

Gramodaya (Development of Villages) is a Prerequisite for Development of India

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Abstract: Rural development is a stringent requirement for the development of India. Our country is geographically vast with the second largest population in the world. The distribution of people living in the country is uneven. Nearly seventy percent of the Indian population lives in rural areas. Hence, it is necessary to consider that, when it comes to development as a whole, it does not confine itself to developing urban areas. We should consider various other factors so that development has an impact on people in every region of India. We should focus on Sustainable development throughout the country instead of mere development in specific regions. Sustainable development connotes a way of achieving the goal by having proper consideration of future necessities. UN has set seventeen goals to achieve sustainable development universally in 2030 with a pursuit to create a better life and prospects for everyone on this planet. To achieve these goals, every country should adopt a proper strategy. Failure in strategy can lead to economies like the United States of America. Although, it adopted a system to provide welfare to the public, due to capitalism it took tilt from achieving overall sustainability. The distribution of economies in the United States of America is uneven. Hence, India should pivot its attention to bring development throughout the territory.

Keywords: Development, India, Villages, Urban, Economy

The first step towards development is identifying the factor affecting development in both positive and negative ways. Special importance should be given to villages, as many villages are backward in terms of development. Agriculture is a crucial sector to determine that villages play a potential role in the development of the country. Most of the Indian population is occupied in the agricultural sector and they live in rural areas. India is an agrarian society, with a major workforce of the country working in agriculture. It contributes around sixteen to seventeen percent in Gross Domestic Product. [1] Agriculture census of 2011 states that more than fifty percent of the Indian population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. This exhibit's that development of India cannot take place without rural development. The need for an hour lies in tackling the constant decline in the share of agriculture to the gross domestic product over the last few decades. It amuses that around forty percent of the population contributes to eighty percent of India's gross domestic product. One thing that India failed is reducing the percentage of the population depending on the agricultural sector for employment. China is a classic example of dealing with these situations. They bring out one percent of the population depending on agriculture for employment and turn them into other sectors every year. The availability of jobs in other sectors is a substantial reason for their success. Our country must focus on these areas to develop in the next few decades. India should focus on increasing the GDP share of agriculture by introducing farm revolution [2] says the CEO of Niti Aayog. He stressed that increasing the share of agriculture in GDP is not attainable without the farm revolution. Agriculture is highly necessary for the Indian economy. Hence, to protect it as well as to develop it, India should focus on developing the rural areas. India's prosperity depends on villages. [3] Indian villages lack various elements needed for their development. There is a lack of access to hospitals, lack of access to education, lack of access to electrification, and so on. The government of India is taking various measures to tackle these issues. The question to consider is "Are these measures effective enough to tackle the problem?". Over the last decades, the government implemented schemes like

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), Training to Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), National Rural Health Mission, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Etc. The central government uses the state government as an instrument to implement these schemes and collects reports them periodically[4]. Although some initiatives are directly monitored by the central government without the intervention of the state government. Development is not possible without investment in human capital. Human Capital is a huge resource for any country. Development in the educational Sector enables the citizens to understand themselves as well as the world. Education is the key factor in determining the development of a country [5]. The development of educational facilities in rural areas enables people living in there to get a broader vision of their life. Education provides various opportunities in life. Education decreases their chance of depending only on agriculture for their livelihood. Children are the future of a country and a country without an educated mind is miserable. According to the constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 it was made that every child between the age of six to fourteen has the fundamental right to get free elementary education [6]. The right to free and compulsory education act, 2009 added certain directives to be followed by state governments during the implementation of Article 21-A. India faces a huge problem when it comes to providing a proper environment in schools. The standards of Government school are not up to the level of private educational institutions. This is a big downfall in executing educational facilities for children. Sanitation facility is one of the problems faced by children in schools. Government schools in rural areas are unhygienic to accommodate. Many rural households in India lacked sanitation facilities but with the implementation of the Central rural sanitation Programme, National Rural Health Mission, India managed to tackle the issue. Similarly, India needs strict schemes, statutes, and proper monitoring concerning the implementation of educational policies in government educational institutions. In rural areas, the crisis of unemployment and access to hospitals is a much bigger

