



## **Empowering Rural India: The Role of Agriculture and Government Programs**

**Tanesh Indwar**

Research Scholar, Department of Sociology & Social Work, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Tamil Nadu.

**\* Corresponding Author:**

**Tanesh Indwar**

[taneshindwar@gmail.com](mailto:taneshindwar@gmail.com)

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### **ABSTRACT**

Agriculture still constitutes a significant portion of life in India, where two-thirds of the population still lives in rural areas. Around half of all people in India are employed in agriculture and related industries. A prerequisite for India's rural development is hence the expansion of agriculture. As a result, we cannot raise the status of the rural population without putting an emphasis on agriculture. As a result of the interdependence between agriculture and rural development, the government needs to place more of an emphasis on this industry. In this essay, we looked at the many programmes for rural development implemented in India. The study used secondary data that was collected from a various of government websites and annual reports. The research underscores the significant contributions that Mission Antyodaya MANREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin), and DDU-GKY have made to India's rural development (Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin=-Kushlya Yojana). According to the A convergence and accountability structure is being developed as part of the mission antodayaprogramme to ensure the best possible use and management of the resources allocated by various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India for the various rural development programmes, MANREGA programme, 14.95 Crore of rural inhabitants now have access to employment opportunities, and the PMAY-G programme has allowed 2,85,08,487 of the 2,94,08,487 people who were supposed to receive pucca dwellings with basic facilities to do so. 13,29,885 individuals were trained as part of the DDU-GKY programme, and 8,10,154 of them were hired after completing their training.



## **1. INTRODUCTION**

In developing nations like India, the majority of the population lives in rural areas. A sizeable portion of India's population still makes their living, either directly or indirectly, from agriculture and related industries. Agriculture greatly contributes to the expansion and development of the economy. At the time of India's independence, agriculture and allied sectors accounted for almost 53% of its GDP. Statistics indicate that due to fundamental changes in the economy, the amount of agriculture and unified area is continuously declining, which is why the service and industrial sectors predominate in agriculture. Yet, the agriculture sectors are essential to the Indian economy because it is the main source of employment for the country's citizens and provides raw materials for the manufacturing sector. It's fantastic news for India's agriculture sector that, after 17 years, the industry has lately registered its largest economic contribution of approximately 20%. Rural development depends on agricultural expansion. Because the agriculture sector has a solid rural foundation, the terms "concern for agriculture" and "rural development" have evolved to mean the same thing and have similar roots. Rural development is the process of enhancing the standard of living and financial security of persons who reside in rural areas. According to the World Bank, rural development is "the process of rural modernization and monetization of the rural community leading to its change from traditional isolation to integration with the national economy." The goal of rural development is to raise the standard of living for people who reside in rural areas. This is demonstrated by a variety of factors, including food and nutrition, health, education, housing, and security, among others. Education, public health and sanitation, women's empowerment, infrastructure development (electricity and irrigation), agriculture extension and research, credit availability, and employment opportunities are some sectors that need more focused attention for rural development. The statement of Mahatma Gandhi that India lives in its villages (rural areas) still holds true today. Nowadays, 65.5 percent of Indians reside in rural areas, and agriculture is their main source of income (World Bank). Because they turned to agriculture in the absence of suitable employment opportunities, the majority of people who live in rural areas rely on it for a variety of purposes, including income generation.

## **2. REVIEW LITERATURE**

We looked over the existing available literature on rural development programmes in India. All of the plans were covered by a few of these studies. So, in the current study, we talked about themany rural development programmes that were put into place in India and looked at how they are doing right now. In their work, "A Review of Rural Development Programmes in India," Panda and Majumdar examined the rural development programmes implemented in India. The study's secondary data came from a variety of official government websites, including Rao examined the operation of various rural development programmes in India in his article "Rural Development Schemes in India-A Study." He concentrated much of his research on the three programmes that were implemented in India: PMAY-G, PMGSY, and MANREGA. Secondary data were used in the study. These three programmes, according to the report, were essential to India's rural development. 44.54 lakh dwellings were constructed in 2017–18, falling short of the target of 1 crore residences by March 2019 outlined in the (PMAY-G). Through MANREGA, 5.12 crore households have access to employment opportunities.



