Chapter No. 01:

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Rural Development:

The concept of rural development has attracted the attention of ‘International Agencies’ and ‘Asian Countries’ in the last few years. The subject of rural development has gained widespread appeal in India from independence. This is largely a result of the way issues regarding development themselves began to be perceived. Development theorist since 1970’s became increasingly dissatisfied with the way traditional concepts of development emphasized growth and neglected important issues relating to distributive justice.¹ It also becomes clear that agricultural growth by itself will not be able to result in sustained development in the developing countries. Rural development became a planning concern as it became clear that technocratic approaches to problems in developing countries remained ineffective in alleviating poverty and inequalities in rural areas. It also became clear that the multidisciplinary approach to the problem of development was necessary. Consequently, it became clear that apart from an effort to increase agriculture and industrial production, it was also necessary to provide education, health and services and employment and to attack the problem of poverty in rural areas. The increasing interest in rural
development is result of the realization that a systematic effort is necessary to create better living conditions in the rural areas where the vast majority of populations of developing countries reside.

During the 1950’s and 1960’s development policy makers sough to increase ‘productivity’ and ‘per capita’ incomes through advances in the manufacturing sector. In the realm of agricultural production, productivity increases were emphasized. However, it was soon realized that the gains from these methods reached only a small minority – mainly those who were already better off and privileged. In fact, the gains made as a result of these efforts are believed to have further accentuated inequality in incomes in rural areas. This failure of the ‘trickle down’ approach of achieving growth increased inequalities. The strategy of industrialization also led to a flow of investments to urban areas at the cost of rural development. By the 1970’s it became clear that there was problems in the way the issue and problems of the development were being tackled. Disillusionment with traditional growth models and their emphasis on productivity and the neglect of
inequalities that they generated, led to the growth of interest in the subject of rural development.

In order to understand the concepts of rural development it is necessary to know what the objectives of rural development are. The primary objectives of rural development are the following.

1. To improve the living standards by providing food, shelter, clothing, employment and education.

2. The increase productivity in rural areas and reduce poverty.

3. To involve people in planning and development through participation in decision making and through decentralization of administration.

4. To ensure distributive justice and equalization of opportunities in society.

The concept of rural development encompasses a wide spectrum. Diversity of views exists regarding the term rural development. Rural development is one of the most vital issues of the day. Various schemes to promote rural development have been launched but the
concept of rural development is still vague. The term ‘Rural Development’ has two words ‘rural’ and ‘development’. The term is used in different ways and in vastly different contexts.³

- **As a Concept** – Rural development means all round development of rural areas with view to betterment of the life-styles of rural people. In the sense, rural development like development in general is multi-dimensional. In the purely economic sense it covers development of the agricultural and allied activities and social facilities, besides development of human resources in the rural areas.

- **As a Phenomenon** – It is the result of interaction between various physical, environmental, technological, economic, socio-cultural and institutional factors in the rural areas of a nation.

- **As a Strategy** – The rural development is the approach or operational design to bring about the desired positive changes in the socio-economic and cultural life of the rural people.
A rural development strategy is primarily an outline of the processes that lead to a rise in the capacity of the rural people to improve their lives and environment, accomplished by wider distribution of benefits resulting from such improvement. Thus rural development considers both agricultural and non-agricultural aspects of rural life.

The expression ‘rural development’ may be used to processes of change in rural societies, not all of which involves action by Government. However as pointed out by John Harris the term ‘rural development’ has another meaning used more often in development literature. Rural development refers to a distinct approach to intervention by the state in the economies of underdeveloped countries and one, which is at once broader and more specific than agriculture development. Rural development, as per the World Bank perspective, focuses on poverty and inequality and thus involves “a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of specific group of people- the rural poor”⁴
Rural development is a multi-dimensional view connotes overall development of rural areas with a view to improving the quality of life of rural poor. In this sense, it is comprehensive and multi-dimensional concept and encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities, village and cottage industries and crafts, socio-economic infrastructure, community services and facilities and above all the human resources in the rural areas. The main theme of rural development may be summarized as follows:

- To achieve enhanced production and productivity in rural areas.
- To bring about a greater socio-economic equity.
- To bring about a special balance in social and economic development.
- To bring about improvement in the ecological environment so that it may be conductive to growth and happiness, and
- To develop broad based community participation in the process of development.

