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# **Rural Planning**

## **Introduction**

Rural planning is the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of communities living in relatively unpopulated areas rich in natural resources. Rural Development planning helps in the of poverty alleviation through the creation of employment opportunities and social opportunities in rural areas like education, health, etc. Human development resource is the most imp Human development resource is the most important factor in implementing the plans and policies successfully. A broader definition of rural planning as encompassing policy that has both explicit and implicit intention to impact rural conditions, economic, social, and physical is adopted here. The five basic requirements for a rural plan are that it be accessible, clear, specific, precise, and accurate.

## **Needs and objective of rural planning in India**

An undeveloped economy like India is characterised by inequalities of incomes and ownership of assets. The high incidence of rural poverty, coupled with these inequalities, makes the task of rural development particularly important. There are also regional imbalance and problems connected with the development of areas which are disadvantage due to geographical and ecological factors (as for example, drought-prone areas, flood-prone areas etc.) Needless to say, planning in India has to be geared to meet these challenges.

The rural poor have limited access social services and this are reflected in low rates of literacy, high incidence of infant and childhood mortality and morbidity, poor health and nutrition status, poor environmental sanitation and hygiene, limited access to potable water, the poor housing. Central approach to any development process has to be one of enabling the poor and other disadvantage people to improve their situation, both social and economic.

## **Objective of Rural Planning:**

- More Income of Rural People
- Equal opportunity in Rural areas
- Distribution of Income
- Increase of Employment for Rural people
- Self Reliance
- Elimination of Poverty

## **Plan Schemes**

The Plans are given effect through various schemes which are of three types - Central schemes, centrally sponsored schemes and States sector schemes. Since the subject of economics and social planning is in the

concurrent list, Plan schemes are in the State plan as well as the Central plan. The Plan schemes in the Central plan are generally of two types, namely, Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The central plan outlay is the sum total of the outlay on Central sector schemes and the central share of centrally sponsored schemes.

Central sector schemes are those which are fully funded and implemented by the Central Government and its organisations. Centrally sponsored schemes, however, are those which are fully or in part funded by the Central Government and implemented by the States on their agencies. The extent to which the Central Government support centrally sponsored schemes varies - in some cases it is 100% and in some 70 or 50%. The centrally Sponsored schemes sector has for long been a bone of contention between the Central and State Government and have been viewed by the latter as an encroachment into what is considered by them as justifiably the state's sphere of activity. On the other hand, Central participation through Centrally Sponsored Schemes has been justified on the ground that without this, important programmes will not get the priority they deserve in several if not all the states.

The state plan is the sum total of state sector schemes plus the state's share of centrally sponsored schemes. An important example of a state Plan scheme funded entirely by the State Government.

### **Process of Planning**

Planning is the process of thinking about the activities required to achieve a desired goal. It is the first and foremost activity to achieve desired results. It involves the creation and maintenance of a plan, such as psychological aspects that require conceptual skills.

Rural development planning has gained prominence in recent time because of that growing realisation the benefits from development have, by and large, by passed large segments of rural society. At the same time, it has been recognised that the organisation and structure of the process of planning has to be modified so that policies and programmes reflect the development need of rural areas.

The Subject of rural development has acquired great importance in recent times. Alongside this, the process of planning has also become crucial, particularly because planning is viewed as an important means of solving some of the outstanding issues of development. Here we shall consider how in the broader time perspective of planning, the budgets and the annual plan are placed in the time of the Five Years Plan.

### **Perspective Planning:**

Perspective planning refers to long-term planning in which long range targets are set in advance for a period of 15, 20, or 25 years. A perspective plan,

however, does not imply one plan for the entire period of 15 or 20 years. Plans of either kind are further divided into regional and sectoral plans. In a true sense, broader objectives are to be achieved in a fixed period by dividing the perspective plan into short-run plans of 4 to 6 years.

### **Five Year Plans:**

The main vehicle of planning in India, however, is the five-year plan. From 1947 to 2017, the Indian economy was premised on the concept of planning. This was carried through the Five-Year Plans, developed, executed, and monitored by the Planning Commission (1951-2014) and the NITI Aayog (2015-2017). 12<sup>th</sup> five years' plan completed on 2017 with the aim of, to achieve "faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth".

We began the process in 1951 and after three successive plans; the period between 1966 and 1969 saw three annual plans. This has sometimes been termed as the period of 'Planning Holiday'. From 1969 again, the five-year plan has been formulated through, here too, there was a break in 1978 and again in 1980. The fifth five-year plan 1974- 79 was terminated a year ahead of schedule in 1978 and the then government formulated a draft five-year plan for 1978-83 to give effect to its policies and programme. From 1947 to 2017, the Indian economy was premised on the concept of planning.

