

Rural Development Programmes

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	Started by	Year
Pre independence			
1	Sriniketan Project	Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore	1914
2	Marthandam Project	Dr.Spencer Hatch	1921
3	Gurgaon Experiment	F.L.Brayne	1928
4	Sarvoday Programme	Shri Vinoba Bhave	1948-49
Post early independence(1947-53)			
1	Firka Development	Madras Government	1948
2	Etawah Pilot Project	Albert Mayor	1948
3	Nilokheri Experiment	S.K.Dey	1948
4	Community Development Programme (CDP)	Government of India	1952
5	National Extension Service (NES)	Government of India	1953

Rural Development

The term rural development connotes overall development of rural areas to improve the quality of life of rural people. In this sense, it is a comprehensive and multidimensional concept, and encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities, village and cottage industries and crafts, socioeconomic infrastructure, community services and facilities and, above all, human resources in rural areas. So, there are various types of approaches to rural development like Sectoral Approach, Area Development Approach, Integrated Development Approach, Growth Centre Approach and Community-driven development (CDD) or Approach.

Broad Front Approach

- Community Development and Panchayat Raj were often described as **Broad-front** development strategies.
- They aimed at development of villages covering all the major spheres like Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Rural Industries, Communication, Health, Education, Women Welfare and Social Welfare.
- In early fifties, rural development efforts began with **multi-purpose approach** which included activities related to agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operation, irrigation, village and small-scale industries, health, sanitation, housing, transport and communication, welfare of women and rural employment.
- **The Community Development Programmes (CDP) and National Extension Service (NES) initiated in 1952 fell under this approach**
- **Weaknesses of CDP and NES;**
 - It brought about a great disparity between the rich and the poor,

- It hardly touched the problem of meeting the felt needs of the people,
- It failed to bring about the process of modernization through social education, and
- Lack of people's participation.
- In spite of the criticisms levelled against CDP and NES, the fact cannot be denied that the programme added a new dimension to the process of change and generated community consciousness to solve community problems.
- The multi-purpose approach was a significant approach, which laid the foundation stone for the upliftment of rural India.

Sectoral Approach

- In the early 1960*s India revised its rural development strategy and adopted sectoral approach of development, due to financial limitations and pressing needs and priorities.
- Sectoral development planning in individual sectors like education, health, housing and social security are included in sectoral approach of development
- This approach advocates compartmentalization of development in different sectors
- By 1960's the situation was rather critical on the food front.
- The need for great concentration on food production led to strategy for locating potential sectors and well-endowed districts and areas capable of yielding higher agricultural production.
- More attention was paid in improving productivity per acre than on extending the acreage.
- Thus, the **Intensive Agriculture Development Programme (1960) (IADP)** and later in **1963 intensive Agricultural Area Programme (IAAP)** were launched. Both IADP and IAAP constituted **landmarks in the development of agriculture, indeed of the rural sector in India.**
- The programmes placed agriculture on a qualitatively different footing with wide ranging repercussions on rural scenario.
- The programmes resulted in a spectacular breakthrough in total agricultural production and productivity per hectare but at the expense of social equality and social justice.
- While the sectoral approach to development was fruitful to a major extent in eliminating scarcity of food, it has also contributed to the growing regional imbalances and inequality among the people within the community.
- As a result, the development policy of India was revised once again in late 1970*s in which development of the rural poor became the primary concerned of rural development. **Antyodaya, Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme** are some of the programmes that were introduced in India for the development of rural poor.

Participatory Approach

- “Participatory development is a process through which stakeholders can influence and share control over development initiatives, and over the decisions and resources that affect themselves”(ADB, 1996).
- **A process to engage local populations in development projects.**
- PD uses local decision making and capacities to steer and define the nature of an intervention.
- PD aims at achieving a localized capital accumulation process based on the skills development and local resources generation.
- The essential feature of PD is social mobilization
- PD gives a new self-confidence through which the community can engage in more ambitious projects involving collective action and management.

Scope and Applications of Participation:

- **Participation at the micro level of projects** such as project planning and design decisions, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- **Participation at the macro level**, for instance, participatory poverty assessments (PPAs) are designed to influence policy particularly in relation to development and poverty reduction strategies
- Between the micro and the macro level, a number of exercises in participation at an intermediate or meso level such as participatory budgeting in local governments and various forms of territory-based rural development

Types of Participation:

- **Passive Participation**
 - People are told what is going to happen or has already happened. Top down, information shared belongs only to external professionals. Information giving People answer questions posed by extractive researchers, using surveys etc. People not able to influence the research. Consultation People are consulted and external agents listen to their views. Usually externally defined problems and solutions. People not really involved in decision making. Participation by material incentives Provision of resources, e.g. labor. Little incentive to participate, for example farm research, some community forestry
- **Functional Participation**
 - Groups are formed to meet predetermined objectives.
 - Usually done after major project decisions are made, therefore initially dependent on outsiders but may become self-dependent and enabling.
 - Interactive Participation Joint analysis to joint actions.
 - Possible use of new local institutions or strengthening existing ones. Enabling and empowering so people have a stake in maintaining structures or practices.

