

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION:

Rural development is one of the programmes in India and has been widely discussed academically and otherwise and will continue to attract attention and interests of many for a long time to come.

Rural development programmes have a history going back to the 'seventies in India. The aim of rural development is to improve the socio-economic life of rural people, especial rural poor. There are many facilities like putput, employment, health, education, transport, commerce, power supply and drinking water, in general, and political and social awakening in particular. However, the emphasis is on the development of agriculture and allied activities like rural industries and crafts.

Rural development programmes are referred to as an improvement in the 'quality of life' of the people. However, the term 'quality of life' of the people is a nebulous term. There is no absolute norm against which one can measure 'quality of life'. However, it may be said that gainful employment, securing a derived balance between work and leisure, better and diversified consumption, preventing pollution and health hazards, healthier living conditions, attaining higher cultural level are undisputed elements in any measure of 'quality of life'.

## 2.2 CONCEPT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

The concept of rural development was developed in the context of agriculture and it remained so for a long time, especially it is related to the agricultural development in India. Since the 'seventies, the concept of rural development has undergone a change. It has become more comprehensive.

According to the World Bank, "Rural development is a strategy designed to improve economic and social life of a specified group of people" [1]. So, rural development involves the development of the poorest who are unable to seek sufficient livelihood in the rural areas. This group includes the small-scale farmers, tenants and the landless. Thus, it would be erroneous to relate rural development to agricultural development alone. However, it must be recognized that agricultural development is the centre of this stage. Rural development specialists have defined the term 'rural development' in many ways.

According to Ensminger, "Rural development seeks to involve a process of transformation from traditionally oriented rural culture towards an acceptance and reliance on science and technology" [2].

Lele defines 'rural development' as "an improvement in the living standard of the masses of low income population residing in rural areas and making the process of self-sustaining" [3].

Thus, rural development involves a process in the rural areas for rural society, especially rural poor, to change the status of social and economic level.

The concept of rural development was first used in India by the Planners. It is the process of planning to implement rural development programmes through appropriate strategy. It is based on an improvement in the economic and social life of the rural poor who are unable to seek livelihood in rural areas. They have to share in the benefits of development in agricultural production and raise economic growth in rural areas.

The main theme of rural development may be summarized as follows:

- (1) To achieve enhanced production and productivity in rural areas;
- (2) To bring about a greater socio-economic equity;
- (3) To bring about a spatial balance in social and economic development;
- (4) To bring about improvement in the ecological environment so that it may be conducive to growth and happiness; and
- (5) To develop broad-based community participation in the process of development.

### **2.3 NEED OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**

In India, rural development is one of the important programmes, because it is the need of India, on account of the following reasons:

- (1) Three-fourths of India's population lives in rural areas;
- (2) About one-third of the country's national income is derived from agriculture;
- (3) Seventy percent of India's population gets employment through agriculture;
- (4) Bulk of raw material for industries comes from agriculture and the rural sector;
- (5) Increase in industrial production can be justified only in rural population's motivation and the purchasing power to buy goods can be increased;
- (6) Stable and developing agricultural economy can help in stability of price of industrial goods;
- (7) Growing disparity between the urban elite and the rural poor can lead to political instability.

However, the needs for a new emphasis on rural development becomes clear in these seven main reasons.

#### 2.4 OBJECTIVES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Rural development focuses on the life of rural poor. However, it requires primary changes in the economic, social, political, psychological, cultural and educational behaviour of the rural people, those who are illiterate and ignorant. So, rural development is based on both problem and solution. Thus, the fundamental objectives of rural development displays the standard of living of the rural masses. The following are the main objectives of the rural development:

- (1) Improvement in quality of life of the rural poor;
- (2) Improvement and development of agricultural production of the rural poor;
- (3) Improvement in the quality of village industries and crafts of the rural poor;
- (4) Improvement of education in technical and artistic skills of the rural poor;
- (5) Improvement of services of rural masses in the process;
- (6) Improvement of know-how which could be implemented so as to infuse a sense of pragmatism in the process of development to the rural poor.

