

AMITY GLOBAL SOCIAL WORK REVIEW

Volume 1 • No. 1 • January, 2017



Social Work Research Journal of



AMITY INSTITUTE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Contents

	Pages
The concept of Health and Well-being for Indian Working Women in the Contemporary Scenario <i>Mala Bhandari</i>	7
Retirement: A Psycho-Social Study (An empirical study of 90 employees in Banking Sector) <i>Ankur Saxena</i> <i>Keren Simon</i> <i>Sneha Chandrapal</i>	20
Community Organization as a method of Social Work: Strengthening Community Participation in School Education <i>Aprajita Sharma</i>	24
Practicing Gender Aware Social Work within the Police System in Delhi <i>Pushpa</i>	28
The Need of Modernization in Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Programme Focusing on the Problems of Aanganwadi Workers (AWWs). <i>Chhavi Bhatnagar</i>	37
Broad Theme – Development Approaches to Social Work "Dichotomous Dimension of Technology in Addressing Gender Issues; a Study from Rural India" <i>Gurumayum Richie Sharma</i>	46
Sustainable Development: A New Field of Social Work <i>Ambrish Kumar Tiwary</i>	58
Women's Reproductive Rights and Social Work Practice <i>Meenu Anand</i> <i>Gunjan Chandhok</i>	63
Stress and Burden among Caregivers of Individuals Suffering with Schizophrenia and Bipolar Affective Disorder: A Mental Health Perspective <i>Prashant Srivastava</i> <i>Urvashi</i>	74
Development Approaches to Social Work: Intervention by the State <i>Sameera Saurabh</i>	80

Development Approaches to Social Work: Intervention by the State

Sameera Saurabh

In the contemporary scenario, our nation is set to emerge as one of the world's most thriving and promising economies. It is imperative that a developmental approach to resolve the problems facing rural India be undertaken. India is largely an agrarian based rural economy with a predominant unorganized sector. 68.84% of India's population lives in rural areas. Distribution of main workers by industrial category in Census-2011 shows that agriculture sector still employs largest number of workers. The dependence on agriculture is brought out by the fact that of the 313 million main workers in the country, 166 million (56.6%) has been engaged in 'Agricultural and allied activities'. Problems like population explosion, abject poverty, gender inequality, unemployment, illiteracy, sanitation and hygiene are well documented hindrances in the growth and development of the country. Agriculture contributes nearly one-fifth of the gross domestic product in India. In order to accelerate growth and development, the Government has undertaken several initiatives in India. India's eleventh five year plan and the ongoing twelfth plan 2012-2017 has emphasized inclusive growth and as such these two plans are fundamentally different from all the earlier five year plans.

Part IV, Articles 36-51 of the Indian Constitution constitutes the Directive Principles of State Policy. The legislative and executive powers of the state are to be exercised under the purview of the Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution. Though non-justifiable, these policies constitute the fundamental principles of governance. Most of them aim at the establishment of economic and social democracy which is pledged for in the preamble.

Rural development implies both the economic betterment of people as well as greater social transformation. Increased participation of people in the rural development programmes, decentralization of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit are envisaged for providing the rural people with better prospects. Initially, main thrust for development was laid on agriculture, and allied sectors. Later on, realizing that accelerated development can be provided only if governmental efforts are adequately supplemented by direct and indirect involvement of people at the grass root level, the thrust shifted and a participatory approach was adopted. After independence, approach to Rural Development was Community Development driven.

The Gandhian approach to development included constructive work which included village self-government, self reliance and development of village crafts & industries. The Community Development Programme was launched in 1952. Its basic elements were focus on individual cultivators, restructuring district administration, provision of facilities for agricultural production and welfare facilities in blocks. It covered 300 villages and a population of about 2 lakhs. However, there were lapses in the Community Development Programme. There was lack of mass participation and Government efforts to create local institutions did not succeed.

National Extension Services:

The National Extension Service was formulated in April 1953 with objective to cover entire country within a period of 10 years. The aim

was to have a wider coverage at less cost and ensure people's participation in the development process.

The Decentralized approach

A team was constituted in 1957 for the study of community projects and National Extension service and it was headed by Mr. Balwant Rai Mehta. The team recommended democratic decentralization i. e the government that derives its authority from the people. The concept took the shape of Panchayati Raj in India. Mehta (1978) in his report of the Committee on Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's) has described three distinct phases in the evolution of PRIs. The PRIs after having seen a phase of ascendancy (1959-1964) came to stagnation (1965- 69) and then to phase of decline (1969-1977). The main reasons for the decline were that these institutions were not provided with adequate funds, functionaries and most of the developmental works were kept outside their purview.