- Self-Mobilization Already empowered, take decisions independently of external institutions. May or may not challenge existing inequitable distributions of wealth and power.

Key Elements of Participatory Development Process

- Growth of consciousness and group identity.
- The realization of the creative potential of the poor.
- Empowerment: The process of reconstructing a group identity, raising consciousness, acquiring new skills and upgrading their knowledge base.
- Participation: Power to break the vicious circle of poverty

Area Development Approach

- This approach contemplates that development of an area depends not only on the development of an adequate infrastructure network but also the way factors of the local economy are activated around the production infrastructure.
- In other words, for development of an area, spatial and functional integration is necessary.
- Thus, while rural growth centres provide ideal locations for the provision of infrastructural facilities, their hinterlands are regarded as basic planning units for integrated multi-sectoral planning to achieve integrated development of an area.
- The approach, while taking area poverty into consideration, provides a balance between various sectoral activities as well as spatial pattern of growth; however, it does not ensure that economic growth is being shared by all classes and communities of the rural areas.

Target Approach

- In order to accommodate the lagging sectors/regions rural development was re-conceptualized to highlight the improvement of the social and economic life of a specialized group of people.
- The target group comprised of marginal and small farmers, landless agricultural labourers for whom special programmes such as **Small Farmer Development Agency (SFDA)** and **Marginal Farmers Development Agency (MFALDA)** were started.
- It was noticed that the target group approach showed a better result where information facilities were satisfactory and administrative and organizational arrangements were reasonably strong.
- This approach was for the correction of regional imbalance.

- In this connection, mention may be made of **Tribal Area Development Programme (TADP, 1972)**, **Hill Area Development Programme (HADP, 1974-75)**, **Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP, 1970)**, **Desert Development Programme (DDP, 1977-78)**, and **Command Area Development Programme (CADP, 1975)**.
- These programmes were fairly successful in terms of implementation.

Basic Needs Approach

- The basic needs approach gives primacy to the need for a minimum standard of living of the poor as a central concern of development planning.
- It therefore contributes to the formulation of a development strategy, which aims at reducing poverty and inequality, promoting growth of employment and distributive justice.
- The basic needs concept is a wider scope covering personal and social consumption and also human rights, people's participation, employment and growth with justice.
- **The Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) in India was introduced in 1974 during the first year of fifth plan period.**
- The fifth plan proposed MNP with the objectives of establishing network of basic services and facilities of social consumption in all areas of up to nationally accepted norms within in a specified time frame.
- It is essentially a programme of investment in human resources development and seeks to improve the consumption of those living below poverty line and thereby improving productive efficiency of people and their quality of life.
- **The main components of MNP are:**
 - Rural health,
 - Rural education,
 - Rural roads,
 - Rural drinking water,
 - Rural electrification,
 - House sites for landless,
 - Environmental improvement in slums, and
 - Nutrition.

Employment-oriented Integrated Approach to Rural Development

- With a view to overcome the limitations of earlier approaches and to improve the quality of life of the poor living in the rural areas, a **multilevel, multi-sector, with multi-section concept of integrated rural development** was launched in 1978-79.
- The different programmes were brought under single umbrella of **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)**.
- It aimed at ensuring accelerated welfare and development of the poorest of the poor based on **Gandhian concept of Antyodaya**. Several programmes for providing employment to rural poor, namely, rural works programme, rural employment guarantee programme, IRDP, Training Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) were introduced.

Integrated Development Approach

- In the context of problems in the area development approach to tackle the problems of rural poverty, a new strategy of development, i.e. the integrated development approach has been developed **because the area development approach by and large failed to address the question of inequalities in the distribution of employment, incomes and assets**.
- A **mere geographical emphasis**, as is the case with the area development approach, has been found to be inadequate in solving the problems.
- The Indian economy and social structure are characterized by widespread poverty, poor health conditions, illiteracy, exploitation, inequitable distribution of land and other assets and lack of infrastructure and public utilities (roads, communications etc).
- Clearly, this means that the problem requires an approach that will take into account all these factors in devising a comprehensive strategy to further rural development.
- **The concept of “integrated rural development” came into vogue with the need for a multipurpose thrust to rural planning.**
- It stresses that various facets of rural development, which have an impact on rural life, are interrelated and cannot be looked at in isolation.
- Thus, an integrated approach towards rural development is essential.
- **The various dimensions of rural life---growth of agriculture and allied activities, rural industrialization, education, health, public works, poverty alleviation and rural employment programmes -- all form a part of an integrated approach to the problems of rural development.**

