

RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES BY THE TELANGANA GOVERNMENT: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Rural development denotes the upliftment of rural areas by increasing the living standards of the people residing in rural areas through the exploitation of natural resources available. Actions taken up by the concerned authority for the rural development mainly aims at the social and economic development of the rural areas. It can either be sustainable development friendly or not. If it does not maintain the guidelines of sustainable development, then it is not considered as proper development in its truest term. In a country like India, where more than 70 per cent of population is directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture related profession, there must be a definite strategy for rural development on part of the government. Besides the Union government, the respective State governments of India also try their best to develop their rural sectors to bring overall growth. This research paper focuses on the approaches of the Telangana State government towards its rural sectors, their development policies and their executions. The paper focuses on the data related to rural reporting published by national English daily and evaluates the approaches of the concerned State government.

Keywords: Agriculture, Irrigation, Rural development, State, Sustainable, Telangana.

INTRODUCTION:

“The future of India lies in its villages” --- Mahatma Gandhi

The term development specifies a change from a static condition to dynamic condition through many ways. To bring development, there must be growth in positive sense. In order to bring positive growth, there is a need to undertake some steps to bring the desired changes.

There are three keys to development. They are – access to development modes, empowerment of the society and good governance. Access to development can be achieved through physical, social and economic modes. Empowerment is needed to every strata of society as all people should demand and participate in all development approaches. Good governance is a necessary precondition to bring development. It empowers people to make them able to access to development. Good governance literally means honest, intelligent and hardworking people forming the government so that it can create a right ambience for development by generating awareness and knowledge, sharing information with the people and empowering people to participate in governance. (Narula, 2006). Modernization brings development, which is based on liberal political theory. The idea and practice of modernization is grounded in the grand project of enlightenment which includes reasoning, rationality, objectivity and other philosophical principles of Western science. Thus modernization approaches include neo classical economic theories, extolling of scientific rationality and individualism. (Melkote, Steeves, 2001).

The term rural development is defined in the Indian perspective as an effort to maximize production in agriculture and allied activities in the rural areas including the promotion of rural industries with special emphasis on village areas and cottage industries. Rural development approaches help to bring maximum possible employment opportunities in rural areas to the generation, especially for the backward and weaker sections of the community. This also helps in to improve their standard of living. Provision of certain basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, basic education facilities, setting up of primary health centres and affordable government hospitals, link roads connecting villages to market centres, etc. figure prominently in the scheme of rural development. The Gandhian approach to rural development is considered as an ‘idealist’ approach, which attaches supreme importance to moral values and gives primacy to moral values over material conditions. The followers of Gandhian philosophy believe that the source of moral values in general lies in religion and Hindu scriptures like the Upanishads and the Gita, in particular. (Mondal, 2015)

Development of rural sectors thus requires modernized approaches. To make this, the State governments in our country have been making relentless efforts. India has more than 55000 villages in its 29 states. Each state government launches specific programmes to uplift the economic status of the rural sectors. According to 2011 census data, 70 per cent of the country’s population lives in rural areas. Out of 121 crore Indians, 83.3 crore people live in rural areas, while 37.7 crore stay in urban places. India has more than 6 lakh villages spread across its 29 States and 7 Union Territories.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Freshwater, David (2000) in his paper The Promotion of Employment and Economic Development said that sustainable development aims towards environmental considerations, but from a rural community perspective, it addresses how the rural people generate the income to maintain their rural lifestyle. Where employment is considered as part of sustainability discussions i.e. jobs, the development attempt should address the particular need too. Both modern rural and urban lives are changing because of the rapidly changing economic pattern. Government policies carry an important role in development path for rural places which should allow the rural inhabitants to contribute to the larger society.

Tarchitzky, Dr Jorge in his paper Rural Development states that changes in the Israeli society and the economy necessitate a review of the management and development of the rural landscape. Open space and agricultural land management, and the development of farming settlements, agriculture, entrepreneurships, tourism, services, and traffic – all come under the development policy and the

