

DECENTRALIZATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

By

Nataraj. S. N., Research Scholar, Department of Studies and Research in Economics, Jain University, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. Email: sn.nataraj@jaincollege.ac.in. Mob:9844233602

ABSTRACT:

It is evident from the studies that it takes more time for South Asia in bringing down the poverty and removal of hunger. There is larger gap between the rich and poor and it has been continuing in the sub region of South Asia. The Human Development Report 2019, 661 million people are considered as multidimensional poor out of 1.3 billion multidimensional poor in Asia and Pacific. In order to reduce the burden of poverty the report says that agricultural development need to be taken at a faster rate. It can bring down the level of poverty and regional imbalances can be reduced with proper rural development. The present paper focuses on the rural development under the decentralization process.

Key Words: Poverty, hunger, rural development, decentralization, regional imbalances.

INTRODUCTION:

There is huge debate for the rural development in India. Rural development was not taken place rapidly over a period of time in India due to lack of power distribution to the local bodies. Later by introducing the decentralization planning the power have been distributed accordingly to the centre, State, and local bodies. The decentralization process is considered as the heart and soul for the development of the rural areas in India. Under the decentralized planning process there are many developmental programmes were introduced in India. Many programmes have supported the rural development and many of the programmes become obsolete without any fruitful development of the rural areas.

DECENTRALIZATION FOR EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL POOR:

In India there were no proper use local resources and planning procedures, landlessness, migrant workers, lack of education, lack of political interest, lack of power to the local bodies are all the major reasons for lagging behind the rural areas and not achieved the proper rural development. This, in turn, demands decentralization of crucial government functions. Under the process of decentralization, the powers are distributed from the top to bottom including

non-government and private organizations. The decentralization envisages the rural poor to participate in decision making, evaluation of their decisions, reduce the probabilities of misinterpretation, better understanding the complications and intricacies in planning, administration and management, receive the errands of failure, grow a sagacity of be in the right place and obligation to civil society.

BASICS AND TYPES OF DECENTRALIZATION:

The main basics of decentralization comprises of provide greater autonomy to the local bodies in relation to political administration, power to levy taxes and collection of revenue, periodic elections, providing reservation for the weaker social sections to contest in elections, maintaining data bases at the local level management, collaboration with other local bodies for discussing development issues, empowerment in accessing health, education, drinking water and other assets at local level.

TYPES OF DECENTRALIZATION:

There are mainly three types of decentralization such as political, administrative and fiscal decentralization in India. The political decentralization provides more power to the representatives at the local level indecision making related to formulation of plans and implementations. The administrative decentralization provides power transfer, authority, accountability or the decision to plan, agree and accomplish. Finally, the fiscal decentralization incorporates allocation of fiscal and financial powers, as well as tax policy powers to the local self-government bodies.

CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND POLICIES FOR DECENTRALIZATION:

In the history of India, the policy of decentralisation was adopted for the first time by the states of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Panchayat Acts adopted by 1959 by majority of the states and by 1960s across the country the Panchayat Raj institutions had been setup. It is imperative to keep in mind that the decentralization is considered as a foundation step of democratic decentralization and encourages the participatory development in the modern ear. Rural participation in rural development through the decentralization process was very much needed by that time in India and adopted widely by providing the constitutional framework. Full utilization of local resources by the Grama Panchayts is possible for the development of the rural areas. India's economic development is in the hands of the local bodies by allocating

the resources properly such as basic amenities and creation of permanent assets for the better living conditions and to achieve the sustainable development. Decentralization has helped the local bodies in inclusiveness of the rural people, better administration by the local people, mobilization of local resources, attainment of social and political change and acts a medium and finally adoption of the plans of the governments and implementations of the plans in rural areas for achievement of rural development. Overall, the decentralization of powers leads to allocation of resources and finally helps to achieve the rural development.

PHASES IN PANCHAYATI RAJ EVOLUTION:

The real objectives of the decentralization and establishment of Panchayat Raj institutions are to achieve the rural development in India. The only aim of the Panchayats raj institutions are to speed the development of the rural areas by mobilizing the resources to all segment of the rural areas across the country. Large section of the population is living in rural areas and until unless achieving the development of these rural people it is very difficult to attain human development of the rural India. In this background the development of Panchayat raj institutions are largely important.

