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Rural Development of India

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ABSTRACT: Rural development usually refers to the method of enhancing the quality of life and financial well-being of individuals, specifically living in populated and remote areas.

Traditionally, rural development was centred on the misuse of land-intensive natural resources such as forestry and agriculture. However today, the increasing urbanisation and the change in global production networks have transformed the nature of rural areas.

Rural development still remains the core of the overall development of the country. More than two-third of the country's people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, and one-third of rural India is still below the poverty line. Therefore, it is important for the government to be productive and provide enough facilities to upgrade their standard of living.

Rural development is a term that concentrates on the actions taken for the development of rural areas to improve the economy. However, few areas that demand more focused attention and new initiatives are:

- Education
- Public health and Sanitation
- Women empowerment
- Infrastructure development (electricity, irrigation, etc.)
- Facilities for agriculture extension and research
- Availability of credit
- Employment opportunities

KEYWORDS: rural, India, development, initiatives, health, empowerment, research, credit, employment, sanitation

I.INTRODUCTION

Rural development is important not only for the majority of the population residing in rural areas, but also for the overall economic expansion of the nation.

Rural development is considered to be of noticeable importance in the country today than in the olden days in the process of the evolution of the nation. It is a strategy that tries to obtain an improved and productivity, higher socio-economic equality and ambition, and stability in social and economic development.

The primary task is to decrease the famine that exists in roughly about 70 percent of the rural population, and to make sufficient and healthy food available.

The secondary task is to ensure the availability of clothing and footwear, a clean environment and house, medical attention, recreational provision, education, transport, and communication.

The objectives composed by the government in the sixth five-year plan for rural development are:

- To improve productivity and wages of rural people
- To guarantee increased and quick employment possibilities



- To demolish unemployment and bring a notable decline in underemployment
- To guarantee an increase in the standard of living of the underprivileged population
- To provide the basic needs: elementary education, healthcare, clean drinking water, rural roads, etc.

Rural development is the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in rural areas, often relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas.^[1]

Rural development has traditionally centered on the exploitation of land-intensive natural resources such as agriculture and forestry. However, changes in global production networks and increased urbanization have changed the character of rural areas. Increasingly rural tourism, niche manufacturers, and recreation have replaced resource extraction and agriculture as dominant economic drivers.^[2] The need for rural communities to approach development from a wider perspective has created more focus on a broad range of development goals rather than merely creating incentive for agricultural or resource-based businesses.

Education, entrepreneurship, physical infrastructure, and social infrastructure all play an important role in developing rural regions.^[3] Rural development is also characterized by its emphasis on locally produced economic development strategies.^[4] In contrast to urban regions, which have many similarities, rural areas are highly distinctive from one another. For this reason there are a large variety of rural development approaches used globally.^[5]

The Ministry of Rural Development, a branch of the Government of India, is entrusted with the task of accelerating the socio-economic development of rural India. Its focus is on special rural grants for health and education, piped filtered drinking water programs, public and affordable housing programs, public work programs and grants for rural roads and infrastructure. It also provides special grants to rural local bodies.^[3]

On 7 July 2021, during the first cabinet reshuffle of the Second Modi ministry, Giriraj Singh replaced Narendra Singh Tomar as the Minister of Rural Development.

In rural areas, the business operates towards different industries, which are agriculture, forest, and handloom industries. The people lived in different areas of rural India master in unique skills. Such as the rural people living in Kerala, they have professional skill in carving wood, the other rural people proficient in weaving carpet live in Kashmir, there are various skills from place to place is because of the factors of resources and traditions.^[3] Besides, in India, the agricultural is vital for the economy because it accounts for 44.5% of GDP^[4] from 1970 to 1971 and offers 68% of rural employment. However, the agriculture sector shrunk to 16.1% of GDP in 2009 while the proportion of non-agricultural industry achieved 86% of the GDP.^[5]

