

An Overview of Rural Development Programmes (2013-14 to 2018-19)

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Abstract

Rural development typically refers to a strategy for improving peoples' quality of life and financial security, particularly those who reside in inhabited and distant locations. Traditionally, the overuse of land-intensive natural resources like forestry and agriculture was at the heart of rural development. Today, however, the nature of rural areas has changed due to urbanisation and changes in global industrial networks. The foundation of the nation's overall development continues to be rural development. A third of rural India's population still lives below the poverty line, while more than two thirds of the population depend on agriculture for their living. Therefore, it is crucial for the government to provide and offer sufficient facilities to raise people's living standards. Activities related to development and welfare in rural areas fall under the purview of the Ministry of Rural Development. The Ministry is divided into two divisions: land resources and rural development. The Ministry's Department of Rural Development is in charge of carrying out a number of significant programmes in rural areas. These programmes aim to reduce poverty, provide essential services, create jobs, improve rural infrastructure, and promote habitation. The Department of Land Resources uses integrated watershed management to increase the productivity of degraded land. In order to enhance real-time information on land and optimise the use of land resources, it also intends to establish an integrated land information management system.

Key Words: Rural Development, job creation, SDGs

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Introduction

Rural development is the process of enhancing the standard of living and financial security of residents of rural communities, which are frequently secluded and sparsely populated. Agriculture and forestry are two land-intensive natural commodities that have traditionally been the focus of rural development. The Indian government has launched various schemes to ensure the socio-economic development of the country. In a bid to address the numerous social and economic issues facing its residents, the Government of India has undertaken several programs every year. These measures are expected to contribute to the country's overall welfare. Annually, there is a rollout of initiatives and programs aimed at mitigating issues faced by the populace. Both the federal and provincial governments provide the necessary funding for these strategies and programs. This article has highlighted some major government initiatives that have been implemented in India recently.

Objectives

To study various schemes available under rural development for last five years.

To know the aim of schemes to uplift the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of society, for improvement in infrastructure, and promote economic growth.

Research Methodology

The paper is based on secondary data obtained from government websites.

Department of Rural Development Achievements (2013-14 to 2018-19)

Allocation of Department went up from Rs. 58,630 crore in 2013- 14 to Rs. 112403.92 crore in 2018-19. The period also saw more than three times increase in fund allocation by Fourteenth Finance Commission (compared to Thirteenth Finance Commission) to Rs. 2 lakh crore. State shares also increased along with Extra Budgetary borrowing from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Over Rs. 2.21 lakh crore Bank loans accessed by women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) in 5 years.

1. RURAL HOUSING/PRADHAN MANTRI AWAAS YOJANA-GRAMIN(PMAY-G) –

In the past five years, 1.45 crore rural homes have already been built. When all the uploading for the year is finished by April 15th, 2019, the number is probably going to increase to 1.55 crore. This includes the roughly 75 lakh Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin Homes, which were already finished as of November 20, 2016, according to the Prime Minister. After uploading by April 15th, 2019, an additional 15 lakh PMAY-G homes would be finished, bringing the total number of PMAY-G homes built to 90 lakhs. As part of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), each of the 1.6 crore beneficiaries received 90 or 95 days of labour to build their own dwellings. These homes come equipped with a bathroom, a free electricity connection, an LPG connection, and frequently resources for land expansion.

2. PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) –

Connecting the unconnected habitations through good quality all weather roads. Upgradation of rural roads linking rural hubs. PMGSY III- Consolidation and upgradation of Major Rural Links and Through Routes, connecting agricultural markets, higher secondary schools and hospitals. By March 2019, it was intended to provide all-weather road connectivity to all the eligible and practical habitations in 500+ population categories in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern and Himalayan States, Deserts, Tribal, and Backward Districts. As of 31.03.2019, 1,65,919 habitations have been connected [approx. 97%] through all-weather roads, including 16,086 habitations connected by States using their own resources, out of the 1,78,184 habitations specified for coverage under the PMGSY based on the 2001 Census. 3,943 habitations have been abandoned or deemed unworkable.

