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Bharat Nirman- An Initiative to Rural Infrastructure Development

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Abstract*: Rural India is destitute of development on fronts such as infrastructure, social and economic. To deliver over all development to the rural people, the Government of India launched a time-bound programme known as the Bharat Nirman on 16 May 2005. It launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh for successfully completing one year of the UPA government. The programme was targeted to be implemented over a period of four years but many of its schemes have been extended. This paper examines the issues of rural infrastructure and the funds allocated from the central govt to state and their uses, coverage of six components of the scheme. It also shows that how other rural development schemes replaces this plan on the basis of its low speed delivery system, less coverage with their benchmarking system (Bharat Nirman, MoRD,2007-08)
Keywords*: Economic, development, infrastructure, Bharat Nirman, coverage

I. INTRODUCTION

Bharat Nirman is a programme for rural development to improve poverty and to elevate the quality of rural life. This programme was designed to cover rural housing, water supply, roads, irrigation, electricity and telecommunication. The plan has been executed by the central government. Projects under Bharat Nirman are Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Indira Awaas Yojana, National Rural Drinking Water Programme and National Rural Drinking Water Programme.
(Source : Bharat Nirman through Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, 2005-2009)

A. How Successful is the Bharat Nirman Programme?

Most of the economists consider the programme as exploitation without quality. Though significant improvement has been done for the development of rural India but still lot more is required to be done for the completion of Bharat Nirman. It requirement be plaid whether the said targets have been met or not. Professionals also believe that sustainability and quality are the major problems that need to be addressed. Though some targets have been achieved but these extremely lack on quality.
In year 2007-08 near about one quarter of the budget was allocated to Bharat Nirman for its drinking water system. The target was met but less courtesy was paid on the success and sustainability. It had major quality issues. After investigations it found out that though out villages were provided with the drinkable water but the areas were either coming back to dry or getting contaminated water. Along with this the plan had no strategy to restore ground water that fulfilled 90% of drinking water needs of the country. So, the reducing under dry category was increasing rapidly. Indira Awas Yojana which is well-thought-out to be the most successful yojana also show difference between the genuine work done and target completed on the papers. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is truly considered to be successful. Mostly with time goal to complete starts taking significance over quality but for the success of such scheme the main focus should be on quality as well as its timely completion. Quality should never be cooperated otherwise there will be a wastage of resources and then resources to rectify and redo the same.

B. Objective

This plan has been set up for rural infrastructure and implemented by central government to offer fundamental facilities to rural cities in the country.
Major Objectives: -

1) To provide drinking water to all developing areas in the country by the end of 2012.
2) To offer facility of housing to poor. However, initially this plan targeted about six million houses that need to be established for the poor people by the end of year 2009. However, the plan is extended to the end of 2014 but the targeted house that need to be established raised to about 1.2 crore.
3) It covers 40% of total rural area along with telecommunication services by the end of 2014 and as well as offer broadband connectivity to all 2.5 lakh important Panchayat towns by the end of 2012.
4) It also suggests setting up all roads by the end of 2012 to connect all remote places in the country.

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5) It aims to offer electricity to all villages by the end of 2012.
6) To provide some additional 1 crore hec. Of irrigational useful land by the end of 2012 session.

C. *Components*

1) *Water Supply:* Coverage approximately 55 thousand uncovered habitations and provide safe drinking water to approximately 2.16 lakh vilages affected by poor and quality.
2) *Housing:* Provide additional 1.2 crore houses at the rate of 24 lakh houses each year to be built by funds allocated to the homeless through Panchayats.
3) *ICT*[1]*:* Increase rural tele-density to 40% and afford broadband connectivity and Bharat Nirman Seva Kendras to all 2.5 Lakh Panchayats.

D. *Criteria*

1) weightage given to housing scarcity is 75% and 25% to the poverty ratios given by the Planning Commission for State-level sharing.
2) For district-level allocations, 75% weightage is given again to housing scarcity and 25% to SC/ST population of the districts concerned.
3) Grant assistance- Rs. 25000 per house for flat areas and Rs. 27,500 for hilly areas.
4) Funds are released to DRDA in two instalments.

