

PRE- POST RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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The concept of Rural Development in India exists from the Vedic times; it is not a newfangled concept. Rural Development involves rebuilding of every aspect of human life which includes social, political and economic condition of a human being. Development of a country is predominantly divided into two parts: Urban Area and Rural Area. Thus, the development of both the area is necessary. India mainly focuses on the development of the Urban Area instead of Rural Area. Therefore, the government has taken an initiative to raise the standard of living of the rural people. The government has recognized the needs and has adopted the development planning measures which has been implemented through Five Year Plans. Therefore, due to the development schemes, the people of rural area have started getting the basic amenities to improve their vulnerable life.

As we know that, the people of rural area have seen difficulties from the time immemorial, the time has come to give them their deserving rights. Article 14 of the Constitution provides 'Rights to Equality' and therefore, we should give them their respective rights. India cannot shine without the shining of the Rural India. National Development is almost synonymous with the Rural Development. Therefore, this article would be dealing with the changing life of the vulnerable people. Further, the paper will give an idea how it will be beneficial for our country and how this little effort to rebuild the rural life and livelihood will make our country from developing to the developed country.

Key words: Rural development, Government, Vulnerable Life, Programmes.

"Just as the whole universe is contained in the self, so is India contained in the villages."

-Mahatma Gandhi

India, even after working on the development of Rural Area for the past sixty years, facing with the problem of rural development. Nearly, 70 percent of the India's population lives in the rural areas.[1] Our country is more surrounded with the people who are facing poverty,

illiteracy, unemployment, exploitation, poor health condition, inequitable distribution of wealth and many others.[2] *Having all this, do you think India will ever come under the category of developed countries?* India's five wisdoms i.e. Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, and Republic[3] make our country exceptional, but is it only what we want from our country? Rural areas are those areas which are entirely different from the world of urban areas[4] where mostly prince and princess exist. If one is heaven, another is hell. Urban people life's are such royal that people throw their remaining food into the dustbin and if we see hypothetically, in rural areas they do not have food to eat, their conditions are pathetic even worst.[5] The lives of rural folks are entirely different from the lives of urban people. Rural people lack in many aspects of a modern living such as education, electricity, infrastructure, health, respect etc.[6]

Therefore, to develop their strata, the Rural Department and the Government have implemented certain schemes and programmes.[7] *Rural development is one of them.* It is the process of increasing the value of life and economic and social well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated area.[8] Rural Development has been defined in different context by the different scholars, agencies, organizations which includes: The Rural development sector Policy Paper of the World Bank (1975),[9] then world bank publication,[10] then in a seminar on Approaches to Rural Development in Asia[11] and many more has defined but, the ultimate aim of the development of the rural area is mainly and mostly concerned with the development of the social and economic development.[12]

The basic objective of the rural development is to organize, develop and utilize the available resources of land, water and manpower in such a manner that the entire population depends on these resources has an equitable opportunity to meet, as a minimum in its basic needs.[13] Rural development implies both the economic betterment of people and a greater transformation of people. In order to provide the rural people with the best prospects, there needs to increase participation of people in the rural development programmes, decentralization of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit. Working on these sections will abridge the gap between urban- rural divide and will upgrade the standard of living of people in the rural

areas.[14] Development of rural area is not a one day task; rural development signifies a complex and long term process involving fundamental transformation of rural society both at social and economic levels. It represents planned programmes to improve the quality of the lifestyle of the ruralities.[15] The rural development will be a huge project for the government; it means the extension of irrigation facilities, expansion of electricity, improvement in the techniques of cultivation, construction of the school building and provision of educational facilities, health care etc.[16]

The lifestyle of rural folks is very simple, they are less modern and open than urban areas people. People in rural areas are more attached to their traditions and beliefs, we cannot see them changing their habits or accepting culture as urban people do.[17] In the last decades, large amount of effort and resources have been spent on projects and programmes for the development of the rural communities. The ultimate goal of such projects was supposed to be the improvement of the quality of life of these communities. Although improving the quality of the living conditions is an acceptable strategy to reach the goal.[18] Actually, there is a difference between improving the quality of life and improving the living conditions of rural peoples. But the point is what is most important for them and for our country. Therefore, the whole article will be focusing on the problems faced by the rural area people and the different steps taken by the government to eradicate the problem.