The Green Revolution

There was a shift in rural development strategy when the food situation became alarming in India. In 1961, India was on the brink of massive famine. Norman Borlaug, the father of Green Revolution was invited to visit India. Food shortage worsened during the 1960s when two severe drought years led to a sharp increase in import of food grains. Indira Gandhi took over charge as Prime Minister in 1966 and things began to change as India ushered an era of expansion in agricultural sector with the introduction of high yielding varieties of wheat. Around the same time, Bhakra Nangal Dam became operational and banks were nationalized to extend credit to farmers. These initiatives were further strengthened by efforts of eminent scientists like Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and an estimated Rs.45,000 crores was spent on improving irrigation in the first four decades after independence. Famines became an occurrence of the past and India attained the largest area under irrigation in the world. The

farming sector's success in achieving self sufficiency in food grain production heralded the Green Revolution in the country. The Green Revolution ushered in implementation of land reforms and by 1980, India attained self sufficiency in food with a surplus production and record production of 131 million tonnes of grains in 1978-79. The Cooperative Movement helped in distribution of superior quality seeds, fertilizer and modern age machines. The Operation Flood and Anand Milk Cooperative were key success stories.

Area Development Programs : This was followed by shift in strategy to target benefits to the poorer sections and the backward areas. The Area Development Programme included the Backward Area Development Programme, Command Area Development Programme, Drought prone Area Program, Tribal Area Development Programme

Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP): IRDP envisaged the integration of both beneficiary oriented programme as well as Area Development Programme. It intensified development efforts for achieving poverty alleviation as well as increasing productivity. First introduced in 1978-79, IRDP has provided assistance to rural poor in the form of subsidy and bank credit for productive employment opportunities through successive plan periods. Subsequently, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) were introduced as sub-programs of IRDP to take care of the specific needs of the rural population.

During the Ninth Plan period, several anti-poverty Programmes have been restructured to enhance the efficiency of the Programmes for providing increased benefits to the rural poor. Self Employment Programmes were revamped by merging IRDP, DWCRA, SITRA, TRYSEM, GKY and the Million Wells Scheme (MWS) into a holistic self-employment scheme called Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

Realizing that empowerment of rural women is crucial for the development of India, a women's component was introduced in the programmes for poverty alleviation to ensure flow of adequate funds to this section. The Constitutional Amendment (73rd), Act 1992 provides for reservation of selective posts for women. The Constitution has placed enormous responsibility on the Panchayats to formulate and execute programmes of economic development and social justice, and a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented through Panchayats. Thus, women members and Chairpersons of Panchayats, who are basically new entrants in Panchayats, have to

acquire the required skill and be given appropriate orientation to assume their rightful roles as leaders and decision makers. The Eleventh Plan saw injection of huge resources from the Union Budget to the rural and farm sector. This thrust formed the substance of the Bharat Nirman Programme.

The objective of these programmes is to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life in rural areas through employment generation, strengthening of livelihood opportunities, development of rural infrastructure, ensuring minimum national standard for social assistance and provision of other basic amenities.

Rural development programmes in the Post independence era

S.No.	Programme (Year)	Objectives
1.	Community Development Programme (1952)	Promoting better living for the whole community in the rural areas.
2.	National Extension Service (1953)	To have a wider coverage at less cost and more of people's participation.
3.	Intensive Agriculture District Programme (1960-61)	To increase the income of the cultivator, economic resources and potential of the village.
4.	Area Development Programmes (1966)	Development of specific areas such as Hills, Deserts, Border Areas.
4.	Drought Prone Area Programme (1970)	To minimize the adverse effects of drought on production of crops, livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources ultimately leading to drought proofing of the affected areas.
5.	Small Farmers Development Agency (1969)	To identify problems of small farmers, ensure that farmers secure loans from Cooperative Banks and they have access to seeds, fertilizers, etc.
6.	Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (1971)	To provide employment to 1000 persons in every district during 10 months in a year.
7.	Command Area Development Programme (1976)	To improve the utilization of created irrigation potential and optimizing agriculture production and productivity

