



Problems Related to Rural Areas in Agriculture

Sharathchandrababu¹, Mohan Gowda M¹, Pruthvi Raj H K¹, R Goutham Gowda¹, Chethan U N¹

¹Alva's Institute of Engineering and Technology

Abstract:-

Although India is one of the countries that is quickly urbanising, the majority of Indians (61%) still live in rural regions, making rural development crucial for the efficient growth of the nation. Rural areas also make up 46% of the country's total income. The vast majority of India's rural areas are plagued by a variety of issues that are preventing them from developing. This research paper's primary goal is to examine and comprehend the issues and difficulties that rural communities currently face, as well as to explore and outline the causes of these issues there. The people's living situations are being negatively impacted by these issues, which as a roadblock to expansion and improvement. This study aids in our comprehension of the factors contributing to rural regions' underdevelopment and directs us toward the government's necessary actions to raise citizens' quality of life and promote the development of the rural system as a whole. There are many obstacles in the way of rural areas developing, so it is important to research the issues in order to alert decision-makers, policy-makers, and planners to the concerns.

I. INTRODUCTION

Generally speaking, a rural area or countryside is a region outside of towns and cities with few conveniences, such as services and utilities "all people, homes, and land that are not part of an urban area. Anything not urban is regarded as rural "(US HHS) Rural areas are typically defined as areas with a population of between 3 and 6 cities and less than 49,000. Small villages and a low population density characterise rural areas (RBI).

Rural areas in India, where about 70% of the population resides, are important for the economy of the nation. In rural areas, a sizable section of the population relies on agriculture as their primary source of income. Even though different countries have different definitions of rural for statistical and administrative purposes, all of these rural areas are equally important for the sustainable development of the nation, and the development of the rural system should be taken into consideration as part of the nation's development. People in these areas, however, are plagued by a variety of problems as a result of a lack of care for the rural system's expansion, and the rural system of the country is progressively getting more and more weakened. The implementation of policies and development projects must give rural areas more consideration.

The main issues in many rural communities, according to a literature assessment, are poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and Homelessness, crime, social ills, a reduced standard of living, a lack of amenities and services, and poor health. from India's last 20 years. The primary cause of out-migration from rural areas is that there is significant growth and development in cities and urban areas but not in rural communities. Metropolitan areas from rural ones. According to the World Bank, India's rural economy must expand for the country's economy to be robust. Being hampered by a number of issues, including unemployment, illiteracy, and a lack of basic facilities like hospitals, colleges, and schools, cleanliness, etc. Government entities execute numerous policies and activities with the primary goal of boost rural communities' well-being, yet some of these issues are either directly or indirectly to blame for the poor management of plans, strategies, and initiatives. If these issues are not appropriately treated, they worsen and completely impact the negatively affect the entire balance of the nation's development and the rural system.

This review study primarily intends to analyse the issues facing rural areas, which may be divided into four primary categories: Humans, agriculture, infrastructure, economy, management, and leadership These issues lead to inferences about why the planning and development of rural areas, these issues must be taken into consideration.

II. AGRICULTURE-RELATED PROBLEMS

India is mostly a rural nation; 68.8% of the population and 74% of the labour force both resided there (2011 Census). The country's rural population, workforce, and GDP are all declining as a result of a continuous shift toward urbanisation over the years. Between 2001 and 2011, India's population grew by 31.8 percent (urban) and 12.18 percent (rural). Rural-urban migration and repopulation were responsible for 50% of the rise in the urban population during this time. Rural communities are categorised as urban. According to population projections, India will remain largely rural till the year 2050 when it is predicted that urban populations will surpass those in rural areas (UN).

In rural places, agriculture is the main industry for revenue. There is inadequate irrigation in the majority of India's agricultural systems, and still rely on rainfall for agriculture irrigation, and rural residents also deal with a number of challenges that are related to irrigation small land holdings, a lack of inputs, a lack of economic infrastructure, a lack of storage facilities, and mechanisation.

1. Agriculture marketing:

Agriculture marketing in rural India is still in poor condition. Farmers are forced to rely on neighbourhood traders and intermediaries to dispose of their farm products, which are sold at a discount because there are no reliable marketing facilities in place. In the majority of situations, these farmers are compelled by socioeconomic circumstances to continue distress sales of their goods. Farmers sell their produce to the money lender from whom they typically borrow money in the majority of rural settlements.