States have indicated that 2,495 of the 8,265 remaining sanctioned habitations are not now possible because of things like forest removal, land concerns, court cases, etc. The remaining practicable habitations are anticipated to be finished as soon as possible.

3. LIVELIHOOD MISSION –

The livelihood mission aims at reducing poverty by giving low-income households, opportunities for lucrative self-employment and skilled wage work. This will significantly improve their quality of life over the long term, through creating effective, long-lasting, and grassroots institutions for them. Nearly 6 crore women have been mobilized in over 52 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) with total Bank loan accessed over Rs. 2.25 lakh crore in last 5 years. The total loan outstanding has moved up from Rs. 31,865 crore with NPA 7% in 2013- 14, to Rs. 79,429 crore with NPA of 2% at present. From 10.15 lakh SHGs with credit linkage in 2013-14, at present over 31.28 lakh SHGs are credit linked with nearly 3.2 crore women benefitting from Bank loans. Over 2.38 lakh Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and 56000 Master Trainers from among poor women working to make Livelihood Mission for universal coverage. Over 36 lakh women farmers connected under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP). 53,084 enterprises supported under Start up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP). 8.63 lakh youth trained under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalaya Yojana (DDUGKY), of which 5.42 lakh have been placed, which is over 62%. Besides this, over 21 lakh candidates were trained for self-employment under Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) with settlement rate of over 74%.

4. MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (MGNREGS) –

The Scheme aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to take up unskilled manual work.

Over 2.83 crore durable assets completed under MGNREGS in last 5 years. Completion rate moved up from 29.44 lakh in 2014-15 to over 89.68 lakh in 2018-19. Major thrust on agriculture & allied works and on Individual Beneficiary Schemes. 1.54 crore rural housing beneficiaries got 90/95 days of work under MGNREGS for constructing their own homes. 4.46 crore assets under MGNREGS since inception already geo-tagged and in public domain. Over 268 crore persondays generated under MGNREGS in 2018-19, which is one of the highest. Over 1.5 crore hectares have benefitted from Water Conservation works under MGNREGS. 18.14 lakh farm ponds, 1.45 crore rural housing support, 1.29 lakh goat sheds, 10.54 lakh

Vermi/NADEP composting, 4.84 lakh soak pits, 7.86 lakh Solid Waste Management works, and 43,093 Anganwadi Buildings completed under MGNREGS over the last 5 years. Complete transparency through IT/DBT, Geo-tagging, Social Audit, and continuous quality check. Under Natural Resource Management (NRM), 19.05 lakh ponds, 5.15 lakh dug wells, 5 lakh check dams, and nearly 2.02 lakh embankments were completed under MGNREGS during the period 2014-15 to 2018-19). MGNREGS seen as livelihood security resource with thrust on durable assets and on raising incomes of the poor. Generation of payments within 15 days increased from 26.85% in 2014-15 to 91.61% in 2018-19. Total fund availability nearly doubled during the last 5 years.

5. SAANSAD ADARSH GRAM YOJANA (SAGY) –

Nearly 1500 Gram Panchayats taken up for holistic development by Hon'ble Members of Parliament under SAGY. 38,540 projects completed in these clusters. Significant improvement in indicators like open defecation free, better infrastructure, full immunization, better nutrition coverage, improved Village School & Health facility, opportunities for Skill Development, and formation of women Self Help Groups in these clusters with transformation impact. Detailed evaluation is under way to identify the success factors for further strengthening the programme.

6. SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJI RURBAN MISSION (SPMRM) –

The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission was launched by the Honourable Prime Minister on February 21st, 2016 with an outlay of Rs 5142.08 Crores. This is a unique programme, designed to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth. About 300 Rurban clusters with thematic economic growth points are being developed across the country under this Mission. A funding support of upto 30% of the estimated investment for each Rurban cluster is given as Critical Gap Funding (CGF). The States through convergence with synergic State and Central programmes as well as private investment and institutional funding mobilize 70% of the funds. Upon being re-classified as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the CGF is now shared between the Centre and the State in a ratio of 60:40 for Plain area States and 90:10 for Himalayan and NE States.