Growth Centre Approach

- It is most appropriate for planning integrated rural development.
- Based on the principle of “**equal accessibility**”, this approach can bring all these facilities, services and local administration [panchayats] within easy reach of the population.
- **The growth centre should be equipped with all the required facilities such as:**
 - Training centre to impart practical training and build capacity to enhance productivity of agriculture and rural/cottage/agro-based industries.
 - Mobile training-cum-demonstration unit to provide on the spot training, repair and maintenance, services for agricultural and industrial machineries.
 - Marketing-cum-warehousing facilities that can provide safe storage and marketing of farm produce and cottage industries products.
 - Forest and grass nursery to provide fruits, fuel, fodder and forest cover.
 - Developmental school based on the “**earning while learning principle**” and oriented to develop a cadre of self-employed workers in the area of human, animal, plant and soil-health care and
 - Residential housing complex for workers in the project area.

Community-driven development (CDD) or Approach

- It is derived from **community-based development (CBD)**, which is a developmental initiative that provides control of the development process, resources and decision-making authority directly to community groups.
- The underlying assumption of CDD projects are that communities are the best judges of how their lives and livelihoods can be improved and, if provided with adequate resources and information, they can organize themselves to provide for their immediate needs.
- Moreover, CDD programmes are motivated by their trust in people (Naidoo and Finn, 2001) and hence it advocates people changing their own environment as a powerful force for development.
- By treating poor people as assets and partners in the development process, previous studies have shown that CDD is responsive to local demands, inclusive, and more costeffective compared to centrally-led NGO-based programmes.
- CDD can also be supported by strengthening and financing community groups, facilitating community access to information, and promoting an enabling environment through policy and institutional reform.

Gandhian Approach and its current relevance:

- In the Indian context **rural development may be defined as maximising production in agriculture and allied activities in the rural areas including development of rural industries with emphasis on village and cottage industries.**
- It attaches importance to the generation of maximum possible employment opportunities in rural areas, especially for the weaker sections of the community so as to enable them to improve their standard of living.
- Provision of certain basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, especially for the productive purpose, link roads connecting villages to market centres and facilities for health and education etc. figure prominently in the scheme of rural development. Theoretically, Gandhian approach to rural development may be labelled as 'idealist'. It attaches supreme importance to moral values and gives primacy to moral values over material conditions.
- **The Gandhians believe** that the source of moral values in general lies in religion and Hindu scriptures like the Upanishads and the Gita, in particular.
- **The concept of 'Rama Rajya'** is the basis of Gandhiji's idea of an ideal social order. Gandhi defined Rama Rajya as "sovereignty of the people based on moral authority". He did not view Rama as a king, and people as his subjects.
- In the Gandhian scheme, 'Rama' stood for God or one's own 'inner voice' Gandhi believed in a democratic social order in which people are supreme. Their supremacy is, however, not absolute. It is subject to moral values
- **Ideal Village:**
 - The village is the basic unit of the Gandhian ideal social order.
 - Gandhi succinctly pointed out, **"If the village perishes, India will perish too. We have to make a choice between India of the villages that is as ancient as herself and India of the cities which are a creation of foreign domination"**.
 - Gandhi's ideal village belongs to the Pre-British period, when Indian villages were supposed to constitute the federation of self-governing autonomous republics.
 - **According to Gandhiji**, this federation will be brought about not by coercion or compulsion but by the voluntary offer of every village republic to join such a federation.
 - The work of the central authority will only be to coordinate the work of different village republics and to supervise and manage things of common interest, as education, basic industries, health, currency, banking etc. The central authority will have no power to enforce its decisions on village republics except the moral pressure or power of persuasion. The economic system and transport system

introduced by the British have destroyed the “republican” character of the villages. Gandhi, however, admitted that in olden times tyranny and oppression were in fact practised by feudal chiefs. But, “**odds were even**”. Today the odds are heavy. It is most demoralising.”

- **In this way in the Gandhian scheme of things the ancient ‘republic’, an Indian village without tyranny and exploitation serves as a model unit.**

- **Decentralisation**

- Gandhi firmly believes that village republics can be built only through **decentralisation** of social and political power.
- In such a system decision-making power will be vested in the Village Panchayat rather than in the State and the national capital.
- The representatives would be elected by all adults for a fixed period of five years.
- The elected representatives would constitute a council, **called the Panchayat**.
- The Panchayat exercises legislative, executive and judicial functions.
- It would look after education, health and sanitation of the village.
- It would be the Panchayats responsibility to protect and uplift ‘**untouchables**’ and other poor people.
- Resources for Gandhian approach to managing village affairs would be raised from the villages.
- All the conflicts and disputes would be resolved within the village. And as far as possible not a single case is to be referred to courts outside the village.
- **The Panchayat would play its role in propagating the importance of moral and spiritual values among the rural people for bringing about rural reconstruction. Apart from managing its own affairs the village would also be capable of defending itself against any invasion.**

