** TMSS**

 **Rural Development of**

 **Bangladesh**

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* **Definition of Development**

Development is a total comprehensive process, informed by a value loaded vision and shaped around five pillars; Satisfaction of human needs both material and political Self-reliance, Endogenous growth, Harmony with the environment, Structural transformation in the economy, society and polity.

In 2008, the Secretary General of United Nations defined development, ‘as a decisive factor in shaping our world and it will define relations among people, shaped the behavior of nations and determine the ecological nature of the planet. Yet today development is in crisis. First there is crisis of complexity; second, we have realized that development has no single definition. No single strategy has been immune from failure. There is no certain path to success.’

* **Meaning of Rural Development**

There is no universally accepted definition of rural development. Various scholars have defined it variously. As a concept, it connotes overall development of rural areas with a view to improve the quality of life rural people.  As a phenomenon, it is the result of various physical, technological, economic, socio-cultural and institutional factors.  As a discipline, it is multi-disciplinary in nature representing an intersection of agricultural, social, behavioral and management of sciences.

Some scholars understand rural development as the development of agricultural sector. But this concept of rural development is not comprehensive enough to define rural development completely. On the other hand, rural development is understood as being a multi-dimensional or multi-faceted concept.

* **Definition of Rural Development**
* **Uma Lele defines**, ‘Rural development as improving standard of the mass of the low income population residing in rural areas and making the process of their development, self -sustaining.’
* **Amerta Sen defines**, ‘Rural development as the overall development of rural areas, which aims at improving quality of life of rural people. More specifically, by rural development, he means the development of agriculture and allied activities, village and cottage industries and crafts, socioeconomic infrastructure, human resources in rural areas.’
* **Robert Chamber defines**, ‘Rural development as a strategy to enable a specific group of people (small scale farmers, the tenants, the landless, the poor men and women) to gain what they want and need for themselves and their children.’

These above definitions have the following implications:

* Mobilization and allocation of resources in a desirable and balanced way
* Allocation of resources to low income region and classes
* Development of appropriate skill

**Rural Development - According to the World Bank**

“Rural development is a growth strategy for a particular target population-the rural poor. It involves extending of benefits of development to these whose future lies in the pursuit of livelihood in rural areas. These include small farmers, landless and women”.

* **Indicators of Rural Development**
1. Changes in agricultural productivity.
2. Changes in rural employment, unemployment and underemployment
3. Changes in income of different income groups
4. Changes in the distribution of power, influence and participation in decision Changes in the degree of mobility, in the allocation of position and removal of barriers to access public facilities.
5. Changes in literacy, schooling, literacy rate and life expectancy
6. Changes in values, believes and attitudes of members of state agencies as well as the rural population making.

