Development Strategies: Suggestions and Recommendations

A. Approaches and Strategy for Rural Development

Today, the most problematic question to answer regarding the rural development is that, which aspect of rural development should provide the first priority and what is the best strategy for sustainable rural development in India? According to Dreze and Sen (2013) “enhancing overall economic growth is only one of many different concerns that need attention in reversing the deprivations of the vast majority of Indians, and in reducing the astounding inequalities that characterize India today.” No doubt, it is the most argent to raise the growth rate of the rural economy, more rapidly than today. This growth in rural economy may raise household incomes and helps to remove poverty, especially if housing, health, education and other basic capabilities that enable rural people to participate in the growth process are widely shared. Side by side, it may also generates public revenue that can be used to expand the social and physical infrastructures as well as for other constructive purposes. But the question is, which strategy is best appropriate for enhancing overall economic growth of the rural poor? Though, several strategies have been adopted in this regard since De colonialization, such as community development, target group and area development, sectoral development, local level or decentralized planning, self-employment, minimum and guaranteed wage employment, etc., but still poverty is an stagnant feature of rural India because of continuous defragmentation of land among small and marginal land holders, depletion of local resources (forest, grazing land, agricultural land etc.) due to increase in population and poor education and awareness about rural development programmes among deprived group which also cause their least participation in any decision making event at panchayat level as well as irrational implementation of programmes. To overcome these challenges, Dreze and Sen (2013) advocate for a wide-ranging changes in public policy and a reorientation of the democratic dialogue. They also agree for a forceful public demand for much larger allocations to basic public services (such as school education, health care, nutritional
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Support and environmental protection), and for much more comprehensive programmes of economic equity and social security, as well as the development of the physical and social infrastructures. In spite of these, there is a need also for radical reform of the organization of public services to make them more accountable and efficient.

The increasing role of local level planning and development, local governance (PRIs) and NGOs in the planning and implementation of rural development programmes is a part of recent strategy for rural development. However, these strategical part of development still require a great improvement in their approaches and practices for better implementation of development plan. According to Mishra (1983), there are few requisite of local level planning and development like: a viable people’s organization with a dynamic leadership, a close co-operation and co-ordination between the people’s institutions and government agencies, and the adequate knowledge and understanding of why, what and how of local level planning. The stabilization of PRIs (73rd Constitutional amendment) was a core motive to full-fill these requisite of decentralized planning. For last fifteen year, the PRIs have been a major part of planning and implementation of the development plans in Raghopur block. No doubt, few improvements can be seen there in the form of rural connectivity, employment generation through providing job cards under MNREGA, and rural housing under IAY with the functioning of PRIs, but these improvements are greatly dominated by the huge failures of PRIs in the form of spatial and social disparities in the implementation of development plans, biased selection of beneficiaries of the programmes, tendency of corruption among the members of PRIs and government officers, poor utilization and management of local and public resource etc (Field Survey, 2014-15). This shows that the motive, for what PRIs had evolved, is getting failure in this region. The major causes of being so are poor educational background of the members and heads of PRIs, lack of knowledge about the process of rational implementation of plans, and lack of will power. Planning from below or democratic decentralized planning with strong political will power is necessary and important for poverty removal strategy. Ghosh, Mohanty and Jacob (2011) also analyzed in their study, for the millions of poor and marginalized people of this country, governance has relevance mostly in so far as it relates to the local space of the villages where they live.
and from where they earn their livelihood. Good local governance is great responsive to the local needs in particular and rural development in general, but it is quite important to have its transparent and accountable image.

As from this study, it is realized that the development deficit and rights of the rural poor in this region cannot be addressed without a special drive for transformation of local administration into an empathetic development administration. Side by side, a fresh way of enhancing potentiality and effectiveness of public services must be found out. This ultimately requires rigorous efforts to understand the community and its socio-cultural and political structure, local economy and its linkages, and relationship of the political and executive machinery with the community. Further, it requires a better relationships among all the important actors (rural poor community, district and block administrators and PRIs) in a way that the disaffection and discontent are addressed effectively. Creating a deep sense of empathy in the administration for the poorer and marginalized sections of the population is a sine qua non for democratic governance. Moreover, the local level administration (PRIs) needs strong support from local people, government officers and institutions, as well as NGOs in improving the planning process, refurbishing the implementation machinery and monitoring of results, and influencing government decisions for quick redressal when necessary. The task of rural development is so huge and complicated that just implementing government plans is not sufficient to fix the problem. To achieve this, a holistic vision and collaboration efforts involving various department, agencies and even NGOs is required (Bhaskar and Geethakutty 2001). NGOs with their advantage of non-rigid, locality specific, felt need based, beneficiary oriented and committed nature of service have established multitude of roles which can effect rural development. Hence, calling of NGOs is a better strategic alternative for rural development in Raghopur block.