The ten objectives for the 13<sup>th</sup> five-year plan (2017-2022) includes "maintaining economic growth, transforming patterns of economic development, optimizing the industrial structure, promoting innovation-driven development, accelerating agricultural modernization, reforming institutional mechanisms, promoting coordinated.

### **Annual Plans:**

The annual plans are prepared both by the central ministries and the state governments for the sector concerned within the framework of the respective five-year plan which has been approved. These exercises begin normally around September/October of the preceding year. Central ministries/ departments prepare their annual plan proposals and submit to the planning commissions. These are then discussed at the level of secretary, planning commission and secretary of the Department/Ministry for finalization in which officials of the ministries concerned and the planning commissions and participate.

### **Budget:**

The budget which is prepared at the union and State Government level every year, is an instrument of fiscal policy, it covers for the period between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> March of the next year. It includes both the receipts and expenditure of government. The plan expenditure is the development budget of the

Government and reflects the annual Plan of the Government. It aggregates the Annual Plans of various Ministers/Departments in the case of the central/state plan.

### **Mid-term Appraisal:**

Normally, during the course of five-year plan mid-term appraisal is undertaken by the planning commission. In the case of seventh five-year plan 1985-90, this was undertaken by the planning commission during 1978-89. The process followed for the seventh plan mid-term appraisal what's the sect oral assessments where prepared by the subject divisions of Planning commission. The ministries concerned where also involved by the planning commission in the review of process.

### **Machinery for Rural Planning at different level**

The various levels of multi-level planning in India are:

- (1) Centre,
- (2) States,
- (3) Districts,
- (4) Blocks,
- (5) Villages.

Before the Amendment of the Constitution in 1992, the task of plan formulation was basically carried out by the Centre and the State governments.

### **Machinery for planning at the Centre Level:**

A centralised planned economy refers to such a system where the economic decisions are executed by a single authority such as the state or central government without involving any meaningful interaction between consumers and businesses. Centralised planning is also referred as Command Economy. The Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in our Constitution, though not enforceable by any court, lay down principles fundamental to the governance of the country, Article 37 clearly stated that it will be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws. Important Article of the Constitution of interest to rural development are articles 38, 39, 39A, 40, 41, 43, 46, 47, 48 & 48 A.

Briefly stated, Article 38 related to promoting the welfare of the people, Article 39 lays down the board policy which the State should follow for ensuring adequate means of livelihood for its citizens, protection of interest of children and women, etc. Article 40 relates to organising village panchayats while Article 41 deals with the right to work, to education and to public assistance in some cases. Article 43 relates to securing a living ways and article 46 to the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of society. Article 47 related to standard of living, Article 48 to organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry and article 48a to protection and improvement of the environment and safeguarding of forest and wildlife. Thus, the Constitution contains provision,

relating to the broad directions to be followed by the State in relation to the welfare and development of people of the country.

### **Niti Aayog (earlier known as Planning Commission):**

The NITI Aayog is National Institution for National Institution for Transforming India was launched on 1st January 2015 to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and enhance cooperative federalism by increasing involvement of states in the policy making process. The initiative consists of 5 years' road map plan and 7 years' vision, strategy and action plan. NITI Aayog replaced the 65 years old Planning Commission of India.

Prime Minister is the chairperson of NITI Aayog. It also includes governing council that is composed of CM of all states and union territories. NITI Aayog has planned to implement Block chain technology in E-governance. In order to achieve this, the think tank has conceptualized "India chain"

### **Functions of NITI Aayog:**

- To enhance the involvement of States in decision making process by fostering cooperative federalism.
- To promote innovation, knowledge and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts.
- Incorporating National security in economic strategy and policy.
- To maintain state-of-the-art resource centre for best practices in sustainable and equitable development and promote good governance.
- Formulate the strategies at village level and integrate these at higher levels of government.
- To work towards the technology up-gradation for implementation of policies.
- The design framework for strategic and long-term policies and monitor their progress.

### **National Development Council:**

The National Development Council (NDC) is the highest policy making body which provides the opportunity for plans to be formulated and implanted throughout the country as a unified development effort. Which is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body. It is the apex body to take decisions on matters related to approval of five year plans of the country.

The National Development Council or the Rashtriya Vikas Parishad was set up on 6th August 1952 to strengthen and mobilise the effort and resources of the nation in support of the plan, to promote common economic policy in all vital spheres, and to ensure the balanced and rapid development of all parts of the country.

Its Chairman is the Prime Minister. Its Members comprise Cabinet Ministers (some not all), Chief Ministers of all the states and Members of the Planning Commission (Now Niti Aayog). The NDC is the body at the highest policy making level which approves the approach and later the final plan.

### **Planning Units of Central Ministries:**

Since the central Central ministries have a very important role in the formulation of plans and considerable stake in the policies and programs which ultimately neatly find a place for coordinating the work of ministry concerned to undertake these functions. The planning unit works in close collaboration with the program division police stop it also initiates the coordinates the work of the working groups that are set up for preparing the plan list of the draught proposal incorporating the suggestions of the different working groups are also prepared by it and these are then finalized by the department oblique ministry concerned and same to the planning commission.