* **National steps for Rural development of women in Bangladesh**

**( Government and NGO’S)**

**Government’s steps**

* **Women and Children Affairs :** The government is trying hard to integrate the women folk of the country into the mainstream of the development process which is one of the main strategies for overall 50cm-economic development. Poverty, malnutrition, hunger, illiteracy, etc. are largely concentrated around women folk, and as such women can act as uniquely suitable agents for elimination of these socio-economic maladies. Attainment of reasonable growth rate, alleviation of poverty through generation of production employment opportunities and increased self-reliance are inextricably linked with increased participation of women in development efforts. The National Women's Development Policy announced by the present government aims at improving the lot of the neglected womenfolk of the country, ensure equality of men and women in all spheres of national life including state, society, family, politics, administrative and economic arena, ensure security and empowerment of women, groom up women as educated and efficient human resource, eliminate discriminations and repression on women and girl-child, establish human rights of women, alleviate their poverty and above all ensure their participation in the development process as well as rural development process.
* **Youth Development :** The major programs of the government for youth development include:- rural youth development, skill development training, sell-employment program and community development program. The youth development program is now being expanded through increased training and credit facilities. This programme has included young women and men for raising consciousness about women’s issues in rural development.
* **Policies and Programs Encouraging and Supporting Women Entrepreneurship** : In all Development Plans, from the First to the Fifth Five Year Plan, development of women in all spheres of our national life and rural life has been given priority. The First Plan (1973-78), as for example, emphasized a welfare-oriented approach and focused on rehabilitation of war-affected women and children. The Two Year Plan (1978-80) was characterized by a shift from welfare to rural development efforts. The Second Plan (1980-85) emphasized creating a congenial atmosphere for women’s increased participation in rural development through expanding opportunities for skill development, credit and entrepreneurship rural development program. The Third Five Year Plan (1985-1990) had specific objectives to reduce disparity between development of men and women. The Fourth Five Year Plan (1990-95) placed women within the context of macro framework with multispectral thrust and focused more on the rural development of poor and disadvantaged women. In the Fifth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and (2003-2007) as many as 24 goals and objectives are set for development of women and children in the country. These goals and objectives, if implemented properly will definitely contribute with the participation of women in every sphere of our national life greatly emphasis on rural development.
* **Education for All: National Plan of Action II (**2003 – 2015): Educational Planning for Human and Human Resources Development-- The productivity approach and GNP, as measures of development, are considered to have led more to poverty, inequality, injustice, corruption, and adverse law and order situation instead of improving women’s condition overall in rural areas.
* **Credit Policy and industrial development**: Credit plays a central role in industrial development. So access to credit facilities in the modern economic world is a determining factor of the level of economic activity and growth. The experience of the developed world shows that not only economic endeavour but also social endeavor like education is ensured by adequate supply of credits. But there are various formalities and complicated procedures, which in most cases make credit a relatively inaccessible commodity to meet the growing need of the entrepreneurs and rural development process of developing countries like Bangladesh.
* **The “National Policy for Women’s Advancement”** which was prepared in the background of overall framework of CEDAW, was adopted by the Government in 1997. The primary concern of NPWA is the protection of women’s human rights ,ensuring them an access to politics, administration and socio-economic activities, education and skill training, reflection of positive image of women in the media, reducing the burden of poverty on them, elimination of trafficking and violence against women, and rehabilitation of women during natural calamities, etc. Recognizing women’s contribution in all spheres and gender discrimination against women in terms of programmes, resources, and facilities, NAP sets the following goals :

1. To make women’s development an integral part of the national development Programme specially in rural development.

2. To establish women as equal partners in development with equal roles in policy and decision making in the family, community, and the nation at large;

3. To remove legal, economic and political or cultural barriers that prevent the exercise of women’s equal rights by undertaking policy reforms, and strong affirmative actions; and

4. To raise/create public awareness about women’s differentials needs, interests, and priorities and to increase commitment to bringing about improvements in women’s position and condition.

* **The National Health Policy as adopted by the Ministry of Health in 2004** envisaged creation of awareness among people about health, particularly through the media so that every citizen of the country irrespective of caste, creed, religion, income, gender, age and geographical location, can avail health, nutrition and reproductive health services as a constitutional right of them. The health policy clearly mentioned various health objectives including reproductive health and gender issues that’s greatly help to improve women’s in rural areas.
* **The Education Policy adopted by the Ministry of Education in 2000** aims to eliminate gender biases from education irrespective of race, caste and creed. The policy states that the women are a part of the deprived segment of the population and envisages to making the women free from domestic discrimination, repression and social superstition.
* **The National Agriculture Policy of 1999** consists of three policies, namely (1) National Agricultural Policy (NAP), (2) National Seed Policy, and (3) National Integrated Pest Management Policy (NIPMP). The agricultural policy maintained that in the socio-economic context of Bangladesh women’s involvement in agriculture is very important. Agriculture related activities like post-harvest operations, seed preservation, nursery business, jute stripping, vegetable cultivation, homestead gardening, floriculture, production of horticulture seeds, establishment and management of cottage industries based on locally produced agricultural commodities, etc. are suitable for women.
* **The National Food Policy 2006**; the corporate plan of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management of 2005-09 developed a Food Policy in the light of Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and in the context of broader definition of food. The National Food Policy aims to ensure adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food, enhance purchasing power of the people for increased accessibility to food and ensure adequate nutrition for all (especially women and children). The policy strategically depends on agricultural extension services, inputs, credit, production of non-cereal crops, non-crop agriculture etc. for efficient and sustainable increase in food production.
* **The National Youth Policy of 2011** includes provisions for education, training and health services for both female and male youths and emphasizes creation of an environment that makes them free from HIV/AIDS. The Policy has integrated family planning activities, and decision-making rights of women regarding reproductive health and creation of an environment to make them free from HIV/AIDS.
* **The National Rural Development Policy (NRDP) 2000** has integrated women’s empowerment, women’s rights relating to dowry, marriage and divorce, inheritance women’s entrepreneurship development, violence against women, etc. The NRDP has only discussed reproductive rights, but made little mention about reproductive health issues such as fertility control, maternal and child health, prevention of unwanted pregnancies, adolescent health, etc. NRDP, however, has included the population control, birth registration and rural migration, although it failed to incorporate any provisions for reduction of infant and child mortality, maternal mortality, etc. The NRDP is, therefore, more a gender-responsive document than a reproductive health/population responsive one.
* **The Climate Change Action Plan is a 10-year programme (2009-2018**) to build the capacity and resilience of the country to meet challenges of climate change. The needs of the poor and vulnerable, including women and children, will be mainstreamed in all activities under the Action Plan. Population, migration, resettlement of women and children are concerns in climate change action plan. This policy has contributed to improve the condition of women in rural areas.

