



SMART VILLAGE CONCEPT AND INDIAN ECONOMY

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Abstract:

Smart Village Concept and Indian Economy

Indian economy is largely influenced by the rural economy. Rural development normally relates to the method of enhancing the quality of life and financial well-being of people living in remote areas. Comprehensive policy is required to bring the Multi-dimensional changes in the rural area life of rural people. Rural resources can be utilized properly and wealth can be generated through well-developed programmes.

The development of rural areas improves the village economy. Special attention has to give to the following areas:

- 1.Improvement productivity and the wages of rural people.
- 2.Employment opportunities.
- 3.Fulfillment of basic needs.
- 4.Proper resource management.
- 5.Financing of rural projects.
- 6.Ecological balance.
- 7.Market for the rural products.
- 8.Infrastructure Support.
- 9Financial Assistance.

Rural India is the real India and concept of better India can be achieved with the adoption of smart village concept, there is a real urgency to bring the concept of smart village to have sustainable growth.

Index Terms - Smart Village, Sustainable development, Rural Development, Rural Infrastructure and Community Welfare. Ecological balance

Introduction:

Indian Villages – Strength of India: - Mahatma Gandhi once said – “The future of India lies in its villages”. According to Gandhi, villages are self-sufficient units. He believed that peace and non-violence exists in India.

Rural India is the real India. Real development of India is possible through sustainable growth of villages. There are some 6,38,000 villages in India., 72.2% of the population live in villages. They depend mostly on Agriculture and Small Scale industries. In India 52% of employment is based on agriculture. Indian Villages are promoting small scale industries like Handloom Industry, Dairy Farm, Poultry Farm, Match box Industry, various forms of craft works etc.

India’s economy depends a lot upon agriculture sector. Agriculture, along with fisheries and forestry, accounts for one-third of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product. Hence villages are the strength of Indian economy. India is well known for it’s traditional & cultural values, which can be seen more in villages.

Therefore, it is the shared responsibility of everyone to keep the villages updated more progressively. Don't kill the villages, they are very sensitive. Nurture them with care to become self-sufficient in all respects.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the role of villages in India's economy growth.
2. To identify the relevant solution to rural issues.
3. To find the novel ways to achieve inclusive growth of villages with minimum harm in every respect.

Methodology:

The study is conceptual and descriptive in nature. Data collected from secondary sources like Journals, Magazines, News Paper, Books and other publications.

Indian Economy

India is the world's third-largest economy. India's gross domestic product (GDP) has touched the \$3.75 trillion mark in 2023. The Survey says, World Bank's and Asian Development Bank's latest forecasts of real GDP growth of 8.7 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively for 2022-23. As per the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) growth projections released on 25th January, 2022, India's real GDP is projected to grow at 9 per cent in both 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1 per cent in 2023-24. This projects India as the fastest growing major economy in the world in all these three years. It produced \$9.4 trillion in goods and services in 2017. India had rapid growth despite the Great Recession. It grew 6.8% in 2018, 7.2% in 2017, and 8.2% in 2016.² From 2008 through 2014, it grew between 3% and 8.5%. That phenomenal growth rate reduced poverty by nearly 10% in the 2010s. Recent Survey states that the Indian economy is estimated to grow by 9.2 per cent in real terms in 2021-22, after a contraction of 7.3 per cent in 2020-21. This implies that overall economic activity has recovered fast.

It is necessary for the government to move in the direction and rhythm with the society because their sustainability is dependent on the long term benefits derived from the economic, social and environmental issues connected to rural basics.

Villages are the backbone of India because most of the food crops are in villages. So literally, villages are feeding everyone. Ecological balance is maintaining by villages, because of the environment of villages. More trees, eco-friendly habits help to keep villages pollution-free. Though the times are changing and pollution levels are increasing in villages, there is a huge difference between pollution levels of villages and cities.

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Festivals and traditional ceremonies are celebrated in villages, which are being forgotten by those who moved to cities. In villages, people have peaceful life compared to people of cities. Stress levels in the people of cities are higher comparatively. In this way also, villages can be our strength if we look back and learn from their lifestyle.

Village people have more unity, helping nature, hardworking nature. Healthy food and lifestyle of villages is being replicated in cities these days, thus making India healthier.

Indian Villages – Weakness of India: -

1. Illiteracy rate is high in villages. Villages do not possess proper facilities for higher education
2. Poverty lies more in villages.
3. Unemployment lies more in villages.
4. Lack of water facility, transport facility, educational institutes.
5. Increase in population because of high illiteracy rate in villages.
6. Infant mortality rate is high because of illiteracy. Old beliefs Their beliefs are too old for the present generation culture. Some of them believe in superstitions.
7. Agriculture may not yield sufficient income. Their job of agriculture may not yield them money that is enough for their livelihood. Some of them are getting attracted to luxurious life in cities.