2. Seeds:

For increased crop yields and steady expansion in agricultural production, seeds are a crucial and fundamental input. The distribution of seed of guaranteed quality is just as important as its manufacture. Unfortunately, most farmers, especially small and marginal farmers, cannot afford high-quality seeds due to the high cost of superior seeds.

The Indian government created the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) in 1963 and the State Farmers Corporation of India (SFICI) in 1969 to address this issue. To increase the farmers' access to better seeds, 13 State Seed Corporations (SSCs) were also set up.

In order to increase the production of, the High Yielding Variety Programme (HYVP) was introduced in 1966–1967 as a main thrust plan.

3. Manures, fertilisers, and biocides:

Indian soils have been utilised for crop cultivation for a very long time without any concern for replenishment. Because of this, soils are becoming depleted and exhausted, which lowers their production. The average crop yields are among the lowest in the world for practically all crops. Using more manures and fertilisers will help tackle this serious issue.

Similar to how healthy diet benefits the body, manures and fertilisers have an impact on soils. A well-nourished soil can provide good harvests, just as a well-fed body can perform any decent task. An increase in fertiliser application is thought to be responsible for around 70% of the growth in agricultural production.

As a result, an increase in fertiliser usage is a sign of agricultural prosperity. A country the size of India with a population of impoverished peasants faces practical challenges in providing enough manures and fertilisers everywhere. The most beneficial manure for soils is cow dung.

4. Limited and scattered landholdings

The average amount of land that farmers own is referred to as their agricultural landholding. Indian agriculture is primarily dependent on rainfall, and small and fragmented landholdings are challenging to irrigate, which results in very low output and revenue for farmers in rural areas. In India, the average landholding size decreased from 2.28 ha (1970–1971) to 1.82 ha (1980–1981) to 1.50 ha (1981–1981). (1995-96). In India, there are now more small and marginal agricultural land holdings than there were in 2010–11. (Tenth agricultural census). Due to small landholdings, land is misused and wasted for establishing boundaries. Land is a very valuable and scarce resource. Small landholdings are particularly vulnerable in states with high population densities and extensive agricultural production, such as The average size of land holdings in Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, and the eastern portion of Uttar Pradesh is less than one hectare, and in certain places, it is even less than 0.5 hectares. the typical Nagaland has the largest landholding (5 hectares), and Kerala has the lowest (0.18 ha). Our low agricultural output and the sluggish nature of our agriculture are mostly due to small landholdings.

When compared to the bigger land pieces, delivering irrigation in small and fragmented fields is more challenging. Fertile agricultural land is lost in the creation of boundaries for small plots of land, increasing the amount of labour required to move cattle, manure, seeds, and other agricultural tools from one plot of land to another. As a result, farmers are unable to increase their yield, which reduces their income.

5. Lack of Inputs

When using the proper quality seeds, it is possible to increase crop yields and sustain growth in agricultural production of seeds will result in a produce that is healthier and better. Distributions of the highest-quality seeds are essential because their production. Obtaining and supplying seeds can be problematic, particularly for small and marginal farmers, due to the excessive costs of improved seeds. The programmes for growing the investment in seed manufacture include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro management Agriculture, and ISOPOM. In order to address the issues, the Indian government founded the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and the State farmer. State Seed Corporations (SSCs) to guarantee the supply of providing farmers with superior seeds The High Yielding Variety Programme (HYVP), a significant initiative to boost the nation's production of food grains, was introduced in 1966–1967. Manures and fertilisers are organic, inorganic, and synthetic substances used to augment plant nutrition and promote plant growth. Fertilizers are one of the most crucial agricultural inputs, but due to a lack of knowledge and expertise among farmers in rural regions, they are not always used to their full potential. Many manufacturers on the market offer identical fertilisers that have little effect on crops, causing them to be killed by insects and other pests. Because the majority of Indian soils are low in nitrogen and phosphorus, using fertilisers along with enough of water can significantly boost the crop's strength. In order to lessen the negative impacts, the government is pushing organic farming and manure, both of which are environmentally benign and produce good, healthy yields. Fertilizers are expensive and their excessive usage is dangerous to the health of people, animals, and crops.

6. Resources for water and irrigation

If good seeds and nutrients are available but the water is not correctly managed, the crop will not grow properly, the crop won't be able to reach its full potential. Despite having several rivers and tributaries, India does not have an abundance of water resources. India has 4% of the fresh water on earth, 80% of which is used for agriculture. Only a third of its entire agriculture is irrigated, despite being the second-largest irrigated nation in the world after China. Rural locations have lower groundwater levels than urban areas because there are fewer barriers to infiltration, yet it can be challenging to monitor and control groundwater for irrigation. The most crucial agricultural input is irrigation, and because most agricultural land depends on rainfall, agricultural practices are seasonal. Indian agriculture would continue to deteriorate until more than half of the farmed area is placed under guaranteed irrigation and is adequately monitored. This is because rainfall in India is unpredictable and inconsistent.