Phases of the Development of the Panchayat raj institutions:

1. During 1959 to 1966, the Panchayat Raj institutions were established in most of the states in India.
2. During 1967 to 1976, diminutive consideration paid to the development of Panchayat Raj institutions with no delegation of powers and resources to these bodies. A fresh inclination favoured formation of new government departments in order to achieve the improvement of the rural poor.
3. during the period from 1977 to 1991, the Asoka Mehta Committee acknowledged the issues for the weakening of Panchayati Raj Institutions. By the year 1977 start of the reinforcement of decentralization efforts across the country.
4. After 1992 the Constitution's 73rd Amendment Act to deliberate legitimate sanctity and power on panchayats. It correspondingly stretches them an imperative role in determining rural advancement with the objective of assimilating the deprived and furthestmost

disregarded into the typical of progress. The 73rd Amendment calls for a identical three-tier panchayat scheme all over the nation.

DECENTRALIZED PLANNING AS A CONSTITUTIONALLY RECOGNIZED KEY FUNCTION OF THE PANCHAYATS:

The 73rd amendment of the constitution provided a new 11th Schedule of the Constitution and provided many powers to the Panchayats under devolution of powers to the local bodies. The major functions of the Panchayat Raj Institutions are purely related to promote the rural development activities through different dimensions based on the availability of the local resources and according to the requirement of the rural people. The major functions of the Panchayats are listed as follows better understanding.

S.N.	Area of Programmes	Activities
1	Programmes for productive activities	Development of agriculture, irrigation facilities, animal husbandry programmes, fuel and fodder supply, poultry establishment, fishery development, small-scale industries establishment including food processing and cottage industries promotion and development.
2	Land development programmes	The activities includes land reforms measures, soil conservation system, minor irrigation facilities , water management and watershed development at rural areas, wasteland development for the poor, social forestry growing and grazing lands development.
3	Education and cultural activities	It consists of monitoring the primary schools, provide technical education and maintaining the libraries and provide adult education.
4	Social welfare	Social welfare comprises of family welfare, women and child development, upkeep of people with physical and mental disabilities.
5	Provisions of civic amenities	Includes portable drinking water, enhance rural electrification, provide non-conventional sources of energy, development of rural roads, construction of bridges, culverts, waterways, sanitation, building rural housing and protecting rural health.
6	Poverty alleviation and allied programmes	Advancement of the weaker section in the rural areas socially and economically.
7	Maintenance of community	Creation of rural assets and maintaining and monitoring public distribution system (PDS).
8	Organization and control	Power to regulate the rural markets and village fairs.

CONCLUSION:

The decentralization has been provided all the required powers to the local bodies and it helps to frame micro level planning for the attainment of the economic development in the rural economy. Decentralization is the soul for the achievement of economic and human development in rural India. In this background the Panchayati raj institutions are playing a critical role in the modern days. There are larger activities that have to be taken place in order to achieve the rural development in the rural areas. Decentralization and rural development are the integral part in Indian economic development scenario if they have bifurcated it cannot be achieved a desired economic development in India.

References:

- Johnson, C. (2003). *Working Paper 199 Decentralisation in India : Poverty , Politics and Panchayati Raj February 2003 Overseas Development Institute 111 Westminster Bridge Road London. February, 2–66.*
- Kalirajan, K., & Otsuka, K. (2010). *Decentralization in India: Outcomes and Opportunities.* 19.
http://rspas.anu.edu.au/papers/asarc/WP2010_14.pdf
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ecn&AN=1117422&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
- Overview of Rural.* (2000). 1.
- Rao, G. M., Raghunandan, T. R., Gupta, M., Datta, P., Jena, R. P., & H.K. Amarnath. (2011). *Fiscal Decentralization to Rural Local Governments in India: Selected Issues and Reform Options National Institute of Public Finance and Policy New Delhi. National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, May.*
- Roy, M. N. (2016). *Decentralized Planning for Rural Development - Issues and Challenges.*
- Sheikh, Y. A. (2007). *Democratic Decentralisation in India. International Journal of Social Science & Interdisciplinary Research, 3(7), 196–203.*
- Surya, P., & Misra, N. (2013). *Democracy , Development and Decentralisation : Rural Development Through Institutional Intervention.* 123–126.
- Thimmaiah, G. (2000). *Decentralization and economic development: Indian experience. Hitotsubashi Journal of Economics, 41(2), 123–136.*
- Tirupataiah, K., & Hrdi, M. C. R. (n.d.). *Rural Development & Decentralised Planning.*
- United Nations. Development Programme. (2000). *Decentralisation in India. Challenges & Opportunities. Development, 1–87.*
<http://www.undp.org/content/india/en/home/library/hdr/human-development-discussion-papers/decentralisation-in-india---challenges---opportunities.html>