Rural India, which accounts for nearly three fourths of the India's population, is characterized by low income levels which
are inadequate to ensure a quality of life compatible with physical wellbeing of common man. The problems of infrastructure to rural development and poverty alleviation have been viewed in relation to agricultural and economic growth. As such one can easily trace the sustained efforts made by Government and voluntary agencies scattered in these writings. The compendium also suggests that there remains a lot to be done to brush up these attempts, because infrastructural disparities between rural and urban areas have accentuated the income disparities. The distinct changes in the rural economy in the 1960s followed by anti-poverty programmes and employment generating programmes in 1970s and 1980s respectively are to be resumed vigorously in the current decade.\footnote{5}

**Problems Of Rural Population:**

Poverty imposes an oppressive weight on India, especially in rural areas where almost three of four Indians and close to 8o percent of the Indian poor live. Despite decades of efforts at poverty
alleviation, the absolute number of poor has doubled since Independence. India; today has the largest number of poor people on the planet. India also has the greatest concentration of rural households that are totally landless — 60 million households. Landlessness and rural poverty are closely linked. In fact, a recent World Bank report showed that ‘landlessness is by far the greatest predictor of poverty in India—even more so than caste or illiteracy’. Another 250 million rural residents live in households that own less than 0.2 hectares of land.⁶ For many of these households, gaining access to more land would be an opportunity to climb out of poverty. However, land policy and the legislative and administrative framework in India present substantial obstacles to gaining greater land access and rights. Rural women in India feel the weight of poverty the most. Females are more likely than males to die as infants and children. More than six of ten women in India are illiterate—almost double the male rate. And, most significantly, Indian women rarely have legal rights to land, despite the fact that they are often more engaged in agriculture than men.
Rural land problems in India have not gone unnoticed. In the decades following Independence, many Indian states passed land reform laws aimed at broadening access to rural land. But these efforts—except for a few notable successes—were poorly designed and implemented. Measures aimed at taking significant land from larger land-owners and strictly regulating the landlord-tenant relationship were difficult to administer and aroused strong opposition. They provided little relief to the rural poor and women and, in many cases, led to perverse results that stymied land access and rights for the poor. Until recently, these failures caused Indian policy makers to conclude that land reform was not an answer to problems plaguing India's countryside.

Facts of Rural Development:

Rural development is the main pillar of nation’s development the reasons for this is oblivious in spite of rapid urbanization. A large section of our population still lives in the village’s secondly rural India has lagged behind in development because of many historical factors in order to correct the development in rural areas ministry of rural development is implementing a numbers of programme aimed at
sustainable holistic development in rural areas the thrust of these
programmer is on all round economic and social transformation in
rural areas through a multi-pronged strategy aiming at the process to
reach out to most disadvantages sections of the society in order to
catalyst development in rural areas during the last three years top
priority has been accorded to rural development not only in terms of
allocations of additional funds and resources but also through
introduction of new programmer and restructuring of existing ones.

More than 70 per cent of India’s population lives in 6 lakh
villages. A village may have around 700 families with a population of
2,000. Usually one caste of villagers with 10 per cent of the total
population own the agricultural lands and the other 90 per cent work
in the fields as labourers. Many villages now have electric supply,
though high priced and unreliable. Water sources vary from place to
place. Each village may have an elementary school, a medical clinic, an
'angan-wadi' (children’s day-care center), a cooperative for farmers.
But the typical village is quite poor, the agricultural lands are dry, no
other jobs in the village and many have already migrated to nearby
large cities. Basic infrastructure that makes rural life possible - water,
power, food, education, is missing or scarce. It is true that women in villages can easily spend up to 3 hours a day fetching water for daily drinking and cooking needs. In spite of large rural electrification programs in India after independence, most villagers cannot afford to pay for the meager electric power they receive now. Large-scale unemployment in the rural areas and mass migration to urban areas are the twin culprits responsible for the economic woes of the developing countries. The former causes the latter and together they result in rural poverty.

**Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Rural Livelihoods:**

The poor have meager holdings or access to land, little or no capital and off-farm employment is seasonal. It is almost impossible for farmers to secure credit and loans needed to purchase agricultural inputs except at prohibitive rates from private moneylenders leading to risk-prone farming. Markets are under-developed or difficult to access. Extension services are few and far between, and development initiatives aimed specifically at their needs is sparse. Few employment
opportunities and low levels of education and skill result in low cash incomes. This in turn affects the ability to purchase basic needs (such as medicines, education, etc.). Women and children in particular are the hardest hit especially when access to safe and adequate sources of water are low, resulting in high vulnerability in terms of health. Women are also more affected by under-employment. The relevance of this is all too clear when one realizes that 29 percent of India’s population still lives below the poverty line, earning less than US$ 1 per day.8

Rural Poverty Alleviation:

India has been a welfare state ever since it’s Independence and the primary objective of the Governmental endeavors has been the welfare of its millions. Planning has been one of the pillars of the Indian policy since independence and the country’s strength is derived from the achievement of planning. The policies and programmes have been designed with the aim of alleviation of rural poverty which has been one of the primary objectives of planned development in India. It
was realized that a sustainable strategy of poverty alleviation has to be based on increasing the productive employment opportunities in the process of growth itself. Elimination of poverty, ignorance, diseases and inequality of opportunities and providing a better and higher quality of life were the basic premises upon which all the plans and blue-prints of development were built.

