

THE ROLE OF NRLM IN SKILL DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL INDIA

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Abstract :

India currently has the second largest population in the world and is projected to overtake top-ranking China within forty years. In 2014, the estimated total population in India amounted to approximately 1.27 billion people. India is projected to be the world's most populous country by 2025, surpassing China, its population reaching 1.6 billion by 2050.

INTRODUCTION:

India currently has the second largest population in the world and is projected to overtake top-ranking China within forty years. In 2014, the estimated total population in India amounted to approximately 1.27 billion people. India is projected to be the world's most populous country by 2025, surpassing China, its population reaching 1.6 billion by 2050.

India has more than 50% of its population below the age of 25 and more than 65% below the age of 35. It is expected that, in 2020, the average age of an Indian will be 29 years, compared to 37 for China and 48 for Japan. India has the world's largest youth population despite having a smaller population than China. The report titled 'The power of 1.8 billion', said 28 per cent of India's population is 10- to 24-year-olds, adding that the youth population is growing fastest in the poorest nations.

Young people are the innovators, creators, builders and leaders of the future. But they can transform the future only if they have skills, health, decision-making, and real choices in life. It said that developing countries with large youth populations could see their economies soar, provided they invest heavily in young people's education and health and protect their rights. Critical youth investments needed to reap a demographic dividend are those that protect rights, including reproductive rights, improve health and provide skills and knowledge to build young people's capabilities and agency.

The basic purpose of National Rural Livelihoods Mission is to put in place a dedicated and sensitive support structure from the national level to the sub-district level which will focus on the poor, build and sustain their organizations at different levels. This will provide the poor a platform for collective action based on self help and mutual cooperation and they become a strong demand system, build linkages with mainstream institutions, including banks, and Government departments to address the various dimensions of poverty. The process of development is thus led by the poor and the interventions are locally relevant and suit the specific needs and contexts of poverty in which they live. These institutions would focus on ensuring timely and sustainable access to savings and credit services to meet their priority needs, both for social needs and livelihoods purposes and graduate them out of poverty.

NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION-AN OVERVIEW:

India has massive levels of rural poverty, estimated at 42%. In some of the northern and north-eastern states, there is an even higher level of rural poverty. Government of India has been deeply concerned about rural poverty in India. To eradicate rural poverty, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) has been established. By the end of 2010, the Mission Document of the NRLM has been finalized and the

mission was formally launched in June 2011. The core belief of NRLM is that the poor have innate capabilities and a strong desire to come out of poverty. This intrinsic capability of the poor is unleashed only when they are organized into institutions which are truly owned by them, provided sufficient capacity building and handholding support. NRLM also believes that the programme can be up scaled in a time bound manner only if it is driven by the institutions of the poor.

AAJEEVIKA- NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION (NRLM):

NRLM was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011. Aided in part through investment support by the World Bank, the Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services. NRLM has set out with an agenda to cover 7 Crore rural poor households, across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats and 6 lakh villages in the country through self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions and support them for livelihoods collectives in a period of 8-10 years. In addition, the poor would be facilitated to achieve increased access to their rights, entitlements and public services, diversified risk and better social indicators of empowerment. NRLM believes in harnessing the innate capabilities of the poor and complements them with capacities (information, knowledge, skills, tools, finance and collectivization) to participate in the growing economy of the country.

The Aajeevika Skill Development Programme (ASDP) is a sub-mission under NRLM. It was setup for the need of:

Occupational aspirations of the rural youth who are poor and to diversify incomes of the rural poor.

ASDP gives young people from poor communities an opportunity to upgrade their skills and enter the skilled work force in growing sectors of the economy. Training and placement schemes are run in partnership with public, private, nongovernment and community organizations. Strong relationships are being built with industry associations and employers'. The target is to skill and place 50 lakhs youth in the formal sector by 2017.

OBJECTIVES:

- ♦ Provides customized residential and non residential training.
- ♦ Minimum 624 hours of training with modules on trade specific skills, IT and soft skills.
- ♦ Special programs for Jammu and Kashmir, Minorities and Most critical Left wing Districts.
- ♦ Implemented under the supervision of the central and state governments 75% assured placement above minimum wages.
- ♦ Food and transport support during training and Post placement support.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT PROGRAMS:

The guiding principle for innovative projects is to create one job per poor household brings the whole family out of poverty in a short period of time. The rationale generates from the idea that formal sector employment brings in stable and higher levels of income. Several labour intensive industries and service sectors face shortage of skilled manpower even while there is a vast segment of unemployed youth. NRLM will take steps to make skill development an entitlement of the rural poor and attempt to bridge the skill gap and entry level barriers for the youth from the poor and vulnerable households and facilitate their entry into relatively high wage employment in the growing sectors of the economy. NRLM will offer complete 'jobs' solution to the unemployed rural youth - identifying the unemployed, skilling and re-skilling them, placing them in jobs, providing post placement support, counseling and mentorship, leveraging an alumni network. It will encourage SRLMs to support a string of academies delivering job related courses, build networks with the private sector to explore employment opportunities. This also enables the poor to migrate to growth centers for jobs in organized sector on better terms, with better skills, higher wages and a sensitive support network instead of distressed migration as in the past. These demand driven placement linked skill development programmes for rural BPL youth will largely be taken up through public private partnerships (PPP). NRLM will earmark at least 15 percent of its allocation for placement linked skill development projects. Out of which half of this allocation (i.e. 7.5 percent) will be retained at the NRLM for multi-state skill development projects and the remaining will be given to SRLMs that have set up dedicated institutional mechanism for implementing skill development and placement projects.

NRLM' PARTNERSHIPS WITH VARIOUS MINISTRIES AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS:

Ministries of Government of India and State Governments are implementing a wide range of programmes to address skill development in youths.

- ♦ Further, efforts will also be undertaken for convergence with the programmes of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Human Resource Development, M/o Health & Family Welfare, M/o Textiles, D/o Women & Child Development, D/o Financial Services, D/o Tourism etc. Convergence with the programmes of Ministry of Urban Development will be taken up to address the concerns of migrant labour and with the programmes of Ministry of Textiles and M/o MSME (KVIC) in order to develop market linkages for products developed by SHGs.
- ♦ The Mission will take initiative to ensure universal coverage of rural poor against loss life, assets and health through convergence with programmes like Aam Admi Bima Yojana, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana etc.

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

NRLM lays primary emphasis on promotion of 'professionally competent and dedicated implementation structures' at the national, state, district, and sub-district level for managing and supporting all the programme activities. It will initiate partnerships with reputed research and academic institutes for training and developing professionals for rural livelihood programs and where necessary provide technical assistance for faculty development (re-skilling and re-tooling) besides supporting curriculum design, training pedagogy and development of course packs, etc.

WAY FORWARD IN RELATION TO RURAL INDIA:

Accordingly NRLM is one of the effective scheme by the government which emphasize on skill development. It advocates special fund/outlay for Skills for Jobs from the generic NRLM work. However, it finds the target of 2.5 Crore Jobs for 10 years [1.0 Crore youth in 12th plan and 1.5 Crore in 13th plan, with an estimated budget of Rs.15000 per youth] ambitious but must be pursued. It endorses these scaling up plans, seeing a need for placing large numbers of unemployed youth and emerging widespread employment opportunities at the entry level in high growth sectors like textiles, construction, hospitality, retail, security, automobile, health, services etc. Skills for Jobs sub-component includes mapping of the demand for jobs, counselling youth (identifying, assessing their aspirations and existing skill set and reality, and matching), skill development/training, placement and post-placement support. Training covers sector specific skills and 'soft' skills. This intervention provides rural poor youth to have better skills, higher wages, better terms of employment, and a sensitive support network.

Eventually, over the coming five years, the states would take most of the funds under this component, leaving a modest 10-15% with Centre for multi-state and special projects. Accordingly, SRLMs support Skills for Jobs Projects within the state. NRLM would, like in SGSY, continue to support and fund multi-state Skills for Jobs Projects, for a while.

PRESENT INITIATIVES FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT:

Government has started various schemes for the skill development of rural India like-

❖ Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs):

The concept of RSETI is built on the model pioneered by Rural Development Self Employment Institute (RUDSETI) – a collaborative partnership between SDME Trust, Syndicate Bank and Canara Bank. The model envisages transforming unemployed youth into confident self-employed entrepreneurs through a short duration experiential learning programme followed by systematic long duration hand holding support. The need-based training builds entrepreneurship qualities, improves self-confidence, reduces risk of failure and develops the trainees into change agents. Banks are fully involved in selection, training and post training follow up stages. The needs of the poor articulated through the institutions of the poor would guide RSETIs in preparing the participants/trainees in their pursuits of self-employment and enterprises. NRLM would encourage public sector banks to set up RSETIs in all districts of the country.

❖ **Aajeevika Placement Linked Skilling Projects:**

Aajeevika Placement Linked Skilling Projects aims to provide job placements in the organized sector through placement linked and market driven skills trainings to poor rural youth in the country. So far, more than 7 lakh rural poor youth have benefitted from this programme. Aajeevika Placement Linked Skilling Projects is being implemented in all States and Union Territories of India. So far, it has trained 7,18,234 youth and placed 5,44,464 youth in jobs. So far, there are three Monitoring Agencies designated by the MoRD, GoI- NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

Therefore NRLM is one of the outstanding scheme by the government to make rural India employable with effective skills. As India the second most populous country of the world, there must have proper skill development in the working population. Our professionally graduate student is unable to get the job due to his fewer skills. In this way not only government but also educational institution should come up to make India as skilled India.

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