Sawant examined the relationship between the agriculture sector and rural development in India in his article "Agriculture Sector and Rural Development in India: An Empirical Analysis." The study used secondary data from the Ministry of Rural Development Census reports, NSSO data, and the annual reports of the Agricultural & Farmer Welfare Department. The study's findings indicate that the agriculture sector is significant in rural areas. The Indian economy and rural development both benefit from it. The development of rural areas is crucial to the expansion of the Indian economy. In their paper, "Rural Education in India: As an Engine of Sustainable Rural Development," Das and Samanta assessed the present trends and problems in rural education using data from several educational programmes in India. The study was built on the secondary data. The study's conclusions indicate that rural education is necessary for long-term rural development. The maximum level of rural development is difficult to reach without education. In their work, "Role of NREGA in Rural Development," Sushma and Phougat examined rural growth under the NREGA programme. The study's primary data source was secondary information that was gathered from a number of official government websites, including [www.rural.nic.in](http://www.rural.nic.in) and [www.nrega.nic.in](http://www.nrega.nic.in). The study's conclusions showed that NREGA significantly aided rural development. Rural residents value NREGA's dual benefits, which include both the generation of jobs and the development of rural infrastructure.

### **3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The present study focused on the numerous schemes of rural development implemented in India and analyzes the current scenario of these schemes

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

The study is descriptive in nature and is based on secondary data. Official government websites like <https://missionantyodaya.nic.in/>, <https://rural.nic.in> and <https://nrega.nic.in> were used to collect the data. Tables and charts, as well as other descriptive statistical tools, are used in the study.

### **5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This section discusses the numerous rural development programmes that are implemented in India. Presently, 65.5% of India's population lives in rural areas. To better the situation of India's rural inhabitants, new programmes and initiatives must constantly be developed. Below, important rural development initiatives being carried out in India are listed as follows:

#### **5.1 Antyodaya Mission**

The Indian government included "Mission Antyodaya" in the union budget for 2017–18. The program's main objective is to create an accountability and convergence framework that will ensure the best use and administration of the resources provided by different Ministries/Departments of the Government of India under the various programmes implemented for the development of rural areas. Gram panchayats are expected to act as the primary convergence activity centres because it is a state-led programme. The annual survey carried out at the gram panchayat level across the nation is a crucial part of the Mission Antyodaya System. It runs concurrently with the Panchayat Raj Ministry's "People's Plan Campaign" (PPC). "Backing support to the process of participatory planning for the gram panchayat development plan (GPDP)" is the program's stated objective.

State Name	Total GPs	GPs In Progress	GPs Field Survey Completed	GPs Survey Finalized	Total Villages	Villages In Progress	Villages Field Survey Completed	Villages Survey Finalized
Total	268795	97398	57099	46633	658283	288206	156022	117733
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	4290	1181	3029	2659	7364	1908	5338	4584
HIMACHAL PRADESH	3627	351	3258	3078	20928	3133	17713	16518
PUNJAB	13241	3501	4852	4169	14614	3909	5267	4544
UTTARAKHAND	7802	2694	3729	3160	15961	5713	7025	5834
HARYANA	6220	3663	369	89	7415	4399	435	112
RAJASTHAN	11265	8611	632	233	46282	34315	2705	909
UTTAR PRADESH	58532	17949	939	489	104681	33503	1743	685
BIHAR	8175	5501	12	0	44960	29974	125	0
SIKKIM	200	150	3	0	447	341	9	0
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2108	294	47	1	5761	869	107	1
NAGALAND	1282	160	2	1	1282	160	2	1
MANIPUR	3174	1349	158	16	3703	1782	160	17
MIZORAM	834	2	831	813	864	2	861	843
TRIPURA	1301	0	0	0	1779	0	0	0
MEGHALAYA	6800	82	4	0	6807	82	4	0
ASSAM	2716	2430	51	9	27962	25710	639	77
WEST BENGAL	3361	904	2426	1990	41126	9167	31753	24833
JHARKHAND	4344	3412	932	29	32713	24822	7891	329
ODISHA	6845	3908	2886	2265	51348	28540	22732	16555
CHHATTISGARH	11612	8169	955	286	20253	13940	1525	439
MADHYA PRADESH	23020	13820	7095	5852	55119	34134	15819	12858
GUJARAT	14380	3	0	0	18912	3	0	0
MAHARASHTRA	27544	3194	3	0	42322	5340	6	0
ANDHRA PRADESH	13325	1013	12285	11764	20206	2217	17958	16261
KARNATAKA	5958	1053	62	5	29072	4263	271	43
GOA	191	40	0	0	403	118	0	0
KERALA	941	9	932	931	1594	19	1575	1574
TAMIL NADU	12528	11578	946	53	17709	16316	1389	62
PUDUCHERRY	108	0	0	0	139	0	0	0
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	70	45	17	8	361	286	45	20
TELANGANA	12771	2198	10570	8708	15831	3000	12829	10601
LADAKH	192	99	73	25	265	143	95	33
THE DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	38	35	1	0	102	98	1	0