Quality of Life of Rural People:

The prime goal of rural development is to improve the quality of life of the rural people by alleviating poverty through the instrument of ‘self-employment’ and ‘wage employment’ programmes, by providing community infrastructure facilities such as drinking water, electricity, road connectivity, health facilities, rural housing and education and promoting decentralization of powers to strengthen the Panchayat Raj Institutions. In order to ensure that the fruits of economic reform are shared by all sections of societies five elements of social and economic infrastructure, critical to the quality of life in rural areas, were identified. These are health education drinking water, housing and
roads. To impart greater momentum to the efforts in these sectors the Government had launched the Pradhan Mantri Gramdoya Yojana (PMGY) and the Ministry of Rural Development was entrusted with the responsibility of implementing drinking water, housing and rural roads component of PMGY. During the Ninth Plan period, several anti-poverty Programmes have been restructured to enhance the efficiency of the Programmes for providing increased benefits to the rural poor. 9 Self-Employment Programmes have been revamped by merging the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), the Supply of Improved Tool-Kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), the Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), the Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and the Million Wells Scheme (MWS) into a holistic self-employment scheme called Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). Formation of rural roads, construction of small bridges and culverts, provision of water supply and sanitation facilities, improvement and maintenance of minor irrigation tanks constitute Community Development activities.
Empowerment of Rural Women:

The empowerment of rural women is crucial for the development of rural India. Bringing women into the mainstream of development is a major concern for the Government of India. Therefore, the programmes for poverty alleviation have a women’s component to ensure flow of adequate funds to this section. The Constitutional (73rd) Amendment, Act 1992 provides for reservation of selective posts for women. The Constitution has placed enormous responsibility on the Panchayats to formulate and execute various programmes of economic development and social justice, and a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented through Panchayats. Thus, women members and chairpersons of Panchayats, who are basically new entrants in Panchayats, have to acquire the required skill and be given appropriate orientation to assume their rightful roles as leaders and decision makers. To impart training for elected representatives of PRIs is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments administrations. Ministry of Rural Development also extends some financial assistance to the States with a view to improve the quality of training programmes and to
catalyze capacity building initiatives for the PRI elected members and functionaries.

**People’s Participations in Rural Development:**

Rural development implies both the economic betterment of rural people as well as social transformation. In order to provide the rural people with better prospects for economic development, increased participation of people in the rural development programmes, decentralization of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit are envisaged. Initially, main thrust for development was laid on agriculture industry, communication, education, health and allied sectors but later on it was realized that accelerated development can be provided only if Governmental efforts are adequately supplemented by direct and indirect involvement of people at the grass root level. Accordingly, in 1952, an organization known as *Community Projects Administration* was set up under the Planning Commission to administer the programmes relating to community development. The community
development programme inaugurated on October 2, 1952, was an important landmark in the history of the rural development.\textsuperscript{11}

Rural Development is concerned with economic growth and social justice, improvement in the living standard of the rural people by providing adequate and quality social services and minimum basic needs becomes essential. The present strategy of rural development mainly focuses on poverty alleviation, better livelihood opportunities, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities through innovative programmes of wage and self-employment. The above goals will be achieved by various programme support being implemented creating partnership with communities, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, institutions, PRIs and industrial establishments, while the Department of Rural Development will provide logistic support both on technical and administrative side for programme implementation. Other aspects that will ultimately lead to transformation of rural life are also being emphasized simultaneously.
Development of Rural Entrepreneurship:

The Rural Population earns their livelihood from agriculture and income from other services to community. The incomes of rural people are very low except the land lords. The urban population on the other hand earns more income due to the entrepreneurial spirit. The Entrepreneurship Development is lacking in the midst of rural population.\textsuperscript{12} Whatever the measures are taken by the Government; unless people take the benefits; the Government efforts only would lie on paper. People need to be innovative in developing their production and service activities. The quality of service rendered all need to be more appropriate and more economical and acceptable to society. This would lead to reduction of poverty and uneven distribution of income in the country. Innovation can be used as a strategic tool for development of Rural Entrepreneurship. Since most of the Indian populations reside in rural villages, entrepreneurship awareness has to be created among them.
Promoting Self-Reliance Among the Rural People:

A central strategy of the rural livelihoods approach is to put people at the center of development, thereby increasing the effectiveness of development assistance and therefore improving performance in poverty reduction. Involving the poor results in local empowerment, which in turn leads to opportunities for local leadership, including that of women, to emerge. These leaders play a critical role in bringing about and sustaining development and consequent social change such as pluralism, public participation and democratic principles. Village institutions form the basis of community organization and function through ‘Village Development Committees,’ comprising of representatives of all communities in the village. These Committees develop village development plans and work closely with the Panchayat. Other community organizations such as farmers’ federations and women’s self-help groups also facilitate the process of community driven development. These institutions work best if they have some independent means of sustaining themselves which is usually enabled by introducing them to micro-credit schemes. Likewise, federations of farmers groups have considerably reduced
agriculture input costs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides) through bulk purchases based on demand from member institutions, simultaneously ensuring the quality of inputs supplied. These organizations have also contributed to improved cropping techniques, rational use of fertilizers and the adoption of appropriate low-cost technologies. Farmers’ federations and the women’s federations have also led social campaigns in the regions such as reducing unnecessary expenditure on social customs, promoting the education of girls, anti-liquor campaigns, and the promotion of organic farming.

**Rural Planning in India:**

Rural Planning is an area of prime importance for the Government of India. As part of the Planning objectives in India, Rural Planning needs to reflect growth and social justice. Growth in the rural sector is the key to social and economic development of India. The Government of India has stated its policy objective as achieving 'Samagra Gramin Vikas' which means catering to the basic necessities and demands of the rural scenario. Hence, the Ministry of Rural
Development has been playing a key role in organizing life improvement programs and other schemes for the development of rural India. There has also been a paradigm shift in the strategy for rural development with focus decentralization though speedy and effective devolution of financial and administrative powers it the Panchayati Raj Institutions a strategic proper policy in terms of which the rural poor are treated as a resources rather than as a burden whose ideas and experience are now and integral part of the development strategy as such the emphasis has shifted towards participation of people through Panchayati Raj Institutions and Self-Help Groups (SHG) in the planning formulation and executions of the programme.

**Rural Infrastructure Development:**

The development of rural infrastructure is crucial for the growth of rural Indian economy as well as welfare. Infrastructure is a broad term encompassing investments, which create the base for direct economic activities and generation of income. It contributes directly or indirectly to the improvement of living conditions of the rural
people. 

Rural infrastructure comprises all activities and facilities, which help sustain the growth in production and income generation in the rest of the economy rather than production and income generation within the infrastructure enterprises themselves. Availability of infrastructure also goes a long way in redressing the issues of regional imbalances. The development of infrastructure in the form of transport and communication – rural roads and bridges, irrigation structures, flood control, power, education, health, agriculture research, extension services, rural market yards, rural sanitation, information technology etc. - is therefore an essential pre-requisite for accelerated economic development of any economy and is regarded as important non-credit inputs. Investment in rural infrastructure, creates new economic opportunities and activities, generates additional employment and income, facilitates and improves delivery of social services and enhances democratic process and skills among the rural poor. For this purpose, the Government of India in the Budget of 1995-1996 announced, the scheme for setting up of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to be operationalized by NABARD for financing of the ongoing as well as the new infrastructure projects.
Rightly rural development particularly infrastructure and agricultural have been given a special emphasis, which would also benefit manufacturing and service sectors by stepping up rural demand. This is also crucial to tackle the problem of rural poverty. The emerging areas in agricultural like horticulture, floriculture, organic farming genetic engineering, food processing, branding and packing, and futures trading have high potential of growth.

**Creating Rural Assets:**

Institutional structures are created at the village level through which the rural poor can priorities their needs and decide how best to manage common resources. Communities build personal and community capital through efficient management of their natural resource base such as water storage and enhanced water use efficiency, irrigation systems, soil conservation or forestry. These efforts include the construction of small scale infrastructure, such as check-dams, irrigation canals and water harvesting structures or agricultural storage facilities. Income growth is promoted by increasing agricultural productivity through improved farming methods such as using drip-
irrigation, provision of better seeds, creation and improvement of markets, land development, micro-credit, increasing off-farm incomes and supporting enterprise development. Local capital is mobilized by promoting savings and developing financial services to enable broad access to credit. Programmes are designed to have a combined effect so as to create a critical mass of economic activities that raise living standards.

**Administration of Rural Development:**

The Central Government Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing programmes in the rural areas for which it releases central share of funds for policy formulation, overall guidance, monitoring and evaluation of the rural development programmes. At the State level, Principal Secretary, Rural Development of the State Government is the overall in charge for implementation. At the district level the Zilla Parishad (Rural Development) earlier known as District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) are responsible for the implementation of the rural development programmes. The governing
body of the DRDA includes the Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, district level officials of related departments, and representatives of the weaker sections of the society. At the block level the Block Development Officer and at the village level, the Gram Sevaks are responsible for the implementation of rural development plans.

