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M.R.D.-102

Rural Development Programmes

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By: Taruna Jain



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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

M.R.D.-102

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt all the five questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Q. 1. Discuss evolution and progress of the different components of Minimum Needs Programme.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 8, 'Evolution of MNP' and Page No. 9, 'Progress of the Different Components of MNP'.

Or

What is National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)? Describe common aspects of NSAP.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 61, 'National Social Assistance Programme' and Page No. 62, 'Common Aspects of the NSAT'.

Q. 2. Describe the mechanism of resource allocation and monitoring of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY).

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 75, 'Resource Allocation' and Page No. 76, 'Monitoring'.

Or

Discuss major health care programmes highlighting the importance of family welfare services.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-18, Page No. 121, 'Health Care Programmes'.

Q. 3. Answer any two of the following questions:

(a) Describe the main programmes and supportive activities of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-19, Page No. 128, 'Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission'.

(b) Explain the institutional framework for the implementation of Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP).

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-23, Page No. 158, 'Institutional Framework for Implementation'.

(c) Describe important science and technology programmes for rural development.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-25, Page No. 170, 'S&T Schemes and Programmes'.

Q. 4. Attempt any four of the following:

(a) Social Forestry.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-24, Page No. 163, 'Social Forestry: Perspective' and 'Types of Social Forestry'.

(b) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-17, Page No. 112, 'Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Gramin Awas'.

(c) Integrated Rural Energy Management.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-20, Page No. 137, 'Integrated Rural Energy Management'.

(d) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP).

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 81, 'Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)'.

(e) Regional Food Security.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 67, 'Ensuring Regional Food Security'.

(f) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 31, Q. No. 1.

Q. 5. Write short notes on any five of the following:

(a) Micro-finance.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 87, 'Need for Micro-Finance'.

(b) National Literacy Mission.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-16, Page No. 104, 'National Literacy Mission'.

(c) Rural Sanitation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 10, 'Rural Sanitation'.

(d) National Malaria Eradication Programme.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-18, Page No. 121, 'National Malaria Eradication Programme'.

(e) Village Eco-development.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-24, Page No. 165, 'Village Eco-development'.

(f) Public Distribution System.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 12, Q. No. 3.

(g) Drought-Prone Areas Programme.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-22, Page No. 152, Q. No. 1.

(h) Watershed.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-23, Page No. 157, 'What is Watershed?'.



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RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES: A RETROSPECT

Poverty Alleviation Programmes: A Retrospect



INTRODUCTION

India has made many achievements in the post-independence era. India is one of the largest donor of food today in the world in the agricultural field. Also, India is the frontier in the field of science and technology which includes space, communication and information technology. But even then rural development and poverty alleviation is the major area of concern in our country.

In India, the focus of the poverty alleviation policies is largely for rural development. India has achieved very little even after investing so much time and resources on poverty alleviation. The percentage of poor in India has been halved from 55% to 27% in the last 25 years. As compared to India, the country like China and East and South-East Asian countries have performed much better in this field.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

In India, poverty problem is a major challenge which should be the main focus of our development policy. It is very important for the improvement of the nation and also in competence with other developed nations.

The tables below show that the poverty in both rural and urban areas are same but the numbers of poor in rural India are three times more than the urban population. The majority of poor are in villages. As

stated by Gandhiji, "India lives in villages and the development of the nation cannot be achieved without the development of the villages."

Poverty in India

Sector	1983-84	1984-85	1987-88	1989-90	1993-94
Population below poverty line (in Millions)					
1. Rural	221.5	222.5	196.0	168.6	141.1
2. Urban	49.5	50.5	41.7	42.2	27.1
3. Total	271.0	272.7	237.7	210.8	168.2
Poverty Ratio (%)					
1. Rural	40.0	39.9	33.9	28.4	21.7
2. Urban	28.1	27.7	20.1	19.3	11.6
3. Total	371.4	36.9	29.9	25.3	18.9

Source: Rural Statistics-2002, NIR, Hyderabad

In order to enjoy the rural fruits of independence, India should be free from the problem of poverty. Some countries have achieved good results where the industries and the service sector have developed faster, but in India the result was not upto the mark. This is because of the following reasons:

- India is an agrarian economy which contributes less than one-fourth of the GDP and employs more than 70% of the rural workforce.
- Most of the farmers practice subsistence agriculture and have very small and marginal holdings. Some are landless and belong to socially weaker sections and do not have enough access to the various means of agricultural development.
- Other important factors include high rate of population growth and low level of literacy in the people.

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- One more reason is the slow pace of development in industrial and service sectors and the inability of the non-farm sectors to absorb excess labour from the farm sector.
- The trickle down affect, if any, also remained confined to the urban areas only.

It is necessary that the government should initiate development of rural areas which should suite the different types of regions and different social and economic classes of people. The Government of India should introduce a number of programmes to develop rural India and alleviate poverty.