E. *Telecommunication & Information Technology*

1) *Goal*

a) Every village to be connected by telephone: remaining 66,822 villages to be covered by November 2007.
b) The Department of Telecom in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has the duty of providing telephone connectivity to the 66,822 villages that remain to be covered.

Current Status: 2005

SlNo	Name of the Service Area	Total No. of uncovered villages	VPTs to be provided on Satellite Technology	VPTs to be provided on other Technology	VPTs provided upto 30.09.05
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1074	115	959	208
2.	Assam	8931	279	8652	1976
3.	Jharkhand	1694	1694	0	30
4.	Gujarat	4144	0	4144	1657
5.	H.P.	1002	275	727	234
6.	J&K	1755	465	1290	206
7.	M.P.	11894	443	11451	3454
8.	Chattisgarh	5043	88	4955	675
9.	Maharashtra	6441	496	5945	1844
10.	North East – I	2128	578	1550	76
11.	North East – II	1550	1289	261	30
12.	Orissa	4899	4899	0	0
13.	Rajasthan	12386	18	12368	2493
14.	Uttaranchal	3881	3544	337	195
	Total	**66822**	**14183**	**52639**	**13078**

Source: D/o Telecommunications, M/o Communications & IT

Figure 1/ Telecommunication Status- 2005

2) *Additional Incentives:* Telecom service providers are being helped through the USOF to enter into the rural areas for the following activities:
to take care of existing village public telephones (VPTs). Provision of an additional rural community phone in villages with a population of more than two thousand and where no public call office exists. To replace the village public telephones installed on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology.
3) *Knowledge Connectivity:* The Government is dedicated to increase rural connectivity through a slew of measures so that rural users can use information of value and conduct business. This will include the connection of block headquarters with wireless technology to achieve the connectivity even at the last mile and operating information by the panchayats, civil society organizations, the private sector and the government.

F. *Roads*

[1] ICT- Information and communication technology

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1) *Goal:* The Ministry of Rural Development has the responsibility of ensuring that every residential area over 1000 population and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas) to be facilitate with an all-weather road: remaining 66,802 occupancies to be covered by 2009. This work which is being started under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana since 2000.
2) *Magnitude of the Task*
a) To meet the objective of Bharat Nirman, 1,46,185 kms road length is proposed to be constructed by 2009.
b) Going to benefit 66,802 unconnected eligible occupancies in the country.
c) To ensure full farm-to-market connectivity, it is also proposed to upgrade 1,94,132 kms. of the existing Associated Through Routes.
3) *Finances:* Approximately Rs. 48,000 crores are proposed to be invested to achieve this objective. 100% of the funds of this programme is being provided by the Central Government.
4) *Opportunities*
a) Bharat Nirman clarifies an unprecedented field of opportunities.
b) To generate Core Network of roads in Rural India.
c) To construct roads as per prescribed Design, Specifications and Quality standards.
d) To report location specific issues and optimally use local resources by innovation and research.
e) To upgrade Project Management capacity and capability of Implementing Agencies.
f) To generate a framework for community input in planning and implementation.
g) To formalize community ownership of roads.



Figure 2 /Completed project under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna



Figure 3 Laying down the road in Nagaland (Hilly Area) connecting to village.

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5) Target Achieved

a) Bharat Nirman Physical Target for Upgradation showing the Name of states with the total length (In Km) covered during this scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna.

b) There will be an increment in every year for extending the road length (km) from year 2005-2006.

c) Maximum length (in km) covered under this year from last 4 years, the progressive states are: Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar-Pradesh.

d) There will be a decrease in the year 2007-08 in UP, moreover at present UP having the largest Road length network among these states with 28523.11 km.

Bharat Nirman Physical Targets for Upgradation

(Length in Kms.)

