

**The national Rural Development Policy (NRDP) is formulated to meet the constitutional obligations to develop human resources and bring about positive changes in the standard of living of the people who live in the rural areas of Bangladesh and are dependent on the natural resources therein. The NRDP is intended to provide a set of governing principles for guiding all rural development activities. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while inaugurating the Rural Poverty Alleviation Foundation on 9 July 2000, announced that a National Rural Development Policy would be formulate. The National Rural Development Policy-2001 has 7 sections. The main section is Programmes that consists of 30 sub-sections. RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY of BANGLADESH**

This National Rural Development Policy (NRDP) is a sectoral policy document. It is formulated in order to achieve comprehensive development of the country by keeping the present momentum of progress in poverty alleviation and rural life sustained.

### **Philosophy and Principles**

- This policy lays emphasis on establishing the inter-institutional and interpersonal relationships and coordination of works of various organizations and institutions engaged in poverty alleviation and rural development.
- In case it is felt that any articulation of this policy differs or contradicts with the approved policies of any Ministry, the matter of establishing the harmony has to be placed with the National Council for Rural Development. The NRDP emphasized the importance of integration of all activities in rural development with a view to alleviating poverty. It further focus on:
  - a) Improving the quality of life of women and the poor;**
  - b) Economic development of landless and marginal farmers;**
  - c) Expansion of education, health, nutrition and family welfare activities;**
  - d) Creation of opportunities for rural people to become self-reliant economically;**
  - e) Ensuring proper utilization of all existing resources of each house and each village;**

**f)Development of the handicapped, tribal people, ethnic minorities, and so on.**

In the Poverty Alleviation Programme in the NRDP, the proposed tasks include:

- \*taking measures to remove economic and social barriers;
- \*systematic and regular monitoring of positive changes in the socio-economic conditions of the rural poor;
- \*creating ample opportunities of diverse employment in the villages;
- \*necessary training, and assistance to create rural entrepreneurs; etc.

**To enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural system, the NRDP suggests:**

- \*Marketing network of rural agricultural products will be developed and linked with the national and international markets;
- \*Market information services for small and poor growers and producers will be expanded;

To ensure proper prices and facilitate marketing of the products of farmers, appropriate measures will be taken to link producers, processors, traders and exporters; greater network of cooperative-based production and marketing of rural agricultural produce will be encouraged.

**Implementation Strategies**

1. With a view to giving due importance and priority to rural development, National Rural Development Council headed by the Honourable Prime Minister will be constituted and concerned ministers will be the members of this committee. The Committee will offer policy guidelines for implementing the objectives of the rural development policy. In addition, there will be a National Steering committee to help the National Council with necessary advice and suggestions and look after the policy implementation.
2. An inter-ministerial Steering Committee will be constituted to ensure proper implementation of the National Rural Development Policy. The committee will be responsible for monitoring and implementation of NRD Policy through coordinating and ensuring cooperation of all the relevant Ministries/ Division/ Organizations.
3. Separate Coordination Committees will be constituted at District, Upazila and Union levels for coordination and monitoring of all development works at the local level.

4.The Rural Development and Cooperatives Division of the Local Govt., Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry will extend other co-operations in addition to coordination in implementing rural development programmes.

5. The local govt. institutions, particularly the Union Parishads will be strengthened and made useful through delegating enough authority to settle disputes, entrusting additional responsibilities and supplying resources.

6.Necessary measures will be taken to make local govt. institutions directly accountable to the people. To this end, people's active participation and involvement at all stages of the development process will be ensured.

7.In order to facilitate implementation of the National Rural Development Policy,effective strategies and programmes will be developed. The RDC Division will ensure implementation of this policy in pursuance of these strategies.

8. A policy and strategy Unit would be created to strengthen the capacity of RDC Division with highly skilled technical experts and logistics.

9. In order to help people become developed through creating opportunities for them to make use of their creativity and potential.

The Ministry will ensure participation of the rural people in such exercise by adopting appropriate measures.

### **Challenges and recommendations**

Implementing the Bangladesh Rural Development Policy 2001 poses several challenges, including:

**1.Limited Resources:** Insufficient funding and resources can hinder the effective implementation of the policy, limiting its impact on rural development.

**2.Infrastructure and Connectivity:** Inadequate infrastructure and connectivity in rural areas can impede the execution of development strategies outlined in the policy.

**3. Political instability and governance issues** may disrupt policy implementation. and create uncertainties, affecting long-term planning and execution.

**4. Awareness and Participation:** Low awareness and community participation can hinder the successful implementation of strategies aimed at empowering rural communities.

**5. Climate Change and Natural Disasters:** Bangladesh is prone to natural disasters and climate change impacts, which can disrupt development efforts and necessitate adaptive strategies.

**6. Land Ownership and Land Use:** Addressing land ownership issues and managing land use effectively in rural areas is a significant challenge for policy implementation.

**7. Socio-Cultural Factors:** Socio-cultural beliefs and practices can influence the acceptance and success of certain development initiatives, necessitating careful consideration and adaptation of strategies.

**8. Capacity Building and Training:** Building the capacity of local government officials and community leaders is crucial for effective strategy implementation.

#### Recommendations

1. Mobilize additional financial resources to adequately fund and sustain the policy's initiatives,
2. Invest in infrastructure development to enhance connectivity and accessibility,
3. Focus on political stability, good governance, and policy continuity.
4. Identify a policy maker who take all plans and decision.
5. Education system should be formal that time it will be a universal education system.
6. Promote awareness and active participation of rural communities through education and engagement programs,
7. Policy maker should systematic and regular monitoring of positive changes as well as negative changes.
8. The government should take some action for religious education institutions to encourage, training and understanding about population problem.

9. Integrate Climate-resilient approaches into rural development strategies, incorporating disaster risk reduction measures.
10. Implement necessary land reforms and enforce land-use regulations.
11. The government should create some collages for homeopathic and herbal treatment, ensure some set for homeopaths doctors, enrollment and advertising about important of homeopathic and herbal treatment in rural areas.
12. Conduct training and capacity-building programs for local stakeholders