

## “SMART VILLAGES – A ROADMAP TO REAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA”

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper is conceptual in nature based on observation, available information, learning, judgment, experience sharing etc. Development of nation cannot be achieved only by developing cities and making more cities smart. It can be done by making the villages of our nation smart too. This study discusses the salient aspects through which India can be actually developed in the real sense by achieving high growth rate. This can be done by balancing the focus of development of both rural and urban areas. The study suggests how the balance can be arrived at between smart cities and smart villages that can be helpful in solidifying our economy.*

*Keywords: Sustainable Development, rural, urban, , smart city, smart village*

### **INTRODUCTION**

India is a nation where majority of its people live in rural areas and around 68% people are involved in agriculture. This makes our identity as an agricultural country and our economy is known as agricultural economy. The purpose of the present study is to highlight areas which will lead to the development of the villages. Development of villages is one of the most important steps in ensuring overall development of our nation. The post independent scenario of development of our nation cannot be regarded satisfactory particularly with reference to the development of rural areas. We can not think of achieving sustainable development without making our villages smart. Not much work has been done on this topic. This inspired the researcher to choose this topic for study.

Significant development in rural areas in particular and overall development in nation in general can be achieved in the following ways:

#### **1. Education**

Education is the backbone of a nation. It is the primary requirement of development of any sort. India is 28 year behind in implementing reforms in higher education as compared to Europe. The facilities essential for education such as school, infrastructure, teachers etc. are very poor in rural areas. Around 25 lakh teachers are needed more to impart education in India at present. In urban areas, teachers are available in surplus not students while in rural areas teachers and schools are in great scarcity. If majority of the population of a nation is deprived of education, one cannot dream of development of a nation.

#### **2. Income**

At present there is vast gap between the income of rural people and income of urban people. People find a lot of difficulties in managing their income as expenditures go beyond control. They have to

visit cities to sell their crops, vegetables, fruits and other things and also they have to visit cities regularly for attending on their jobs. They have to come to cities for treatment and also boys and girls have to come to colleges in cities as colleges are not there in villages. In this way their expenditure increases a lot and so they cannot save much money rather they have to take loans for their agricultural and other needs. If sources of income and other facilities are available in villages, villagers do not need to come to cities frequently and thus they can manage their expenditure well. When the income of villagers increases, the governments can also have increased revenue in the form of taxes. This can boost our economy.

3. **Standard of Living:** At present the standard of living of most of the villagers is not satisfactory. It needs to be improved a lot. It can be done by providing those chances of jobs in villages, self employment, entrepreneurship, domestic industry etc. People of urban areas have better standard of living as compared to rural people.
4. **Health Facility:** At present the health facilities in terms of hospitals, ambulances, doctors, medicines, machines etc. is very pathetic in rural areas. Death rate is significant in rural areas due to very poor health and medical facility. How can we dream of healthy and wealthy India? Governments should start medical institutes in villages rather than starting multiple hospitals in cities.
5. **Infrastructural Facilities:** There is great need to connect villages to cities with great intensity. The Prime Minister Rural Road Scheme needs to be implemented all over India. When roads are available in villages, there is not much need to construct a large number of fly overs in cities because when villagers do not feel the need to move to cities, cities will not be overcrowded. This will save crores of rupees of nation every day. It will also help in saving our environment.
6. **Use of Technology:** Farmers are not able to get the benefits of technology in increasing agricultural production. Most of the farmers are still using traditional ways of farming. It is highly pathetic and shameful that even there are farmers in ample number who have to plough their own fields by playing the role of oxen. Technology should be available to farmers for selling, marketing, distributing their products. Only then villagers can be developed.
7. **Overpopulation:** The problem of overpopulation has become the most serious problem in the cities of India. People from rural areas move to cities in search of jobs. Once they get it, they ask their family to shift to cities and their other relatives also move. In this way, cities become overcrowded. One can understand the results of overpopulation in cities. Villages are getting vacant while cities are becoming hellish places to live in day by day. A large number of people are becoming victim of several diseases due to pollution in cities. People shifted from villages are forced to live in very poor conditions in cities.
8. **Employment:** Governments need to ensure that employment is generated in villages or at least farmers need to be motivated in totality to do farming. They and their crops need to be insured fully as it is done in China and other nations of the world. Small domestic industries need to be motivated

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in villages so that villagers do not move to cities. Right price and right market needs to be provided to farmers for their agriculture products.

9. **Administration:** Decentralization of administration needs to be strengthened in villages. Villagers need not come to cities for their problems. Solutions should be available for their problems in villages. Courts should be available in villages for easy and low cost legal service to villagers. Government officials should reach villagers rather than villagers reaching with great difficulties to cities for their problems and solutions.
10. **Social and Cultural Aspects:** Migration of villagers to cities is also generating social and cultural problems. Youth of village is negatively influenced by metro cities culture and thus sacrificing sacraments, values, traditions which uphold our culture. He is not interested to continue farming because he thinks it as inferior profession.

#### CONCLUSION

Thus it can be concluded that India can achieve its objective of development by making a balance between the development of cities and development of villages. The development of villages in the form of smartness is not even in the infancy stage right now. If the villages are kept in the highest priority to be made smart in terms of bringing a Tsunami of development only then we can think of developed India otherwise the dream of making India a developed India will not be achieved in the long time to come. It will be only a mirage not reality.