In states like Punjab, Haryana, and the western portion of Uttar Pradesh, irrigation covers more than half of the agricultural land. Overwatering or underwatering is not advised; irrigation must be consistent and regulated at all phases, necessitating an increase in irrigation capacity. The crop's production rises when it is adequately irrigated using the best agricultural techniques.

7. Deficiency in automation

In India, there were 59.1% workers overall in 1991; by 2050, that number is predicted to drop to 25.7%, which reveals a critical labour shortfall by 2050. The sharp decline in the workforce's availability will have a severe impact on crop yields and Farmer productivity and income in rural areas. The majority of agricultural operations are still done by hand in the country's larger regions, using simple and conventional equipment and implements like a wooden plough, sickle, etc., despite the nation's substantial industrialization of agriculture in some places. When planting, irrigating, ploughing, and transporting the crops, little to no machinery is used, which occasionally extends the harvesting season. Cause crop spoilage when there is unfavourable weather condition. Mechanizing agricultural operations is necessary to reduce labour force wastage, improve farming's convenience and efficiency, and increase productivity in India, since the majority of farmers have small, fragmented landholdings and cannot afford to pay high labour wages.

For efficient and timely agricultural operations, machinery is a crucial and necessary input. Multiple crops can be grown with the help of machinery, which increases output and income for rural farmers. Effective mechanisation cuts down on delays and eliminates the need for manual labour. When compared to the USA (95%), Brazil (75%), and China (57%), India's rate of overall agriculture mechanisation, which ranges between 40 and 45 percent, is quite low. An agricultural mechanisation plan was made in 2014–15 with the goal of fostering inclusive agricultural growth in India. State governments offer farmers training and help through this programme so they may buy different agricultural machinery, but thus yet, not much has changes.

8. Insufficient marketing and storage infrastructure

Due to poor marketing facilities and the need to rely on local traders and middlemen, who take advantage of farmers in rural regions and sell their products for dirt cheap, India's rural agricultural market is in poor condition. Many farmers incur debt as a result of the dearth of favourable market pricing. Agricultural items cannot be preserved for lengthy periods of time in rural areas due to a lack of storage facilities, which forces farmers to sell their produce at the going rate, incurring significant losses. In these circumstances, farmers are taken advantage of by local traders. Nearly 6.6 percent of the post-harvest losses, or 9.3%, were attributed to inadequate storage conditions alone (The Parse Committee). To prevent losses and to benefit both farmers and customers, scientific storage is absolutely vital.

9. Rural transportation system

For people living in rural areas, mobility and connectivity are provided by any place whose development depends on how well it is connected. Additionally, it supports agricultural activities by making timely supplies of water, seeds, and other raw materials available to the farmers. Rural roads that are more connected also increase non-agricultural work alternatives for the rural population, enhancing livelihood options. Rural roads also guarantee that rural communities receive better services and all the advantages provided by the state and the adjacent urban areas. In rural areas, there are many deaths as a result of delayed access to healthcare; nevertheless, greater mobility opens up access to both education and healthcare.

However, rural roads are either earth gravelled or in very poor shape; as a result, people find it difficult to travel, commodities cannot be transported, and last-mile connectivity, which should extend to rural areas, is lacking in our country. Sometimes the state of the road is so poor that it makes it impossible for persons who drive frequently to go about their daily business, hospitals, jobs, and education. There are numerous government initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (Prime Minister's). The Indian government introduced the Rural Roads Scheme in December 2000 to connect remote rural settlements. According to the plan, village panchayats will build and maintain the rural road infrastructure. The programme has been run directly by the government as a local social spending initiative in several areas of India.

10. Infrastructure for rural electrification

Rural power is commonly seen as the cornerstone of the rural economy. Many remote households are still in the dark in rural areas where energy is frequently hasis. Rural electrification has the potential to satisfy the majority of needs, and its benefits include increased farm productivity, better health and educational outcomes, enhanced communication, and economic growth through the creation of jobs in rural regions. Since the nation's independence, there have been various attempts to electrify rural areas in India, many of which heavily integrate renewable energy sources. It meets the requirements of agricultural and other operations, including irrigation pumps, small and medium-sized enterprises, local businesses, cold storage chains, healthcare, and education, among others, which have both financial and human needs.

