

SANSAD ADARSH GRAM YOJANA-MYTH CAN BE SUCCESSFUL

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Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna is an initiative taken by government of India to develop rural areas. According to this scheme every Member of Parliament shall adopt a village and focus on its development. This scheme can be a golden mark in India's development. Rural development needs to be sustainable with the development in social life of people. The Member of Parliament while adopting a village should make a survey and then launch programs according to the need of village. But some areas such as agriculture, health, gender inequality, education system, spirit of brotherhood, harmony, peace, etc. need to be in concentrated interest and these areas are the Sino shore of development. The scheme can only be accomplished with the condition that each MP who will adopt a village take it as the obligation and with the full sustains from the people of the rural areas, Non-Governmental Organizations and public spirited citizen. The government must also allocate fund for the development and the Member of Parliament shall also be given power to form policies for the desired areas. Check and balances such as inspection, submission of reports and other means must be conducted by Government for the proper development of rural areas.

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana: A myth can be successful

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is a development project which is launched by Government of India in October 2014, in which each Member of Parliament has to take the responsibility of developing physical and institutional infrastructure in three villages by 2019. Sansad refers to Parliament, Adarsh refers to model, Gram refers to village and Yojna means Scheme. This scheme is basically inspired by the principles and values of Mahatma Gandhi. It aims to provide rural India with quality access to basic opportunities and amenities. This scheme has holistic approach towards the development of the villages. It only envisages integrated development of the selected village across the multiple areas such as agriculture, health, education, sanitation, environment, livelihood etc. It also aims at instilling and nurturing values of national pride, self-confidence, dignity of women, community spirit, patriotism, etc in the people. The scheme is implemented through Members of Parliament (MPs) with District Collector being the nodal

officer. It is the duty of the MP to identify a suitable gram panchayat for being making it develop as Adarsh Gram. For every identified gram panchayat, a village development plan would be prepared which will focus on enabling every poor household to come out of the poverty. MPLADS would be available to fill the critical financing gaps for constituency fund. The outcomes of it include 100% immunization, 100% institutional delivery, mortality rate, reduced infant mortality rate, reduction in malnutrition among children etc.

Statistical Overview of the Scheme

If each MP adopts three villages, the scheme will be able to develop 2,379 gram panchayats over the next five years. The Lok Sabha has 543 MPs and the Rajya Sabha has 250, out of which 12 are nominated. So, in over all there are 2,65,000 gram panchayats in India.[1] Also prior to this scheme Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) WAS LAUNCHED IN March, 2010 on a pilot basis for the development of villages. Under this scheme each village can avail the gap funding of Rs. 10 Lakh over and above the allocations under Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation schemes. This scheme was being implemented in five States of the Country i.e. Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. This scheme also focus on basic needs like housing, sanitation, water, supply, electricity, communication, banking, infrastructure connectivity, health care, nutrition etc. and aims for convergence of existing programs in these sectors too.

Aim of SAGY

Beyond mere infrastructure development, this scheme basically aims at instilling certain values in the village and their people so that they get transformed into models for others. The basic aim of this scheme is to have integrated development of the selected villages so that they all have required physical and social infrastructure so that over all socio-economic development can be achieved. Other objectives of the plan also includes elimination of disparity between SCs and other communities in terms of socio-economic indicators as literacy rates, completion rate of elementary education, infant mortality rate/maternal mortality rate and also the ownership of productive assets. For all such implementation two committees are formed including advisory committee headed by the Deputy Chief Minister and a steering committee headed by the Chief Secretary.[2]

These values include:-

1. Adopting people's participation and ensuring the involvement of all sections of society in decision making related to governance.
2. Making the 'poorest and the weakest person' in the village to have a well-being life.
3. Ensuring respect for women and affirming gender equality.
4. Ensuring Social Justice.
5. Instilling spirit of community service, instilling dignity of labour and voluntarism
6. Promoting awareness programs for cleanliness.
7. Ensuring balance between development and ecology.
8. Spreading awareness about mutual cooperation, self-help, self-reliance.
9. Foster peace and harmony in the village community.
10. Bring transparency, accountability and probity in public life.
11. Nurturing local self-governance.
12. Adhering values of Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties of the Indian Constitution.