**Department of Rural Development:**

In 1974, the Department of Rural Development came into existence as a part of Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In 1979, the Department of Rural Development was elevated to the status of a new Ministry of Rural Reconstruction. In 1982 the Ministry was renamed as Ministry of Rural Development. In 1985, the Ministry of Rural Development was again converted into a department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which was later rechristened as Ministry of Agriculture. In 1991 the Department was up-graded as ‘Ministry of Rural Development’. Another Department viz. Department of Wasteland Development was created under this
 Ministry in 1992. In 1995, the Ministry was renamed as the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment with three departments namely Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development and Wasteland Development. In 1999 Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment was renamed as Ministry of Rural Development. This Ministry has been acting as a catalyst effecting the change in rural areas through the implementation of wide spectrum of programmes which are aimed at poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development and social security. Over the years, with the experience gained, in the implementation of the programmes and in response to the felt needs of the poor, several programmes have been modified and new programmes have been introduced. The Ministry’s main objective is to alleviate rural poverty and ensure improved quality of life for the rural people below the poverty line. These objectives are achieved through formulation, development and implementation of programmes relating to various spheres of rural life and activities, from income generation to environmental replenishment.
The Department of Rural Development implements schemes for generation of self-employment and wage employment, provision of housing and minor irrigation assets to rural poor, social assistance to the destitute and Rural Roads. Apart from this, the Department provides the support services and other quality inputs such as assistance for strengthening of DRDA Administration, Panchayati raj institutions, training & research, human resource development, development of voluntary action etc. for the proper implementation of the programmes. The major programmes of the Department of Rural Development are Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, (PMGSY), Rural Housing (RH) Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).17

Department of Land Resources implements schemes to increase the bio-mass production by developing wastelands in the country. Department also provides the support services and other quality inputs such as land reforms, betterment of revenue system and land records. It also undertakes development of desert areas and drought prone areas in the country. The major programmes of the Department of Land Resources are Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) The
Desert Development Programme (DDP) the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) and Land Reforms (LR). These aim at increasing the soil and moisture conservation and productivity of the wasteland of the degraded lands thereby increase the income of the people. The provision of Drinking Water Supply and extension of Sanitation facilities to the rural poor are the main components of the activities of the Department of Drinking Water Supply. The major programmes of the Drinking Water Supply Department are The Swajaldhara, the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and the Total Sanitation Programme (TSP).

NABARD And Rural Development:

NABARD is set up by the Government of India as a Development Bank with the mandate of facilitating credit flow for promotion and development of ‘agriculture’ and ‘rural development’. The mandate also covers supporting all other allied economic activities in rural areas, promoting sustainable rural development and ushering in prosperity in the rural areas. It is an apex institution handling matters concerning
policy, planning and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and for other economic and developmental activities in rural areas. Essentially, it is a refinancing agency for financial institutions offering production credit and investment credit for promoting agriculture and developmental activities in rural areas. Nabard. Initiates measures toward institution-building for improving absorptive capacity of the credit delivery system, including monitoring, formulation of rehabilitation schemes, restructuring of credit institutions, training of personnel, etc. Coordinates the rural financing activities of all the institutions engaged in developmental work at the field level and maintains liaison with the government of India, State Governments, the Reserve Bank of India and other national level institutions concerned with policy formulation prepares, on annual basis, rural credit plans for all the districts in the country. These plans form the base for annual credit plans of all rural financial institutions Undertakes monitoring and evaluation of projects refinanced by it promotes research in the fields of rural banking, agriculture and rural development. Functions as a regulatory authority, supervising,
monitoring and guiding cooperative banks and regional rural banks.\textsuperscript{18}

**Government’s Policies and Programmes for Rural Developments:**

The Government’s policy and programmes have laid emphasis on ‘poverty alleviation’, ‘generation of employment’ and ‘income opportunities and provision of infrastructure and basic facilities’ to meet the needs of rural poor. For realizing these objectives, self-employment and wage-employment programmes continued to pervade in one form or other.\textsuperscript{19} As a measure to strengthen the grass root level democracy, the Government is constantly endeavoring to empower Panchayat Raj Institutions in terms of functions, powers and finance. Grama Sabha, NGOs, Self-Help Groups and PRIs have been accorded adequate role to make participatory democracy meaningful and effective. Creation of sustained employment opportunities for securing a minimum level of employment and income for the rural poor necessitated continuous need for special employment programmes. Keeping the above aim and to strengthen the need based infrastructure at the village level to boost the rural economy the self-employment and wage employment
programmes implemented by Central and State Government. Some of these programmes are follows.