11. Rural water supply infrastructure

The primary sources of drinking water in the majority of rural areas include boreholes, springs, lakes, reservoirs, streams, and rivers. Rural areas have access to untreated water, which is harmful to the wellbeing of people, animals, and vegetation. The source of the water affects the water's quality. About 50% of our population gets their water from surface water sources like lakes, reservoirs, streams, and rivers.

The primary cause of the poor quality water consumption that results in cholera, jaundice, and diarrhoea in many rural communities is the usage of surface water sources for washing cattle, clothes, and bathing. These sources' water must undergo substantial treatment before being used. Despite improvements in sanitation and water supply since India's independence, many rural residents still lack access to drinkable water and must walk more than two kilometres to find it. The three main issues with the provision of drinking water that have been highlighted are sustainability, availability, and quality. Due to overuse and extraction, the majority of India's perennial rivers, streams, and surface water resources have been depleted, leading to a water shortage. Due to a lack of upkeep and new construction, the water supply system for the majority of rural local governments is in poor condition.

12. An unfavourable economic climate for implementing expensive technology

Adopting expensive technology in rural areas is hindered by a number of factors, including pricing, accessibility, lack of availability, and inadequate human talent. Because of the lower economic standards in rural areas, people cannot purchase new technologies. By implementing new technology, we may improve the economic climate, increase people's income, and thus raise their living standards. Although it may be difficult for an individual to acquire such technology, a community or government should take the initiative to provide it in remote areas.

13. The expensive input costs

In rural areas, expensive yielding seed varieties, machinery, fertiliser, and manure are employed as inputs; nevertheless, these inputs are quite expensive for small and marginal farmers as well as small companies. To boost agricultural activities and small-scale enterprises, the government should assist farmers by providing a free choice of high-yield seeds and by expanding small businesses.

14. Underprivileged rural industries

Agriculture, forestry, and handloom are the main industries in rural areas. People in different parts of rural India are experts in specialised skills; for instance, the Keralans are extraordinary woodcarvers, but they still use traditional methods and little technology. This presents challenges for businesses operating in rural India, including a lack of resources, a lack of skilled labour, unstable communication systems, and inadequate transportation infrastructure.

15. Ineffective farming

The backbone of the Indian economy is agriculture, although the rate of increase of agricultural output is rapidly slowing down. Agriculture's relative GDP contribution was 30% in 1990–1991 and dropped to 15% in 2011–2012. Despite employing more than 51% of the workforce, agriculture only accounts for 17.4% of economic output. Dependence on weather and rainfall, open borders for agricultural imports, reduction of agricultural subsidies, lack of easy access to credit for agriculture and reliance on money lenders, decline in government investment in the agricultural sector, and conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural uses are the main causes of inefficient agriculture. The impact of India's agricultural sector's crisis is enormous and likely to affect the national economy and all other sectors.

III. CONCLUSION

For the country's overall growth, it is necessary to pay more attention to rural areas since 61% of India's population still resides there. The basic problem with these rural communities, though, is that they struggle and obstruct their own growth. Due to these problems, rural areas are developing less, people are relocating to urban areas in pursuit of better amenities and services, and many urban areas are becoming uninhabitable as a result of population growth.

Due to historical repercussions, deficiencies in our planning methodology, and our investment pattern, rural areas are still underdeveloped and neglected despite the existence of numerous initiatives for their development. In order to achieve sustainable rural development, it is imperative that rural issues be addressed and appropriate policies are put in place. The main objectives of rural development are to expand access to and distribution of basic commodities to all rural inhabitants as well as to raise the standard of living of rural residents by enhancing their socioeconomic, educational, and employment opportunities.

The National Plan of Action for supporting regional policies and appropriate local level monitoring for achieving the objectives are two elements the World Bank proposes for effective planning and execution of Rural Development Programs. The sectoral operations of national departments are coordinated by effective regional and local machinery, and rural poor people are active in planning and implementation through local government and other community/non-profit organisations.

For the rural parts of India to realise and use their full potential for development, we must provide them with the most basic services, such as clean water, power, health care, education, transportation, and other facilities. In addition to agriculture, we ought to develop a number of lucrative professions. By providing these chances, we may make Indian rural areas as self-sufficient as metropolitan areas, as well as lessen rural poor people's outmigration and the growth of slums in urban and suburban areas. After the economic reforms, rural development will become a hot topic, and rural banking will be the foundation of this development.

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