definition of the means to implement it. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is in the process of defining a strategic plan and comprehensive framework for agricultural and rural sustainable development, while preserving the rural landscape and adhering to environmental values. The aims of this plan are to strengthen rural community, to diversify rural economic basis besides stabilizing and developing agriculture as a unique economic sector, to protect open spaces and landscapes, both natural and man-made and integrate them with the rural landscape. He has further stated that strategic plan includes the planning and developing farm and countryside in Israel in its various contexts, as a unique form of rural life with a distinct character. Updating statutory and physical structure of these settlements to keep pace with current organizational and structural trends, making efforts to continuously support sustainable development and helping to solve environmental hazards stemming from agriculture are also considered as necessary steps. All of these actions are related to both rural development and farm agronomy.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana [2007] in this paper to provide benefits to the farmer community, the Ministry of Agriculture has launched the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) during the Financial Year 2007-08 to encourage the States to invest more towards agriculture and allied sectors so as to achieve 4% annual growth. This would help in increasing the production and productivity. The Ministry has envisaged an outlay of Rs.25,000/- crore for the 12th Five Year Plan. The scheme requires the States to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans for creation of such infrastructure, which are essential to catalyse the existing production scenario for achieving higher production. The scheme provides adequate flexibility and autonomy to the State Governments in selection, planning and implementation of project under this new flagship scheme.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE:

1. To find out what tasks have been carried out by the Government of Telangana in its rural sectors.
2. To find out what drawbacks are there in the rural sectors of Telangana state.
3. To find out how the rural reporting have been carried out by a national daily.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

It is a descriptive research, based on the data reported in a national English daily. This work tries to find out the projects and missions related to rural development, executed in the state of Telangana by the State Government in one month. The research also focuses on the rural areas that have not been covered. Evaluation has been made on whether all the tasks have been carried out for the complete welfare of the people or not and whether the government has any political intention behind its rural approaches in the name of development or not.

DATA COLLECTION:

The data related to rural development reporting has been collected from The Hindu, a national daily from July 9, 2016 to August 8, 2016. The data is completely secondary. The Telangana State government's website also has been searched regarding the works related to rural development.

ABOUT TELANGANA:

The state of Telangana was formed in June 2, 2014 after a prolonged movement. It has 31 districts. The districts are divided into 68 revenue divisions and they are again divided into 221 mandals. Under the Medak Gulshanabad division, 6 districts are there – Hyderabad, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad and Ranga Reddy. Under the Warangal division, 4 districts are there – Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar and Adilabad. Telangana is the 12th largest and 12th most populous state in India.

RURAL SECTORS:

Details of the rural sectors of Telangana at a glance: (from the website of Telangana state government)

Items	Quantity
Nagara Panchayaths	25
Zilla Praja Parishads	9
Mandal Praja Parishads	443
Gram Panchayaths	8778
Revenue Mandals	464
Revenue Villages	10,761
Inhabited Villages	10,128
Un-inhabited Villages	633
Rural Population	215.85 Lakhs
Rural Population Male	107.97 Lakhs
Rural Population Female	107.88 Lakhs
Rural Population Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 Males)	999 Ratio
Rural to Total Population	61.33 %

The Telangana State government has initiated a number of measures in last one month to develop the rural sectors across the state. Right from irrigation to health issues, employment generation to ICT awareness, the State government has implemented successful programmes. A month long study on the reporting of The Hindu, a national daily was made to find out what development programmes were taken up by the Telangana government to uplift its rural sectors. Some of them are discussed below.

RESPONSE TO HEALTH ISSUES:

Malaria is a menace to Telangana State. When the State was undivided and remained a part of Andhra Pradesh, this disease cost havoc to the tribal population. Mostly the victims of malaria are tribal population residing in remote villages across the state. Problems cannot be solved up to the required level as most advanced and multi specialty hospitals are either located in the Hyderabad-Secunderabad zone or in the district headquarters. Even the primary health centres spread across different villages do not have modern infrastructure to meet the crisis. To counter this menace, the State Health Minister Ch Laxma Reddy on August 3 inaugurated a 15 bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the RIMS hospital, Adilabad. The primary aim is to counter malaria cases reported from villages in Adilabad, Khammam and Warangal districts. The Minister also promised that there would be no shortage of medicines. He even declared that the Telangana State government would establish 40 new blood banks at different hospitals in the agency areas throughout the state in order to combat anemia among tribal people. More corporate hospitals with ICU facilities would also be established to meet the needs of the tribal people. (Aug 4, 2016, The Hindu).

Health Minister C Laxma Reddy on August 4 declared in Adilabad district that Telangana State government would fill up 2118 vacant posts including doctors, ANMs, lab technicians in the health

department through Telangana State Public Service Commission. He further added that the State government already appealed to the commission regarding this matter.