Financial Progress:

(Amount Rs. in Crore) Financial Year 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 2019-20
 Fund allocated 60.00 600.00 600.00 451.03 800.00
 Expenditure 32.05 599.45 553.26 432.55 53.57

Financial Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Fund allocated	60.00	600.00	600.00	451.03	800.00
Expenditure	32.05	599.45	553.26	432.55	53.57



Physical Progress: Against the allocation of 300 clusters, 295 clusters have been identified by the States/UTs. 279 Integrated Cluster Action Plans (ICAPs), which are the blue prints of investment for each cluster, have been approved for 29 States and 4 UTs. Rs. 27,018 crore of investment approved, nearly 78% is targeted towards saturation of Basic and Economic Amenities Nearly Rs. 5,360 crore of expenditure; Rs. 4560 crore under Convergence and Rs. 800 Crore under CGF has been incurred on the ground so far, across various investment sectors and thematic areas. The states have identified the

clusters as per the thematic strengths and so far 188 Agriculture clusters, 68 Skill development clusters and 23 Tourism clusters have emerged from the first 279 clusters. A Management Information System (MIS) 'RurbanSoft' has been development for real time monitoring work at cluster level and 241 Integrated Cluster Action Plan (ICAPs) and 40 Detailed Project Reports have been entered so far. Model guidelines: 'Land use regulations & service level benchmarks' issued to all States/UTs with the help of SPA & CEPT and so far 129 clusters have been notified as planning area. To strengthen the financial monitoring under the Mission, the Rurban Soft is being linked with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

7. SOME OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS –

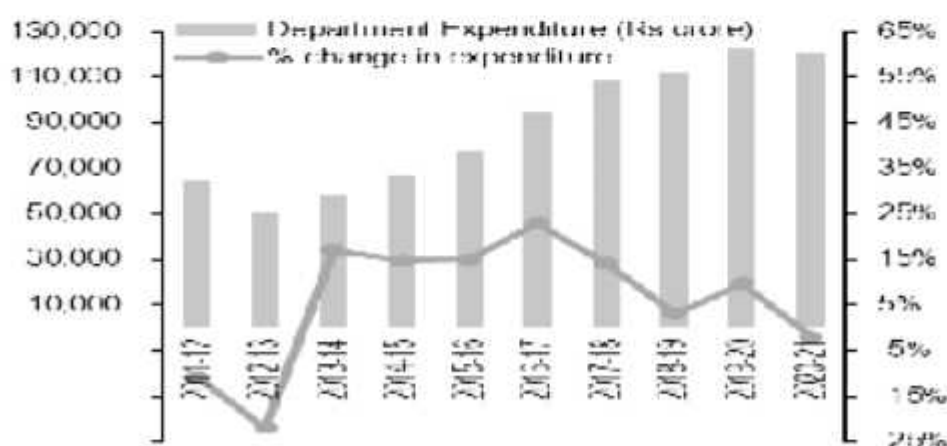
Ranking of Gram Panchayats completed. Gram Panchayats Development Plans (GPDPs) prepared. Comprehensive data for Gram Panchayat development made available to all Gram Sabhas. Joint Capacity Development of 31 lakh Panchayat Leaders and nearly 6 crore women SHGs of DAY-NRLM started under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme. Food security, electricity connection, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), LPG connection, Rural Housing, Livelihood Mission, Skill Development are all contributing to Rural Transformation with faster decline of poverty.

8. GRAM SWARAJ ABHIYAN (GSA)

63,974 Villages with very high deprivation and in 117 Aspirational Districts covered under the special campaign of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan for universal access to the eligible for LPG connection, Electricity connection, Bank Account, Accident Insurance, Life Insurance, Immunization, and LED bulbs.

Department of Rural Development In the past 10 years, the expenditure of the Department of Rural Development has seen an annual growth of 7.2%. Except in 2011-12 and 2012-13, when the Department reduced its spending, its expenditure increased in all other years up till 2019-20. In 2020-21 the estimated expenditure is 2% less than the revised estimates for the previous year.

Figure 1: Expenditure by the Department of Rural Development over the years (Rs crore)



Note: Values for 2019-20 and 2020-21 are revised estimates and budget estimates respectively.

Sources: Union Budgets 2011-12 to 2020-21; PRS.