PROBLEM FACED BY THE RURAL PEOPLE

Even in the 21st century, it is shameful to say that the living condition of the rural people is still pathetic. Rural People are the huge sufferers of the situation created by the Britishers and the present Government. The problems faced by them are as follows:[19]

BRITISHERS:

- As India was under the British rule for 200 years, their policies were aimed in revenue collection and their policies were not concerned with the rural development.
- By introducing the Zamindari system they collected as much revenue as they could from the peasants. Therefore, the system left the peasants vulnerable and zamindars did very little to improve the condition of the village.

- Britishers extracted minerals from rural land to use in their country Britain. They forced farmers to grow indigo for their own benefit. They never spend a penny on developing the rural farmland and only exploited its resources.
- After the country attained independence, this system was abolished, but the conditions of the peasants were yet to transform completely.[20]

PRESENT GOVERNMENT:

- The condition is that even in the 21st century also, people live in the villages without electricity, poor communication, improper roads and other infrastructure development in villages, lack of education and health facilities and the destruction of the thriving Indian cottage industries on account of competition from cheaper machine made goods imported under the British rule.
- Many rural people still use the primitive method of cooking, living and farming and still do not have aids to develop. By using of primitive cook stoves, around 300,000 deaths have taken place due to pollution, but they still rely on these incentives.
- Most people in rural area are unemployed and unemployment gives rise to starvation and due to starvation, the result is that the people die.
- Their children are illiterate. Literacy is the major problem in the rural areas.
- The climate change, it affects the rural poor more, because they reside in geographically and environmentally marginal environments with poor infrastructure. Even shifts in temperature as well as extreme and erratic weather with floods and droughts affect more drastically their livelihoods, including crop production.[21]
- Privatization concept which is important for the rural development is being ignored by the government. They do not pay much attention to this aspect.
- Policies, Programmes, Schemes which have been prepared for the betterment of rural people have not been implemented very well.
- The most important one, the new generation is migrating to urban areas from the rural areas because of which the new ideas fails to come in rural areas.

LIFE STYLE OF THE RURAL PEOPLE

What we consider is that the lifestyle of every person is different, but exceptionally, people in rural areas have the same lifestyle. The people of the rural area have homogeneity and thus enjoy more or less the same social status. The People of rural area follow the same pattern all living and if we on the other side, the people in cities belong to different castes, creeds, religions and cultures, thus do not enjoy the same social status.[22]

Let's take an example; Mostly, the person who lives in an urban area belongs to a wealthy family and he/she does not have much pressure to go to work and therefore, sometimes he/she takes the day off from the work. Let's imagine, if one day a person belongs from an urban area woke up late in the morning and due to which he ignored going to the office and thought of spending time with his family. So, now he can enjoy that whole day without any pressure. Now, let's see the same thing in the rural area, even if a person woke up late in the morning he will go to do his work, he cannot take the day off because one day will cost him with the hungry strike. In rural area people have to work daily for his daily wage and through daily wage they themselves eat food and gives to their family. People living in urban area have different lifestyle because they have other things to do apart from going office they can watch movies, go to pubs, hotels and different places according to their wish, but the people of rural area they do not have other choices other than their daily routine work. So, the discrepancy has been created. Therefore, it develops a need to do development in every sector of rural areas. Developing one and not developing another will not lead to complete development. The Rural development entails some components to be developed and they are as follows:[23]

1. Rural development seeks to transfer all the sectors of the rural economy- the primary sector, the secondary sector and the tertiary sector.
2. It is concerned with the improvement of the standard of living of the ruralities through the provision of health and medical facilities, employment opportunities, including vocational training, educational facilities, literacy rate, infant mortality rate, expectation of life, exposure to mass media, housing, political participation, status of women, supply of safe drinking water and other similar minimum needs.

3. It brings about significant improvement in the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, the landless agricultural labourers and the marginal and small farmers.
4. Decreasing the inequality in rural-urban imbalances in income and economic opportunities.