**B. Spatial Organization of Infrastructure and Other Social Facilities for Rural Development**

Development is highly related to the planning of the available resources for their optimum and equal utilization and balanced spatial and social distribution. For the
planning purpose, an attempt may be made to study the existing settlement systems for rural development with these aims and objectives: first, to identify the service centers in the sense of their adequacy or otherwise to serve the growing needs of the study area, and secondly, a synthesis will be attempted in the form of spatial development strategy for planning to close the existing gaps as well as to promote development in a rapid manner (Sharma 1984). Such gaps are a complex problem, as they are related to socio-economic development of rural poor in general and rural development in particular. However, for suggesting an appropriate settlement pattern for the development, a three tier settlements system i.e., service centers, market centers and central villages would be needed to provide the organized community facilities and services in the region. In this process, Simrahi is the existing service center which is already linked with modern infrastructure and services (educational and health, commercial, transportation, banking etc.) in Raghopur. The two national highways (N.H. 57 or east – west corridor, and N.H. 106) are passing through Simrahi which provide a great transportation cum commercial strength to this service center. These national highways also provide multiple source of income for local people (opening of line hotels, small shops of multiple commodities, vehicles repairing centers etc.). There are only two market centers (Raghopur and Karjain) with very limited infrastructure and social facilities, such as, health facilities (few doctor’s clinic with lack of advance medical equipment and pathology), educational facilities (primary, middle and high school), market facilities (small market with retail facilities), etc. But in these market centers, there are retail commercial facilities, banking facilities, etc. Therefore, increasing population and their numerous demand provide a base to propose some upgradation in existing market centers and two more market centers (Motipur and Dharahara) to meet the infrastructure facilities in the future (Fig. 6.1). Karjain (Market Center), which leads the northern part of the block in terms of infrastructure and other social facilities has a wide potentiality for its development as a new service center and, that is why, it is proposed to develop Karjain as a new service center with more facilities (Fig. 6.1). Karjain is the only center where a polytechnic college is under construction. After this proposal, Raghopur will be equipped with two service centers (Simrahi and Karjain) and
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Raghopur Block
Planning for Social and Infrastructural Facilities

Proposed Facilities
- Service Centre
- Market Centres
- Central Villages
- Metalled Roads
- Hospital
- Polytechnic College

Existing Facilities
- LOCATION OF VILLAGE
- BLOCK BOUNDARY
- VILLAGE BOUNDARY
- BLOCK HEADQUARTER
- NATIONAL HIGHWAY
- OTHER IMPORTANT ROADS
- RAILWAY LINE BROAD GAUGE
- RIVER

Village No. is shown in the Map
1. UNDRAH
2. RAJPURARAZI
3. KOHRBARWA
4. JANJIBHUPUR
5. MANSAPUR
6. KALJAI
7. BASAWANPATRI
8. RAJPUR
9. DURGAWAN
10. BASI
11. GOSEPUR
12. MARIPAKLA
13. RAJUUR NAGAR
14. SHANKPUR DULAT
15. BAURHA
16. PARMANANDPUR
17. BISHNUPUR DAULAT
18. KARPUR
19. JAGIRINA
20. MARIHARA
21. MOTIPUR
22. BERNIH
23. SATRAMCHAKLA
24. NORMA
25. PARSARIMAN
26. MANTUPUR
27. PHUGIAS
28. GAU SABAD
29. RAM BIR SHARIPUR
30. SIMRAHI
31. DURGAPUR
32. PIRRAI
33. DURAMAULI
34. RAMPUR
35. GHAMARIA
36. SATI
37. MANKIN STH STHAKLA
38. RAJPUR
39. RAJNAGAR
40. DHARAHARA
41. SDAIPUR
42. SATODAARAI
43. SARNOCHA
44. BALPUR
45. UDAI
46. CHAMPA NAGAR
47. BANGAPATRI
48. SARKAJA
49. SATRAMPUR
50. THALIA
51. KORAPATI
52. SATURAMBIGA
53. BARMOTA
54. HULA
55. FULKAI
56. DHANIPUR
57. HUSAINABAD

Fig. 6.1
three market centers (Raghopur, Motipur, and Dharahara) which will be sufficient to fulfill the future needs of growing population.