Major schemes under the Department

Table 2 represents the budgetary allocation for major schemes under the Department of Rural Development.

Table 2: Allocation to the Department of Rural Development (Rs crore)

Department	Actuals (2018-19)	Revised (2019-20)	Budgeted (2020-21)	% change (RE to BE)
MGNREGS	61,815	71,002	61,500	-13%
PMAY-G	19,308	18,475	19,500	6%
PMGSY	15,414	14,070	19,500	39%
NSAP	8,418	9,200	9,197	0%
NRLM	5,783	9,024	9,210	2%
Rurban Mission	433	300	600	100%
Others	671	578	640	11%
Total	1,11,842	1,22,649	1,20,147	-2%

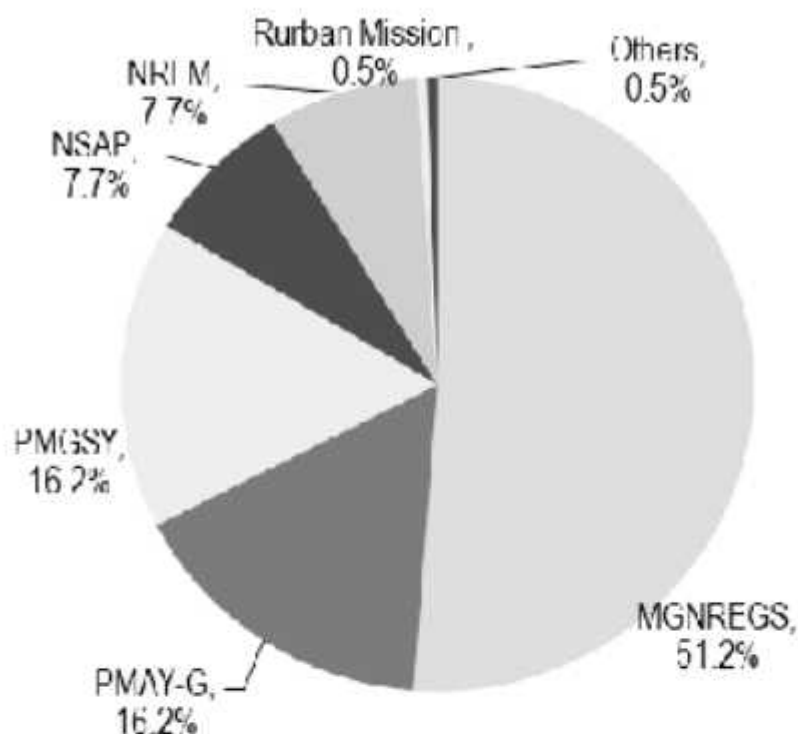
Note: BE is budget estimate and RE is revised estimate. Others include central sector projects like management support to rural development programs, socio-economic and caste census survey and centre's expenditure.

Sources: Demands for Grants 2020-21, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development; PRS.

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) continues to account for more than half of the Department's budget. However, the funds allocated to it have decreased by 13% this year.

- Funds allocated for the rural roads scheme; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has seen an increase of 39% from the revised estimates of 2019-20.

Figure 2: Top expenditure heads in 2020-21, as a percentage of total departmental allocation



Sources: Demands for Grants 2020-21, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development; PRS.

Figure 2 shows the composition of expenditure of the Department of Rural Development. In 2020-21, 51% of the Department's expenditure is estimated to be on the MGNREGS. This is followed by the rural component of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (16.2%), and PMGSY (16.2%).

Suggestions for future

To accomplish the SDGs, it is necessary to create synergies across various government initiatives and programmes in terms of planning, procedures, and implementation. The basic planning units that support household level micro-plans and Gramme Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) should be the household and the village. For suitable implementation, it is necessary to

coordinate the selection criteria, the processes and rules for implementation, and the availability of funding at the same time. For this, it would be necessary to pool financial and human resources across various government programmes, and to rationalise their utilisation in carrying out the plans at the household and GPDP levels.

Conclusion

The Indian government has launched several schemes to promote the socio-economic development of the country. These schemes aim to address various issues such as healthcare, education, sanitation, and employment. The schemes have been successful in achieving their objectives and have contributed significantly to the overall development of the country.

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