Therefore, development in education, entrepreneurship, physical infrastructure and social infrastructure all plays an important role in developing the rural regions.[24] Children whom we referred to be the future of our nation they are required to get a good education, but in rural areas children's do not have such facilities. Even implementing schemes for children by the government, has not benefited. The Majorities of youngsters are still illiterate because of the child labour.[25]

Even the rural entrepreneurs face peculiar problems like illiteracy, fear of risk, lack of training and experience, limited purchasing power and competition from the urban entrepreneurs.[26] There are some major problems which are faced by the rural entrepreneurs such as:[27]

1. **Paucity of funds:** Entrepreneurs fail to get external funds due to the absence of tangible security and the credit facility in the market. The procedure to avail the loan facility is time consuming and that delay disappoints the rural entrepreneurs which lead to the paucity of funds. Therefore, they do not have such financial resources and the external supports to lead their business.
2. **Competition:** Rural entrepreneurs face problems due to the large sized organizations and from the urban entrepreneurs who have different types of products to sell.
3. **Middlemen:** Rural entrepreneurs, heavily dependent on the middlemen for marketing of their products who pocket large amount of profits. They mainly exploit the rural entrepreneurs.
4. **Legal Formalities:** Due to illiteracy and ignorance, rural entrepreneurs find it extremely difficult in complying with various legal formalities in obtaining licenses.
5. **Procurement of raw materials:** Procurement of raw materials is really a tough task for the rural entrepreneurs. They may end up with poor

quality raw materials, may also face problem of storage and warehousing. Due to poor quality of raw materials, they end up with making inferior quality of products.

6. **Lack of technical knowledge:** Rural entrepreneurs do not have training facilities and extensive services and due to this they suffer a problem of lack of technical knowledge which creates a hurdle for the development.
7. **Irresponsible government:** Due to the improper government, they do not have proper and adequate infrastructural facilities and it creates a problem in the growth of rural entrepreneurs.
8. **Negative attitude:** The environment of rural families, societies and support system is not conducive to encourage rural people to take up entrepreneurs as a career because of a lack of awareness and knowledge of entrepreneurial opportunities.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA PRE-INDEPENDENCE

Rural development in India before independence can be analysed under two broad heads:[28]

During the British rule, Britishers were not concerned with the socio-economic development of India and thus our rural economy severely damages resulting in the miserable conditions of the ruralites.[29] The primary concern of the administration was maintenance of law and order and collection of revenue, not the development.[30] Thus colonial interests were primary objectives and the rural development was secondary.

- Development efforts made by the British Government:

It was the famine of 1899 which forced the British Government to think about the people of India who were dying of hunger.

- The Recurrent famines forced the State Administrators to seize the food grains and make arrangements for the distribution among the famine-affected people. All this was done without any apparent legal sanction, motivated as the action purely was by determination to

control profiteering and alleviate rural suffering.[31]

- Removal of Barter system: The traditional barter system received a severe setback during the British period. Britishers introduced cash economy, which enabled the peasants to adopt commercial crops. In this way agricultural subsistence gave rise to commercial crops.
- To combat the agriculture crisis during the British period, the government adopted several measures such as provision of irrigation facilities, setting up of cooperative societies, creation of a research committee for the comprehension of problems in agriculture etc.
- Efforts made by voluntary organizations.

Different types of programme were introduced which are as follows:[32]

- **Sriniketan Experiment:** Early effort at rural development was initiated by Shri, Rabandranath Tagor in 1908 by establishing youth organization in the kaligram Prokana of his Zamindari.[33] He tried to create a class of functionary workers who could learn to identify themselves with the people. This was a very comprehensive programme combining culture, health, education and economic aspects of village life together.[34]
- **The Martandam Experiment:** The aim of this project was to bring more abundant life to the rural people. It was intended to symbolize the three-fold development, not only spiritual, mental and physical but also economic and social.[35] The essential technique of the centre was 'Self-help with intimate expert counsel'. From the demonstration centre at Martandam, about a hundred villages were covered through Y.M.C.A. centres in villages.
- **The Gurgaon Experiment:** It was started by Mr. F.L. Brayne, Deputy Commissioner in the Gurgaon district of Punjab State as he was prompted by the backwardness, poverty and misery of the people. Introduction of this programme has improved seeds, implements, the methods of cultivation, etc. This project could not develop leadership in the villages that would continue working when the village's guides had left the villages.[36]