Key Features

- It is the prima facie duty of MPs to identify villages from nearby rural areas not their urban constituencies.
- Scheme has to put special focus on empowering the poor household to come out of the poverty line by developing a plan for every identified gram panchayat.
- Social mobilization and systematic environment in the model village should be created by the MPs.
- The Deputy Commissioner has the responsibility of coordinating the planning process of the Gram Panchayat, which will be a participatory exercise.

Funding of the Scheme

In the launching phase the Centre allocated a sum of Rs. 555.4 million to Assam, Bihar, and Rajasthan. The program was implemented as per pilot project, 1,000 villages in Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu with the allocation of Rs. 1 billion with each village to get Rs 1 million per year.[3] In September 2011 the annual funding on the project was raised to Rs. 2 million per village and Rs. 1.94 billion had been spent in these villages. In the 12 Five Year Plan the

government plans to cover around 44,000 villages during an allocation of Rs. 5 million to each villages.[4]

Identification of Adarsh Gram

A Gram Panchayat can be basic unit which shall have the population of 300-5000 in plain areas and 1000-3000 in hilly, tribal and difficult areas. In districts where the unit size is not available, Gram Panchayats approximating desirable population size can be chosen. It's the discretion of MPs to identify suitable Gram Panchayat. Lok Sabha MP has to identify a Gram Panchayat from his/her constituency and Rajya Sabha MP a Gram Panchayat from the rural area of a district of his/her choice in the State.

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana is a scheme launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the birth anniversary of Jai Prakash Narayan on October 11, 2014. The genes of this scheme is to develop rural areas considering all other factors like health, gender equality development, employment without compromising with environment so as to have sustainable development. According to this scheme every MP has to adopt three villages and to develop them by 2019.

The scheme can mark the development of India. The MPs while adopting a village must do survey of it and then adopt methods and policies to develop the rural areas. Some areas or points are to be addressed first for development. These are illustrated below:

Sustainability and Agricultural

The rural development many times equated as urbanization though it's not meant the same. Rural development not means to develop into urban areas. The rural development cannot be pressurized in the name of development. The development should be sustainable so the people, environment and can be restored and the present available resources should not be endangered. This way of development is known as 'sustainable development'. In the Brundtland Report^[5], Sustainable Development is defined as "Development that means the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet the own needs". Thus, Sustainable Development means development use of resources without endangering the resources so as the future generations would not suffer. In rural areas the main resource is agricultural. People of rural areas depend on agricultural as his main source of income. He depends upon agricultural to fulfill his family needs. For development, man's psychological conditions are to be understood. How the person can be developed when he is internally stressed? Care to be

taken that he can get his income for which agricultural is an important part. But, with the increases in pollution level the environment is getting degraded. The problems which are faced by farmers due to degradation of environment are depletion of soil, desertification, soil erosion, irrigation facility, etc. thus, the *environment* becomes the issue for rural development. This issue is to be resolved by MPs for development of rural areas. To resolve these issues the agenda must be decided and step by step procedure must be followed on as first problem is to deal with irrigation facilities. How the water to be provided to farmers for the agricultural? Canals must be constructed in a village and modern irrigation techniques to be taught to farmers if their village is in drought prone areas. Another issue is of depletion of soil, soil erosion. To deal with these topic first understand what is soil erosion? Soil erosion in simple words means removal of top soil where the plant grows. The reason for soil erosion is deforestation. Removal of forest cover with increasing land demand has resulted in soil erosion and the factories or industries which are built on land causes soil depletion. As the pollution from these industries or factories causes decline in nutrition of soil and the large and continues pollution replace the ability of soil to form nutrients. As a result farmers face problem in agriculture to check this major acts like Water Pollution (Prevention and Control) Act and Pollution Act etc must be properly and strictly implemented so as to control pollution.

Another issue is to provide *security* to farmer, on failure of crops, insurance must be provided to them and easy and fast mechanism to be followed to provided them security and insurance. This will keep farmers to work in their fields in relief manner and through all by these methods farmers' suicide (which is current issues for the MP) and this will ensure those farmers who have particular small land and marginal farmers; they face difficulty in marketing their produce. They have less marketable surplus and land holding. Due to poverty they sell their surplus immediately after harvest at lower price^[6]

The farmers also must be taught about use of fertilizers, organic farming, and other sustainable agricultural techniques and education must be provided from time to time. The Committee must be form to check and inspect the techniques used by farmers.