The broad objective of the rural development is concerned with the idea to seek and promote ways of reducing the poverty of rural poor by increasing the availability of economically productive employment and earning opportunities.

#### 2.5 HISTORY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA:

The first attempt at rural development in India was made in 1885 with an ultimate objective of bringing immediate relief and development of rural areas in Baroda [5]. In 1922, the Swaraj Ashram was established at Baroda by Maganlal Gandhi [6]. 'Grow-more-food' campaign was started in 1943 with a view to augmenting the level of food production through planning and implementation of short-term and long-term improvement programmes in agriculture [7].

The next important step was taken by the Kisan Sabha under the leadership of the Communist Party worker Mrs. Godavari Parulekar in 1945 [8]. And by the end of the 'forties

of the twentieth century, a number of such centres which were based on well defined principles and approaches of community development were going on in various parts of the country. Some of these centres were started by the Government and a great number by individuals and private organizations.

In September 1948, the first and the foremost pilot project was started in an area of 64 villages scattered in the vicinity of Mahewa located at a distance of about 8 miles from the headquarters of Etawah district [9]. In the year 1949, there was again a move for 'Grow-More-Food' campaign with a view to attaining self-sufficiency in foodgrains by 1952. Besides these, efforts were also more in nature of trials rather than experiments with well defined approaches and methods.

The Government has started Five-Year Plans to serve and develop the rural communities among others in India, which would create a better, richer and fuller life for the teeming millions of masses. However, the National Extension Service was conceived by the First Five Year Plan which was started in 1952 by the Government of India.

In India, the Government has undertaken Rural Development Programmes in each Five Year Plan as shown on the following page. These programmes were introduced in different years by the Government to attack rural poverty at the very root. They have been directed towards the rural development. However, the

## Rural Development Programmes

Plan Period	Programme	Year of Introduction
First 5-Year Plan	Community Development Programme	1952
	National Extension Service	1953
Second 5-Year Plan	Khadi & Village Industries Programme	1957
	Housing Projects Scheme	1957
	Multi-Purpose Tribal Development Blocks Programme	1959
	Package Programme	1960
Third 5-Year Plan	Applied Nutrition Programme	1962
	Rural Industries Projects	1962
	Intensive Agricultural Areas Programme	1964
	High Yielding Variety Programme	1966
Annual Plan-1966	Farmers' Training & Education Programme	1966
	Well Construction Programme	1966
Annual Plan-1967	Rural Works Programme (RWP)	1967
Annual Plan-1968	Tribal Development Block Programme	1968
Annual Plan-1969	Rural Manpower Programme (Composite)	1969
	Programme for Women and Primary School Children	1969
Fourth 5-Year Plan	Draught Prone Areas Programme	1970
	Cash Scheme for Rural Employment	1971
	Small Farmers' Development Agency (SFDA)	1971
	Tribal Area Development Programme	1972
	Pilot Projects for Tribal Development	1972
	Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme	1972
	Minimum Needs Programme	1972
	Command Area Development Programme	1974
Fifth 5-Year Plan	Hill Area Development Programme	1975
	ICDC	1975
	Special Livestock Production Programme	1975
	Desert Development Programme	1977
	Food-for-Work Programme	1977
	Whole Village Development Programme	1979
	Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment Programme	1979
	Integrated Rural Development Programme	1979
Sixth 5-Year Plan	National Rural Employment Programme	1980
	Prime Minister's New 20-Point Programme	1980
	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	1983
Seventh 5-Year Plan	Jawahar Rojgar Yojana	1989

Source: Ashok Kumar, "Planning Development and Disparities in Rural India", Commonwealth Publishers, New Delhi, pp.25 & 26.