A rural enterprise refers to a company registered in the rural areas, was under the responsibility of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.^[6] The reasons for business operating in the rural area are favorable factors such as the appealing dwelling, fresh air, bigger extend headroom, cheaper rental fees, and harmonious relationships with labor. In India, there are still many people living in rural areas.^[7] Furthermore, There are approximately 90% of employees are residents who work in an assigned area in the countryside and aim to increase the local economy. The purpose of increasing in rural economy is to make fewer people living under the poverty line.^[7] The joint family structure is predominant as the strong kinship relationship in India.^[8] Therefore, to assure that there are lucrative employment opportunities in rural India, the intervention of the plan is needed.^[7] For example, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been promulgated to increase the opportunities for wage employment.^[9]

The forest industry traditionally produces two primary resources, which are timber and non-timber forest products (NTEPs). The fuelwood plays a crucial role among the forest products as it taking up more than 35% average forest income in the selected 27 villages around the Jharkhand in India. Besides, the forest income is significant because it made 12% to 42% increases to the village economy, and it is the dominant source of income in HFLA and HFHA villages. From which, it would alleviate the livelihood burden of households. It is using the majority of the firewood in the rural family as a source for heating in the selected villages in Jharkhand. Thus, less than 10% of the fuelwood for trading. Apart from the firewood, there is another forest product also very valuable, which is NTFPs.^[14] The timber uses for producing furniture and equipment.



In contrast, the NTFPs encompass the products that can use in different areas, such as the medicinal plants for healing, some specific plants used in making cosmetics. Furthermore, NTEPs is one of the oldest product in trade. For instance, in the 12th century AD, there is trade in sandalwood oil and Arabic gum. Thus, it contributes to the local economies that started from the early days. Nowadays, the Baiga tribal in India still lives to rely on the NTFPs as the source for living and income. Moreover, it also stated that NTFPs has intangible values such as in many cultures, specific Forest area is sacred. Therefore, the function of the NTFPs also can be related to religion, not merely on the trade and the products.^[15]

The hand loom industries in Odisha state, India is followed by the agriculture sector in terms of the contribution of the employment, which maintained the livelihood of the weavers in the low class. In rural India, the Bastralaya handloom cooperative produces traditional clothes (sarees, lungis) and household's products (bed cover) with dyeing Yarns. There is a tradition in India, when the advent of the Nuakhai festival, the handloom items will be sent between family members. Also, women will wear a sari to dance during this festival. Furthermore, there is a complicated braid art called Ikat, which weaving prominent patterns on the silk with using environmentally friendly colored threads. Furthermore, while carrying on the orders, the quality of the product is strictly controlled, such as if the weaver did not meet the standard criteria in terms of the dimension of the sari, the cash fined will be required after rigorously check. Weavers in this industry should possess Textile skills,^[16] learn new knowledge through regular activities and observe the needs of the customer such as the color they preferred for the sarees, these competencies with the help of Bastralaya company will improve social-economic. Thus, the Bastralaya commit to bringing more earnings for weavers.^[17] Cooperatives in India is on behalf of one of the most extensive system in terms of rural finance in the world. Agricultural cooperatives in India still have excellent scope for improvement with the changing economy.^[7] Through reaching a large number of clients, farmers (small and marginal farmers),^[21] and people under the poverty line, it can be seen that rural cooperatives have an essential role in the hinterland of rural areas.^[22] There are approximately 450,000 cooperatives in India with 220 million people involved.^[7] Cooperatives originated from the twentieth century, and at an early stage mainly catered to the financial needs of the farmer, especially the advent of harvesting and sowing. Today, the cooperatives are responsible for the majority of rural credit, which constitutes 65%.^[7] Under the different types of cooperatives in India, the credit cooperative is a powerful system in India, which encompasses the organization of the rural credit cooperative. In the villages of India the other types of cooperatives found are societies of farmer service and multipurpose society for large-scale agriculture.^[22] Rural Cooperatives also engaged in distributing quality inputs to farmers by charging maximum price through the activity of procurement.^[7] The dairy cooperatives in rural India help women become involved in the production of milk, acquiring confidence, more specifically, concerning the success of the Amul experiment.^[7] Pravaranager Cooperative Sugar industry is another successful example as the contribution to the development of the social-economic rising in the economic benefit and the improvement of rural facilities, which are inclusive of the areas of education, recreation center, hospitals, and cooperatives.^[7]