POVERTY IN INDIA

In order to measure poverty, the method called as 'Head Count' is used which describes the number of poor people below a certain level of income or expenditure. In this method, not only the extent of poverty can be measured, but also its intensity.

The data collected through National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) is used for the measurement of poverty. But the method used by Planning Commission has some defects.

Table below shows the poverty estimates by the Expert Group. It shows that the poverty estimates of the Expert Group are higher than that estimated by the Planning Commission.

Poverty in India as Measured by the Expert Group

Sector	1973-74	1977-78	1983-84	1987-88	1993-94	1999-2000
Population below poverty line (in Millions)						
1. Rural	261.3	264.3	252.0	231.9	244.1	193.2
2. Urban	60.5	64.5	70.9	75.2	76.3	67.0
3. Total	321.3	328.9	322.9	307.1	320.3	260.2
Poverty Ratio (%)						
1. Rural	56.4	53.1	45.7	39.1	37.3	27.1
2. Urban	49.0	45.2	40.8	38.2	32.4	23.6
3. Total	54.9	51.3	44.5	38.9	36.0	26.1

Source: Rural Statistics-2002, NIRD, Hyderabad

The table shows that the overall poverty has declined from 54.9% in 1973-74 to 26% by 2000, as provided by the Expert Group. Also there is decline in rural poverty from 56.4% in 1973-74 to 27.1% in 2000. Also, we can see from the figures above that the rate of reduction of poverty in rural areas is more than that in urban areas. Also, the urban poverty is a reflection of rural poverty as lots of people migrate from rural areas to urban areas for better wages.

APPROACHES TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN INDIA

Now we will focus on how the problem of poverty was being handled in the country and what means were

adopted to achieve these goals. The increase in employment is an important factor for reduction in poverty. Employment means gainful income or remuneration for the work that helps people to fulfil their basic needs and to live a minimum acceptable standard of life.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes

There are three categories in which rural poor can be divided which is as follows:

1. Those with land.
2. Those with skills, and
3. Those without land and skills.

Earlier, the community development programme (CDP) was adopted in villages. During 1960's the focus was on the development of agriculture and then Green Revolution was achieved and then the country gained self-sufficiency in food production. But this event also had some side-effects. The farmers having marginal holdings remained poor as they did not gain much from the Green Revolution. Also the agricultural labourers did not gain much from the programme. Lots of labourers became jobless with the introduction of modern technology. This made a visible disparity between the rich and the poor. The reasons for the same are as follows:

- The farmers remained poor due to the lack of credit facilities to buy the modern farming techniques.
- The agro-climatically rich areas benefitted from Green Revolution whereas others remained backward.
- The population explosion was very high which could not fit all the labours in intensive farming.
- The surplus labour from the farm sector could not be absorbed in the non-farm sector.
- The vast unemployment was due to non-upgradation of the skills of the artisans.

To overcome all the problems mentioned above, a number of corrective measures were adopted. One programme was Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA) which was introduced in 1973-74 and another was Marginal Farmers and Agriculture Labourers (MFAL) Agency programme introduced in 1974-75 and was introduced with the aim of specific care of the marginal farmers and the rural artisans and the agriculture labourer. The aim of SFDA was to take care of all the categories of the rural poor which concentrated on those with land assets and neglected labourers in which unemployment was a serious problem.

In 1974-75, a Crash Employment Programme was introduced to provide relief to the rural poor depending on daily wages. Then in 1975-76, Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme (PIREP) was introduced. Both the programmes had two characteristics:

- Programmes for self-employment focusing on those with assets and skills.
- Programmes for wage employment which targeted those who did not have any source of income.

Then in 1978-79, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was introduced. The programmes aiming at wage employment were merged and brought together under the Food for Work Programme. Later in 1980; Food for Work Programme was re-organized as the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP).

In 1981, training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) was called as Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) was introduced. The aim of this programme was to organize the poor women into groups and help them in self-employment. This was done by providing them income generating activities.

In 1983, another programme called as Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was launched by the Government of India. Then a programme called Jeevan Dhara was introduced in 1987. In 1989, NREP and RLEGP were merged and named Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) and the Village Panchayats were assigned the task of implementing it.

During 1992-93, a new programme called Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was introduced. In the year 1991-92, another programme called as Supply of Improved Tool-kit to Rural Artisans (SITRA) for self-employment was introduced. Then in 1994-95, a programme called Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) was introduced for the small and marginal farmers who were not eligible under MWS.

The boxes below shows the programme which were introduced towards the end of nineties by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Box-1

Programmes for Self-Employment (IRDP and its sub-programmes)

- (i) IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme)
- (ii) TRYSEM (Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment)

- (iii) DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas)
- (iv) MWS (Million Wells Scheme)
- (v) SITRA (Supply of Improved Tool-Kit for Rural Artisans)
- (vi) Ganga Kalyan Yojana.