		from irrigated agriculture.
8.	Food for Work Programme (1977)	To create additional employment in rural areas on works of durable utility to the community, with the use of surplus food grains available in the buffer stock for payment as wages.
9.	Integrated Rural Development Programme (1974)	To assist families below the poverty line in the rural areas by taking up self-employment ventures in a variety of activities.
10.	Employment Assurance Scheme (1993)	To provide about 100 days of assured casual manual employment during the lean agricultural season, at statutory minimum wages.
11.	Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (merger of IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA and Million Wells Scheme) (2001)	Holistic Programme of micro-enterprises covering all aspects of self-employment which include organizing rural poor into self-help.
12.	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	To provide 100 man days of work to each family in a year.
13.	National Rural Livelihood Mission/Aajeevika (2010)	To create efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor (Self Help Groups) enabling them to increase household income improved access to financial services.

Improvisations in the approach to Rural Development Programmes

Legal rights based approach:

Finally the rural development trajectory has entered a right based approach. Now, one can demand work, education, information and food as a legal right. For that we have right to work, right to education, right to information and right to food.

Food Security in India

Sustainable Development Goals (2030) aim to end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age and address nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating

women and older persons. The United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) promotes policy coherence between food systems, nutrition and health to accelerate efforts to reduce malnutrition. The National Food Security Bill, 2011 states that Food Security means availability of sufficient food grains to meet the domestic demand as well as access at the individual level, to adequate quantities of food at affordable prices. This is a paradigm shift from a welfare approach to a rights based approach. In our nation, 40% of children are undernourished and nearly 48% children under age of five years are malnourished. After seventy years of independence, India has the dubious distinction of having one of highest prevalence of stunting and deficiencies like

Vitamin A and anaemia in the world. Malnutrition is adversely impacting the country's development and health expenditure. Individuals born with low birth weight due to intra-uterine malnutrition tend to be vulnerable to adult onset of degenerative diseases.

Food Security has evolved over time from 'freedom from hunger' in the early 1940s into broad concept encompassing three determinants: availability of food, access to food and absorption. Food Security concerns can be traced back to the trauma faced during the Bengal Famine in 1943 under British Colonial rule. Revolutionary self-sufficiency in food was achieved with the Green Revolution in the late 1960s and 1970s. The White Revolution (Operation Flood) and structural transformation in agriculture has helped to ensure food security to a large extent.

NSSO data also reveals that, over time, more and more Indians, despite rising wages, have not been meeting recommended calorie requirements of 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. It is important to note that in the past decade access to and availability of food has increased through the Public Distribution System, Midday Meal Scheme for school children and the Integrated Child Development Services for kids upto the age of six and their mothers. The MGNREGA has also improved the purchasing power of the rural poor and has created rural assets which have resulted in better calorie intake in rural areas. Annapurna Scheme under the National Social Assistance Programme needs to be reviewed with implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013. The Act provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural population for receiving subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under the Act, the eligible persons are entitled to receive 5 Kgs of food grains per person per month at subsidized prices of Rs.3/2/1 per Kg.

for rice/wheat/coarse grains. 2.49 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, which constitute the poorest of the poor, continue to receive 35 Kgs of food grains per household per month. Raising rural income is central to ensuring Food and Nutrition Security for which colossal improvements in rural infrastructure is required. The portfolio of poverty alleviation programmes should suit the specific needs of poor communities, especially in rural areas. Food & Nutrition Security need to be given high priority and efforts to augment production and economic accessibility needed to be addressed by technological innovations, investments in irrigation, creating rural infrastructure and raising rural employment opportunities.

Wage Employment Programs: These programs are Anti-poverty strategies, like assistance to the rural poor families to bring them above the poverty line by ensuring appreciable sustained level of income through the process of social mobilization, training and capacity building. Wage Employment Programs have sought to achieve multiple objectives. They not only provide employment opportunities during lean agricultural seasons but also in times of floods, droughts and other natural calamities. MGNREGA has created rural infrastructure which supports further economic activity.