obstacle in the process of development. Villages lack primary health facilities. People in rural areas are forced to take longer stretches to access hospitals. In case of emergency, the probability of saving the victim's life is very less in remote areas. Also, the roads connecting villages to cities are inferior. Citizens are the elements to attain the development of a country, without giving proper health care to their life it only delays the process of development. Hence, development in the rural health sector is one of the important prerequisites for development. Poverty is another problem in decelerating the rural development. Poverty is widespread in rural areas. Over the past few years, poverty in villages shot up in few states of India [7]. Income inequality is growing in India. India places itself in the top three income inequality countries in the world. Nations thirty to sixty percent of wealth is held by one percent of people, while the top ten percent collectively hold seventy to eighty percent of the nation's wealth. Remaining eighty percent of people has only 20 percent of the wealth [8]. Most of them live in rural areas. More than fifteen percent of Indian population lives below poverty line [9]. Poverty is high when it comes to rural areas. In a few areas like Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, around forty-five percent of the population in rural areas live in poverty. There are several reasons for poverty in rural areas. The predominant component is the lack of development in science and technology. Rural people are less aware of science and technology due to a lack of education. People in cities are mostly educated and it helps them in getting employed in a skilled based sector in industries. This gives them higher salaries when compared to the non-skilled working class. The marginal difference is huge between these people in terms of wages. Development in technology leads to automated machines without a manual labor force. Thus, it creates unemployment for non-skilled laborers. These factors affect non-skilled laborers in rural areas. On the other hand, development in technology helped non-skilled laborers living in cities by providing them employment in the service sector like Zomato, Ola, Amazon, Flipkart, Etc. This indicates that while people in cities are developing their lifestyle, people in villages are struggling to live. Factors like unemployment and low-income forces farmers to sell their land or to get money from money launderers who usually demand for high-interest rates. In Maharashtra alone, fifteen thousand farmers committed suicide in last six years [10]. Statistics state that the reasons are due to crop failure, lack of water for irrigation, very less market price for their produce. The stagnant decline in cash flow in rural areas has awakened the government to implement credit generation schemes. The government always employed schemes to provide credit as well as employment. Under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, the government adopted a way to give guaranteed employment to people in rural areas. The government of India always encouraged people in rural areas to self-employing themselves through business activities. There are schemes like entrepreneurship development institution scheme, performance and credit rating scheme, etc. for creating self-employment and credit generation. It is highly efficient because it solves two big issues. i. e. rural credit deficiency and unemployment. Rural people employed in the agricultural sector has the option to buy scientifically advanced equipment for agricultural purpose under agricultural schemes. People in rural areas are

unaware of many governmental schemes. The major problem in setting up industries in rural areas is the shortage of electricity and worse connectivity in terms of road facilities. India cannot development leaving these problems behind. The government should strive hard to eliminate these problems in rural areas with effective strategies. The rural population is a great asset to the country. If they are driven in the right way, they would play a massive role in India's development. The government should focus on inclusive rural development which provides a better quality of life to people living in rural areas. There are three different dimensions involving in the process of inclusive rural development. The economic dimension plays a role in developing rural areas where there is low income and supports them to develop by benefits from economic growth. The social dimension is generally related to society, it involves eliminating social class status between rich and poor. It also focuses on women empowerment and gender equality. The last one is the political dimension, where the opportunities are provided to the people at the village level to participate in political activities. Although these dimensions play different roles in development, they are interconnected. It is the responsibility of the government to eliminate existing issues and bring effective strategies to attain a rapid growth rate in a short period. Eliminating food spoilage in rural areas can help in reducing poverty and thus it helps in development. Many villages in India lack food storage facilities. India wastes sixteen percent of its agricultural produce every year. Fruits and vegetables get spoiled due to lack of cold storage facilities and transportation facilities in rural areas [11]. Sixteen percentage is almost one-fifth of the entire production and costs around fourteen billion US dollars [12]. Hence, keeping an eye on developing the infrastructure is highly necessary. Rural entrepreneurship is key to development in villages apart from agricultural development. It provides employment and generates real cash. This eliminates poverty as there is cash flow. The government should have a greater concern in the rural entrepreneurship program. It should educate youth in rural areas about entrepreneurship. The government should encourage them because they tend to have a fear of risk-taking. Essential schemes with low-interest rates would help them in achieving success. Every set of villages from a specific region has some common ways of income, it could be agricultural workers, industrial workers, miners, etc. The government should identify those regions and encourage people to set up industries. Rural industries are necessary for the development of the nation. Small scale industries require only a reasonable capital for their setup. They help in the development of the village in which it is located. Small scale industries are the first element in reducing the disparities between urban and rural areas. The government should suggest NRI's and wealthy people of the respective villages to help villagers in establishing industries. Government concentrate on strength, weakness, opportunities, threats (SWOT) analysis in rural businessman to encourage to become entrepreneurs. The government should follow labor-intensive techniques in rural areas to overcome disguised unemployment. People in rural areas should be informed about essential technological advancement. It includes the development of online infrastructure for cash transactions, E-booking, etc. These are the challenges and steps to be considered for the

development of rural areas. Our government should identify existing threats to the development our country and adopt measures to rectify it. One of such measures is digital India. Digital India endeavors to connect villages through an online platform and promote E-governance. Digital India is a massive big step in developing rural areas nationally. It strives to provide villages with broadband facilities and phone connectivity. According to a study conducted across twenty-six american countries, it was observed that a ten percent increase in broadband connectivity resulted in a mediocre increase of three-point one nine percent in per capita GDP [13]. Digital India bridges the divide between urban and rural areas in terms of digital empowerment. I would like to conclude by saying that, rural development is an unavoidable and substantial factor without which the development of our country is impossible. Education and Technological advancements are key to pave a path for development. These two factors lay the foundation to tackle other factors like employment, cash flow, etc. Although rural areas are too behind for digital advancements, we need to construct a model to combine and mutually benefit the use of unified digital and physical forces to eliminate the real challenges existing in rural areas. In return, it unlocks opportunities for inclusive growth and thus creating a sustainable economy leaving no one behind.

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