There are several so-called traditional central villages with a few infrastructural facilities (primary school, middle school, weekly markets, brick roads etc.) in the block, but undoubtedly, these are not sufficient to be as a central village. Therefore, to reduce the spatial disparities in terms of availability and accessibility of infrastructure and other social facilities, it is proposed to enhance the eight central villages from all the part of this block (Fig. 6.1). These central villages should be equipped of the following facilities:

1. Metalled road connectivity with block headquarter (Fig. 6.1).
2. Electricity (at least 15 hrs. / Day) to all the villages
3. Model School (equipped with all teaching aids and facilities)
4. Computer training center (instead of distributing laptops to the students, it will be better to establish a computer training center in each model village to provide required computer training and enhance computer skill among all age group people whether they are students, labours or farmers of and around the central villages side by side, it will also reduce the harmful impact of laptop which is caused by their misuse among the youths).
5. Center for Multipurpose Help (CMH), which should be equipped of modern agricultural tools and responsible for organization of workshops and training programmes for different purposes.
6. Post Office (with facility of Speed Post) and communication facilities.
7. Local Product Selling Center (LPSC), where farmers, artisans, SHGs and others can sell their produced and processed material or product at a desirable price. This will help them in easy sell of their product and rapid income to make their job more healthy and energetically.
8. All other villages of lower hierarchy should be connected to their near buy central village by all weathered road.
9. Health Center (Free medical services to BPL households including medical checkup and medicines)
10. A General store or Shopping Center or cooperative stores.
In fulfilling the task of developing such central villages, the cooperation of NGOs is very much required. Without their cooperation the government always may feel a high economic and administrative burden to complete this huge task.

Two dispensaries, two PHCs and twelve primary health sub centers are there to provide the health and medical facilities in the block. With more than two lakh of population (215643 persons in year 2011), it is desirable to provide a well facilitating hospital (with modern equipment and qualified doctors) in this block. Therefore, such a hospital is proposed in Simrahi (Fig. 6.1).

C. Suggestions and Recommendations for Rural Development Programmes

For better socio-economic effectiveness and strong implementation of rural development programmes, few major suggestions have been given by the beneficiaries of the programmes (MNREGS, IAY, and SHGs) in the block. Researcher has also recommended some major steps to improve the implementation process of programmes.

C.1. Beneficiaries’ Suggestions

Suggestions have been asked from the beneficiaries of all the three programmes separately during the field survey (year 2014-15).

C.1.i. Suggestions for MNREGS

As only 23 percent beneficiaries are satisfied with the achievement of this programme in terms of improvement in their living standard, it is clear to have a huge suggestions from beneficiary’s sides. 98 percent of beneficiaries suggested for regular verification of job-cards to identify the real beneficiaries for alleviation of corruption as well as for regularity in working days (Fig. 6.2 A). 92 percent beneficiaries suggested to increase in number of working days (At present it is 100 days in a year), while 65 percent think about fare and fast distribution of job cards. Increase in facilities at working sites and increase in amount of wages are also suggested by 58 percent and 56 percent of beneficiaries, respectively (Fig. 6.2 A).

C.1.ii. Suggestions for IAY

A large proportion of beneficiaries (91 %) under IAY have suggested the end of bribery for alleviation of corruption, while 75 percent beneficiaries suggested end of fake selection of beneficiaries as a way to eliminate the ongoing corruption (Fig. 6.2 B).
Beneficiaries Suggestions to Rural Development Programmes in Raghopur Block (2015)

A. For MNREGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries Suggestions (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alleviation of corruption by regular verification of Job-Cards and their real holders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in facilities at working sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair &amp; fast distribution of Job-Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regularity in working days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in amount of wages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in no. of working days</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

B. For IAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL. No.</th>
<th>Suggestions</th>
<th>Beneficiaries Suggested (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Increase in amount of grant</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alleviation of Corruption (by)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a</td>
<td>End of feck selection of HHs</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b</td>
<td>End of bribery</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. For SHGs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries Suggestions (in %)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cooperation by PRIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion and marketization...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction of complexity in...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in amount of...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and guidance center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Fig. 6.2
Increase in amount of grant is supposed to be a means of success of IAY by 86 percent beneficiaries of this scheme.