Kala Jatha Cultural Troupes:

This group creates awareness among tribal population so that they can approach to government hospitals and health centres across the state for health issues rather than depending on quack doctors or traditional 'desi' medicines. The troupes spread the message in local dialects. The aim is to make the poor and uneducated tribal population aware about modern medical system so that they will approach to health centres for any kind of treatment. The Minister purposefully ordered the concerned officials at Uttoor to purchase 2 lakh paracetamol tablets. 1513 mosquito nets were distributed to Adivasis. The government is all set to launch Rashtra Balala Swasthata Karykramam by August 15, 2016. The Minister also visited Uttoor Community Hospital, Jainoor Primary Health Centre, Kohinoor (K) village and Shettihadapnoor in Sirpur (U) mandal. (August 5, The Hindu).

Response to Prohibit Consumption of Unprocessed Liquor:

The State government's Excise and Prohibition department seized 36 diluted liquor bottles and 296 unauthorized stock of liquor bottles from two unauthorized outlets at Rudrapuram in Kothagudem mandal on August 3. It was a crackdown on part of the State government to save the lives of the tribal people and poor villagers. Every year, a considerable number of people especially rural people lose their lives throughout the country after consuming hooch or unprocessed liquor. (Aug 4, 2016, The Hindu).

Response to Water Scarcity and Irrigation:

Water scarcity is a major problem in Telangana. Every year, during summer, the State suffers a lot because of acute water shortage. It affects the state's agriculture, lifestyle and economy as well. Several projects have been taken up to meet the needs of people regarding drinking water and water for irrigation and household activities. A few of them are discussed below. (Aug 6, 2016, The Hindu).

Priyadarshini Jurala Project:

Situated at a distance of 10 km from Kuravapur in Mahabubnagar district, this project was named after the former Prime Minister of India, 'Priyadarshini' Indira Gandhi. The foundation stone of this project was laid by Mrs Gandhi for the welfare of the people here and the project was completed in 1995. The Jurala has a full reservoir level of 1045 ft and has a full capacity of 11.94 TMC.

Under this project, the Srisailam reservoir at Mahabubnagar district would receive water up to 2 lakh cusecs in this monsoon. This is an inter-State project and is also considered as the lifeline of many other projects based on the Krishna river water in Telangana, Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra zones of Andhra Pradesh areas including the Nagarjunasagar. Such a remarkable incident is going to be happened for the first time after the formation of Telangana in 2014. Last year, the reservoir dried up completely due to poor monsoon. This reservoir meets the needs of irrigation facilities.

The Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project as a part of the Mission Bhagiratha plan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Komatibanda in Medak district on August 7, 2016. Treated drinking water would be supplied to over 66000 households across 243 villages in Gajwel, the home constituency of the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. It was also a poll promise made by the Chief Minister. Rao earlier implemented successful drinking water project in Siddipet constituency in 1996-97 by bringing water from the Lower Manair dam to 180 villages. To overcome the problems related to water scarcity, the State government conceived the drinking water grid project to provide treated water to 25000 rural and 67 urban habitations within six months after they had come to power in 2014 at an estimated cost of Rs 34600 crore. Later, the expenditure increased up to Rs 43000 crore. Ignoring stark criticism by the opposition parties, the Telangana government is all about to complete its first phase of the project for providing water to nine constituencies in four districts. For this reason, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi government has also received a lion's share of loan i.e. Rs 19200 crore from the HUDCO.

Sripada Yellampalli Project:

It is an irrigation project located at Yellampalli village at Ramagundam mandal, between Karimnagar and Adilabad districts. It is the fourth largest project on the Godavari river in Telangana and was named after late legislator, D Sripada Rao. The foundation stone was laid by former Chief Minister of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, Y S Rajasekhara Reddy on July 28, 2004.

It was designed to utilise about 63 tmc of water at a cost of Rs. 900 crores in the first phase. In the second phase, about 49.5 tmc water was lifted to highland areas in Karimnagar, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Warangal and Medak districts. 6 tmc water was allotted for NTPC Ramagundam project. After installation of the sluice gates, the project can store now about 20 TMC ft of water. (The Hindu, 2014).