Convergence Approach

It is now a well accepted fact that a convergent implementation of different schemes can create a multiplier effect on infrastructure development, people's livelihoods, poverty and household wellbeing. A number of Schemes, if dovetailed, could increase gains, effectiveness and efficiency of the cumulative outcomes of the schemes. Such increase would become possible with better utilization of resources

Convergence of Schemes:

A list of convergence activities presently undertaken includes the following:

- (i) 90 days of MGNREGA Labour for IAY/PMAY house
- (ii) Watershed management programmes using MGNREGA labour (as in Maharashtra)
- (iii) Road side plantations with NREGA labour
- (iv) MGNREGA and 14th Finance Commission allocations for farm ponds (as in Jharkhand)
- (v) IAY and SBM (Indira Awas Yojana & Swach Bharat Mission)
- (vi) Individual assets such as dug well, farm pond, goat shed and other line departments
- (vii) And many more.

As policy initiative, a Framework of Convergence may be developed to create an enabling environment. The SECC list and Aadhar are two critical points of the Framework in which work flows, vertical and horizontal convergence between the schemes may be developed upon. The Framework may also ensure convergence of activities at the Panchayat level.

Targeting the beneficiary: Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011.

The Government conducted a combined Census namely '**Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011)**' for collecting socio-economic and caste data of households across the country. A household with any of the following will be included automatically:

- ❖ Households without shelter
- ❖ Destitute / living on alms
- ❖ Manual scavengers

- ❖ Primitive Tribal groups
- ❖ Legally released bonded labourers

The remaining households will be ranked using 7 Deprivation Indicators. Households with the highest deprivation score will have the highest priority for inclusion in the list of households below the poverty level. The deprivation indicators are:

- ❖ Households with only one room, kucha walls and kucha roof
- ❖ No adult member between the ages of 16 and 59
- ❖ Female headed households with no adult male member between 16 and 59
- ❖ Households with disabled member and no able bodied adult member
- ❖ Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe households
- ❖ Household with no literate adult above 25 years
- ❖ Landless households deriving a major part of their income from manual casual labour

The SECC 2011 has since been completed in March, 2016. The SECC will be the basis for identification of households living below the poverty line. The SECC-2011 has provided broad socio-economic data base which can be used for evidence based formulation of social sector programmes for the holistic development of targeted population as well as bringing about overall improvement in the quality of life of the marginalized and deprived sections of the society who are specifically targeted under these programmes. The availability of reliable dataset of the potential beneficiaries would ensure effective targeting of the beneficiaries under various rural development schemes. Funds can be allocated to the states according to the extent and intensity of deprivations faced by them based on SECC data base. The Government has taken a decision to use the SECC data in all its programme. SECC data would have meaningful use in Housing for all, Education and Skills thrust, MGNREGA, National Food Security Act, interventions for differently abled, interventions for women led households, and targeting of households / individual entitlements on evidence of deprivation.

Implementation of current Rural Development Programmes:**Budget Allocation under RD Programmes during 2014-15 to 2016-17**

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Programme	Rs in Crore				
		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17
		BE	RE	BE	RE	BE
1	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)	34000.00	33000.00	34699.00	36967.00	38500.00
2	Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)	4000.00	2186.42	2505.00	2672.00	3000.00
3	Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY) (erstwhile Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY))	16000.00	11000.00	10025.00	10025.00	15000.00
4	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	14391.00	14200.00	14291.00	18291.00	19000.00
	Total Budget for the Deptt. of RD	80043.00	68156.42	71642.00	77650.00	86000.00

1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with its legal framework and rights-based approach was notified in 2005. It aims at enhancing livelihood security by providing upto one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Act covered 200 districts in its first phase on February 2, 2006, and was subsequently extended to all the rural districts of the country in phases.

The Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is a demand driven programme, hence, requirement of funds and employment generation depend on demand for work. The significant aspects of this paradigm shift are namely: i) MGNREGA provides statutory guarantee of wage employment, ii) It provides a rights-based framework for wage employment. iii) There is a 15-day time limit for fulfilling the legal guarantee of providing employment, iv) Legal

mandate of providing employment in a time bound manner is underpinned by the provision of Unemployment Allowance, v) The Act is designed to offer an incentive structure to the States for providing employment as 90 percent of the cost for employment provided is borne by the Centre. There is a concomitant disincentive for not providing employment as the States then bear the double indemnity of unemployment and the cost of unemployment allowance, vi) Unlike earlier wage employment programmes that were allocation based, MGNREGA is demand driven. This initiative is unique of its kind across the globe in poverty alleviation. Around 30 lakh (3 million) assets are created annually across the country under the rural job scheme, which involves water harvesting, drought relief and flood control as preferred activities. Convergence with other schemes necessitates further transparency in database creation of MGNREGA assets. Construction of house under rural housing scheme in rural areas has been included as one of the permissible activity under MGNREGA. **Provision for upto 50 days of additional employment** has been made over

and above 100 days per households in notified drought affected areas.

