

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN RURAL INDIA

Prof. Dhananjay Sharan
Dept. of Economics
Hindu College, Moradabad
Email: dhananjaysharan70@gmail.com

Prof. Virendra Singh
Dept. of Economics
Hindu College, Moradabad

Abstract

Economic development is a human-centered process of any nation. People are both the ends and the means in this development process. Human resources development applies equally to both women and men. No country can progress without the overall development of its human resources. Economic development also depends on the development of education and more importantly academic institutions or their infrastructures. Employment growth, income, earnings and the education are considered as precious elements for rural development as well as sustainable human development. Favorable macroeconomic performance has been a necessary but not sufficient condition for the significant reduction of poverty amongst the rural Indian population. The rate of poverty decline is not higher in the post-reform period. The improvements in some other non-economic dimensions of social development have been even less favorable. The most pronounced example is an exceptionally high and persistent level of child malnutrition. As the world sings the saga of India rising, Indians are confounded by the contrasting realities. Rural people continue to struggle with poverty, illiteracy and ill health. The Indian economic development can be measured only in relative terms with respect to its own past and its position in the current world. In this context the main aim of this study is to examine and review of the governmental schemes for socio-economic development, employment generation and as well as poverty alleviation in rural India. Besides the main objective, the other objectives are: (i) to analyze the socio-economic status of rural poor in terms of development indicators, (ii) to underline the difficulties and challenges in rural areas and (iii) to suggest creative ideas for the national development. The study relies on secondary data collected through literature surveys, Government reports, National and International reports, Research studies, articles and the relevant websites etc.

Keywords

Rural, Development, Employment generation, Poverty, Economic Growth

Reference to this paper
should be made as follows:

Received: 24.06.2023

Approved: 29.06.2023

**Prof. Dhananjay Sharan,
Prof. Virendra Singh**
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS IN
POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND
EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN
RURAL INDIA

*RJPSSs 2023, Vol. XLIX,
No. 1, pp.242-249
Article No.30*

Similarity Check: 24%

Online available at:

<https://anubooks.com/journal/research-journal-of-philosophy-amp-social-sciences>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31995/rjpss.2023v49i01.30>

Introduction

India is emerging as one of the fastest-growing economies. It suffered from colonial rule for 198 years approximately. India gained independence in 1947 and after 77 years of independence we can proudly say that India has attained a state of self-sufficiency, the fastest growing economy, a technology-savvy nation, social equality, the tag of biggest economy, one of the strongest army in the world, the biggest group of the young generation and many more but even after this achievement one basic problem is at the intact in the Indian economy and that is Poverty. Poverty is a situation in which an individual is not able to fulfill his or her basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, education, health, safe drinking water, hygiene etc.

Basic Concepts of the Study

Poverty can be understood as an aspect of unequal social status and inequitable social relationships, experienced as social exclusion, dependency, and diminished capacity to participate, or to develop meaningful connections with other people in society. It is important to understand the different dimensions of poverty along with reasons, consequences and remedies. This is one of the basic problems of which Indian economy. Many groups are prone to poverty and an economy needs to find alternatives to bring these vulnerable people out of the poverty line.

Poverty word is derived from the French language *poverté* or *pauvrete* and from the Latin language *pauper* as we have derived the word *pauper*. Poverty depends on the context of the situation it is placed in, and usually references a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a certain standard of living. Lack of choices and opportunities is the main cause of poverty.

Statement of the Problem

The progress of any society and economy is closely associated with overall development. India has many problems and difficulties economically, socially and financially. Rural development is an essential requisite for the socio-economic development of country. This development needs to spread in every nook and corner of the country. The development of a country depends on the development of men and women in rural society. It is important to give equal treatment to all human resources males and females both and most importantly to set up the base of economic, social and as well as political equality.

India is a vast and second most populous country in the world and India is a country of villages and its development is synonymous with the development of the people living in rural areas. But a big part of this population has been leading an

uncertain economic life due to unable inability of employment opportunities in the agriculture sector because of the fast-growing population.

India is predominately an agricultural country and farming is their main occupation. In terms of methods of production, social organization and political mobilization, the rural sector is extremely backward and weak. Moreover, technical developments in the field of agriculture have increased the gap between the rich and poor, as the better-off farmers adopted modern farm technology to a greater extent than the smaller ones. Rural development may be defined as the overall development of rural areas to improve the quality of life of rural people. It is an integrated process, that includes the social, economic, political and spiritual development of the poorer sections of the society. Rural development can be defined as, helping rural people set the priorities in their own communities through effective and democratic bodies, by providing the local capacity; investing in basic infrastructure and social services, justice, equity and security, dealing with the injustices of the past and ensuring safety and security of the rural population, especially that of women. In a vast country like India, striking regional disparities can be seen due to differences in natural resources, growth rate, initial conditions, political structure and social traditions. Assessing development and tracking its history is imperative to understand the impact of social conditions, politics and public policies on socio-economic development. In this venture, demographic development indicators like poverty level, literacy rate, fertility rate and human development index give us a good measuring stick, through which one can rank the nation on the development ladder.

