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Research Paper

TRANSFORMATION OF LIFE UNDER RURAL DEVELOPMENT: STUDY OF DISTRICT KULGAM (J&K)

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ABSTRACT **Rural development is a process of rural modernization and economic development of villages. It is a strategy to improve the quality of life and to meet the required need of rural ral people. Rural development is also a transition from rural backwardness to rural economy. It is not only to increase the per capita income in rural areas but also to check the food and nutrition, standard of life, proper housing, health improvement, modern education, easy transportation, social security and social development. Rural development works on ground level and creates job industry at village level by different schemes, which plays a great role in eradication of poverty and unemployment issues. The basic objective of this paper is to highlight the impact of rural development on transformation of life in rural area of District Kulgam Jammu and Kashmir. It will also highlight the issues which were a big burden in the past and the development features attained by district under rural development. There is a need of proper cooperation and coordination among the rural development authorities and other institutes who are working for public welfare to achieve this goal. This paper contains some suggestions at the end, if they are implemented at the ground level, it will help in the sustainable development of the current District.**

KEYWORDS :Development, Education, Modernization, public welfare and poverty.

INTRODUCTION

Objectives:

Ø To know impact of Agricultural development.

Ø To know the impact of rural development on district infrastructure.

Ø To know the impact of Horticultural development.

Ø To understand the development under rural connectivity.

Introduction:

Empowerment and upliftment of rural population is the basic foundation stone for the development of any country. The term rural development is all about the development of rural areas to provide them basic needs of life like as food, shelter, clothes, health and education. Rural development is the process of economic wellbeing of people and improving their quality of life. According to the 2011 census India has a total population of 121 crores in which 83.3 crores live in rural areas and the remaining 37.7 crores live in urban areas. It is clear that nearly 70% of Indian population lives in rural India. These 70% population lags far behind from the development process in so many areas like infrastructure, road connectivity, employment, purchasing power, electricity, water supply and other requirements of life. In order to tackle these problems a need was felt to improve the conditions of this segment of population, number of development programs are being implemented at ground level to check these issues. Government of India launched some schemes which works on rural level through the planning commission of India like as Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Sampoorna Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), etc.

Jammu and Kashmir is the 11th largest state of India having population of about 1.25 crores (2011 census) of which 75.19% are residing in rural areas. It is reported that rural Kashmir suffers from a more serious lack of finance than other urban areas of state. Rural development strategies are the important component for inclusive growth and economic development setting of state Jammu and Kashmir. The main source of rural Kashmir is agriculture and horticulture except this there are not too much sources available for earning the livelihood. The state is getting a large number of packages under rural development which transformed the village life towards modernity and economic wellbeing of people. Implementation of rural schemes has brought enlightenment in village life. Under these schemes lot of rural population got employment and it became a big employment industry for rural people. The state was so poor by means of roads but after implementation of rural schemes the villages got connected with cities and made transportation and communication easy and comfortable. Rural development schemes brought a measure change in the agriculture and horticulture field, after implementation of these schemes the agriculture and horticulture sector got increment in the quality and quantity of crop production. Under rural development government provided subsidies and bank loans to the poor people. Such initiatives were started to eradicate the rural poverty. Bank loans provided to the farmers and other sections of society helped them to start a business of their own and protected them from a big burden of indebtedness Rural development not only accelerated the infrastructure of villages but also provided playgrounds for the amusement and entertainment of people. A lot of players came out from villages that represent the state at national/international level. Rural development process is to cover all the issues by which our most of population was lagging behind the ladder of development.