The self-help group in India is an action taken in a group in a wide range, which helps approximately 33 million of Indian women to obtain financial services and other activities with lower prices. Women in rural India, especially with lower castes and lower education level, facing a plight such as the adverse health condition and limitation to acquire financial products.^[23] There are commonly 10 to 20 members in a rural self-help group, who funded money mutually for the enterprise or emergency. For example, in Tamil Nadu, India. The new self-help groups established after the natural disaster.^[24] One of the famous models launched in rural India is to provide microcredit to poor Indian women.^[25] The initiatives of rural development in India concentrate on the development of the economic status of women and other vulnerable people by providing micro-credit.^[23] Besides, there is another model not only offer the Microfinance plus^[25] but also involved in the areas of education, social attendance, and politics. The self-help group has ethical implications for Indian women, such as alleviating the economic burden and eliminating gender inequality. After accessing the loan products, there is an improvement for rural women in the aspects of psychological and economic conditions.^[23] Moreover, women who are widowed will receive support.^[24] In South India, the large proportion of rural women, especially widows, experienced poverty, uncertainty in the inheritance of land, and barriers of involving in community.^[23] The existence of the rural self-help group is to empower the vulnerable group, especially women, to conquer the barriers

II.DISCUSSION

The Rural Development Foundation (RDF) is a non-governmental organization headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana, India. It promotes rural development mainly through education: building and operating high-quality, non-



sectarian schools in underserved villages in Telangana & Andhra. Over its first decade of operation, RDF has developed a philosophy of development with three basic components.

First and most obvious is the emphasis on high-quality affordable education for rural children. With its booming information economy, India is a land where a good education is often a ticket out of poverty, but it is also a land with extraordinary educational stratification: students with opportunity and means can get an excellent education, while the majority of students have access to poor schools. Rural schools are notoriously poor in contemporary India. RDF works closely with its teachers, providing assessments and progressive teaching techniques. It also provides scholarship aid to very poor children.

Second is extra-curricular support for students. Children from poor rural backgrounds often lack the confidence, knowledge, connections, and family support needed to move into good careers. Therefore, RDF staff take personal interest in students and assist in various ways, including providing personal counseling, persuading parents to keep children in school, seeking sponsors for students, and providing logistical support for graduates seeking employment or further training away from home.

Third is keeping graduates connected to their home areas. Helping rural kids graduate and move to middle class careers in the city only depletes rural resources unless the graduates remain closely involved with their homecommunities. RDF's encouragement to stay involved has paid off, as recent graduates who have gotten excellent jobs in Hyderabad have immediately called RDF to say they could now sponsor a child's education back in the village. Graduates also return to participate in village life, and offer advice and encouragement to younger students. RDF's goal is eventually have all its school supported by its alumni.

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj. Recognized internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence, it builds capacities of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of PRIs, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders through inter-related activities of training, research and consultancy. The Institute is located in Police Quarters, Rajendranagar mandal, Hyderabad, Telangana. The NIRD&PR celebrated its Golden Jubilee Year of establishment in 2008. In addition to the main campus at Hyderabad, this Institute has North-Eastern Regional Centre at Guwahati, Assam to meet the NE-regional needs.^[1]

The NIRD&PR is mandated to:

- Organise training programmes, conferences, seminars and workshops for senior level development managers, elected representatives, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders;
- Undertake, aid, promote and coordinate research on its own and / or collaborate with State, national and international development agencies;
- Analyse and offer solutions to problems encountered in planning and implementation of the programmes for rural development, decentralised governance, panchayati raj and related programmes;
- Study the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and rural development programmes across the States;
- Analyse and propose solutions to problems in planning and implementation of the programmes for rural development; and
- Develop content and disseminate information and transfer technology through periodicals, reports, e-modules and other publications.

Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas (PURA) is a strategy for rural development in India. This concept was given by former president Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and discussed in his book Target 3 Billion which he co-authored with Srijan Pal Singh. The genesis of PURA can be traced to the work done by Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute in the early 1990s on Taluka energy self-sufficiency.^[1] It was shown in the study that energy self-sufficient talukas can be a new development model for rural India in terms of creation of jobs and better amenities to its population.^[2]



PURA proposes that urban infrastructure and services be provided in rural hubs to create economic opportunities outside of cities. Physical connectivity by providing roads, electronic connectivity by providing communication networks, and knowledge connectivity by establishing professional and technical institutions will have to be done in an integrated way so that economic connectivity will emanate. The Indian central government has been running pilot PURA programs in several states since 2004. The Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission is a successor to this mission.^{[3][4]}

III.RESULTS

Rural economics is the study of rural economies. Rural economies include both agricultural and non-agricultural industries, so rural economics has broader concerns than agricultural economics which focus more on food systems.^[1] Rural development^[2] and finance^[3] attempt to solve larger challenges within rural economics. These economic issues are often connected to the migration from rural areas due to lack of economic activities^[4] and rural poverty. Some interventions have been very successful in some parts of the world, with rural electrification and rural tourism providing anchors for transforming economies in some rural areas. These challenges often create rural-urban income disparities.^[5]

Rural spaces add new challenges for economic analysis that require an understanding of economic geography: for example understanding of size and spatial distribution of production and household units and interregional trade,^[6] land use,^[7] and how low population density effects government policies as to development, investment, regulation, and transportation.^[8]

Local government in India refers to governmental jurisdictions below the level of the state. Local self-government means that residents in towns, villages and rural settlements are the people elect local councils and their heads authorising them to solve the important issues. India is a federal republic with three spheres of government: central, state and local. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments give recognition and protection to local governments and in addition each state has its own local government legislation.^[1] Since 1992, local government in India takes place in two very distinct forms. Urban localities, covered in the 74th amendment to the Constitution,^[2] have Nagar Palika but derive their powers from the individual state governments, while the powers of rural localities have been formalized under the panchayati raj system, under the 73rd amendment to the Constitution.^[3]

Within the Administrative setup of India, the democratically elected Local governance bodies are called the "municipalities" (abbreviated as the "MC") in urban areas and the "Panchayati Raj Institutes (PRI)" (simply called the "panchayats") in rural areas. There are 3 types of municipalities based on the population, Municipal Corporation (Nagar Nigam) with more than 1 million population, Municipal Councils (Nagar Palika) with more than 25,000 and less than 1 million population, and Municipal Committee (Nagar Panchayat) with more than 10,000 and less than 25,000 population. PRIs in rural areas have 3 hierarchies of panchayats, Gram panchayats at village level, Mandal or block panchayats at block level, and Zilla panchayats at district level.^[4]

Panchayats cover about 96% of India's more than 5.8 lakh (580,000) villages and nearly 99.6% of the rural population. As of 2020, there were about 3 million elected representatives at all levels of the panchayat, nearly 1.3 million are women. These members represent more than 2.4 lakh (240,000) gram panchayats, about over 6,672 were intermediate level panchayat samitis at the block level and more than 500 zila parishads at district level.^[5] Following the 2013 local election, 37.1% of councillors were women, and in 2015/16 local government expenditure was 16.3% of total government expenditure.^[1]

Cooperative Societies are taken under "Local Government" after 97th Constitutional Amendment act 2011, under Dr Manmohan Singh's Govt. Part-IX of Indian Constitution is related to Local Government, under which Panchayt Raj was defined, then after 74th amendment Municipal Corporation and council were included and defined by inducing Part IX-A, and in 2011, Cooperative Societies were included in Local Government by inducing Part IX-B in the Constitution. The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011 provided for amendment in following things : 1. It amended article 19(1)c by inserting after the word 'or unions' the words 'or Co-operative Societies'. 2. It also inserted Article 43B in part IV of the Constitution as "The State shall endeavor to promote Voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional Management of the Co-operative Societies" and 3. After Part IX-A of the Constitution Part IX-B was inserted. Part IX-B extended from Article 243ZH to Article 243ZT.

The following 3 types of democratically elected urban local governance bodies in India are called municipalities and abbreviated as the "MC". These are classified based on the size of the population of the urban settlement.^[14]



- Municipal Corporation, also called the "Nagar Nigam", of cities with more than 1 million population.
- Municipal Councils, also called the "Nagar Palika", of cities with more than 25,000 and less than 1 million population.
- Municipal Committee, also called the "Town Council" or "Nagar Panchayat" or "Town Panchayat" or "Notified Area Council" depending on the state within which they lie, these are in the town with more than 10,000 and less than 25,000 population.