Government has reviewed online recording and monitoring of assets to check leakages and for effective mapping of terrain for future developmental works. The approach adopts technological interventions in terms of using mobile based geo-tagging and a Geographical Information System (GIS) based information system. Application of GIS in MGNREGA projects can help in tracking MGNREGA works through Geotagging techniques and by reporting the location-specific information with respect to time. During 2014-15 and 2015-16, nearly 8.9 crore rural households have been given employment under MGNREGA. 72.32 lakh rural households have completed 100 days of employment. 18 lakh youth/households are to be skilled in phases. Nearly 61% of total expenditure on assets in 2015-16 has been on activities related to agriculture and allied sector.

Case Study : Nationwide Evaluation of the Flagship Program of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

The study was commissioned by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India in the year 2014 and involved one nodal agency and five evaluating agencies. The programme has been operational since year 2006 and was extended to the entire country in year 2008. Till year 2013-14, the programme had distributed Rs.1,55,000 crores directly as wages and generated 1,348 crores of person days of employment across 146 lakhs works. Despite huge expenditure and far reaching consequences of such an intervention in rural sector, no national level research was conducted to study it holistically.

Research Objectives: The main objective of the study was to assess how far the goals of livelihood security of the poor including the marginalized sections of the society like

SCs, STs, Minorities, etc. have been achieved.

Scope of Work- The reference period for the current study was year 2010-11, year 2011-12 and year 2012-13 (three years). Broadly, the study covered 28 major states of the country and 101 sample districts in these states. This study was done through a network of Evaluating Agencies (EAs). About 15 percent of the total population was receiving social security cover under this programme, as reported by the World Bank Group's report 'The State of Social Safety Nets 2015'.

Physical Works- The number of works were taken up across the country keeping in mind the demand by the local people and needs of the area. It has been observed that maximum works were taken up in the category of Water Conservation followed by Rural Connectivity. In the reference period, 48 percent, 60 percent and 46 percent works were taken up in the category of Water Conservation in the years 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2013- 2014 respectively. This focus on water and land development (which was also been taken up) may increase the land productivity in the future and people may move from wage employment to sustainable employment in their villages.

Employment- MGNREGA, on an average, provides annual employment to around 5 crore households every year which is around 30 percent of the total rural households in the country. Since its inception, MGNREGA has generated 1,575 crore person-days of employment till December, 2013.

Person Days-Women: The participation of women as work force was more than the obligatory guidelines of 33 percent. Approximately, 49 percent of the workforce was women during the reference period.

Household Profile : In total, 2,72,289 households were listed across the country. Out of this, 35.9 percent belonged to "Other Backward Classes (OBCs)", 22.7 percent

belonged to "Scheduled castes" and 20.7 percent belonged to "Scheduled Tribes". The listing data represents the demographic profile of the states to a large extent. As per the economic status of the listed households, 53.7 percent were BPL and rest 46.3 percent were APL. Around 69% of minority households, 82% of Hindu households and 66 % ST households had demanded work under MGNREGA. It was observed that there were very few households (10.8% of 378 eligible households) who received unemployment allowance.

Average number of days of employment under MGNREGA in a year: The performance of MGNREGA in terms of full realization of the entitled 100 days of work per year could be considered abysmally low. The data reveals that only 13.8 percent received employment for, an average of, more than 80 days while only 7.9 percent received, on an average, 61-80 days of work. Just more than 50 percent got employment for, an average, of 21- 60 days. There were 26 percent of the households who got employment for less than 20 days.

Unemployment allowance- Almost all, who had demanded work, had obtained it under the MGNREGA programme. There were just 930 households out of 1,63,856 (demanded work), who did not get employment.

Expenditure on major heads- It was considered important to know the expenditure pattern of the households, who worked in MGNREGA. It was observed that they spent more money on education and health.

Impact of the programme

Three out of 5 households (61%) reported that the programme had a strong positive impact in increasing the wage rate and 66% reported it provided them with employment opportunities.