Sl.No	Name of the State	2005-06 length	2006-07 length	2007-08L length	2008-09 length	Total Length
1	Andhra Pradesh	1821.494	2258.652	2258.652	2258.652	8597.45
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	2005.71	2269.808	2219.843	6495.361
4	Bihar	0	2393.617	3510.638	3390.958	9295.213
5	Chhattisgarh	0	1986.063	3240.418	3222.996	8449.477
6	Goa	190.114	190.114	190.114	190.114	760.456
7	Gujarat	0	1557.971	1557.971	1413.043	4528.985
8	Haryana	229.358	1146.789	1146.789	1238.532	3761.468
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	1515.923	1694.268	1503.185	4713.376
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1007.584	920.91	1007.584	2936.078
11	Jharkhand	0	2108.433	2123.494	1987.952	6219.879
12	Karnataka	2573.529	2573.529	2573.529	2573.529	10294.12
13	Kerala	524.109	628.931	524.109	524.109	2201.258
14	Madhya Pradesh	0	5189.543	6614.379	6823.53	18627.45
15	Maharashtra	4334.365	4334.365	4334.365	4334.365	17337.46
16	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	587.583	587.583	665.189	1840.355
18	Mizoram	0	257.998	257.998	216.718	732.714
19	Nagaland	0	246.914	246.914	370.371	864.199
20	Orissa	0	4438.574	4663.144	5059.445	14161.16
21	Punjab	423.729	1483.051	1483.051	1680.791	5070.622
22	Rajasthan	0	4764.543	4653.74	3656.51	13074.79
23	Sikkim	0	196.85	137.795	98.425	433.07
24	Tamil Nadu	1297.71	2824.427	2824.427	4167.939	11114.5
25	Tripura	0	373.737	383.838	414.141	1171.716
26	Uttar Pradesh	0	7158.962	6956.031	14408.12	28523.11
27	Uttaranchal	0	889.454	1283.354	1270.648	3443.456
28	West Bengal	0	2549.942	2878.965	4054.053	9482.96
	Total	11394.41	54669.26	59316.28	68750.74	194130.7

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

G. Electrification

1) Goal

a) Every village to be provided electricity: remaining 1,25,000 villages to be covered by 2009.

b) MoP has the responsibility of providing electricity to the remaining 1,25,000 villages through the programme instrument of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyuktikaran Yojna.

2) Components of Infrastrcture: Basic infrastructure such as distribution transformer and distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the dalit basti/hamlet where it exists. Electricity is provided to public places like schools, panchayat offices, health centres, dispensaries, community centres, etc. number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village.

3) Management: Rural Electrification Corporation would be the agency for implementation. Services of Central Services undertakings like National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) will be made available for the execution of rural electrification projects.

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4) *Finances:* **90%** capital subsidy will be provided for overall cost of the projects under the scheme. The capital subsidy for eligible projects under the scheme will be through the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, which will be the nodal agency. Electrification of unelectrified below-poverty-line households will be financed with **100%** capital subsidy at **Rs.1500** per connection in all rural habitations.
5) *Prioritization:* For formation of village electrification infrastructure, first importance will be given to un-electrified villages. Preference for electrification will be given to Dalit Bastis, Tribal settlements and residents of weaker sections.