- **Gandhian Constructive Programme/ Sewagram:** The dream of the Gandhiji was to see the village as self - contained and self – sufficient. The problem of the rural people which he was aware, he wanted to remove that problem without any intervention of outside agencies. He wanted to solve these problems with local people and through local resources. Therefore, for the betterment of people he formulated 18 programmes, which includes the promotion of village industries, basic and adult education in rural sanitation, upliftment of backward tribes, upliftment of women, education in public health and hygiene, propagation of natural language. Love for the mother tongue, economic equality, organization of kisans, labour and students and so on. He gave special attention to revive crafts, especially spinning and weaving, traditional oil press, grain processing and leather work.[37] Gandhian rural reconstruction activities were based on the principles of truth and non-violence. His ideas of rural reconstruction were adopted officially and resulted in the adoption of khadi and Village Industries Programme, the principle of Village Self-sufficiency and the faith in the Panchayati Raj and Sahakari Samaj Movement.
- **Rural Reconstruction Programmes in Baroda:** The Maharaja of Baroda was a progressive and enlightened man and therefore, he started the Baroda experiment in 1932. This programme aimed at developing “will to live better” and a capacity for the self-help and self-reliance.
- **The Firka Development scheme:** The Firka Development scheme of Madras was a Government sponsored scheme in 1946. This programme aimed at organizing the villages for a happier, more prosperous and fuller life in which the individual villagers had the opportunity to develop both as an individual and as a unit of a well- integrated society.

POST INDEPENDENCE

In the post-independence era, the development of rural areas can be considered wisely through various programmes and schemes which have been launched by the government. The country adopted the planned development. The very first five year plan laid stress on

agricultural development. It took a number of measures to bring more land under irrigation. Major irrigation Dams like Bakra Nangal, Hirakud, Nagarjunasagar, Tungabhadra were constructed which generated power for industrialization of the country and water for the irrigation. The Indian farmer, as a result, is now not exclusive depending on the monsoon.[38]

Intensive cultivation of land is made possible through farm mechanization. Tractors are being produced in the country and these are available to the farmers everywhere. Farmers are also using threshing machines, deep boring and irrigation pumps which result in high yielding improved seeds, fertilizers and other inputs. To enable them to purchase such inputs the rural credit system has invigorated with the cooperatives, Regional Rural Banks, and Rural Branches of Commercial Banks. The recent boon to the poor Indian peasant is the micro finance system[39] and self-help Groups[40] that have rendered financial support with the easy reach of all.[41]

Introduction of Land Reform Legislation after Independence includes the abolition of the zamindari system, the abolition of the bonded labour system, land ceiling legislation, etc. It was all introduced to relieve rural indebtedness and the money lender could no longer legally collect more than reasonable interest. Untouchability was abolished and special legislation for the upliftment of scheduled classes and scheduled tribes were enacted.[42]

Government of India committed itself to bring about a rapid and sustainable development in the rural India through various programmes. Over the years the thrust of the rural development programmes will bring transformation within the most disadvantages sections of the society. In the past five decades and more, many rural development programmes have been launched. The aim of these programmes is to cover all the facets of rural life such as agriculture, animal husbandry, roads, communication facilities, health, education, housing, employment and nutrition.[43]

Three important programmes of rural reconstruction were introduced in India. They were:

1. **The Etawah Pilot Project:** It was started in the year 1948 by Albert Mayor for the development of the rural areas of Etawah District in Uttar Pradesh. The main objective of this project was

“to see what degree of productive and social improvement as well as initiative, self-confidence and co-operation can be developed.[44]

