



Need Of Youth Involvement In Rural Development

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Abstract

Rural development is fuelled by the economy, social development, and agriculture, all of which work as catalysts for inclusive rural development. Young people are passively driving this trend. As the primary human resource for development and important agents of social change, the rural youth may help realise the Ministry of Rural Development's vision of sustainable and inclusive growth for rural India. India can benefit from the "youth bulge," which even wealthy nations cannot access. Young people's viewpoints and experiences can make a significant contribution. The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, the National Service Scheme, and the extensive youth network might all contribute to the improvement of rural India. As the nation's most valuable resource, the dynamic youth capital should be used as important collaborators in the planning and development process.

Keywords: - Youth, Inclusive Development, Rural Development, National Service Scheme, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

INTRODUCTION

Due to its several growth characteristics, rural development is a dynamic process. The idea of rural development has evolved over the last thirty years from the economic and social advancement of the rural poor and agricultural development to inclusive development. Numerous programs and initiatives have been put into place through different five-year plans for rural development, ranging from the community development program to the panchayati raj institutions. In the current context, the Ministry of Rural Development has a vision for the sustainable and inclusive growth of rural India, as well as a mission to achieve this goal through a multifaceted approach to poverty eradication that includes expanding livelihood opportunities, establishing a social safety net, and building infrastructure for socioeconomic growth and the enhancement of rural India's quality of life.

The most crucial element of all these programs that has been overlooked or is unknown is that the majority of them are aimed at rural development, and its beneficiaries are exclusively young people living in rural areas. However, they only serve as passive beneficiaries and are not actively participating in the growth process. The Ministry of Rural Development is carrying out its programs under three primary divisions. They are social security, infrastructure, and livelihoods. The National Rural Livelihoods Mission's Swarnjayanti Gramme Swarozgar Yojana is implemented to provide livelihood opportunities to BPL households, and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is

implemented to enhance and improve livelihood security by giving every household at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment per fiscal year.

The infrastructure category includes the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), which aims to provide basic housing and homestead to BPL households, and the PradhanMantri Gramme Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which is for all-weather rural connectivity to unconnected rural habitations and the improvement of existing roads. The PURA program provides urban amenities in rapidly urbanising rural areas and improves the quality of life. The National Social support Program (NSAP) is the last Social Security program that provides social support to the aged, widows, and disabled. Rural adolescents are the beneficiaries of the other five fundamental, centrally supported programs, with the exception of the National Social Assistance Program.

Youth Resources Power

The vast majority of people in the world today are young. Young people are a vital human resource for development, important social change agents, and the engine of economic growth and technical advancement in every nation. Their abilities, vitality, creativity, values, significant energies, and vision are crucial to the ongoing advancement of the communities in which they reside. Young people are increasingly seen as having the ability to benefit future generations. The eight goals of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which have a direct or indirect impact on children's and youths' well-being, have brought young people to the forefront of international attention. While the draft NYP 2012 seeks to divide the 16–30 age range into three categories, the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2003 defines youth as those between the ages of 13 and 35. Adolescents whose needs and areas of concern differ significantly from those of youth in the other age groups are also included in the first subgroup, which is 16–21 years old. Young people between the ages of 21 and 25 make up the second subgroup, which consists of those who are currently finishing their education and pursuing a career. Young women and men between the ages of 26 and 30 make up the third subgroup, which consists of those who have finished their education, including professional education, and are largely content with their personal and professional lives. Given that 70% of its population is under 35, India has the greatest reserve of youth in the world. Based on preliminary data from the 2011 census, there are around 550 million young people in the nation, including teenagers. Therefore, India can benefit from the "youth bulge," which even wealthy nations cannot access. The demographic dividend is significant, but it requires careful planning. This is the nation's gift from nature.

Lack of Youth Involvement

Young people have a basic right to decide how their societies use resources and power. Young people's broad perspectives and opinions do not appear to have been included into public policies. Countries lose a vital resource base when they exclude them from public and business sector decision-making processes. No governance framework can succeed without the opinions and experiences of young people, who may offer a great lot. As a dynamic and powerful national resource, youth are viewed as both important partners and beneficiaries in the planning and development process. The nation's youth must be given the authority to actively engage in the decision-making process.

Youth's Role in Decentralised Governance

is particularly important for making sure that representatives of the people work well, facilitating the transparent delivery of products and services from mainstream organisations, and promptly resolving the issues and complaints of the poor, among other things. Involving young people in local self-grassroots governance will undoubtedly improve how successfully civil society organisations and the government operate. "Young people ought to lead the way in innovation and global transformation. When empowered, they can play a significant role in promoting peace and development. However, we will all be poor if they are relegated to the periphery of society. Let's make sure that every young person has the chance to fully engage in their communities. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan.

Since young people are the future, they can be effective change agents since they are generally more open to new ideas and less resistant to change. Through ICTs like radios, telecenters, the Internet, etc., they can play a critical role in bringing attention to issues that are significant to the broader public. The local village leaders, priests, and other religious men have a significant impact on the rural populace, especially when it comes to superstitious beliefs. Only with the active involvement of the local youth could their mindset be expanded. It is possible to eradicate a number of social ills from society, including child marriage, dowries, illiteracy, caste prejudice, corruption, and more. Since the political system is rife with nepotism, opportunism, corruption, deceit, fraud, intrigues, and cunning strategies, young people can also aid in

purging it. Since young people are playing a big role in our nation's economic recovery, they could also contribute a contemporary perspective to rural development.

Methods and Strategies for Youth Engagement in Rural Development

Through the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and the National Service Scheme (NSS), India has a vast network of young people. Since the main goal of this program is to empower young people to support rural development and raise awareness of national goals, these creative, multipurpose institutions could be effectively used for youth engagement. With 298 universities, 42 Senior Secondary Councils, and the Directorate of Vocational Education around the nation, NSS currently has over 3.2 million student volunteers on its rolls. The biggest grassroots organisation of its sort in the world is NYKS. It uses the values of self-help, community involvement, and voluntarism to harness the strength of young people between the ages of 13 and 35. In the communities where Nehru Yuva Kendras have been created, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has built a network of youth groups over the years. By creating Youth Clubs, which are grassroots, village-level voluntary action organisations of young people, NYKS has sought to find areas of using youth power for development and engage them in nation-building initiatives. The network of youth groups at NYKS is its main asset. Youth Clubs are village-based groups that promote youth empowerment and community development. Young people between the ages of 13 and 35 make up the membership of youth clubs.

Youth clubs were founded with the primary goal of supporting the community through developmental programs that include activities that specifically focus on youth empowerment. Youth clubs use resources from a variety of government departments and other agencies, including national, state, and multinational entities, to implement their programs and activities in accordance with local needs and requirements. The NYKS's extensive nationwide rural network is based on its youth groups and member volunteers.

Conclusion

Gramasabha power and young political engagement were made possible by the 73rd Amendment Act. However, due to the lack of participation of rural youth in local administration, the effectiveness of these two crucial markers of sound grassroots democracy is appalling. Young panchayat leaders who willingly participated in their own village development have achieved success. But when India is up against other affluent nations, this rate of rural growth is insufficient. One of the most important human resources for quick rural development is the youth, who should be included in all policies, programs, projects, and other initiatives related to rural development. The youth resources from NSS and NYKS can be used for surveys, youth-led development, resource mapping of their villages, and participatory planning, among other things. Cooperation between the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Youth Affairs could greatly benefit the nation's progress.

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