**Wage Employment Programs:**

Important components of the anti-poverty strategy, Wage Employment Programs have sought to achieve multiple objectives. They not only provide employment opportunities during lean agricultural seasons but also in times of floods, droughts and other natural calamities. They create rural infrastructure which supports further economic activity. These programs also put an upward pressure on market wage rates by attracting people to public works programs, thereby reducing labour supply and pushing up demand for labour. It encompasses National Rural Employment Program (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Program (RLEGP) which were initially part of the Sixth and Seventh five year Plans. The National Rural Employment Guaranty Act (NREGA) 2005 has been passed by the Parliament and notified on 7th September, 2005 with unanimous consent to herald a path breaking law for securing the livelihood of the people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in a
financial year to a rural household. The NREGA provides a social safety net for the vulnerable groups and an opportunity to combine growth with equity. Its objective is to ensure that local employment is available to every rural household for at least 100 days in a financial year and in that process of employment generation, durable assets are built up that strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor.

The districts for the first phase have been selected by the Planning Commission based on certain criteria for backwardness.

**Self-Employment Programmes:**

Self-employment programs are meant for the educated or semi-educated youth and others who have the desire to take up trading or servicing activities in the villages. There are many examples of the initiatives taken by both the Government Sector in encouraging the self-employment ventures in different parts of the country. Many NGOs have developed their own schemes for promoting self-employment among various groups of people. Some of the public sector banks have also taken the initiative of setting up separate institutions for fostering self-employment. There is the case of an
experiment successfully made by two public sector banks jointly with an NGO. The Self-Help Groups promoted by the micro-finance agencies also have made some contribution to the solution of rural unemployment.

**Food for Work Program:**

The Food for Work program was started in 2000-01 as a component of the EAS in eight notified drought-affected states of Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Maharastra and Uttarakhal. The program aims at food provision through wage employment. Food grains are supplied to states free of cost. However, lifting of food grains for the scheme from Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns has been slow.

**Rural Housing Programmes:**

According to the 1991 Census, the rural housing shortage was 13.72 million consisting of 3.41 million households without houses and 10.31 million living in unserviceable kutchha houses. It has also been estimated that another 10.75 million houses would be needed to
cover the population growth during 1991-2002, at the rate of an annual growth of 0.89 million houselessness. Thus, a total of 24.47 million houses need to be constructed or upgraded to achieve the target of providing shelter to all in the rural areas by 2002 A.D. Of the above 24.47 million houses, 5.7 million houses have been added by various agencies up to 97. It is anticipated that around 6.17 million houses will be added by different agencies by 2002. Thus the housing shortage to be tackled is 12.60 million houses; of which 10.31 million houses need up-gradation and 2.29 million new houses will need to be constructed. The IAY is the core program for providing free housing to families in rural areas, targets scheduled castes (SCs)/scheduled tribes (STs), households and freed bonded laborers initiated in 1985-86. The rural housing program has certainly enabled many BPL families to acquire ‘pucca’ houses, the coverage of the beneficiaries are limited given the resource constraints. The ‘Samagra Awas Yojana (SAY)’ was taken up in 25 blocks to ensure convergence of housing, provision of safe drinking water, sanitation and common drainage facilities. The Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has extended its activities to the rural areas, providing loans at a
concessional rate of interest to economically weaker sections and low-income group households for construction of houses.

**Social Security Programs:**

Democratic decentralization and centrally supported Social Assistance Programs were two major initiatives of the government in the 1990s. The National Social Assistance Program (NSAP), launched in 1995 marks a significant step towards fulfillment of the Directive Principles of State Policy. The NSAP has three components: a) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS); b) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS); c) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS). The NSAP is a centrally-sponsored program that aims at ensuring a minimum national standard of social assistance over and above the assistance that states provide from their own resources. The NOAPS provides a monthly pension of Rs. 75 to destitute BPL persons above the age of 65. The NFBS is a scheme for BPL families who are given Rs. 10,000 in the event of the death of the bread-winner. The NMBS provides Rs. 500 to support nutritional intake for pregnant
women. In addition to NSAP, the ‘Annapurna scheme’ was launched from the year 2000 to provide food security to senior citizens who were eligible for pension under NOAPS but could not receive it due to budget constraints.

**Land Reforms:**

In an agro-based economy of, the structure of land ownership is central to the wellbeing of the people. The government has strived to change the ownership pattern of cultivable land, the abolition of intermediaries, the abolition of zamindari, ceiling laws, security of tenure to tenants, consolidation of land holdings and banning of tenancy are a few measures undertaken. Furthermore, a land record management system is a pre-condition for an effective land reform program. In 1987-88, a centrally-sponsored scheme for Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA & ULR) was introduced in Orissa and Bihar.
Rural Sanitation:

The objective of Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) is to accelerate sanitation coverage of rural areas by generating felt-need and demand for facilities through sustained IEC and by encouraging suitable cost effective technologies thereby bringing about reduction in incidence of water and sanitation diseases. The funding pattern of the programme is on 75:25 bases between Central and State Governments. To provide more and more sanitation facilities to rural population generate awareness about health education and eradicate manual scavenging, the Total Sanitation Campaign scheme under RCRSP will be continued during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The Total Sanitation Campaign envisages a demand driven approach with greater public participation and more emphasis given for IEC activities to create awareness among the rural masses. The project would be implemented in 24 months spread over 3 years in select districts with the ultimate objective of covering 80% rural population under sanitation. The expenditure on this scheme is shared by the Central and State Government on 80:20 basis. This scheme aims to improve the health and sanitary condition in the project area villages through
integrated approach to provide safe drinking water and sanitation through participatory and demand driven approach.