2. **The Nilokheri Experiment:** K. Dey, the former Minister for Community Development and Co-operation was the founder of the Nilokheri Experiment in 1948, when nearly 7,000 displaced persons were rehabilitated in the Nilokheri town after the Independence.[45] The scheme was also known as “Mazdoor Manzil” because of its principle ‘he who will not work, neither shall he eat’. Under this programme, the main activities were a Vocational Training Centre run on co-operative lines and the Colony had its own dairy, poultry, piggery, printing press, engineering workshops, tannery and bone-meal factory. People were given vocational training of their choice to run these Co-operative Enterprises Rights for education and medical care for the sick were also guaranteed.[46]
3. **The Bhoodan Movement:** The objective of Bhoodan campaign was to prevent the emergence of bloody revolution by solving the land problems in a peaceful way. The real intention was to create the right atmosphere so that the progressive land reforms could follow.[47]

Therefore, it was noted in the First Five Year Plan that the experience of early rural reconstruction schemes reveals different schemes which forced the villagers and as such there was no enthusiasm among them and there was a lack of initiative for the people which are very essential for the success of the schemes.[48]

PROGRAMMES LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

As Gandhiji has quoted that, “*If villages prosper the country will prosper, if villages, sink the country will sink*”, emphasizing on this line, for the development of India, village has to be developed. Poverty and unemployment are two major problems which India faces.[49] Department of Rural Development has implemented a number of programmes in the rural areas through the State Governments for the poverty reduction, employment generation, rural infrastructure habitant development, provision of basic minimum

services.[50] The policy makers have realized the importance of rural development and have been implementing a host of programmes and measures to achieve rural development objectives. The Community Development Programme was the first organized attempt for the rural development. The programme was launched on 2nd October in 1952, this programme focused in all round development of rural areas and it touched upon nearly all facets of rural life such as agriculture, animal husbandry, roads, communication facilities, health, education, housing, employment and nutrition.[51] Since then many programmes have been implemented which are as follows:[52]

1. **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):** As rural roads are vital for the economic growth and measure for poverty alleviation in the village, Government has launched a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme called the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The programme seeks to provide connectivity to all unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons through good All-weather roads by the end of the Tenth Plan Period.
2. **Swarjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY):[53]** It is the single self-employment programme for the rural poor. The Yojana which came into effect from 1.4.1999, has been conceived as a holistic programme covering all aspects of self-employment like organization of rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their capacity building, training, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure development, financial assistance through bank credit and subsidy and marketing support etc.
3. **Rural Housing (Indira Awaas Yojana):** Housing is one of the basic requirements for human survival. Therefore, construction of houses was included as one of the major activities under the National Rural Employment Programme which begun in 1980. The Government of India, in 1998 announced a National Housing and Habitat policy which aims at providing “Housing for all” and facilitating the construction of 20 lakh additional housing units (13 lakh in rural areas and 7 in urban areas) with emphasis on standing benefits to the poor and the deprived. The Action is being implemented through various programmes such

as Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Credit cum Subsidy Scheme for Rural Housing, Innovative Scheme for Rural Housing and Habitat Development, Rural Building Centers, Equity Contribution by Ministry of Rural Development to HUDCO and National Mission for Rural Housing and Habitat.