The Mallannasagar reservoir in Thoguta mandal of Medak district is an attempt by the Telangana government for upgrading the irrigation system. It is a part of the Kaleshwaram project. With a huge capacity of 160 tmc of water under the Kaleswaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, this project aims to store water for irrigation purpose as part of the redesigned Pranahita Chevella project. An estimated 18 lakh acres of irrigated dry crops in kharif season is under the target of this proposed irrigation. The State government faced vehement protest by opposition political parties, environment activists, writers, academicians, residents and farmers of the targeted villages whose lands were said to be acquired for this project. Eight villages are in the list to be submerged in this project. Under the GO 123, the land owners of the villages would have to sell their land at the rate of Rs 6 lakh per acre to the government. The villages are Etigaddakishtapur, Vemulaghat, Pallepahad, Erravalli and Singaram. Only Singaram has 1088 acres of land and 150 houses. (Jul 9 - Aug 2, The Hindu)

Yellampally Barrage:

The Yellampally barrage, built in 2014 in Karimnagar district now has become a rich source of water for the first phase of Telangana Drinking Water supply Project, under the Mission Bhagiratha at nine assembly constituencies in Medak, Ranga Reddy, Nalgonda and Warangal districts. It has the capacity of holding 20 TMC ft of water. The project was named after the former speaker of erstwhile undivided Andhra Pradesh Assembly D Sripada Rao. It aims to meet the drinking water needs of the State capital to the tune of 10 TMC ft and to supply 6.5 TMC ft water to the interstate power project of the National Thermal Power Corporation at Ramagundam. It can supply water to 30000 acres gap ayacut of Kaddam project in Adilabad district and help in irrigation facilities to 25000 acres under Gudem Lift Irrigation Scheme. It also supplied water to 40000 acres in Manthani area last year. The idea of the project was taken up in 2004 with an estimated cost of Rs 5300 crore. (Aug 1, The Hindu)

Telangana Water Grid Project:

It aims to deliver 100 litres of safe drinking water to every individual at the rural places. The Telugu name of this mission is 'Jala Haram'. In urban areas too, the mission is applicable. In urban areas, it is aimed to provide 150 litres of safe drinking water to every individual.

Mission Kakatiya:

Started in July 2014, this mission aims to develop and rejuvenate 46300 tanks across the state for irrigation purpose. The Government of Telangana has already spent Rs 20000 after this mission. It has been named after the Kakatiya rulers of the state who wanted to develop the irrigation system for the welfare of the residents of this state.

Under the Mission Kakatiya Programme, the Sircilla Police adopted the Mandepalli village in Sircilla mandal under Karimnagar district in May, 2016 to rejuvenate the defunct minor irrigation tank namely Timmannakunta. Silts and shrubs filled up the tank. The local police along with social workers cleared the entire tank. Around 4000 trucks were needed to carry the silt and plants from the tank. The police also built a three metres width bund around the tank. In this monsoon, the tank got filled with rain water which would be helpful for the irrigation purpose in 150 acres of land across the village. (Jul 23, 2016, The Hindu)

The Most Prestigious Project Ever in Newly Formed Telangana State Mission Kakatiya with tagline *mana ooru mana cheruvu* would be launched/Inaugurates by the Chief Minister Kalvakuntla. Chandra

Shekar Rao. The Mission Kakatiya Project aim's to restoration of water tanks, at Sadashivanagar mandal headquarters Nizamabad District on March 12th 2015. The Budget For Mission kakatiya for next four years was stated as Rs. 25,000 crore. KCR will reach the venue at Patha Cheruvu (old water tank) by helicopter at 10.30 am. later the programm would be inaugurated by the Union minister for water resources Uma Bharati.

In Telangana 85% of cultivated area is rainfed, and only tank irrigation system is the main source for agriculture. It is critical for agricultural growth, generation of rural employment, poverty reduction, flood control, drought mitigation, livestock and domestic uses, contributes to soil and water conservation, microclimate and protection of environment.

In the state, there are 46,531 minor irrigation sources irrigating a total area of 7.63 lakh hectares. Considering all the aforementioned issues related to the tank irrigation, the Government of Telangana state has taken up the massive programme of restoring all the 46,531 minor irrigation sources under the name "Mission Kakatiya" (mana ooru-mana cheruvu) in a decentralized manner through community involvement. The Government is aiming to complete the restoration of all the tanks in next five years @ 20% of the tanks each year

ICT:

The Irrigation and Command Area Development (I&CAD) Department of the Telangana State is all set to build an exclusive mobile app namely the Telangana Water Resources Information System (TWRIS) portal with the help of the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) which will provide geospatial data base for the entire irrigation system across the state. The NRSA with the assistance of Cartosat satellites will provide geospatial technological assistance from the Bhuvan geoplatform with necessary tools and interfaces. The geospatial data on natural resources and water bodies will be published and can be accessed online. Telangana is going to be the first state throughout the country to provide the facility right from farmers to common man. It is also the first state to geo-tag all types of irrigation systems, canal systems and command areas with specific boundaries. The details will also be updated every fortnight. The portal will disseminate information about the availability of water in any given project at a given point of time. Data on cropping pattern (like single or double crop for kharif / rabi), intensity of draught, total volume of area under irrigation will be provided. The NRSA will also train the concerned officials to use the portal and satellite data based irrigation management applications. (Jul 23, 2016, The Hindu)