Government of India introduced a new approach called "Integrated Rural Development Programme" (IRDP) in a few selected blocks in 1978-79 [10]. This programme has come to stay as one of the major plans of our development process and effort. The programme in its present form was initiated in 1978-79 in 2300 development blocks. It has been extended from October 2, 1980, to all the 5011 blocks in the country. It is a part of nation-wide "Twenty-Point Programme". In the same year (1980), the IRDP had been introduced in Maharashtra State including Kolhapur District including Gadhinglaj Taluka/Block.

#### CONCEPT OF I.R.D.P.:

The concept of IRDP in its full-fledged form is more comprehensive. It is an all pervasive, multi-dimensional, multi-disciplinary and comprehensive programme for development. It means achieving the goal of enrichment of the overall quality of life covering all its aspects - economic, social, cultural - through planning for the integrated development of human resources, development of infrastructural facilities, development of agricultural and rural industries, provision of minimum social needs. It is based on micro level planning with focus on the target group.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE I.R.D.P.:

The objective of the programme is to assist selected families below the poverty line in rural areas to cross this line by taking up self-employment ventures [11]. There are specific objectives of this programme such as:

- (i) Drawing the entire labourforce into the mainstream of economic activity;
- (ii) Realizing the creative energies of the rural poor;
- (iii) Bringing the town into countryside and thereby checking the process of migration to urban areas from the villages;
- (iv) Improving the living conditions of the rural masses and their quality of life, particularly through integration of development with environment;
- (v) Around development of the human resources, their social and economic productivity and work satisfaction;
- (vi) Narrow down the inequalities of wealth and income in the rural community;
- (vii) The removal of unemployment and underemployment; and
- (viii) Provision of basic needs such as drinking water, education, training, housing by the State to the rural people of low income groups [12].

**STRATEGY:**

The programme aims to achieve the stated objectives by providing income generating assets. The programme also includes working capital, where necessary to the target group families through package of assistance comprising subsidy and institutional credit.

**TARGET GROUPS:**

In the IRDP, the accent is on the weaker sections of the society in rural areas. It consists of small farmers, marginal

farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans and others, whose annual family income is below the cut off line and belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. They have been defined as under:

(a) Small Farmer:

A cultivator with a land holding of 5 acres or below is a small farmer. Where a farmer has Class-I irrigated land, as defined in the State Land Ceilings Legislation, with 2.5 acres or less, he will also be considered as a small farmer. Where the land is irrigated but not of the Class-I variety, a suitable conversion ratio may be adopted by the State Government with a ceiling of 5 acres.

(b) Marginal Farmer:

A person with a land holding of 2.5 acres or below is a marginal farmer. In the case of Class-I irrigated land, the ceiling will be 1.25 acres.

(c) Agricultural Labourers:

A person without any land, other than homestead, and deriving more than 50 percent of his income from agricultural wages is an agricultural labourer.

(d) Non-Agricultural Labourer:

A person whose total income from wage-earning does not exceed Rs.200 per month. Persons who derive their income partly from agriculture and partly from other sources can also be brought under this category, providing atleast 30

percent of their income is from non-agricultural sources. They need not have a homestead but must be a resident of the village in which they are identified.

(e) Artisans:

Persons engaged in such activities as blacksmithy, carpentry, cane and bamboo work, shoemaking, tailoring, etc. come under this category.

(f) Scheduled Castes and Tribes:

The families belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute the bulk of the poverty group.

(g) Women:

At least 30 percent of the total beneficiaries are women. Priority is given to women heads of households and women members of households.

(h) Physically Handicapped:

The flow of financial investments to the categories is commensurate with the percentage of their physical handicap.

The present Dissertation focuses on only the landless labourers, especially the agricultural labourers. The IRDP work and landless labourers in Gadhinglaj Taluka are discussed in the following Chapter. However, prior to that a brief discussion on the general information of Gadhinglaj Taluka and landless labourers in the Taluka is undertaken.

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