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THE ROLE OF PANCHAYAT RAJ SYSTEM AND GOVERNMENT FOR RURAL SOCIETY IN CURRENT SCENARIO

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ABSTRACT

Majority of the people reside in villages and about 50% of the villages have very poor socio-economic conditions. Indian society is therefore, predominantly a rural society. The cultural heritage, the magnitude of material wealth, social stratification of population, degree of complexity of social life, the intensity & variety of social constraint is different from the urban society & therefore the villages are considered as rural society. Since the dawn of independence, concerted efforts are being made to develop rural areas so as to improve the living standard of the people. The Govt. of India launched Community Development Program (CDP) in 1952 to provide the administrative structure at various levels i.e. at the National, State, District, Block and Village.

India is a country of villages. The rural mass comprises the core of Indian society and also represents true picture of India. According to the census data 2011, there are 6, 40,930 villages in India represent more than 72 per cent of the total population.

In this article, overall discussion about rural society, intensity of social problems and role of government through panchayat raj system with expectation the good governance concept implementation included in detail.

KEYWORDS- Problems, good governance, strategy, development, society, agriculture etc.

INTRODUCTION

Development of these rural masses is, therefore, one of the key areas of consideration in the government policy formulation. Rural Development which is concerned with economic growth and social justice, improvement in the living standard of the rural people by providing adequate and quality social services and minimum basic needs becomes essential. The present strategy of rural development mainly focuses on poverty alleviation, better livelihood opportunities, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities through innovative programmes of wage and self-employment etc.

The Village Panchayats are the basic local Govt. unit in rural India. From 1952 onwards, it has been playing an increasingly significant role in Rural Development administration. Therefore, Govt. has been giving high priority to rural development and is accordingly implementing a number of programs aimed at sustainable and holistic development.

Rural Development is, thus a process of fundamental, social and economic change. It includes all activities intended to improve directly the living condition of rural people. A more comprehensive perception of rural development is all round development of Rural community, which will include

development of agriculture, economic development, along with the provision of minimum needs, poverty reduction and eradication of unemployment. Rural development activities in abroad and particularly in India include agriculture, rapid poverty reduction, employment, rural electrification, irrigation, roads, Drinking water, housing, rural telephony, social security, primary education and public health.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

‘Administration’, according to Herbert Simon, “is getting things done”. In developing countries, the “things to get done” is called development. This consists of a broad list of policy objectives. So development is an umbrella concept comprising, say, a dozen constituent process, each of which refers to progress in a certain field. Development administration is the process of guiding an organization towards the achievement of development objectives.

Governance is a mechanism of effective use of resources and deliverance of services to citizens. “Good governance” denoted the better standards of such formulation and hence the imperative to achieve them. Formulation of various policies for rural development and provision of budget outlay for implementation of those policies is the job of government. However, it is imperative that these policies and programs are put to implementation in such a way that it reaches to the target population in full and within time.

Rural Development sector involves economic betterment as well as social transformation of citizens living in rural areas. Rural development department is nodal department for implementing various centrally sponsored, state funded, externally aided schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, sanitation, capacity building, women’s social and economic empowerment, rehabilitation, apart from provision of basic amenities and services in rural areas.

In view of the sheer size and diversity of our country, delivery of governance to the remote corners in a meaningful and locally relevant manner is a huge challenge.

PRESENT SETUP FOR GOVERNANCE IN RURAL INDIA

The term public administration defines development administration as “The enhancement or improvement of techniques, processes and systems organized to increase the administrative capacity of the nation, usually a newly emerging nation” For its development, democratic decentralization recommended by the Balwantrai Mehta Committee in

its report published on 24th November 1957 states that “ The Community Development Programme was the most ambitious scheme undertaken by the Government of free India for rural development”. In early fifties, programme was described as “the declaration of war on poverty, ignorance and diseases”. However, within a few years of its working, the enthusiasm evoked by the Community Development Programme evaporated.

Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Society:-

Recommendations of Balwant Rai Mehta Committee to adopt three tier system for rural self government was formally constituted vide The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, which contains provision for devolution of powers and responsibilities to the panchayats, both for the preparation of economic development plans and social justice, as well as for implementation in relation to 29 subjects listed in the eleventh schedule of the constitution.

Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions:-

The different aspects of role of Panchayati Raj are as below :

- ◆ An Extension of Community Development Programme
- ◆ Local Governance in Rural India
- ◆ An Agency of State Government
- ◆ Creations of new centers of Political power and influence.
- ◆ An Instrument of democratic decentralization
- ◆ Grass roots democracy
- ◆ An agency of political recruitment.
- ◆ Urge for development
- ◆ Political Awareness
- ◆ Green revolution
- ◆ Development of Infra-structure
- ◆ Improvement in the standard of living.

There is a need for an integrated organizational structure for rural development. Rural development (RD) program comprises of the following:-

- ↪ Provision of basic infrastructure facilities in the rural area. e.g. Schools, Health centers, Roads, Drinking water, Electrification, Markets, Community halls, Sanitation etc.
- ↪ Improving agricultural and animal husbandry productivity.
- ↪ Provision of social services like health & education for socio-economic development.

- ↪ Implementing schemes for the promotion of cottage industry, dairy development, increasing agricultural productivity, promoting co-operative societies and employment at local level.
- ↪ Assistance to individual families living below poverty lines & Self Help Groups (SHG) by providing productive resources through credit & subsidiary.

CONCLUSION

All round development of rural community in true sense is possible only if the plans and programs aimed at the development of rural citizens effectively reach to the end user. This necessitates the governance to be highly effective. Eight essentials of good governance i.e participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective & efficient, equitable & inclusive and follows the rule of law have therefore to be realized at grass root level. to make it a success. E-governance can ensure good governance through the use of ICT and internet services.

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