The Akoli village at Jainad mandal in Adilabad district of Telangana is the first village throughout the country to get the status of 100 per cent digitally literate under the Common Service Centre of India (CSCI) programme. Nivalkar Gajanan, a 32 year old graduate with adequate knowledge in computer turned this dream true through his relentless efforts. Akoli is also the third village to get the status after two more villages in the state namely Basar (Adilabad district) and Narsingpally (Nizamabad district) have been conferred the same status under the State government's Digital Village programme. Now Akoli village has one computer literate person in each of its 167 households. They are able to use any kind of web based service right from payment of electricity bills through online mode to making emails. Gajanan provided 25 days of computer training to every trainee on basic computer education in lieu of Rs 500 only. The villages namely Mandagada, Korta, Sirsanna and Rampur are also in the target. (July 23, 2016, The Hindu)

Telangana Grama Jyothi Mission:

This mission is aimed at the development of the rural sectors of the State using strategic policies. There are nine rural districts in the State. It comes under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, headed by Jupally Krishna Rao.

Response to Weavers:

To revive the state's textile industry, the Minister for IT and Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao, who represents the Sircilla assembly seat, directed the power loom weavers in Sircilla to produce 1.11 crore meters of fabric (school uniform) worth Rs 45 crore. 7383 power looms were asked to produce 33 lakh meters of clothes in 20 days in the first phase. The entire production would be handed over to the

government. Rest part of task would be completed in two more phases. The State government is likely to give the charge of producing clothes or uniforms of various departments like hospitals, TSRTC, Police, etc. It would generate employment opportunities to the weavers too across the state. (July 9, 2016, The Hindu)

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION:

It is true that considerable attempts have been made by the Telangana government towards the rural development of the state. Ignoring criticism, the State government is trying its best to develop its rural sectors. A month long study based on the reports of The Hindu, a national daily reflects this.

Special attention by the Telangana State government to specific sectors like weavers, adivasis or tribal population, health and irrigation are the positive symbols of the state's attempts towards rural development. If the State government can initiate all such activities in a month, it is hoped that the government can make steps forward in other rural sectors also in near future.

Introduction of scientific advancements in agriculture and irrigation facilities in a state like Telangana where agriculture is the main profession of the rural majority directly or indirectly denotes the State government's positive outlook towards rural development.

While the activity of the Sircilla police is recognized as an effort towards sustainable rural development, the Mallannasagar project has drawn stark criticism from several parts of the society. The government was termed as anti-environment friendly, anti-people and even as government for corporate bodies by the opposition party leaders and followers, human rights activists, environment activists and others for initiating this project. It has been opined by the experts that this project does not support the sustainable development. Still the Telangana government is almost successful to carry out the project, terming the same as one of the bigger initiatives taken up by the K Chandrasekhar Rao government on behalf of bigger interest of the society. The Hindu reported on several protests carried out by the residents of Telangana against this project. Even police brutalities on protesters were also reported. In earlier days, India also witnessed such developmental projects carried out ignoring the sustainable development approaches. The Mallannasagar project, thus, establishes the appropriateness of Spiral of Silence theory too.

The introduction of Mission Bhagiratha programme by none other than the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on August 7, 2016 in the State and the huge appreciation of the NDA government at the centre by the Telangana State Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao directly focuses on the introduction of the friendly chapters between the Bharatiya Janata Party and Telangana Rashtriya Samithi.

No efforts have been made by the State government yet to promote the primary education and higher education in rural areas of the state. The dilapidated condition of the primary schools in villages and the lack of opportunities of higher education in rural areas are very much noteworthy in this aspect. Mostly the best educational institutions and universities are situated in the capital city of Hyderabad. Even there was no such reporting on these issues in The Hindu.

Though the State government started the Telangana Water grid project, the availability of safe drinking water at remote villages is still under question.

The Hindu, national English daily has been covering the rural sectors of this state appropriately, without keeping any biased attitude to any side. When developmental efforts were carried out by the State government, the newspaper rightly focused on the topic. While there were criticisms against the government policies towards rural development from different sections of the society, the newspaper also meticulously reflected the same in its esteemed columns. It, thus, helps the readers to understand what kind of rural development approaches were made by the State government.

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