

Impact of Government Policies and Aids for the Improvisation of Social Status and Local Governance

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Abstract: *Integrated development of rural areas is one of the abiding tasks before the Government of India. The National Common Minimum Program (NCMP) of the Central government reiterates the cardinal importance of villages to the overall development of the country and commits to work towards development of rural areas, which for various reasons could not keep pace with urban areas in the past. In conformity with this commitment of the Government, the Ministry of Rural Development accords foremost priority to development in rural areas and eradication of poverty and hunger from the face of rural India. A number of new initiatives have been taken in the recent years for creation of social and economic infrastructure in rural areas to bridge the rural urban divide as well as to provide food security and to fulfil other basic needs of the rural populace.*

Keywords: PMAY (Pradhanmantri Awas Yojna), NREGA, MC (Municipal Corporation), Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY)

1. Introduction

The Self-Governing Bodies like MC, ZPs, NPs and GP run the various Programmes and Scheme related to Education, Social Welfare and Security, Rural Development, Public Works, Water supply and Sanitation, Child and Women Welfare, Employment, for that they need financial support from government. Though this bodies generate the fund from their own local sources. Still for large number of events they have to raised fund from government either from central or state government. In fact, government sanctions financial support to these bodies annually Through Annual Financial plan, Subsidies, Special Schemes of central government and state government. Local Self-Government Institutions or Local Bodies directly influence the welfare of the people by providing civic, social and economic infrastructure services and facilities in both urban and rural areas. Given their strategic position in delivering services in the hierarchy of Government set up, following the Constitutional (73rd & 74th) Amendment Acts, more functions, powers and resources have been provided to them. However, over a period of time, the functions and responsibilities of LBs have increased considerably without commensurate enhancement of their resource base. Constitutionally built-in imbalances in functions and finances assigned to various levels of government eventually reflect in the high dependency of local bodies on State Governments and the latter, in turn, on Central Government for funds. Moreover, in the absence of financial support coming from the upper tiers of Government, these bodies may have to resort to borrowings from financial institutions and the capital market.

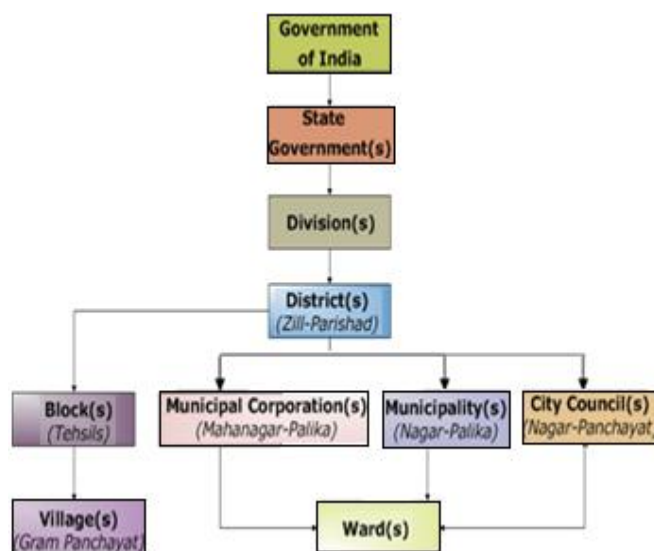


Figure 1

2. Research Method

This paper includes the type of secondary data. The methodology includes study of various schemes and aids received by local government and also get statistical information available at various sources.

Objective

The central objectives of the paper are as under

- To study role of government in economic development of rural as well as urban areas.
- To study various government schemes
- To study and understand impact of policies on standard of living of rural as well as urban populace.