Health

Health is a major issue in India especially in rural areas. The health problem arises from various sources as about half the population of villages' lives in poverty they do

not have any medical assistance to ensure good health. Many problems arise due to environment pollution and lack of medical facilities. Diseases like TB, malaria, and even malnutrition occur due to improper sanitation and pollution. Maternal death main causes are sepsis and hemorrhages which are preventable are not get prevented due to lack of medical facilities and assistance. Many times person did not know what disease is he suffering from and loses his battle of life just due lack of medical assistance.

Rural India needs infrastructure to develop. Clean running water, electricity, hospital, medical store is require in every village. Flagship programme such as Janani suraksha yojna^[7] to be implemented properly for health conditions of women. Cleanliness of village and measures to control pollution must be adopted for the development. Government has already launched Swach Bharat Abhiyan, an initiative to clean India which can be fruitful in attaining clean Bharat.

The MPs focus on sanitation and cleanliness will change India face of rural areas. Many health issues among different age groups will also be resolved. Medical facilities must be provided and money must be spent in infrastructure. MPs before adopting any village must do survey of that area and then launch health initiatives schemes accordingly. People must be educated to trust doctor and medicines^[7] provided by them. Quack practices must be prohibited and strict penalties to be imposed on quack^[8].

Gender equality

Rural development cannot be complete when there is gender equality. Gender equality means providing equal treatment to be given both male and female without any form of discrimination. This can be achieved by building schools and colleges. Initiative must be taken to provide constructive education so that the new generation should be well versed with the new technologies and can come up with bright sharp mind and also can compete with the world. Families must be awarded prizes to fulfill the constitutional obligation and to help in gender inequality.^[9]NGOs must help in tackle the problems like domestic violence, physical abuse, mental torture, child labour, rape offences and free legal aid to be provided so as to help the villagers and to earn their confidence. There should be representation of women in panchayat. the seats should be reserved for them in Panchayat so they can have political power and a sense of security in patriarchal society. The third gender^[10]problems must

also be tackled in a same way as other genders. Peoples must be counseled about third gender.

Caste

Still in 69 years of Independence the 'caste' problem is there. People are still discriminated on their caste. The caste system in India is very old. People are categorized into four Varna, i.e. Brahmin, Kshatriya, vaishya and shudras. Among them Brahmin is superior and other three varnas followed after Brahmin. Shudras are considered as low and they are forced to carry malpractices and also they are not even treated as being human. Many efforts been made before and after Independence for the equal treatment of Dalit. Gandhi ji refer them as Harijans and Constitution itself provides equal treatment of all and no-discrimination on the ground of sex, place of birth, caste, place of residence, etc. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and also been enacted. Still in many villages discriminatory practices takes place as such people of higher caste do not take water from lower caste. The MP in adopting a village must have a goal to eradicate caste system. The constitutional provisions must be implemented and the teaching of great saint and leaders should be preached to develop the feeling of oneness and other practical measures such as strict compilation as to PoA, Act must be implemented. NGOs must also take initiative in overcoming these problems.

Housing

The right to housing is the economic, social and cultural right recognized in universal declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights. In Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living educate for the health and well-being of his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care, social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old-age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond its control". Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights also guarantees the right to housing as part of right to educate standard of living. In India it is also held by Supreme Court in *Olga Tellis & Ors vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation*^[1] that the right to livelihood and shelter is an important component of right to life. Thus, right to shelter or housing is everyone right and MPs must make an effort to provide rural person

with this right. Indira Awas Yojana is social welfare scheme created by the Indian Government to provide housing to the rural poor and to make pucca house who lives in mud houses. As a guardian of a village, MPs must ensure that the scheme should be implemented and everyone has a shelter to live in. Right to shelter does not mean four walls and roof on top, proper sanitation facilities and electricity must also be given.

CONCLUSION

The Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana can be very fruitful provided that sansad or Parliamentarians will take it as their responsibility to develop rural areas along with the support of people, Non-Governmental Organization, and public spirited citizen. Funds must be allocated for this scheme. MPs and executive must be given power to distribute fund and to make policies for the development. Proper checks and balances to be made to determine the accuracy in stage of development.

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