Box-2

Wage Employment Programmes

- (i) JRY (Jawahar Rojgar Yojana)
- (ii) EAS (Employment Assurance Scheme)

With the introduction of so many programmes, a number of problems were faced in their execution. Some of which were as follows:

- The influential person benefitted from more than one programme at the cost of many poor families.
- Middleman and local leaders got involved and benefitted from this programme.
- Low performance was seen due to lack of proper planning.
- Problems in loans caused setback to this programmes.
- Another problem was marketing of the produce by the beneficiaries.

After facing the problems mentioned above, all the six self-employment programmes, namely, IRDP, TRYSEM, DEERA, SITRA, MWS and GKY were merged into a single programme called as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). Also JRY was renamed as Jawahar Gramin Rozgar Yojana (JGSY). In 2001, JGSY and EAS were merged into Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY).

Impact of Poverty Alleviation Programmes

Here the impact of the programmes on the poverty reduction are discussed. The poverty line has fallen below 30% mark. By 1999-2000, the rural poverty ratio was 27.1, the urban 23.6 and the overall poverty ratio 26.1. Then in 1993-94 and 1999-2000, the rate of decline in poverty fell from 36.0% to 26.1%.

Improvement was seen in other areas also like Crude Birth Rate, Crude Death Rate, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Life Expectancy. Also improvement was seen in female literacy rate. The table below shows the state-wise percentage of the population below the poverty line:

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State-wise Poverty Ratios (% of population below the poverty line) During 1999-2000

States	Rural	Urban	Combined
1. Andhra Pradesh	11.05	26.63	15.77
2. Arunachal Pradesh	40.04	7.47	33.47
3. Assam	40.04	7.47	36.09
4. Bihar	44.30	32.91	42.60
5. Goa	1.35	7.52	4.40
6. Gujarat	13.17	15.59	14.07
7. Haryana	8.27	9.99	8.74
8. Himachal Pradesh	7.94	4.63	7.63
9. Jammu & Kashmir	3.97	1.98	3.48
10. Karnataka	17.38	25.25	20.04
11. Kerala	9.38	20.27	12.72
12. Madhya Pradesh	37.06	38.44	37.43
13. Maharashtra	23.72	26.81	25.02
14. Manipur	40.04	7.47	28.54
15. Meghalaya	40.04	7.47	33.87
16. Mizoram	40.04	7.47	19.47
17. Nagaland	40.04	7.47	32.67
18. Orissa	48.01	42.83	47.15
19. Punjab	6.35	5.75	6.16
20. Rajasthan	13.74	19.85	15.28
21. Sikkim	40.04	7.47	36.55
22. Tamilnadu	20.55	22.11	21.12
23. Tripura	40.04	7.47	34.44
24. Uttar Pradesh	31.22	30.89	31.15
25. West Bengal	31.85	14.86	27.02
26. A & N Islands	20.55	22.11	20.99
27. Chandigarh	5.75	5.75	5.75
28. D & N Haveli	17.57	13.52	17.14
29. Daman & DIU	1.35	7.52	4.44
30. Delhi	0.40	9.42	8.23
31. Lakshadweep	9.38	20.27	15.60
32. Pondicherry	20.55	22.11	21.67
ALL INDIA	27.09	23.62	26.10

Source: Rural Statistics-2002, NIRDP, Hyderabad

The table shows the States and the Union Territories with poverty ratios below 10 are Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Daman and Diu and Delhi. The States between 10-20% intervals are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Mizoram, Rajasthan, D and N Haveli and Lakshadweep. The States with poverty ratio between 20-30 include Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, A and N Islands and Pondicherry. The States like Orissa, Bihar, UP and MP shows poverty ratio over 30%.

The reasons for not achieving the desired results of this programme can be as follows:

- Not effective implementation of the programme.
- Lack in integrated planning in sustaining the programmes.
- Beneficiaries could not sustain these programmes.

- Infrastructure not adequate.
- Investment not sufficient.
- Poor participation of people.
- The practices adopted were corrupt in nature.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 1. What are the various causes of poverty in India?

Ans. Poverty in India is the major area of concern today. There are many reasons for the same, some of which are as follows:

- As India is an agrarian country, it contributes less than one-fourth of the GDP and employs more than 70% of the rural workforce.
- Most of the farmers have small and marginal holdings and most of the people are landless and depend upon agricultural labour. Most of the people belong to the weaker section of the society, but do not have various means of developing agriculture.
- One important reason is high rate of population growth and low level of literacy in people.
- Another important reason is slow pace of development in industrial and service sector.
- The urban areas also suffer due to trickle down affect, if any.

Q. 2. What were the main programmes introduced for poverty alleviation?

Ans. There were many programmes introduced for poverty alleviation. These programmes were divided into three main categories i.e. one, those with land, second, those with skills and third, those without land and skills. The aim of these programmes development for every category of the rural population. The Ministry of Rural Development developed six programmes for self-employment and two for the wage employment (by the end of nineties). These programmes were as follows:

1. Programmes for Self-Employment (IRDP and its sub-programmes)

- Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)
- Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM)
- Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)
- Million Wells Scheme (MWS)