Fig-1 Progress of Mission Antyodaya

Source <https://missionantyodaya.nic.in/>

GPs –Gram Panchayats

### 5.1 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MANREGA)

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MANREGA) The Indian government launched the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in 2005 as a programme to fight poverty. (NREGA). In February 2006, it went into force in 200 districts across the country, and later it was extended to cover the entire country of India. In 2009, it was changed to the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act." (MANREGA). The program's principal objective is to "increase the security of livelihood in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed pay work in a fiscal year to every household whose adult members agree to conduct unskilled manual labour." as well as to build durable assets like roads, canals, ponds, and wells. The candidates are given employment offers under this scheme within 15 days of filing a job application. The jobs are no more than 5 kilometers from the applicants' homes, and the minimum

pay is necessary. The government is supposed to pay the applicants an unemployment benefit at a stipulated sum if it is unable to find them work within 15 days. MANREGA is one of the biggest and most comprehensive public works and social security programmes in the world.

**Table 1. Current Status of MANREGA as on 2023**

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**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act    Current Status**

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Total Number of Districts Covered	714
Total Number of Blocks Covered	7144
Total Number of Gram Panchayats Covered	269217
Total Number of Job Card Issued	15.14 Crore
Total Number of Workers	27.8 Crore
Total Number of Active Job Cards	9.17 Crore
Total Number of Active Workers	14.95 Crore

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Source: <https://nrega.nic.in>

Table 1 displays shows MANREGA's present status in India. It covered a total of 7144 blocks in 714 districts, along with 269217 Gram Panchayats throughout India. As a result of MANREGA, many Indians now have career prospects. 15.14 crore persons have received the 9.17 crore job cards currently in use under the MANREGA. 27.8 crore people have enrolled as employees under MANREGA, 14.95 crore of them are already working.

### 5.3 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G)

On April 1, 2016, the federal government introduced PMAY-G. It replaced the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), which had been established in January 1996. The PMAY-G program's goal is to "fill in the gaps that exist in rural areas and offer the people living in kutcha houses with the least facilities and a clean kitchen." Houses built under the programmes must be affordable, disaster-resistant, and at least 25 square metres in size. The local and state governments have divided the cost of aid in the plain and hilly regions 90:10 and 60:40, respectively. The programme offers 1.30 lakh rupees in hilly areas and 1.20 lakh rupees in plain areas. The government promised to provide "Housing for All" by 2022 in accordance with PMAY-G. In the three years from 2016–17 to 2018–19, the scheme's first objective is to cover 1 crore households living in kutcha houses. But The PMAY's evolution is seen in Figure 2. Shows the current status of PMAY-G.