District Kulgam is a newly born district of Jammu and Kashmir came into existence in 2nd April.2007 According to the 2011 census the district has got population of 4,23,181 souls, among this 216873 are males and remaining 206308 are females with a sex ratio of 951 females per 1000 males. The district is mostly rural in character except few notified areas of MC Kulgam, MC Yaripora, MC Devsar, MC Qaimoh and MC Frisal. The district consists of 87.20% of total rural population and remaining 12.80% population lives in urban areas. The district kulgam has achieved a unique position under the rural development programme. People of the District are well aware about the rural development schemes and they are getting proper benefit from this. Government has provided all basic facilities for the social wellbeing like schools for education, hospitals, animal husbandry centers, agriculture offices, horticulture offices, food research centers, irrigation department, water supply department, public work department, electricity maintaining department, transport and communication, poultry forms, banks, playgrounds and panchayats etc. District kulgam is considered as the leading district in the process of development it is all because of the proper functioning of rural development department. The rural development organization has provided some skill development institutes for the upliftment of rural women and it helped them to earn their livelihood and become self dependent. Government is trying to provide all the requirements of life for the rural people and to a large extent rural development organization have fulfilled the promises with the people. There is still lot to do for the eradication of rural poverty and upliftment of backward section of people in all aspects of social life.

Government has to take such initiatives where every individual of rural society will be benefitted equally and will stand in equal competition with its urban counterparts.

Research Methodology:

This study is basically descriptive and analytical in nature. In this study an attempt has been made to analyze the impact of rural development in transforming rural life towards modernization and greater rural economy of Kulgam district. The data used in this study is purely from secondary sources like books, newspapers, magazines, research articles, reports, panchayats, block development offices and district rural development cell. In the present scenario rural development is essential need for the social and economic development of the rural society. This study analysis the importance and impact of rural development schemes on district population. The social and economic dependence of villages in India has always been matter of concern because in both the cases our village population is behind the race with respect to urban population. This study covers all the issues and challenges faced by the rural people in achieving such goals and also aware us about the need of rural development. It also aware us, how to overcome such problems by which our rural population is lagging behind the social and financial development.

Review of literature:

K.M. George observed a momentous increase in employment and income level of beneficiaries under the rural development scheme. This study analyzed that 70% of the total beneficiaries crossed the poverty line. The contribution of diary to total income increased from

5.12% to 36.58% in between pre and post implementation period. The study also reveals some issues found on ground level like 55% of beneficiaries argued about non availability of feed and fodder, improper veterinary facilities, poor milk procurement, inadequate loans and subsidies, time consuming insurance coverage, illegal gratification demand by veterinarians and unavailability of training institutes are the major issues found at the ground level.

1. **N. Thakur** stated in his study that changes brought out by rural development in the superstitious attitude of Bhagalpur district of Bihar conflict, where some people were interested and some were disinterested by this development process. The study reveals that people were so superstitious they were afraid of new changes because they were following the traditional customs and there were always conflict between the different classes. During the election of Mukhiya and Sarpanch for village panchayats conflicts became appear between rich and poor classes.

Jansma and Goode worked on Rural Development and measured Conceptualizing and Key Concepts In their research. They explained the conceptual basis for rural economic development. They suggested that rural economic development is effected by the employment generation and income level of rural people and also they found that the major determents of income in rural community is the quantity of goods purchased and sold in the local community and the same amount of money is recirculated within the local economy in different shapes.

Deavers in his work Social Science Contributions to Rural Development Policy in the 1980.In his research he found central, state and local government should be conscious and should play important role in rural development policies whether they are executed properly or not. Government should increase employment generation and income levels of rural people. Rural residents should be provided with proper housing and adequate facilities. Government should take such initiatives where rural resources and rural environment should be preserved and policies should be utilized properly in attempting such goals.

1. **P. Rao and R. Karajan** reported wrong identification of rural development beneficiaries whose annual income was more than the prescribed limit of Rs 3500 per-anum and land holding size was more than prescribed limit of 5 acres. An insignificant impact of IRDP in terms of employment generation and increase in income of the beneficiaries was found. The authors stated untimely credit, or marketing facilities, creation of inappropriate assets low employment potential of the Unit and increasing cost of the inputs as the major difficulties expressed by majority of the beneficiaries. 37 percent of the beneficiaries indicated that they had to pay Rs. 200 and above to get the scheme sanctioned under IRDP.