- **Self-sufficiency**

- Such a **decentralised polity implies a decentralised economy**.
- It can be attained only through self-sufficiency at the village level.
- **The village should be self-sufficient as far as its basic needs** – food, clothing, shelter and other necessities – are concerned.
- The village has to import certain things which it cannot produce in the village. “We shall have to produce more of what we can, in order thereby to obtain in exchange, what we are unable to produce”.
- The village should produce food-crops and cotton in order to meet its requirements. Some lands should also be earmarked for cattle and for a playground for adults and children.

- If some land is still available, it should be used for growing useful cash crops like tobacco, opium, etc. to enable the village to get in exchange things which it does not produce.
- Village economy should be planned with a view to providing full employment to all the adults of the village.
- Each man should be guaranteed employment to enable him to meet his basic needs in the village itself so that he is not forced to migrate to towns. In the ultimate analysis full employment should be linked with equality.
- Physical labour occupies a central place in the Gandhian concept of the self-sufficient village.
- In this respect he was highly influenced by Ruskin and Tolstoy. According to Gandhi, each man must do physical labour to earn his bread.
- Physical labour is necessary for moral discipline and for the sound development of the mind.
- Intellectual labour is only for one's own satisfaction and one should not demand payment for it.
- The needs of the body must be supplied by the body. Gandhi said, "If all laboured for their bread then there would be enough food and enough leisure for all." Shriman Narayan rightly observes, "Gandhiji recognised toil to be not a curse but the joyful business of life as it has the power to make man healthier, merrier, fitter and kindlier".

● Industrialization

- Gandhiji maintained that industrialization would help only a few and will lead to concentration of economic power.
- Industrialization leads to passive or active exploitation of the villages. It encourages competition.
- Large scale production requires marketing. Marketing means profit-seeking through an exploitative mechanism. Moreover, industrialization replaces manpower and hence it adds to unemployment.
- Gandhians are not against machine per se if it meets two aims: self-sufficiency and full employment.
- According to Gandhi, there would be no objection to villagers using even the modern machines and tools that they could make and could afford to use. Only they should not be used as a means of exploitation of others.

● Trusteeship

- Gandhiji was not against the institution of private property.
- But he wanted to restrict the right of private property to what was necessary to yield an honourable livelihood.
- For the excess he prescribed the **principle of trusteeship**.

- Gandhiji emphasized the principle of trusteeship in social and economic affairs. He firmly believed that all social property should be held in trust.
- The capitalists would take care not only of themselves but also of others. Some of their surplus wealth would be used for the rest of the society.
- The poor workers, under trusteeship, would consider the capitalists as their benefactors; and would repose faith in their noble intentions.
- Gandhiji felt that if such a trusteeship were established, the welfare of the workers would increase and the clash between the workers and employers would be avoided. Trusteeship would help considerably **“in realising a state of equality on earth.”**
- Gandhiji firmly believed that land should not be owned by any individual. Land belongs to God. Hence, individual ownership of land should be shunned. For that a landowner should be persuaded to become a trustee of his land. He should be convinced that the land he owns does not belong to him. Land belongs to the community and must be used for the welfare of the community. They are merely trustees.
- By persuasion the heart of landowners should be changed and they should be induced to donate their land voluntarily. If the land owners do not oblige and continue to exploit the poor workers, the latter should organise non-violent, non-cooperation, civil disobedience struggles against them. Gandhiji rightly held the view that “no person can amass wealth without the cooperation, willing or forced, of the people concerned”. If this knowledge were to penetrate and spread amongst the poor, they would become strong and learn how to free themselves from the crushing inequalities which have pushed them to the verge of starvation.
- In the Gandhian scheme of things, the principle of cooperation, love and service is most important and violence has no place in it. Violence is against “moral values” and civilized society is inconceivable in the absence of moral values. Gandhiji’s concept of development is oriented to the uplift of the common man.
- He preferred village habitats to megalopolises and Swadeshi craft to imported technology for the economic well being of the common man. **He stressed the need for cottage industries** in place of gigantic industries and advocated for a decentralised economy instead of a centralised one.
- He realised the need for integrated rural development and believed that education, health and vocation should be properly integrated. He emphasised the need for education and training which he called ‘**Naitalim**’ (**New training**) for rural reconstruction. Thus, Gandhian approach to rural development strives to reconstruct village republics which would be non-violent, self-governed and self-sufficient so far as the basic necessities of ruralites are concerned. Apart from creating a new socio-economic order, it Endeavour’s to transform man; otherwise the changes in the socio-economic order will be short-lived.