About 1/5th of the respondents reported that they used to migrate for work before MGNREGA. Analysis shows that the migration of the people has reduced from 20.4% to 17.2% and the difference is found to be significant at 99% level of confidence. More than half of the people perceived that it provided employment opportunities for them, as a result of which many were able to reduce their family debts. One of the objectives of the programme was to provide food security to the families at large, but 66% of the families thought that MGNREGA has not been able to provide such security. Only 11.3% households reported that they are having sufficient food during lean season which was not the situation before MGNREGA. The impact of MGNREGA was studied on loans and its repayments rigorously and it was found that out of the families (18.5%) who had taken loan to meet their needs, 42% families were able to repay more than 75% of the loan. MGNREGA was able to help about 12% of the households to repay the old loans taken three years back. People perceived that there was some positive impact on women from this programme. They were getting employment in the village, which was giving them wages equal to men. They were, reportedly, becoming confident and more financially independent. Under MGNREGA, stress was laid on transferring payments through bank accounts. Therefore, about 90% (of 40,106 households) of the respondents reported opening of new bank accounts after the onset of this programme. In about 24% of the cases, accounts were opened in the name of the female member of the households.

Recommendations and Suggestions

Through the survey and interactions with beneficiaries in the villages and Panchayat level officials, who are implementing this programme few issues emerged and

following suggestions have been made in the report to make the programme more effective and efficient:

- ❖ Mobilization of the communities/villagers
- ❖ Training of Functionaries
- ❖ Capacity building of the PRI functionaries
- ❖ Ensuring timely fund flow
- ❖ Ensuring Transparency and strengthening accountability measures
- ❖ Increase in Wages
- ❖ Ensuring wage - material ratio
- ❖ Ensuring participatory Planning
- ❖ Gender, Disability and Age Mainstreaming

2. PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY): Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective to provide all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations, existing in the Core Network, in rural areas of country. The programme envisages connecting all eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in plain areas and 250 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in Special Category States, the Desert Areas and in Selected Tribal and Backward Districts.

The PMGSY permits upgradation of existing rural roads in districts where all the eligible habitations of the designated population size have been provided all weather road connectivity. Recently, Ministry of Finance has tweaked the funding pattern of PMGSY from fully Centrally Funded Scheme to sharing between Centre and States. The scheme will now be shared/funded in a 60:40 manner between the Centre and States except for 8 North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States for which it will be 90:10. This has positively influenced the overall fund availability for implementation of the scheme as a result of which the Ministry

has envisaged to complete the objectives of the scheme by the year 2019.

Consolidation of rural roads through PMGSY-II

It has been launched to consolidate the existing rural road network. It aims to cover upgradation of existing selected rural roads based on a criterion to make the road-network vibrant. The selection of routes would be with the objective of identification of rural growth centres and other critical rural hubs, rural places of importance (connectivity to other growth poles, market, rural hub, tourist places etc.).

Action Plan for road side tree plantation with convergent efforts of MGNREGA and PMGSY has been prepared by the Ministry. Road side tree plantation will not only create productive assets but will also check the deterioration of roads and will continue to strengthen ecological balance and reduce global warming. The pace of construction of PMGSY roads improved substantially. For two consecutive financial years i.e. 2014-15 and 2015-16, 100 km of PMGSY roads have been constructed per day, as compared to the average of 73.5 km during the 3 year period of 2011 to 2014.

3. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin :

Erstwhile Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development to provide affordable housing to all rural poor across the country, has been restructured as Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G). Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to shelter-less rural BPL households for construction of dwelling units.

Recent initiatives under Rural Housing Scheme

- (a) **Increase in unit cost assistance:** Under the revamped PMAY-G, the ceiling for construction of a

new house has been raised to Rs.1,20,000/- per unit in plain areas and Rs.1,30,000/- in hilly/difficult areas/Left Wing Extremists affected districts for construction of 1 crore houses in rural areas over a period of three years from 2016-17 to 2018-19.

- (b) Under PMAY-G, the selection of beneficiaries is done on the basis of housing deprivation parameters in the SECC, 2011 data and validated by the Gram Sabhas.
- (c) Convergence with Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin): Sanitation is now a mandatory requirement of an PMAY-G house in convergence with 'Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)' of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

4. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM): The Government is implementing Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY – NRLM) to reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities resulting in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong and sustainable grassroots institutions of the poor. The objective is to ensure that each family, once it is in the Self Help Group network for a period of 6 – 8 years, is able to achieve household food security and have 3 – 4 stabilized livelihoods.

The guidelines of the DAY-NRLM was amended for improved targeting of beneficiaries by identifying the target group with at least one deprivation as per the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.