Development at different sectors of Kulgam district

Development in agriculture:

Kulgam was once identified as the 'Rice Bowl of Kashmir', agriculture is the main source of income of the district as more than 80% population gain its income directly or indirectly from this sector. Agriculture holds dominant position in terms of dependence for livelihood and employment in the district. The total area of the district is **48 lac** hectares recorded under revenue of which only 0.29 lac hectares is Net Area Sown and 0.057 lac hectares is the area 'Not available for cultivation'. The other remaining uncultivable land excluding fallow accounts for 0.049 lac hectares.

The increasing population growth in district, the net area sown has to be improved for feeding the growing population and to diminish our dependence on imports of food grains/cereals. With increasing the net area sown we also has to use modern agriculture techniques, high yielding varieties of seeds and fertilizers to get maximum outcome from the existing area sown. Further, it is necessary to take measures to store the harvest in a scientific way as it has been observed that 20-30% of the production gets wasted during the stages of harvesting and storage. Most high yielding crops of the district are maize and paddy in Kharief and fodder oil and seeds in Rabi season.

Development in horticulture:

In the district, horticulture has achieved a greater significance and makes generous contribution to the District Domestic Product. In the recent past the cropping pattern has extensively changed in favor of horticulture. As a result the district has more than 25625 hectares of the land under fruit and multiple varieties of fruits like apple, apricot, pear, peach, cherry and walnut are grown throughout the district.

Many fruit plant nurseries have been established in the district. To give more importance to the fruits of the district fruit mandi have also been established in Kulgam to provide better and reasonable prices to the fruit growers at their door steps.

Lot of developmental initiatives like programmes & schemes have been taken by state Government to boost the Horticulture sector. Technology Mission (a centrally Sponsored Scheme), Plant Protection Machinery, MIDH (Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Post-Harvest Management (PHM) & PMKSY (Prime Ministers Krishi Sanchayi Youjna) etc.

In future need of an hour is to use these schemes and programmes for the development process of the district.

Development in health service:

District has also played a vital role in the development of health services. A large number of health centers are located at different

places to look after the health of people like Hospitals, primary health centers, vetenary hospitals,unani dispensaries and subsidiary health centers as mentioned in Table 1.1 and 1.2

No. of Medical/Paramedical Personnel as on 31-03-2017

Development in animal husbandry:
Animal husbandry and its related sectors have the capacity to transform the economic landscape of Kashmir valley. District Development commissioner and Director Animal Husbandry distributed 2500 birds (chicks), financial assistance of Rs 10000 for construction of poultry house, feeder bottles and medicines among 25 beneficiaries under National Live Stock Mission (NLM) at Chawalgam in 2019. District level Committee selected 90 beneficiaries and provided them benefits under NLM scheme. Animal Husbandry and allied activities have the potential to transform the economic landscape of Kashmir especially Kulgam district and can act as a vital sector for the empowerment of poor people.

District administration also interacted with progressive farmers who highlighted their issues being confronted by them to which District administration assured to look into on priority. It was also given out that the district is lacking Liquid Nitrogen Plant which is vital for cattle breeding as artificial insemination cannot be possible without this facility resulting into repeat breeding in cattle and consequent monetary loss to farmers. District administration also called for the establishment of Disease Investigation Laboratory and placement of Disease Investigating officer in the district for which they asked the concerned officials to submit a DPR. Reviewing the sheep husbandry sector, it was informed that sheep/goat population has reached 1.77 lakh while as yearly mutton production has gone up to 9.33 lakh kgs and wool production is around

2.88 lakh Kgs. It was said out that there are 123 rams available for breeding facilities to the local sheep breeders. District administration also called for the establishment of modal dairy/poultry units in the district. they exhorted upon the officials to gear up their men and machinery and start awareness camp/tours so that people may avail benefits of various schemes of the department. (KNS)