Sl. No.	Key Parameter Indicators	Status as on Date	Daily Delta Change	Monthly Delta Change
1	Target	2,94,03,621	0	42,001
2	Beneficiaries Registered	3,16,89,025	1,645	57,81,845
3	Site Geo-Tagged	3,10,45,355	2,058	47,67,325
4	House Sanctioned	2,85,08,487	1,035	40,46,614
5	House Completed	2,18,38,152	17,066	1,31,80,932

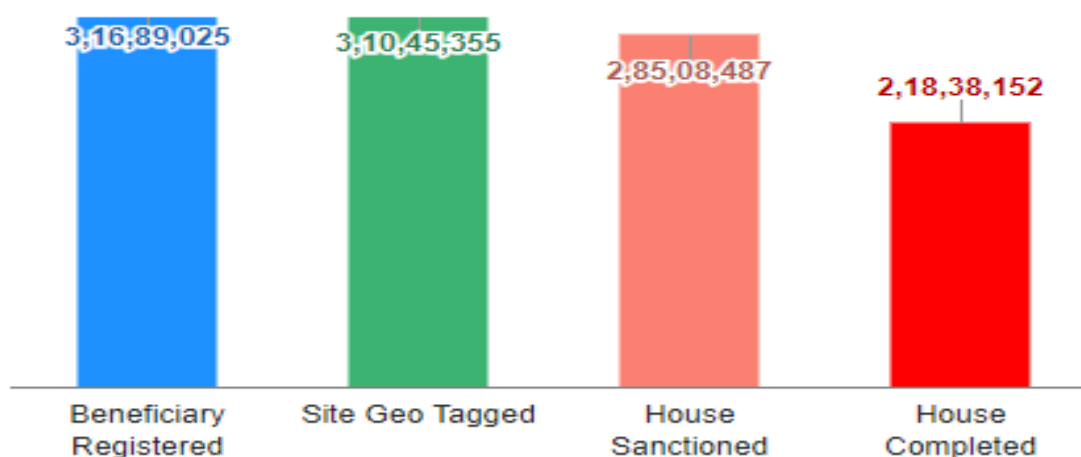


Fig-2 . Progress of PMAY-G as on 24.03.2023

Source : <https://pmayg.nic.in/>

#### 5.4 Deen Dayal Upadhyia Gramin Kaushlya Yojana DDU-GKY

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) launched the "Deen Dayal Upadhyia Gramin Kaushlya Yojana" (DDU-GKY) scheme on September 25, 2014, with the intention of "transforming rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce." The programme is a component of the "National Rural Livelihood Mission" (NRLM), which was established to fulfil the professional aspirations of rural youth and to increase income variety in rural poor households. The campaign is largely targeted at children from low-income families between the ages of 15 and 35. As a component of the Skill India plan, it actively supports the few social and financial projects. "Made in India," "Digital India," "Smart Cities," and "Start Up India" are examples of government efforts. The scheme has touched youths from over 7426 blocks throughout 689 districts throughout 28 states and UTs in the nation. Currently, it is running around 1575 projects with 717 partners in more than 502 crafts from 50 business areas. As of April 19<sup>th</sup> dec,2022 , this programme had trained over 13,29,885 people and placed over 810154 in jobs. The

DDU-current GKY's status is presented in Table 2. Under the initiative, a target was set to train 26.79 lakh people by 19-12-2022.

**Table 2. Current status of DDU-GKY as on 19-12-2022**

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin Kaushalya Yojana	Current Status
Overall Targets up to March 2023	2679763
Number of Trained Candidates	13,29,885
Number of Assessed Candidate	1085510
Number of Placed Candidate	810154
Number of Active Training Centers	2734
Number of Training Partners	877

Source: <https://kaushalpragati.nic.in>

### 5.5 National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)

National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana was introduced as a flagship programme by the Ministry of Rural Development in 1999. (SGSY). Eventually, it was restructured in 2010-11 as the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, also known as "Aajeevika-NRLM." The Central Government of India initiated the poverty alleviation programme. It was renamed DAY-NRLM in 2015. (Deen Dayal–National Rural Livelihood Mission). The fundamental purpose of the programme is to create a "effective and efficient institutional infrastructure that allows the rural poor to boost their household income through sustainable livelihood development and increased access to financial services." The World Bank is contributing to the initiative's funding. Table 3 shows that 64,46,940 households have been mobilised into Self Help Groups (SHGs), and 6,76,770 SHGs have been promoted. 5,59,967 SHGs received funds worth of Rs. ₹ 2,22,746.14 from the NRLM's revolving fund.