Following are the key components of NRLM:

- (a) **Promotion of Institutions of the Poor:** Building strong quality institutions of the poor such as Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations at various levels is an important component of the Mission. The institutions are expected to empower the poor and act as instruments of knowledge, technology dissemination and hubs of production.

- (b) **Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP):** MKSP was launched in 2010-11, is a special programme for livelihood enhancement under DAY-NRLM. It is a concerted effort to recognize the role of women in agriculture and an investment is being made to enhance their capacities and increase their income to take lead in agriculture and allied activities.

(c) **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs):** DAY-NRLM encourages public sector banks to set up RSETIs in all districts of the country. RSETIs transform unemployed rural youth in the districts into confident self-employed entrepreneurs through need-based training program followed by systematic handholding support and bank linkage. Banks are involved in selection, training and post training follow-up. RSETI have trained about 8.17 lakh youths and settled 3.96 lakh youths in the country.

5. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY):

DDU-GKY is the placement linked skill development scheme under DAY-NRLM. It has evolved out of the need to diversify incomes of the rural poor and to cater to the occupational aspirations of the rural youth. It primarily targets skilling of unemployed youth to improve their employability. Achievements include 724 on-going skill training projects implemented by 330 training partners in nearly 1,100 approved training centres across 21 states, impacting youth from 568 districts and 6,219 blocks.

6. NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP)

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a social assistance programme for the aged, widows, disabled and to the families in the case of death of the breadwinner belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) Households. This scheme has been launched keeping in view the spirit of Article 41 of the Constitution of India which directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement. The intention of launching the scheme is to ensure that social protection to the beneficiaries is available throughout the country and for this 100 percent central assistance is provided.

6.1 NSAP comprises of the following schemes for Below Poverty Line Households (BPL).

- (a) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
- (b) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)
- (c) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
- (d) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

(e) **Annapurna:** Under the scheme, 10 kg of food grains per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who, though eligible under IGNOAPS, are not receiving old age pension. States/UTs are expected to make at least an equal contribution from their own resources under all three pension schemes.

7. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

The Government is also implementing Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) to trigger processes which lead to holistic development of the identified Gram Panchayats by converging different programmes of the Government, private and voluntary initiatives to achieve comprehensive development in tune with people's aspirations and local potential. The goal of SAGY is to translate this comprehensive and organic vision of Mahatma Gandhi into reality, keeping in view the present context. 877 SAGY Gram Panchayats have been adopted by Members of Parliament under Phase I & II across India for their development. The objective is to trigger processes which lead to the holistic development of the identified Gram Panchayats. Highlights include 40,961 Development Projects in 8 sectors across the SAGY Gram Panchayats.

Phase wise adoption of Gram Panchayats by MPs

Number of MPs		Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Total
		543	252	795
Total Number of Gram Panchayats identified	Phase I	499	200	699
	Phase II	42	8	50

8. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission is aimed at delivery of integrated project based infrastructure and development of economic activities in rural areas. It aims at development of rural growth clusters which have latent potential for growth, which would trigger overall

development in the region. Clusters comprise geographically contiguous villages with a population of about 25000 to 50000 in plain and coastal areas and a population of 5000 to 15000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas. It targets to create 300 such Rurban growth clusters over the next 3 years, across the country. In the first phase of the mission in 2016-17, total 100 clusters have been approved

in 28 States. The Mission has an outlay of over Rs. 5142 crores. Rs 35 lacs has been released towards each cluster to all States and all States have begun the process of preparation of Integrated Cluster Action Plans (ICAPs). 96 clusters have been approved so far.

9. Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme

The National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP) has been restructured as the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) in line with the Government's stated objective to develop a modern, comprehensive and transparent land records management system in the country leading towards conclusive titling. The new scheme would be implemented from the year 2016-17.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Programmes:

It is needful to mention that the success of the development programmes largely depends on the effective delivery system and efficient implementation at the grassroots level so that the programme benefits reach the rural poor in full measure. In order to ensure this, the Government has evolved a comprehensive multi-level and multi-tool system of Monitoring and Evaluation for the implementation of its programmes comprising of (i) Review by the Union Ministers (ii) Performance Review Committee (iii) Vigilance & Monitoring Committees (iv) National Level Monitors (v) Area Officers Schemes (vi) Concurrent Evaluation (vii) Impact Assessment Studies & (viii) Web Based Monitoring. A District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee (DDCMC) named as "DISHA" in place of District Vigilance & Monitoring Committee has been constituted to fulfill the objective of ensuring a better coordination among all the elected representatives in Parliament, State Legislatures and Local Governments (Panchayati Raj Institutions/Municipal Bodies).