STATE WISE TARGET FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of inhabited villages as per 1991 census	Total No. of villages electrified	Balance un-electrified villages	% age of electrified villages
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	(21)$	100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2335	1314	64
3.	Assam	24685	19081	5604	77.30
4.	Bihar	38475	19251	19224	50
5.	Jharkhand	29336	7641	21695	26
6.	Goa	360	360	-	100
7.	Gujarat	18028	17940	(88)$	100
8.	Haryana	6759	6759	-	100
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16891	106	99.38
10	J&K	6477	6301	176	97.28
11.	Karnataka	27066	26771	295	98.91
12.	Kerala	1384	1384	-	100
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	50474	1332	97.43
14.	Chattisgarh	19720	18532	1188	94
15.	Maharashtra	40412	40351	(61)$	100
16.	Manipur	2182	2043	139	93.63
17.	Meghalaya	5484	3016	2468	55
18.	Mizoram	698	691	7	99
19.	Nagaland	1216	1216	-	100
20.	Orissa	46989	37663	9326	80.15
21.	Punjab	12428	12428	-	100
22.	Rajasthan	37889	37276	613	98.38
23.	Sikkim	447	405	42	90.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	-	100
25.	Tripura	855	818	37	95.67
26.	Uttar Pradesh	97122	57042	40080	58.73
27.	Uttaranchal	15681	13131	2550	83.73
28.	West Bengal	37910	31705	6205	83.63
	Total (States)	586463	47382	11241	80.80
	Total UT's	1093	1090	(3)$	100%
	All India	587556	474982	112401	80.80%

$ Balance villages are not feasible for electrification.
* As per the new definition of village electrification (effective from 2004-05) total number of unelectrified villages is estimated to be around 1,25,000.
Source: Ministry of Power

Figure 3/Target for Rural Electrification

II. INFRENCES

The State wise target for Rural Infrastructure showing the total number of villages electrified under this scheme with the % of electrified villages. Andhra-Pradesh Gujrat, Haryana, Kerela, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu with the 100% coverage of electrified villages. Total UT will also with the coverage of 100% completing the target by providing electricity in total number of villages.

A. Irrigation

1) *Goal:* The Ministry of Water Resources in association with State Government is accountable for formation of additional 10 million hectares of irrigation volume by the year 2009 through major, medium and minor irrigation schemes accompanied by ground water development.
2) *Current Status:* The ultimate irrigation potential for the country has been estimated as 139.88 million hectare (Mha), which include potential through Major and Medium irrigation projects (58.46 Mha), surface water based minor irrigation schemes (17.42 Mha) and ground water development (64.00 Mha).
3) *Major And Medium Irrigation:* 66% of the ultimate irrigation potential of major and medium projects has been created.173 major and medium, 4169 minor and 21 Extension, Renovation and Modernization(ERM) projects have been provided Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation benefit Programme (AIBP). The projects for extension, renovation and modernization (ERM) of major and medium irrigation schemes are also being implemented with arrangement similar to that for completion of ongoing major and medium schemes.

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4) Ground Water Development: Minor irrigation through surface water covers water sources (tanks and small reservoirs) with a culturable command area (CCA) of less than 2000 ha. About 70% of the ultimate potential through surface water based minor irrigation schemes has since been created.

• Targets under Bharat Nirman

Sl. No.	Component	Target
I	Completion of ongoing Major & medium Irrigation Projects	4.2 Mha
II	Minor irrigation schemes	2.8 MHA
	• Surface water	1.0 Mha
	• Ground Water	1.8 Mha
III	Enhancing utilization of completed projects	2.0 Mha
	• ERM of major & medium projects	1.0 Mha
	• Repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies/ERM of minor irrigation schemes.	1.0 Mha
IV	Ground water development in area with unutilized ground water potential (for benefit of small and marginal farmers and Tribals & Dalits)[1]	1.0 Mha

Figure 4/ Target Achieved under Irrigation

Creation of potential of 1 Mha through ground water development in areas with unutilized groundwater potential would primarily benefit small and marginal farmers who are mostly tribals, dalits and weaker sections of society. The scheme envisages full involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in implementation of the schemes.