Aims and Methodology of The Study

In this context the main aim of this study is to examine and review of the governmental schemes for socio-economic development, employment generation and as well as poverty alleviation in rural India. Besides the main objective, the other objectives are: (i) to analyze the socio-economic status of rural poor in terms of development indicators, (ii) to underline the difficulties and challenges in rural areas and (iii) to suggest creative ideas for the national development. The study relies on secondary data collected through literature surveys, Government reports, National and International reports, Research studies, articles and the relevant websites etc.

Review of Literature: Poverty and its Causes

The poverty level indicates the number of people with low purchasing power and lack of access to basic amenities. The World Bank Development Indicator report (2009) estimates that roughly 1.1bn or 10% of the world population lives in extreme

poverty, earning less than \$1 per day. The majority of the world's poor live in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and East Asia. In India, it is estimated about 300 million people live below the extreme poverty line. The number of moderate poverty is much higher. After Independence, socialist policies had little effect on reducing poverty from the 1950s to the mid-70s the poverty level hovered around 50% and showed no clear sign of decline. The 80s showed a significant decline in poverty, about 13% in a decade. Land reforms, robust agricultural growth and exports contributed to this decline. Since the reforms in the 90s, economic development has been robust and dramatic, but the poverty level showed only a marginal decline. There is evidence that poverty actually increased during the early 90s, and it was only after 1998 that there was a clear indication of declining poverty.

Lack of education is the main cause of rural poverty. Nepotism is a severe problem where instead of giving job to a deserving candidate, it is observed that in many big institutions jobs are delivered based on friendships, relations or bribes. Which is not a healthy practice. Due to this problem many deserving candidates do not get jobs and they are not able to come out of the poverty line.

Lack of Start-ups

Start-ups help in increasing productive activities and more job opportunities also. It helps in increasing job opportunities and eradicating of poverty also but in our economy big percentage of the young generation is preparing to do job not start-ups which in turn increase the demand for jobs which affects the wage rates also.

Lack of Availability of Loan

Commercial banks have launched many schemes to provide loans but most of these loan are available to people who have something to keep as a mortgage or who are comfortable with trial of paperwork. Poor people are not comfortable with trail of paperwork moreover they do not have anything to keep as a mortgage due to which they are not able to get loans easily. Although the government has launched some schemes to help poor people to eradicate poverty but in this case also role of the middleman, lack of awareness etc. acts as a barrier in eradicating poverty. Despite this there are so many other reasons for poverty like lack of Vocational courses, lack of awareness, Corruption etc.

Government Programs in India

The major anti-poverty programs initiatives by the Govt. of India are as follows:

1. Integrated Rural Development Program
2. JawaharRozgarYojana

3. Jawahar Gram SamriddhiYojana (JGSY)
4. Employment Assurance Scheme, Food for Work Programme,
5. Sampoorna Gramin RozgarYojana, Rural Housing
6. Pradhan Mantri Gramin AwaasYojana (PMGAY)
7. National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)
8. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
9. National Maternity Benefit Scheme etc.
10. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) This aims to enhance the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing a hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
11. National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM):
12. Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP): The main objectives of the IWDP are to restore ecological balance in a watershed by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, water and vegetative cover, and thereby, helping provide sustainable livelihoods to the local people.
13. Indira AwaasYojana
14. National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP): The goal of this scheme is to provide adequate safe water for domestic use on a sustainable basis.
15. Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)
16. Watershed Development Programmes (IWDP)

Concluding Remarks

Economic development is a human-centered process of any nation. People are both the ends and the means in this development process. Human resources development applies equally to both women and men. No country can progress without the overall development of its human resources. Economic development also depends on the development of education and more importantly academic institutions or its infrastructures. Employment growth, income, earnings and the education are considered as precious elements for sustainable human development. It is widely recognized that skill development is an enhancer to increased individual earnings, and income and reducing poverty. Skill development has such a lot of potential in terms of employment generation and is also a key driver of economic development. For the development of a knowledge-based economy's growth the

educational institutions, colleges and universities can play an important role in this regard. They should design curricula and syllabi accordingly and strive to provide skill, practical and industry-based training in their institutions. Nowadays skill development and vocational education are the foundation of sustainable development and force multiplier which enables self-reliance, boosts economic growth by enhancing skills, and improves people's lives by opening up opportunities for better livelihoods.

For socio-economic development there is the need of the day to expand the participation of the youth generation and the work workforce should increase in different sectors. Expansion of knowledge of technical, vocational education and skill development can be more helpful to bring a catalytic change in society. For this education especially vocational education and skill training are very important for them. To reach and achieve the goal of socio-economic and sustainable development, future requirements, and sustain the growth rate there is an urgent need to increase the number of institutes and also improve the quality of education in India. The study recommends the following ways for improvement:

1. There is a need to implement innovative and transformational approach to execute the development program.
2. There should be a good infrastructure facilities like the availability of roads, transport markets, cooperative societies, and loan facilities for the rural poor which may attract the students and youth generation of rural areas.
3. There is a need of the day that vocational education institutes and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) need to improve their quality and reputation. The government must promote collaboration between Indian education institutes and top International institutes and also generate a linkage between skill development and human resources development.
4. There is a need to focus on the all levels of the rural habitants by providing them with area-based and industry-based courses in which they can achieve excellence, and gain deeper knowledge of courses and skills so that they will get jobs or establish their own businesses or self-employment in their houses and premises.
5. A large population of skilled workers is an asset for the country. Our government aims at to make India a skilled capital of the world but due to substandard infrastructural facilities and wide variations in quality, long duration courses, and negative perception towards skilling, rural people are not attracted to skill training programs. In the prevailing circumstances, it is understood in broad terms to include.