Rural Development- The Road Ahead.

India's economy is growing presently at the rate of 7-8 per cent per annum. This means that we will double up all the inputs in seven years. Thus, by 2011, we will double the consumption of petroleum products, electricity, food and other commodities to keep this growth rate. Last year we imported about Rs 85,000 crore worth of petroleum products. India will also require about 1,40,000 mw of installed electricity capacity by 2010 at an estimated outlay of Rs 5.5 trillion. Thus, financial outlay needed for the energy sector alone is staggering and to maintain "India shining" it is necessary that we produce as much as possible, energy and liquid fuels internally. There are about 60 per cent of rural households, which do not have electricity, and without the basic amenities in rural India the progress of the country will be hampered. A sustainable energy development programme can create all-round development. One of the possible ways to do it is the
increased use of land based renewable energy resource like biomass. This will help rural development and create tremendous wealth in these areas. With rural India shining, India will automatically shine.

**Osmanabad District Profile:**

Osmanabad District, along with the other four districts of the Marathwada region, was formerly a part of the Nizam’s State. After the Reorganization of the States in 1956 the region was included in the then Bombay State into Maharashtra and Gujarat in 1960, Osmanabad along with the other districts of Marathwada has become an integral part of Maharashtra. Osmanabad District is one of the eight districts of Marathwada Region of Maharashtra State. Osmanabad town is the district headquarters. Osmanabad & Bhoom are Revenue Subdivisional headquarter. Osmanabad, Tuljapur, Omerga, Lohara, Kalamb, Bhoom, Vashi and Paranda are the eight taluka of the district. The district is surrounded by the Balaghat mountain hills. Omerga & Paranda blocks are situated at plains whereas all other blocks are surrounded by the Balaghat Mountain. The District is located at an
average height of 600 meters from the sea level. Total area of the
district is 7512.4 sq.km. Osmanabad district is located in the southern
part of the state of Maharashtra. Most of the area of the district is
surrounded by Small Mountain called "Balaghat". Bhoom, Washi,
Kalamb, Osmanabad & Tuljapur Tahsil lie in the range of this Balaghat
Mountain. The district is surrounded by Solapur to the south-west,
Ahmednagar to the North-West, Beed to the North, Latur district to
the East and Bidar & Gulbarga districts of Karnataka to the South.
Osmanabad along with the other four districts of the Marathwada
region was formerly a part of the Nizam’s State. After India got its
freedom in 1947 the reorganization of various princely states was
carried out. In 1956 the Marathwada region was included in the then
Bombay State into Maharashtra and Gujarat. In 1960, Osmanabad
along with the other districts of Marathwada became an integral part
of Maharashtra. Today Osmanabad is a full-fledged district of
Maharashtra playing significant role in various aspects of the state. The
district also offers some worth visiting sites to name a few are:
Tuljabhavani Tempal, Saint Goroba Temple, Dharashiv Caves, Naldurg
Fort and Paranda Fort etc.
The villages are mostly located on the banks of streams and avoid the interfluves in this district of only moderate rainfall, partly due to the better agricultural possibilities and partly due to the Reed for domestic requirements of water, for it is only here even in the dry season there is adequate subterranean water which could be tapped by wells both for crops and domestic use. The walls are mostly of stones; only in the river valleys such as those of the Manjra and the Sina, mud is used instead along with bricks. Tiled roofs are extremely rare in the
district. Zinc coated corrugated iron sheet roofs weighted down by stones placed on them is the common type. Osmanabad has the highest proportion of corrugated iron sheet roofs both in the rural and urban areas among the districts of Maharashtra. This district used to have the epidemic of plague very often so that people year after year used to leave the village or town sites and shift temporarily to plague camps in the fields. Up to 1930, it used to be an almost annual affair. It was perhaps because of such shifts that the people took to corrugated iron sheet roofs as they could in the event of an epidemic be easily removed and used for making temporary shelters in camps. In this way corrugated iron sheets became popular and are at present used by all middle class people who cannot afford roofs with wooden beams and rafters covered with thick layers of mud.
Talukas in Osmanabad District:


**Soil**: The soil in the district is of two types black & other of low type.

**Cropping Pattern**: Both Kharif and Rabi crops are taken in the district. Main crop is jowar, sunflower, gram, Hybrid jawar, Sugarcane, Tur etc. About 5.70 lakh hectares area is treated as cultivable area. Area under Kharif crop is 3.26 lakh hectares whereas rabi crops are sown on 3.47 lakh hectares.