Municipal Acts are state level legislations to establish municipal governments in urban areas. These acts provide a framework of governance for cities within the state. Various processes including rules for elections, recruitment of staff, and demarcation of urban areas derive from the state municipal acts. Almost 70 different municipal acts in India govern the cities in the country. Typically, the municipal acts are of three types - statewide general municipalities acts, separate acts for establishing municipal corporations, and acts that are specific to individual municipal corporations.^[15] All municipal acts in India provide for functions, powers and responsibilities to be carried out by the municipal government. These are divided into two categories: obligatory and discretionary.

The mandatory functions of MC include the supply of pure and wholesome water, construction and maintenance of public streets, lighting and watering of public streets, cleaning of public streets, places and sewers, regulation of offensive, dangerous or obnoxious trades and callings or practices, maintenance or support of public hospitals, establishment and maintenance of primary schools, registration of births and deaths, removing obstructions and projections in public streets, bridges and other places, naming streets and numbering houses, maintenance of law and public order, etc.

The discretionary functions of MC include the laying out of areas, securing or removal of dangerous buildings or places, construction and maintenance of public parks, gardens, libraries, museums, rest houses, leper homes, orphanages and rescue homes for women, public buildings, planting of trees and maintenance of roads, housing for low income groups, conducting surveys, organizing public receptions, public exhibitions, public entertainment, provision of transport facilities with the municipality, and promotion of welfare of municipal employees.

Some of the functions of the urban bodies overlap with the work of state agencies. The functions of the municipality, including those listed in the Twelfth Schedule to the Constitution, are left to the discretion of the state government. Local bodies have to be bestowed with adequate powers, authority and responsibility to perform the functions entrusted to them by the Act. However, the Act has not provided them with any powers directly and has instead left it to state government discretion.^[16] These are all functions of MCs

The following 3 hierarchies of PRI panchayats exist in states or Union Territories with more than two million inhabitants:

- Gram Panchayats at village level
- Panchayat Samiti/Mandal Parishad at Community Development Block/Mandal level and
- Zila Parishad at district level.^[18]

The panchayati raj system is a three-tier system with elected bodies at the village, taluk and district levels. The modern system is based in part on traditional Panchayat governance, in part on the vision of Mahatma Gandhi and in part by the work of various committees to harmonize the highly centralized Indian governmental administration with a degree of local autonomy.^[19] The result was intended to create greater participation in local government by people and more effective implementation of rural development programs. Although, as of 2015, implementation in all of India is not complete, the intention is for there to be a gram panchayat for each village or group of villages, a tehsil level council, and a zilla panchayat at the district level.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In medicine, rural health or rural medicine is the interdisciplinary study of health and health care delivery in rural environments. The concept of rural health incorporates many fields, including Wilderness medicine, geography, midwifery, nursing, sociology, economics, and telehealth or telemedicine.^[1]

Research shows that the healthcare needs of individuals living in rural areas are different from those in urban areas, and rural areas often suffer from a lack of access to healthcare.^[2] These differences are the result of geographic,



demographic, socioeconomic, workplace, and personal health factors. For example, many rural communities have a large proportion of elderly people and children. With relatively few people of working age (20–50 years of age), such communities have a high dependency ratio. People living in rural areas also tend to have poorer socioeconomic conditions, less education, higher rates of tobacco and alcohol use, and higher mortality rates when compared to their urban counterparts.^[3] There are also high rates of poverty among rural dwellers in many parts of the world, and poverty is one of the biggest social determinants of health.

BIPARD is an apex Institute of Training and Research in the field of Public Administration, Rural Development, Disaster Management, Panchayati Raj, Non-Government Organisation, Urban Development, Land, Water Management and Sanitation etc. It has been developed as a centre of excellence to provide the necessary support to the National and State governments and other agencies concerned in these fields in the areas of policy formulation, programme initiatives, implementation strategies, training, research evaluation, documentation and dissemination of information.

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