Development in rural connectivity:
Kulgam as the administrative centre of the district generates considerable passenger traffic. Nearly 50 conventional buses and 40 small buses enter Kulgam daily and nearly the same number exits leave the town for different destinations The details show that maximum passenger traffic is on Anantnag road followed by Shopian road, Qazigund and Yaripora and Aharbal roads. Besides these roads Kulgam is also connected by mini bus service with Devsar, KalamDamhal Hangipora, and Katrusoo etc. The villages of the district are well connected and the roads are wide and macadamized. The roads of Kulgam district are well mainntained than other districts of south kashmir. Considerable Regional freight traffic enters and leaves the town through out the year and the number increases manifold during fruit harvest season. Maximum incoming trucks are from Quazigund, followed by Ahrabal, and Anantnag/Srinagar. The freight traffic can be attributed to horticulture production and the location along tourist destination of Ahrabal and Forest area in the west and south of Kulgam town. More volume on Kulgam Srinagar, Yaripora and Shopian roads is because these connect the region with National Highway.

Kulgam has following roads connecting it to various assembly segments and with NH1A (Major

District Roads)

- Anantnag-Ashmuji-brazloo-Kulgam Main Road
- Kulgam-Chawalgam-Muhammad Pra - Shopian Road
- Wanpoh-Qaimoh-Kulgam Road
- NH1A Mirbazar to Kulgam via Akhran, Hablishi, Kilam, Pirpora & brazloo
- Qaimoh-Kadder-Hanjan-Shopian Road
- Bijbehara-Arwani-Frisal-Yaripora Bugam-kulgam Road
- Qazigund-Devsar-Pahloo-brazloo-Kulgam Road
- Kulgam-Shopian Road
- Kulgam-Nehama-Aharabal Road
- Kulgam-Damhal—Aharabal Road
- Kulgam-Damhal- Aharabal Road
- Kulgam-Ardigatnoo-Laisoo Road
- Kulgam-Laisoo-Damhal Hanjipora Road

Khudwani-Frisal-Zainpora Road Frisal-Damidallah-Buchroo Road Frisal-Kralchek-Nagharad road Frisal- Nawbal-Shamsipora-Batingoo Road

Tourism development in District Kulgam: Every year the district attracts thousands of tourists from all part of the valley towards it self. The district is known for its beauty and decorum. The district has tourist spots like "Ahrabal water fall" on Veshev Nallah which is a place of sight- seeing in the extreme south-west of district Kulgam. , Kongwattan and Gurwattan ahead of Ahrabal, Charenbal and Nandimarg high land pastures are also places of tourist attraction apart from virgin meadows in the area from Kund to Ladigasan (ahead of Aherbal clefts). The District also has super abundance of natural water resources in the shape of various famous springs such as, Kounsernag (ahead of Aherbal), Waseknag (Kund), Khee Nag(Khee Jogipora), etc

CONCLUSION

Conclusion:
The study suggests that expenditure on rural development programs increases income and socio- economic capacity of rural poor households in Kulgam. The relationship between rural development dimensions: housing and agriculture, health, education, training, rural connectivity, Tourism and communication imply that rural poor households experienced positive impacts. This means that rural development programs succeeded to bring a positive impact on the alleviation of poverty and development of socio-economic capacity of rural households. The positive impact is consistent with respondents' perception expressed during the survey. The results also indicate that housing and agriculture, health and education, Tourism and Horticulture have a positive significant relationship with the development of the District. The other two dimensions namely training in agriculture and Horticulture fields also has great contribution in the development process of the District. Housing and agriculture is the best predictor of rural development program dimensions. There is still a dearth of research carried out on measuring the impact of rural development programs on poverty alleviation. Future research might usefully be done on

how to make training effective and communication in terms of contribution to alleviate poverty and develop socio economic condition of rural poor of kulgam. In order to make the training effective training needs analysis may be conducted to make the training programs effective. So, the District policy makers, concerned administrators should take necessary steps for the prosperity and quality of people of the said District.

Plan

Abstract

Objectives

Introduction

- Research Methodology
- Review of literature
- Development at different sectors of Kulgam district

Conclusion

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