***NGO’S steps***

* **Informal and Non-formal Education** : The NGOs are highly active in the sector of informal and non-formal education. The best way to develop human resource is through appropriate education. Illiterates created due to lack of education is one major obstacle for socio economic development hence also for poverty eradication. The Bangladesh Government and UNICEF are trying at their utmost level to eradicate illiteracy. The low rate of admission in the primary schools, failure to attract the children to schools, unlikable education method and syllabus for etc. reason the rate of primary education in the rural area are not at all hopeful. The largest NGO in our country and also world wide, BRAC have started satellite school system based on informal education policy. As a result the poor children at the rural area are now being given special importance. More emphasis is given on the participation of parents as well as community in this regard. This program has turned into a vital accompaniment for the primary education system by the government later on. At present some other NGOs are running community based satellite and informal primary schools at different places in Bangladesh. World Vision spent handsome amount which amounted to 40.10% of their total expenditure in the last year budget (2013). So far the NGOs have been successful in providing education to 33 lakh people in the last five years through establishment of 36 thousands primary schools and 53 thousands adult-education centers. At present almost 21 lakh men and women are studying in these schools so far.
* **Innovating Appropriate Technology for Small and Seasonal Farmers**: In Bangladesh during the 70’s the government agencies initiated irrigation in agriculture. But it was not that successful in small farmland. In small size farming land, deep and shallow tube-well was not that suitable when growing vegetables and spices. On demand from the small and seasonal farmers the NGOs have developed bamboo/cane tube-well, oar pump, star pump, dheki pump etc. type of irrigation technology. As this can be produced with little cost, the small and marginal farmers can now easily afford these. Right now in Bangladesh 400 irrigation projects are running with loans from NGOs. This approach specially focus on women’s issues in rural development.
* **Employment Generation**: In order to encourage the rural poor( specially women) to participate in different economic activities and to increase their income through employment generation, several policies, methods and strategies of the NGOs have attracted the attention of some foreign development experts. NGOs usually create employment in two ways. Currently the projects that are being conducted under the supervision and assistance of NGOs are: 1.Irrigation project for landless 2.Fishery in ponds (khash), Fishing in the coastal area. 3.Weaving 4.Equipment supplies for landless share cropper. 5.Bee keeping Small business 6.Rice and popcorn production, 7.Sericulture 8.Handicrafts earthen wares, wood and cane works, 9.Developing nursery etc.
* **Health, Nutrition and Hygiene**: In Bangladesh, Health and nutrition status of the rural populance is very poor. Majority is deprived from even minimal health and nutrition facilities. For this reason, a significant part of the active NGOs of Bangladesh are providing training and education services besides different activity based interventions and input service delivery in the field of health and nutrition which are resulting significantly.
* **Main challenges of rural women’s development**

Women’s development of rural area is a significant issue on the context of rural development. Rural women face much challenges through the development process which as follows:

* **Family Restriction:**

Most of the people of rural area in Bangladesh are Muslim who does not want to send their girls to school due to their religious norms. A nation cannot develop them without receiving education. Moreover most of the families do not permit their girls to go out of the home. The rural girls must have veiling system that is a large hindrance to their development process.

* **Religious legislation:**

In the rural area of Bangladesh, girls are victim of religious legislation. Their guardians consider that they do not need higher education because of religious fundamentalism. In every religion women are considered as inferior to men. Religion describes women as a profane object and compels them to be confined within four walls especially in Islam according to Sharia law.

* **Early marriage:**

Early marriage is one of the main obstacles of rural women’s development. Guardians of rural area think that girls are their burden. So they always try to marry them. As a result they give birth child early that causes great threat to their health. For early marriage girls are deprived of higher education.

* **Illiterate guardians:**

In the rural arena of Bangladesh most of the guardians are illiterate an ignorant and for this reason they are not willing to send their female child to educational institutions. They also have no knowledge about the importance of education and the development of women’s empowerment. So, most of the women remain undeveloped in rural area.