4. **DRDA Schemes:** In order to strengthen the DRDAs and to make them more professional and effective, a new centrally sponsored scheme, namely DRDA Administration has been introduced from 1st April, 1999 based on the recommendations of an inter-ministerial committee known as Shankar Committee. The scheme replaces the earlier practice of allocating a percentage of programme funds to the administrative cost. Under this, a separate provision has been made to meet the administrative expenses of the DRDAs who are expected to effectively manage and implement the schemes.
5. **Training Schemes:** Training has gained an important position in the rural development activities concerning various poverty alleviation programmes. As training, research and development are closely linked, continuing education of both policy makers and programmers implements is imperative. Towards facilitating this, National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) has conducted training programmes, workshops, seminars and international programme. In addition, extensive support has been provided to a number of training and research institutions dealing with issues related to rural development.
6. **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):[54]** The programme was launched by the Centre in March 1976 as a major instrument of the government to alleviate poverty. Its main feature was to enable selected families to cross the poverty line in a given time-frame by taking up self-employment in various activities like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, weaving and handicrafts and services and business activities.
7. **Food for Work Programme (FWP):[55]** This programme was introduced in 1977 by the then Janata government with the objective to provide employment to the unemployed/underemployed village persons during the slack season. The wages paid to the workers were in kind, i.e., food grains.
8. **National Rural Employment Programme (NREP):[56]** This is redesigned programme of FWP, planned for creating additional employment opportunities in the rural areas with the help of surplus food grains. This programme was especially for those rural people who largely depended on wage employment, but had no source of income during lean agricultural period. Later on, this programme was merged with Jawaharlal Rozgar Yojana (JRY).
9. **Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP):[57]** Special schemes were formulated by some states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat to provide increased employment opportunities for the rural people, especially landless people.
10. **Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY):[58]** This programme came into existence in April 1989 with the merger of the NREP and the RLEGP. Under this scheme, it was expected to provide at least one member of each poor family (BPL family) an employment for 50 to 100 days in a year at a work near his/her residence. About 30 per cent of the jobs under this programme were reserved for the women. The scheme was implemented through Village Panchayats.
11. **Antyodaya Yojana:[59]** The Hindi word 'antodaya' is a combination of two words- ant meaning end or bottom level and udaya meaning development. Thus, as a whole, it implies the development or welfare of a person standing at the end of that queue (lowest level), that is, the poorest of the poor.
12. **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS):[60]** After independence, for the development of rural society, particularly to develop the socio-economic life of the rural poor, many schemes and programmes were launched from time to time but unfortunately the fruits of these programmes reached to a very low proportion of these people. It was estimated about 70per cent of rural population was still deprived of the basic necessities of life. For the purpose of extending the benefits to rural people, a new scheme was launched and legislation was enacted under the name of 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act' (NREGA). It

guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act came into force initially in 200 districts, and was extended gradually to other areas notified by the Central Government.

MGNREGA is considered as a “Silver Bullet” for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in the Indian village. It provides an alternative source of livelihood which will have an impact on reducing migration, restricting child labour, alleviating poverty, and making villages self-sustaining through the productive assets creation such road construction, cleaning up of water tanks, soil and water conservation work, etc. For which it has been considered as the largest anti-poverty programme in the world.[61]

These programmes and many other such programmes and schemes were implemented by the government to eradicate with the problem of poverty and for the development of rural areas. Many non-governmental organizations are also working alongside government in the villages.[62] Over the years, many programmes have been successful and many have failed to take root. Although the implementation of these programmes has brought success in the life of rural people, but still there is need left to promote these programs at a wider level to achieve great success.

PROBLEM FACED FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The condition of the rural people has been considered vulnerable since the Vedic period, even after we got independence the condition of rural people has not been changed; they are in the same condition as they were used to be in pre-independence period.[63] Even many programmes have been implemented; they stand in the same position as they were used to be. Now, let's look into the problem faced by the rural people because of whom the development of rural area has stabilized its growth and the programmes which have been implemented for the rural development is not effective. The problems faced by the rural people in the rural development are as follows:[64]

1. The financial, manpower, managerial resources devoted to the implementation of rural

development programmes are utterly inadequate.

2. Better implementation of rural development programmes can be ensured only if those responsible for actual implementation are paid reasonably well, appropriately trained, and sufficiently motivated. But this has not been done as yet.
3. It has been observed that the objectives of one programme conflict with those of others, and there is no institutional mechanism for reconciling them. Consequently, many programmes have utterly failed in fulfilling their objectives.
4. In many cases, instruments of rural development are not properly selected, and their levels are not consistent with the objectives they seek to achieve. This results in the wastage of valuable public resources, and unnecessary delays in achieving the objectives.
5. The aspect of development, i.e., honesty, hard work, helping others, thrift and such other virtues indirectly help in the economic development and to which much attention has not been paid.
6. Illiteracy is one of the major factors which arrest the rural development in India.
7. The political parties who play a vital role in the development of rural areas are guided more by the party interests than by national interests.