The Road Ahead

The Government of India Budget 2016-2017 has highlighted the top most priority given to the Rural Development sector. Major reforms have been undertaken to improve transparency and quality of implementation of programs. MGNREGS achieved the highest person days generated (235 crores) in the last five years in 2016-2017. The expenditure was the highest in any year since the programme was launched in 2006. 95 percent workers are paid through their bank/post office accounts. MGNREGS has an excellent transaction based Management Information System (MIS) and uses the digital platform effectively. For the first time, every State in India is preparing a performance Outcome Report for 2015-16, highlighting the durable assets created, the additional irrigation potential created, and the efforts to focus on agriculture and allied activities. Thrust on water conservation has received very good response and MGNREGS is the principal source of funds for these measures.

Under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY NRLM), a record Rs.30,000 crores of credit has been availed by Self Help Groups. Over 3 crore households have been reached through atleast 26 lakh Self Help Groups of women. Over 2.70 lakh youths from BPL families have been skilled under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushlya Yojana (DDU-GKY) in 2015-16 and over 1.7 lakh have been placed in wage employment. Under Indira Awas Yojana, IAY over 33 lakh houses have been completed in the last two years. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), over 36,000 kilometers of road were constructed in 2015-16, with a daily construction of 100 kilometers of road. It is expected that in 2017-18 and 2018-19 upto 175 kilometers of roads will be constructed per day to ensure that all eligible habitations as per 2001 census are connected with all weather roads by March, 2019.

Database for old age pension, widow pension and pension for the differently abled persons has been digitized for full transparency and to simplify making payments on time and in the village through the Banking Correspondent. Reducing poverty and ensuring inclusive growth and development remain India's greatest challenge. Plans for the selected 100 Clusters with growth potential under the National Rurban Mission are being prepared and work is to be started soon on provision of urban amenities in identified rural growth clusters. Significant improvement has been achieved in Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana villages on non-infrastructure parameters like immunization, participation in schools, health camps, nutrition services etc. However, in terms of achieving inclusive development for the rural population at large, there is vast scope for improvement and greater outreach.

Raising rural income is central to rural development for which colossal improvements in rural infrastructure is required. Development should not be at the cost of sustainability. Rights of marginalized sections of population such as tribal rights should be factored in policy formulation. The development intervention in the rural areas largely depends on the effective implementation of rural development programmes. Since independence, the country has formulated various rural development programmes and has restructured and revamped them envisaging their wider outreach and acceptability. However, the issues, challenges and concerns relating to the implementation of the rural development programmes have remained more or less the same. It is hoped that the SECC, 2011 will be used to better identify and target the beneficiaries who are the most deprived. The need of the hour is the convergence of all development interventions at the grass-root level so as to enhance necessary

infrastructure in the backward regions and ensure capacity building and skill up-gradation. It is important to realize that State intervention cannot be sufficient to achieve the goal of equitable and inclusive rural development. The involvement of citizens, specially women and minorities through Panchayati Raj institutions at the local level and participation of industry through Corporate Social Responsibility remains essential in fulfilling the objective of social and economic development of the country.

Swami Vivekanand had said that "no amount of politics would be of any avail until the masses in India are well fed, well educated and well cared for". The year 2022 will be the Amrut Mahotsav, the 75th year of India's independence. Inclusive growth needs to be accelerated wherein benefits of growth and economic development trickle down to the poorest of poor.

References:

- Annual Report, Ministry of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj 2014-15 & 2015-16
- Report of the First Common Review Mission, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
- GeoMGREGA, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
- Kurukshetra, February, 2014 ; March 2016
- www.rural.nic.in, Outcome Budget, MoRD
- Food and Nutrition Security Status in India: Opportunities for Investment Partnerships
- T. Nandakumar, Kavary Ganguly, Pravesh Sharma, and Ashok Gulati, No. 16 , November 2010
- Bali Vinita ,We need a Nutrition Mission, The Hindu , July 23rd 2016
- Initiatives and Achievements 2014-15 & 2015-16 Department of Land Resources