**Table-3. Current status of NRLM as on 24-03-2023**

National Rural Livelihoods Mission	Current status
Number of Household Mobilized into SHGs	64,46,940
Number of SHGs Promoted	6,76,770
Number of SHGs provided Revolving Fund	5,59,967
Amount of Revolving Fund Disbursed to SHGs	2,82,786

Source: <https://nrlm.gov.in>

## 5.6 The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was started by the Indian government on December 25, 2000. This is a completely centralised approach. The scheme's purpose is to connect isolated habitations as part of a "poverty reduction" strategy. The Indian government is aiming to define sophisticated; identical technical; management standards, as well as supporting policy creation and building a state level planning, in order to ensure sustainable management of the rural road network. Figure 5 displays the PMGSY's progress in terms of road length covered. The graph clearly illustrates that the length of the PMGSY-covered roadways is increasing year after year. It highlights the strategy's effectiveness, which is especially beneficial to rural development by connecting rural areas to urban areas.

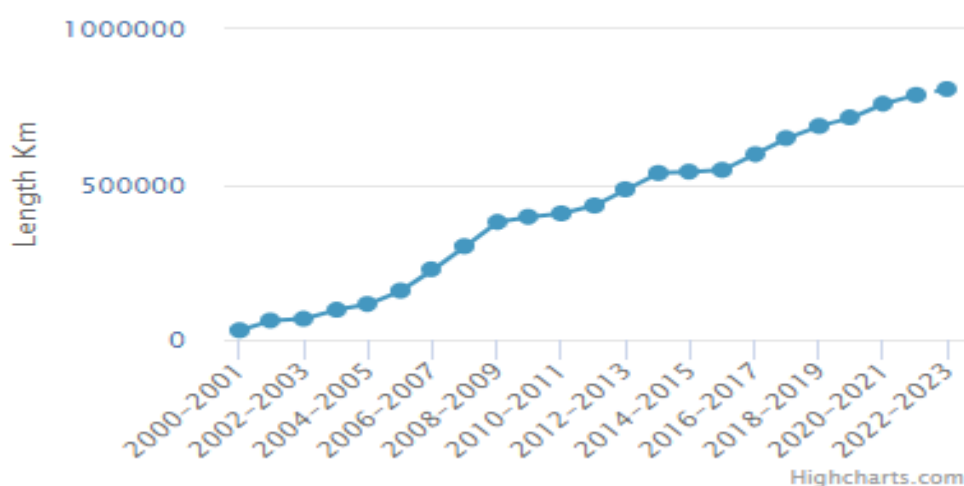


Fig- 3. Road Length Sanctioned under PMGSY from the Year 2000-01 to 2022-23

Source: <http://www.omms.nic.in/>

## 6. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS

The current study focused on the several rural development initiatives that are being implemented in India. On the basis of the foregoing analysis we may conclude that programmes that are in existence in India for rural development played a vital influence in raising the living standard of the rural peoples. All of these measures improve the rural population's condition by providing them with job opportunities, social support benefits like as old age pension, widow pension, and handicapped pension, and infrastructural facilities, among other things. Among these schemes, Mission Antodaya, MANREGA, and DDU-GKY played important roles in rural development in India because the MANREGA scheme provides employment opportunities to 27.8 crore rural people, which helps in poverty reduction as well as rural unemployment, and the DDU-GKY





scheme is specifically designed for youth to generate skills in them, which helps in getting jobs. The DDU-GKY scheme trained 13,29,885 people, and 810154 of these candidates were placed in jobs. It is suggested as a policy implication that some of these programmes, such as MANREGA, be linked to agriculture and associated sectors, because agricultural expansion is a precondition for rural development. As a result, incorporating MANREGA into agriculture may be more beneficial to rural development. A programme like this could lower farmers' input costs by providing labour during crop seeding and harvesting.

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