Therefore, removal of all these barriers can accelerate the process of rural development in India. The role of governmental and non-governmental organizations in this regard is, indeed, commendable. If we all work together, we can surely achieve success and can make Gandhiji's dream a reality.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The reason of having poverty in the world is almost because of not developing the rural areas. As the development of rural area takes place the development of that country take place, so the development of the rural area is necessary to eradicate poverty.[65] In our country, the development of rural area takes a lot of time it is slow process therefore, we are still referred to as developing country, but if we reach the International Development their main target is giving high priority to the rural

development.[66] So the rate of development in other countries is much faster than us.[67] Now, let's look in the condition of other countries as far as rural area is concerned.

NEPAL: Nepal is a developing land-locked country with diverse cultural and ethnic identity. In Nepal, the majority of the population is still living in rural areas with economically vulnerable life.[68] About 80 per cent of Nepal's people live in rural areas and depend on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. Most rural households have little or no access to primary health care, education, safe drinking water, sanitation or other basic services. The condition of rural people in Nepal is pathetic. Poor families often obliged to send their children to work rather than to school, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.[69]

Therefore, for the development Nepal Rural Development Organization (NeRuDO) has been executing various socio-economic development projects, including micro finance programs intended to benefit the disadvantaged and poor community, focusing on the women and children.[70]

UNITED STATES: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development has been set up to improve the economy and quality of life in the rural America. Through their programmes they help rural Americas in many ways like they offer loans, grants and loan guarantees to support essential services such as housing, economic development, health care, first responder services and equipment and water, electricity and communications infrastructure. They also help rural people in buying affordable housing and safe rent house and make health and safety repairs on their homes.[71]

Therefore, the other countries also face the same problem as our country faces, but the only difference is that the development of rural area in another country is faster than our country. The policies or programmes implemented in other countries are executed properly.

CONCLUSION

No doubt, villages are in a state of neglect and under-developed with impoverished people, as a result of past legacies and defects in the planning process and the investment process. But the potential made for the rural India development is immense. What if every village in

the country is provided with the basic amenities, like drinking water, electricity, health care, educational transport, communication and other facilities, with only a smaller population of the village engaged in agriculture and the remaining in other gainful occupations? When this will happen the dream of all the people who has died by contributing to the rural development will come true, India will turn into mighty country. The purchasing power of the rural population will throw enormous demand for the goods and services and will boost the national economy of our country tremendously. The day will see the reverse migration of people from the urban slums back to the villages.

The government has already taken the initiative to improve the condition of the village; the only task is left for its better implementation. Together with the government, the people living in rural area are also needed to contribute, without their contribution the development is not at all possible. Both have to take the initiative, this initiative will surely make our country developed country.

[1] The World Bank, available at: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS> (last visited on 18.2.2016).

[2] Available at: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/12/12/1-economic-and-social-inequality-is-a-major-problem-implicated-in-poverty-ill-health-and-exploitation-inequality-has-increased-in-many-countries-since-the-1980s-and-it-is-also-widely-seen-as-unfair/> (last visited on 18.2.2016).

[3] Preamble of the Constitution of India, 1950.

[4] Urban areas are very developed, meaning there is a density of human structures such as houses, commercial buildings, roads, bridges, and railways. "Urban area" can refer to towns, cities, and suburbs. An urban area includes the city itself, as well as the surrounding areas. Many urban areas are called metropolitan areas, or "greater," as in Greater New York or Greater London.

[5] Rural Poverty Portal, available at: <http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/country/home/tags/india> (last visited on 18.10.2015).

[6] N. S. Ramaswamy, *Rural transport in India*, available at: <http://www.iisc.ernet.in/currensci/oct/articles34.htm> (last visited on 20.2.2016).

[7] Schemes and Programmes of Ministry of Rural Development, available at: <https://india.gov.in/schemes-and-programmes-ministry-rural-development> (last visited on 20.2.2016).

[8] Moseley, Malcolm J., *Rural Development: Principles and Practice* (1. publ. ed.). London [u.a.]: SAGE. p. 5. ISBN 0-7619-4766-3, (2003).

[9] Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people - the rural poor.

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