References

1. Roser, Max., Ortiz-Ospina, Esteban. (2019). "Global Extreme Poverty". Our World in Data. 1 January. Archived from the original on 30 March 2021. Retrieved 30 March 2021.
2. "Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries and Situations". The World Bank Group A to Z 2016. The World Bank. Pg. **60a–62**. 7 October 2015. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-0484-7_fragile_and_conflict_affected. ISBN 978-1-4648-0484-7. retrieved 2 January 2022.
3. Milanovic, B. (2016). *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*. Harvard Univ. Press.
4. Skeat, Walter. (2005). *An Etymological Dictionary of the English Language*. Dover Publications. ISBN 978-0-486-44052-1.
5. (2011). "Indicators of Poverty & Hunger" (PDF). United Nations. Archived (PDF) from the original on 28 June. Retrieved 16 January 2022.
6. (2011). "Poverty and Inequality Analysis". worldbank.org. Archived from the original on 3 June. Retrieved 27 May 2011.
7. (2004). "Poverty". World Bank. Archived from the original on 30 August. Retrieved 23 April 2010.
8. Sachs, Jeffrey D. (2005). *The End of Poverty*. Penguin Press. Pg. **416**. ISBN 978-1-59420-045-8.
9. Ravallion, Martin., Chen, Shaohua., Sangraula, Prem. (2008). "Dollar a Day Revisited" (PDF). The World Bank. Archived (PDF) from the original on 5 August 2012. Retrieved 8 August 2012.
10. Ravallion, Martin., Chen, Shaohua., Sangraula, Prem. (2008). *Dollar a Day. May. Revisited* (PDF) (Report). Washington, DC: The World Bank. Archived (PDF) from the original on 3 March 2016. Retrieved 10 June 2013.
11. (2015). "The Bank uses an updated international poverty line of US \$1.90 a day, which incorporates new information on differences in the cost of living across countries (the PPP exchange rates)." Archived from the original on 3 January 2016. Retrieved 29 October.
12. (2007). *International Food Policy Research Institute, The World's Most Deprived. Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger* Archived 23 March 2010 at the Wayback Machine, Washington: IFPRI Oct.
13. (2011). "Poverty Definitions". US Census Bureau. Archived from the original on 6 February 2016. Retrieved 20 December 2017.

14. (2011). “New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty Reduction Program for Rural China (1,274 yuan per year = US\$ 0.55 per day)”. The Government of China. Archived from the original on 14 July 2014. Retrieved 8 August 2012.
15. Hickel, Jason. (2019). “Bill Gates says poverty is decreasing. He couldn’t be more wrong”. The Guardian. Archived from the original on 29 January. Retrieved 23 February 2023.
16. Beaumont, Peter. (2020). “‘We squandered a decade’: world losing fight against poverty, says UN academic”. The Guardian. Archived from the original on 10 July. Retrieved 11 July 2020.
17. Sen, Amartya. (1976). “Poverty: An Ordinal Approach to Measurement”. *Econometrica*. 44 (2). March. Pg. **219–231**. doi:10.2307/1912718. JSTOR 1912718.
18. (2016). [Shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/9697/6/06_chapter %201.pdf](http://Shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/9697/6/06_chapter%201.pdf). Concept of Rural Development. Pg. **1-5**.
19. (2016). www.agriinfo.in. “The Concept of Rural Development”. Pg. **1**.
20. Greening Rural Development in India. Ministry of Rural Development. www.rural.nic.in. Pg. **2-15**.
21. Singh, Ramesh. *Indian Economy*. Chand Publishing Company: New Delhi.
22. (2015). *Contract Farming. Food Security & Distributive Justice*. Published by Neel Kamal Prakashan: Delhi.
23. *Food Security in India, Practice and Challenges*” in the Book Edited by S. K. Mishra and Babita Agarwal, New Century Publication: New Delhi.
24. (2015-16). *Economic Survey*. Govt. of India: New Delhi.
25. (2016). Yojana. *A Journal of Rural Development*. New Delhi.
26. (2016). Kurukshetra. *A Journal of Rural Development*. New Delhi.
27. Lal, Ratan., Verma, Atul K. “Government programs and Rural Development”. Neelkamal Prakashan: New Delhi.
28. Singh, M.K. (2016). “Central issues of Indian Economic Progress: Focus on Human Development”. *AMDR*. Vol.VI. Issue-1. Pg. **261-267**.