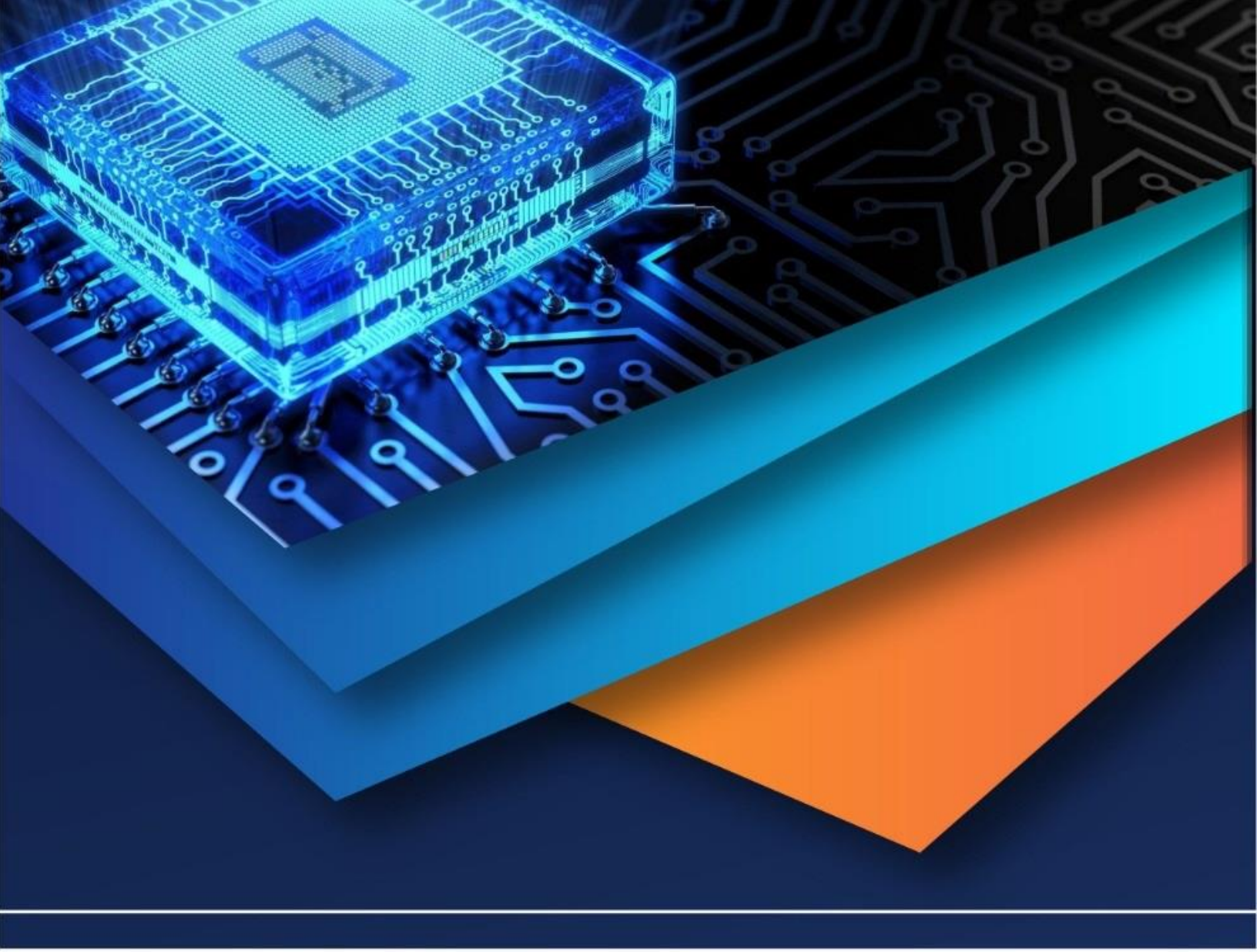
III.CONCLUSIONS

The awareness levels of sample beneficiaries are decreasing with an increase in the designation of DRDA officials. The desire goal of poverty eradication through rural development programmes is possible only by the proper selection of beneficiaries. The study reveals that the selection of beneficiaries is influenced by different socio-economic and political factors as well as different agencies and influential persons. The study further reveals that the selection of beneficiaries through Gram Sabha is also subjected to socio-political discrimination in case of some beneficiaries in case of some villages. To enhance the employment opportunities and thereby increasing people's standard of living proper care is to be taken while designing a particular programme by central and state governments.

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