C.1.iii. Suggestions for SHGs

Although, there are only 65 SHGs in the block but only about 17 percent beneficiaries of them are satisfied with the role of SHGs in improvement of their livelihood. To develop the significance of SHGs, 100 percent beneficiaries have suggested for local level cooperation from PRIs and increase in amount of assistance (Fig. 6.2 C). About 96 percent beneficiaries supposed to have a training and guidance center where they can find better training for their practices. Promotion and marketization center for product produced by the SHGs is another requirement for betterment of SHGs in view of 94 percent beneficiaries (Fig. 6.2 C).

C.2. Recommendations for Rural Development Programmes

To improve the implementation process and social and economic effectiveness of rural development programmes in the block few significant recommendations have been provided here:

C.2.i. Need of a qualitative PRIs

From this study it is clearly observed that the corruption in the implementation of programmes in this block is highly supported by the heads and members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) which is the core of governance. Therefore, it is quite urgent to improve the quality of PRIs:

1. mandatory educational criteria (like, Senior Secondary education for Panchayat Samiti; Secondary education for Panchayat Pradhan; and Middle school education for Panchayat Members).
2. there should be provision of regular training for the heads and members of PRIs regarding the bottom level governance and their effectiveness.
3. there should be an office of each Gram Pradhan so that people can contact at an office hour for their purpose.
C.2.ii. Regular Meeting of Beneficiaries at Panchayat Level for their Suggestions

Although the suggestions provided by the beneficiaries of programmes are mostly inclined to their own financial benefit (i.e., to increase the amount of wage, grant or assistance) but, they are to be considered by the government at certain rate for better effectiveness of the rural development programmes.

C.2.iii. Participation of NGOs

The participation of NGOs in this block may be very beneficial. It will not only provide a direct help but also reduce the chances of corruption.

C.2.iv. Increasing People’s Participation and Cooperation

People’s participation and cooperation is highly required for success of any developmental process (which is very poor in this block) and for this a regular awareness camp should be organized either by the government or NGOs.

D. Proposed Development Strategy

Recent trend of rural development strategy advocate the increasing role of non-government organizations (NGOs) and local level cooperation. In several works a strong cooperation and coordination among the government and non-government organizations and institutions have been recommended for proper implementation of programmes and sustainable rural development (Misra 1983, Jain 2011, Sharma 2012, Dreze and Sen 2013 and Kanipakam 2014). But, it is not very clear from these studies that what kind of cooperation is required among these institutions and how the coordination may develop? The objectives of rural development are so huge that it is not possible to achieve them by any single organization and therefore, it is quite necessary for all the organizations and institutions engaged in rural development (Government organization, PRIs and NGOs) to share this complex responsibilities. It is, therefore, proposed a modal for ‘Development Strategy for Raghopur-2021’, to provide developmental issues, policies and institutions co-ordinating PRIs, Government and NGOs with overall ‘Peoples’ Participation and devotion’ (Fig. 6.3). PRIs, government offices and NGOs are three actors responsible for rural development at the local level. Among all these the PRIs have supreme power and, therefore, it is
Fig. 6.3

(Cooperation of Institutions and Sharing of their Responsibilities)

Responsibilities

1. Arrangement of resources for NGOs (i.e., land, labor, and other) at certain terms and conditions
2. Governance at local level
3. Approval of working plan of government and NGOs
4. Monitoring of work done
5. Extension of working period of NGOs on the basis of their performance.

Source: Prepared by Author, 2015
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highly responsible for the arrangement of resources for NGOs at certain terms and conditions, governance at local level, approval of working plan of government and NGOs, monitoring of work done and finally, extension of working period of NGOs on the basis of their performance. On the other hand, development of social facilities and infrastructures, and radical land reform should be the prime and mandatory responsibilities of the government. With all the hopes NGOs have to take several serious responsibilities like: preparation of work plan, investment by setting up of approved plant or institutions at provided location or place by the panchayat authority, purposive training of local labours (rural poor) for their requirement, implementation of proposed work, sustainable utilization, development and management of local resources, preparation of achievement report (annually), continuation of work after end of term and, finally, organization of continuous training and workshops for Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Responsibility of the local people in any case is not less than the three above said organizations. People themselves are a great organization who can even organize any toughest event by their will and unity. Therefore, performance of all the three organizations (PRIs, NGOs and Government) are highly dependent upon the participation, cooperation and dedication of the local people. Hence, first of all it is necessary to aware the local people about their welfare and then prepare them for direct participation and cooperation. Even local educational institution can play a significant role in this regard.

References


Kanipakam, Sunitha, 2014. The Role of NGOs in Rural Economic Development of India: A