3. Analysis and Discussion

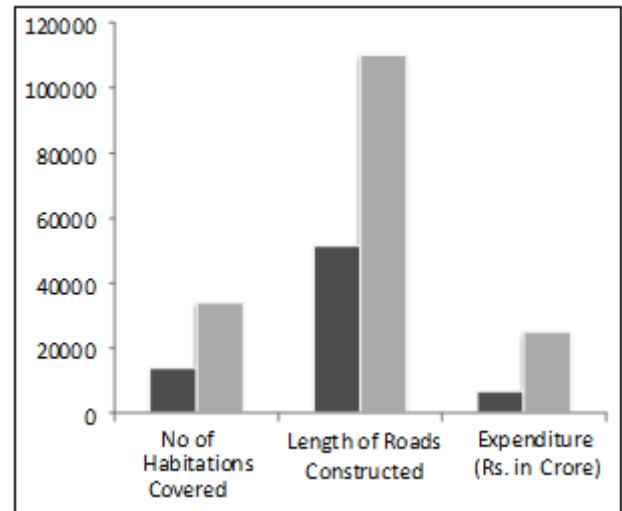
Addressing the challenge of unemployment in the rural areas of the country is central to the development of rural sector for ameliorating the economic condition of the people. Wage

employment is provided in rural areas under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) whereas self-employment is provided under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). Besides generating employment these wage employment schemes also ensure creation of durable assets in rural areas. Initiatives are also taken by the Ministry to build and upgrade the basic rural infrastructure through various schemes. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) construction and upgradation of rural roads are taken up to ensure rural connectivity. It is expected under the scheme that an expanded and renovated rural road network will lead to an increase in rural employment opportunities, better access to regulated and fair market, better access to health, education and other public services so as to accelerate the pace of economic growth in rural areas. Similarly basic amenities for housing, drinking water and toilets, etc. are provided under Pradhanmantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) to enhance the welfare and well-being of the vulnerable sections of rural population. Area Development is encouraged through Watershed Programmes to check the diminishing productivity of waste land and loss of natural resources. people have also recovered from this contagious disease.

Table 1: Achievements of PMGSY since Inception

Year	No of Habitations Covered	Length of Roads Constructed	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
2000-10	13776	51511	6608
2010-20	34156	110160	24896
Total	47932	161671	31504

Source: Ministry of Rural Development



The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) was launched on 25 December 2000 as a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The primary objective of the PMGSY is to provide connectivity to all the eligible unconnected habitations of more than 500 persons in the rural areas (250 persons in the hilly and desert areas) by good quality all-weather roads. Under Bharat Nirman, goal has been set to provide connectivity to all the habitations with population of more than 1000 in the plain areas and habitations with a population of 500 or more in hilly and tribal areas in a time-bound manner by 2009. The systematic upgradation of the existing rural road networks is also an integral component of the scheme. Accordingly, an Action Plan has been prepared for connecting 66,802 habitations with 1, 46,185 km of all-weather roads. This Action Plan also envisages upgradation/renewal of 1, 94,130 km of the existing rural road network. It is estimated that an investment of about Rs.48, 000 crore would be required for achieving the targets under Bharat Nirman. The implementation strategy focuses on quality, cost management and ‘on time’ delivery.

