sustainable growth and development of rural areas in the near future. With better education, the future generations will have access to better financial resources which will lead to a better life and living conditions.



Communication centre problem challenge:--

India has huge extents of rural areas, as said earlier and it is pretty challenging to provide all such areas with adequate civic amenities. The basic most necessary civic amenities include medical facilities, transport facilities, medical facilities, as well as communication facilities like radio, TV, newspaper, telephone, etc. Most of these are not available in the rural areas, or even if it is, it is not up to the expected quality that can satisfy the people. Sometimes it becomes difficult for the rural people to get the daily required necessities of life. Rural India has a pretty bad economic condition. This has been a result of years of colonial rule as well as a number of other factors. Amongst key factors are the huge increase in population in India as well as a lack of education. More than 45% people are living below the poverty line in India and a majority of them are from the rural parts of the country. Other factors that have caused an economic crisis in these areas include disintegration of joint families which leads to subdivision and fragmentation of land holding, huge load on land, as well as traditional methods of cultivation, unemployment and other factors.

Economic challenge

The contribution of the rural economy is prominent as a vast population is still an inhabitant of rural areas. The rural economy is governed by agricultural practice. Therefore, it contributes substantially to the Indian economy. As it is involved in revenue generation. However, the industrial revolution generated a nexus for other fundamental elements of the economy. Rural areas are generally an underdeveloped area. But looking at the current scenario of a pandemic, the Indian rural economy is being the backbone. As massive reverse migration is seen during the COVID situation, knowing that the village lifestyle is cheap and sustainable. The rural economy encompasses agricultural, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, handicrafts, dairy, tourism, mining, transport, trade, repair and construction, community and personal services. While person-specific challenges are carelessness towards knowledge, equipment, storage facilities, limited access to advanced tools, logistics, financial constrain, migration for employment, traditionalism, and conservatism.

Social Issues

Illiteracy and poverty have their own fallacies. These two things being very prevalent in rural areas has led to a lot of problems and social issues in rural India. It can be said that rural people have become victims of bad habits and practices. Poor societal structure and a range of other issues have led rural people to adopt a range of bad habits. Other issues like untouchability and caste discrimination has led to a huge issue in rural areas. These raging social issues are also a major issue in the way of rural development in India. Not just that, the traditionalism of rural people is also a big issue. It is a fact that the majority of the rural population in India are traditional and custom-bound. Not just that, education is not adequate, and most of them being superstitious gets in the way of development.



Rural people are also skeptical regarding the development programmes of the government and do not easily accept changes.

Faulty Administration

The biggest problem in the way of successful rural development in India is a faulty administration system. While there's a lack of education and political awareness in these areas, a corrupt or faulty administration system leads to further grievances for the rural people. The inefficient functioning of the rural administrative bodies is a major hurdle that led to poor development of rural areas in India. Not just that, the rural administrative bodies have also been criticised in the past as inefficient, defective, and corrupt. This is one of the major areas that need to be addressed to ensure proper rural development in India. With the above causes mentioned, there are different issues and challenges that need to be addressed to ensure proper and successful rural development in India. Let us take a look at these aspects.

Unemployment challenge

The first condition that needs to be rectified is unemployment in rural areas in India. Unemployment is a major issue in rural areas in India. Being unemployed, rural people are not able to generate a source of income and would naturally experience poverty. Lack of sufficient financial resources to meet the living requirements of a person's family, leads to a majority of issues. Authorities need to increase the involvement of rural people in minority jobs. While agriculture and farming practices are regarded as the primary occupations of rural people in India, they also need additional job opportunities for sustenance and all-round development.

Health Care Facilities challenge

It is unfortunate that rural people in India do not have access to proper and adequate health care facilities. It is one of the key areas that need to be addressed and looked into while aiming for the growth and development of rural areas. It is one of the basic responsibilities of the government and good health care facilities is something that is essential for rural development in India.

Migration Problem challenge

Due to many whys and wherefores, a villager elects to leave his home, land, and even ancestral resources. To get a job, people migrate. Evacuation of the whole village for the same is ordinary in UttaraKhand, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. Migrants live a miserable initial life in a new place until they get work. Their struggle for survival sometimes leads to involvement in an illegal act. It is high time now to spread awareness amongst them regarding the policies and funds. Their promotion through the government can halt the migration from rural areas.



Final Thoughts

Rural development in India is one of the key areas that need to be addressed in modern times. India needs it and the government needs to take proactive measures to lead to the development of rural areas and the living conditions of rural people. Rural development in India is possible and can be done when the right initiatives are taken for the development of the social, economic and living conditions of the people living in the region.

CONCLUSION:--

The government has realized that they need to put their resources in front to support a strategic changes happening in the economic environment. The economic business development is a comprehensive approach which provides seamless integration of every area of rural society. The economic development touches the life of people and integrates the people, process and technology, taking advantage of the revolutionary impact of the internet. The government is facing massive challenges in today's highly competitive market and strives to acquire the maximum possible development. The economic development can be successful if the design and implementation of the government's processes are according to the changes happening in the environment. The economic development of the rural environment can be by the government through the establishment, development, maintenance and optimization of long term mutually valuable relationships between the business and macroeconomic environmental variables.

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