**Animal Husbandry**: Dairy is main agriculture-allied activity in the district. There are about 850 dairy societies and two dairy federations
in the district. Total milk collection of dist. is 34,427 Liter per day. There is total cattle population of 8,51,997 as per 1992 cattle population census.

**Electrification:** All towns and villages in the district have been electrified.

**Educational Background:** There are 950 primary schools 227 secondary schools. 31 higher secondary schools and 15 colleges. There are two Engineering colleges and one Ayurvedic college and also one Polytechnic in the dist. There are five ITI's also.

**Self - Help Groups:** Since 1995-96 a self-help Groups have been started in all the villages of the district to organize women for their eventual participation in developments. So far nearly two thousand groups have been started and functioning with a saving of nearly Rs. 30 lakhs.

**Climate:** The climate of Osmanabad district is generally dry. The rainy season starts from mid of June and remains till end of September. From October to November the climate is humid. From mid-November to January it is winter. From February to March the climate
is dry. From April to June it is summer. During summer the temperature of Osmanabad district is low compared to other district of Marathwada region. The average rainfall of this district is 730 mm. But the average rainfall recorded during the year 2002-2003 was 542 mm. The highest rainfall recorded during the year 2002-2003 was of Osmanabad Tahsil with 644 mm while the lowest was of Paranda tahsil with 367 mm. The highest temperature recorded during the year 2002-2003 was 42.1 degree Celsius while lowest was 8.0 degree Celsius.

**Location:** Osmanabad district lies in the southern part of state. Most of the district area is rocky while the remaining part is plain. The height of district is 600 mm above sea level. Most part of the district is surrounded by Small Mountain called "Balahat". Bhoom, Washi, Kalamb, Osmanabad & Tuljapur Tahsil lie in the range of this Balaghat mountain. The district is located on east side of Marathwada region within North latitude 17.35 to 18.40 degree and east latitude 75.16 to 76.40 degree. The district is surrounded by following districts - Solpaur - South-west, Ahmednagar - North-west, Beed – North, Latur – East, South - Bidar & Gulbarga (Karnataka) . The area of district is 7512.4 sq.
km out of which 241.4 sq km is urban area (3.21 % of total area) and 7271.0 sq km is rural area (96.79 % of total area).

**Road:** State highways and metallic roads from the district headquarters at Osmanabad link all 8 tehsils (sub districts) and major towns. A national highway passes through the district from Solapur, connecting Karnataka to Andhra Pradesh. Pune is 292 kms and Mumbai is 452 kms away from Osmanabad.

**Population:** As per census 2001 the population of this district is as given below.²⁴

**Table No. 1.01 : Population of Osmanabad District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Category</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population of District :</td>
<td>14,86,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male population :</td>
<td>7,69,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female population :</td>
<td>7,17,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural area :</td>
<td>12,53,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban area :</td>
<td>2,33,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The sex ratio of district is :</td>
<td>932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC Population of district is :</td>
<td>2,45,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST Population is :</td>
<td>27,857</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Osmanabad District Socio-Economic Analysis – 2006-07)
Table No. 1.02: Facts & Figures of Osmanabad District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>7512.4 sq. kms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latitude</td>
<td>17° 35' and 18° 40' North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitude</td>
<td>75° 16' and 76° 40' East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>Max.: 42.1 °C; Min.: 8 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Rainfall</td>
<td>600 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Density</td>
<td>195 per sq. kms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Rate</td>
<td>70.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>932 females per 1000 males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Subdivisions</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Tehsils</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Osmanabad District Socio-Economic Analysis – 2006-07)

Osmanabad District’s Rural Administration:

Rural Development and poverty alleviation programmes are implemented on a decentralized basis throughout the country at district to district. District Administration in accordance with the policies of the Central and State Governments, is responsible at the grassroots for launching an attack on rural poverty through various programmes which endeavour to reach out to the last and most disadvantaged sections of society, provide them with avenues of
employment and to improve infrastructure relating to their life-supporting systems. Zilla Parishad (Rural Development), Osmanabad and Zilla Parishad (Panchayati Raj), Osmanabad are working in accordance of the guidelines of the Central Government & the State Government in the executing of rural development works. Various plans and projects are in various stages of the process of the completion of these programmes. i.e. ‘Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgaar Yojana (SGSY)’, ‘Indira Awaas Yojana’, ‘Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojna (SGRY)’, ‘National Watershed Development Project in Rural Area (NWDPRA)’.

References:


17. http://rural.nic.in/i1.htm


20. S. Rajakutt, S. Chatterji, D.P.R. Reddy, A study on Wage Employment Program in Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh) and Surat (Gujrat) Districts, National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad.