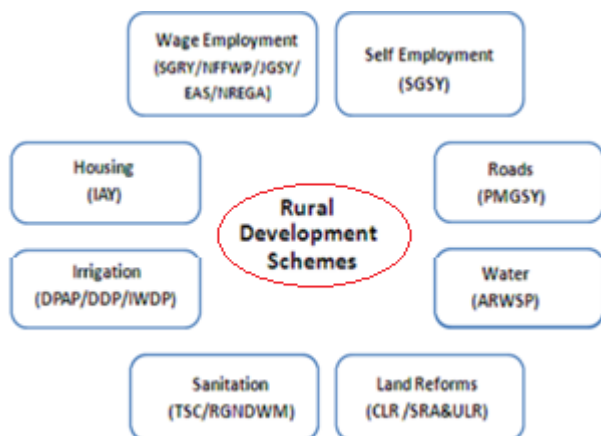


Figure 2

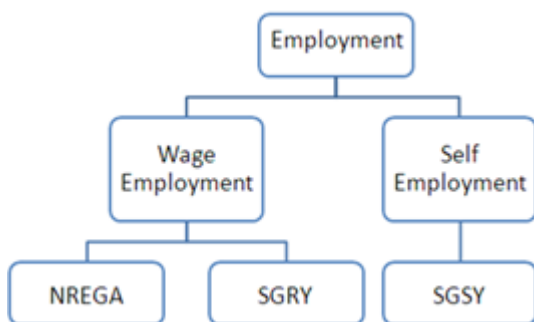


Figure 3

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna

“A key component of rural development is the provision of roads for connectivity, access being essential for social and economic well-being. Families residing alongside roads benefit from better health and greater educational opportunities compared to the families living in remote villages”.

Rural Housing

To meet the shortage of housing in rural areas, a programme called Pradhanmantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY) was launched in May 2015 as a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). Pradhanmantri Awaas Yojana aims at providing assistance to rural and urban people below the poverty-line belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers and non-scheduled castes/scheduled tribes categories for the construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutchha houses by providing grants-in-aid.

Watershed Development Programmes

The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is administering three area-based watershed programmes for development of wastelands/degraded lands namely Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP), Desert

Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) to check the diminishing productivity of wasteland and loss of natural resources.



Figure 5

Land Reforms

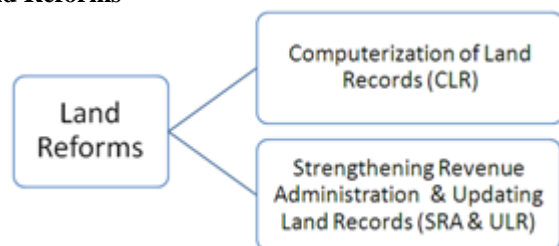


Figure 6

Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes are administered by Land Reforms Division in the Department of Land Resources viz;

Computerisation of Land Records

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Computerization of Land Records (CLR) was started in 1988-89 with 100 per cent financial assistance on a pilot project basis in eight Districts viz.

- 1) Rangareddy (A.P.)
- 2) Sonitpur (Assam)
- 3) Singhbhum (Jharkhand)
- 4) Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
- 5) Morena (M.P.)
- 6) Wardha (Maharashtra)
- 7) Mayurbhanj (Orissa) and
- 8) Dungarpur (Rajasthan)

This was started in order to remove the problems inherent in the manual systems of maintenance and updating of land records and to meet the requirements of various groups of users. It was decided that efforts should be made to computerize CORE DATA contained in land records, so as to assist development planning and to make records accessible to peoples/planners and administrators.

Rural Drinking Water Supply Program

- 1) Providing safe drinking water to all villages,
- 2) Assisting local communities to maintain sources of safe drinking water in good condition, and
- 3) Giving special attention for water supply to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Central Rural Sanitation Programme

Rural Sanitation is a State subject. The efforts of the states are supplemented by the Central Government through technical and financial assistance under the Central Rural

Sanitation Programme (CRSP).

The components sanctioned in the 559 projects are:

- a) Construction of 499 lakh individual household latrines;
- b) 656690 toilets for Schools;
- c) 36098 Community Sanitary Complexes;
- d) 199033 toilets for Balwadis/ Anganwadis and
- e) 4030 Rural Sanitary Marts/Production Centers.

4. Conclusion

- The social status of the rural and urban populace enhanced by these Programmes. Peoples participation in decision making and implementation would help in choosing target programs for the respective villages;
- Peoples participation would result in sustainability of the rural development programs
- This would improve the cost benefit analysis and bring about a radical social change and the system would become a mechanism for self-education. The programme accorded the highest priority to agriculture but also included the improvement of other important sectors viz., communications, health, sanitation, housing, education, welfare of women and children and cottage and small-scale industries.

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