Along with these issues there are problems related physical and financial infrastructure, , social security, health and sanitation etc.

All these issues can be addressed by providing amenities such as sanitation, safe drinking water, internal roads, water conservation solutions, tree plantation and means of livelihood. This can be achieved through the concept of SMATRT VILLAGE.

SMART VILLAGE

Each village is unique in all respects. Geographical location, naturally gifted resources, socio-economic conditions, political participation, physical and infrastructural support etc., will definitely influence on the wellbeing of the villages. Each village must be studied separately to identify the current status and to upgrade them to higher level.

Smart Villages are “rural areas and communities which build on their existing strengths and assets as well as on developing new opportunities”, where “traditional and new networks and services are enhanced by means of digital, telecommunication technologies, innovations and the better use of knowledge

Ways to make villages smart is a challenging task and it requires the active participation of all the stakeholders. This can be done by offering basic facilities, education, employment generation activities, technology, basic infrastructural support, etc. Smart village concept is not considered to be a well-developed city or an advance village of some highly developed states or nation. It is not just an external appearance, but an opportunity to show the inherent smartness of the villages. As India lives in its villages. Villages can do wonders in many respects if they work smartly. Villages are the food basket of the nation. Village Panchayats are the centers of grass root democracy. However, the holistic development of rural India is still under tremendous pressure owing to the declining farm output, increasing trend of distressed migration, absence of basic amenities and emerging problems of environmental pollution and conflicts.

Generally, the misconception of urban people that rural people lack ambition and entrepreneurship. But in reality, the villagers have all the potential to develop socially, scientifically, economically and environmentally and make them valuable to society. If we understand the eco-system of the Indian villages, truly there are all the opportunities and avenues to make our villages and our country a sustainably developing nation.

In a smart village major thrust is given on the technology as a means for development, enabling education and agricultural entrepreneurial opportunities, improving health and social welfare, enhancing democratic engagement and overall enhancement of rural village dwellers.

The Information and Communication Technology has the power to connect all the corners of globe. In a smart village concept, the use of the information and telecommunication is surely a major priority area. ICT supported village can have better advantage in learning, practicing, and sharing the information for the local advantage.

A blue print has to be developed in relation to infrastructure like roads, buildings, bridges, canals, ponds, sewages, schools, colleges, hospitals etc. as per the needs of local requirement. The smart village concept should formulate growth strategies for the village to make it self-sufficient in protecting native occupation and heritage and monuments of the village. For example, a village with tourism potentiality must stress on the tourism and supportive opportunities. The residents should be trained for different services and the funding agencies, microfinance institutions and NGOs can be approached for creating a financial eco-system to develop a development chain.

The smart village concept is an inclusive growth model needed for a sustainable and a secured future of the villages. It is about understanding the growth of villages with minimum damage to the environmental system. The concept of smart village is contemporary and very reliable today as there is an urgency to limit the urbanization and its unmanageable impact. A smart village should be interactive and multi-functional and provisions must be there for active participation of people in various developmental activities. Success of this concept is highly depending on the active participation of people, locally elected representatives A smart village will also have the power, knowledge, healthcare, technology, entrepreneurship and quicker connectivity in terms of information acquiring and dissemination.

A smart village will not only bring internet connection to the rural areas, but also provides support to sustainable agricultural practices. Focus is made on the village economy with sincere efforts to increase the economic growth such that more and more people contribute to the growth of the village economy, farming on their own land, producing more from their own fields. There is need of adequate financial support to the farmers and good prices for their produce.

The century-long drinking water problem associated with high fluoride contamination still persists in an alarmingly high number of 14,132 habitations in 19 Indian States. Pure drinking water and good sanitation are essential prerequisites for good health and hygiene. Most of the epidemics and health issues in India is mainly due to communicable diseases. Lack of proper health awareness programme and community involvement may lead to serious health problem. A smart village must try to eliminate the above mentioned problems. Innovative approaches to improve water supply and sanitation must be introduced in the villages Renewable energy sources are used to the maximum extent where ever it is possible. Solar LED street lighting will provide a high quality, sustainable lighting solution for people in remote areas who don't have

access to the conventional electricity grid. It will help in increasing the level of safety on roads and streets and allowing for more economic and social activity.

Unmanaged waste creating a big problem in many cities. In the name of development, such problems should not be replicated in our villages. Proper waste management system has to be introduced in villages by converting rural waste into rural wealth. This will make the working conditions much better and will definitely help in improving the life expectancy.

Conclusion: Villages are definitely our strength. Therefore, smart village concept is definitely providing the healthy booster to the deprived rural economy. Government must introduce the concept carefully based on the local need and requirement. More over common supportive measures like basic infrastructure support, health and sanitization, ecological balance, social security programmes will definitely assure the balanced structured growth. Conceptual smartness is not serve the real purpose; but better implemented smart village concept can serve the real purpose of dream India.

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