### **Machinery for planning at the state level:**

As in the Centre, so also in this States, a number of organisations and departments are involved in the planning process. Let us know now considered these in brief.

### **State Planning Department:**

On account of diversity in administrative organisation in different States and Union Territories of our country. It is not possible to have a single uniform pattern for the planning machinery at that level. However, a broad understanding of the position as it prevails in a large number of States is given in the suction.

In each state, there is a Planning Department which is responsible for the preparation of the Five year plans, Annual plans, monitoring of the plans and generally the evaluation of programs through its evaluation wing. Essentially the Planning Department is responsible for coordination the development effort in the state. The Five Year Plan for the state provides the framework within which annual plans are prepared. These take into consideration the guidelines set by the planning commission. The Planning Department is responsible for preparing the five years plan and ensuring that the Annual Plans reflect the steps being taken to achieve the board objectives laid out in the State Five Year Plan.

In most states, in addition to the State Planning Department, there exists a State Planning Board. It comprises the Ministers concerned, experts, non-officials and officials, Normally the role of such a Board is advisory, relating to plan strategies. It also suggests ways and means to improve the working of various programme in States.

### **Department of Economics and Statistics Manpower and Evaluation:**

In most States, within the administrative umbrella of the State Planning Department, there are department of Economics and Statistics, Manpower and Evaluation. The Department of Economics and Statistics provides technical personnel at the State and Lower levels for planning and monitoring of programmes. The Manpower Department assesses the requirements and need for man power in the coming years and enables the planning process to incorporate action plans for meeting these needs such that the overall manpower requirements for Plan implementation are fulfilled. In addition, the

Manpower Department is also sometimes entrusted with the responsibility of planning for the in-service training and orientation of the State officials. The Evaluation Department, as the name suggests, is entrusted with the task of conducting evaluation studies of the various programmes being undertaken on concurrent for ex Post facto basis. Such studies provide feedback to the State Government for enabling corrective action to be taken in regard to plan schemes.

### **Machinery for planning at the District level:**

District Planning is the process of preparing an integrated plan for the Local Government in a District taking into account the resources available and covering the sectoral activities and schemes assigned to the district level below and those implemented through local governments in the state."

### **District Planning Agencies:**

At the district level, most of the heads of department are represented official stand at District level officers. For example, there are Executive Engineer for PWD, Irrigation, Public Health, Engineering department, State Electricity boards, District Education Officer, Chief Medical and Health Officer, etc. These officials are part of the planning process at the district level. In the context of major poverty alleviation programme.

In many states Panchayati Raj institutions have important roles to play in the context of planning rural development programmes. Generally, such bodies are three tiers and in some cases, two tiers.

### **District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA):**

The District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) is the principal organ at the district level to manage and oversee the implementation of different anti-poverty programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. In 1980 he District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) was set up to plan, implement and monitor such Programmes. These are registered societies generally headed by District Collector. The Members of parliament and Members of State Legislations from those districts as also State officials are among its members. The chairman of the Zilla Parishad shall be the chairman of governing body of the DRDA. The Executive and financial functions shall however lie with CEO, Zilla Parishad / District Collector who shall be designated as the Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director.

### **Machinery for planning at the Block level:**

The block level planning body is the lowest level planning unit in a Proutist economy. For the decentralisation of economic power, the devolution of planning is a necessary pre-condition. The areas of a block as they are currently formed are mostly demarcated on the basis of political considerations. Block-level planning is essential for economic decentralization, so it should be

adopted in all blocks. There should be provision in the constitution for block-level planning for socio-economic development.

The amount of natural and human resources varies from block to block, hence separate economic plans will have to be made for each and every block. There should be a block-level planning board in every block for this purpose. The block-level planning body will prepare a plan for the development of the block and accordingly implement the local developmental programmes. Above the block level there will be a district-level planning board. Thus, from the block level upwards, there will be planning boards to prepare and implement the local plans and programmes. It must be remembered that planning should be of ascending order, starting at the block level, and including all the levels of a socio-economic unit.

### **Machinery for planning at the Village level:**

Village level or Grass roots planning, also known as micro-level planning, is a technique, which helps in identifying developmental needs of the community people, prioritizing them and formulating viable projects, so that with limited resources maximum development could be achieved in a stipulated time period.

Village-planning is a comprehensive planning approach where in the community prepares development plans themselves considering the priority needs of the village. Each village will have its own individual topical solution; the following points are essential for village planning.

1. Identify people's needs and priorities.
2. Define activities that can mobilize the complete community.
3. Use resources from running government schemes.
4. Repair and renovate existing infrastructure.
5. Strengthen the Gram Panchayat.

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