* **Lack of social awareness:**

Though some NGOs are arranging awareness programs among the rural women but they are not enough to create consciousness completely. Still women are illiterate in rural area. They are not aware about their feminine identity that is the prime reason of their subordination. Rural women receive their miserable destiny want of social awareness.

* **Economic deprivation:**

Most of the rural women are not independent economically that causes the self-abhorrence among them. They also do not get the chance of decision making in any family issue. They live like a doll in patriarchal system of rural area.

* **Lack of proper health care system:**

In rural area the health care systems are not enough enriched to serve the rural women during their pregnancy and other critical situations. So, for the lack of well health service they remain mistreated in health service sector that is a great hindrance to their way of development.

* **Impact on Women in Rural Development in Bangladesh**
* **Pathways to Women’s Empowerment:**

Rural development is a pathway to women’s empowerment. Because its many concept is improve of rural life. Without women’s empowerment that can not be possible. Many of the organization work for women’s empowerment.

* **Control over assets:**

Women can control over own resource and assets for rural development. In many governmental organization and NGO’s raising conciseness about women own assets and control of them.

* **Women’s contributions to family welfare from the male point of view**

From the male point of view rural development make able to women to contribute on family welfare and also counterpart part of male. women have improve their economic condition for the rural development for that reasoned women also contribute family in every steps because economic freedom also give women decision making power, participation power etc.

* **Control and use of their savings**

Traditionally, women are not to control and use their saving for the societal structure and patriarchal structure. Rural development have a great impact on women to control and use of their savings.

* **Improvement of standard of living**

It also impact on women standard of living. To improvement of rural area have also improve women’s living condition. Many organization also work for improve women’s slandered of living.

* **Improvement of health care**

Rural development of Bangladesh have also great impact on health care of women. Today women’s health care facilities are improve then past decade and many organization take many steps for rural health care development. Use of sanitary latrines is increasing; however, promoting hygiene practices, especially proper hand washing, remains a challenge. Solid-waste management is emerging as an important environmental problem, particularly in urban areas.

* **Reduced economic dependence on husbands**

It has often been postulated that if women had opportunities for gainful work outside the household, this would render their contributions to the household more visible, and concurrently reduce their economic dependence on their husbands (Kamal, *et al.*, 1992). women also reduce economic dependency on husband for the improvement of rural development in Bangladesh. Women’s monetary contributions to their households are especially important during lean months or other crisis periods like illness, loss of crops, and so on, in ensuring that family members do not have to go hungry and that the all important installment payments are made on time.

* **Mobility**

When a woman becomes involved with rural development, she is required to travel to, among other places. Women break the rule of *purdah*, both the group member and her husband have to face severe criticisms from village elders, religious clerics, and the rural elite. Countless women and their husbands have taken a stand against such actions and persevered against the odds. They have been exposed to new ideas, knowledge and experiences through their interactions with the world outside their homesteads. At the same time, through their newly acquired self-confidence and increased mobility, they are now able to ignore the negative comments that come their way.

* **Education**

Rural development also have a great impact on girl’s education. It improve women position in society. Now rate of girl’s education are higher then past time.

In Bangladesh, 58 percent of male attended school where only 41 percent of female attended school.  However, the recent commitment of the government and non-government agencies to decrease the gap between genders is working very well. Today, for those under 20, about 64 percent of males and 57 percent of women have attended school. This is a 10 percent increase for men and a 39 percent increase for women. At the postsecondary level, the transition rate, from secondary school towards higher education, is generally higher among girls than among boys.

* **Reduction of child marriage**

Child marriage is a major problem in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child-marriage in the world. Nearly two-thirds of adolescent girls are married (10-17 years). Rural development have a great impact on reduction of child marriage. Because of it rise a opinion against child marriage.

* **Women’s political participation**

It also increase political participation of women in rural area because women need mobility and liberty which can ensure by rural development.

* **Against Violence on women**

It also make opinion on violence against women. Women can know about law of VAW and imply them in their life. Violence are decries for rural development of women.

* **Women’s contribution in GDP:**

In rural area women work in field and household and it have impact on GDP in Bangladesh. In agricultural sector accounted for nearly 23.50% of gross domestic product which provides US$ 27.16 billion. Women contribution in GDP is US$ 10.58 billion.

**Contribution of men and women in agriculture in GDP**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **US$ (in Billion)** | **Percentage** |
| Agriculture | 27.16 | 23.50 % |
| Men | 10.58 | 39 % |
| Women | 16.58 | 61 % |

*(Source: Bangladesh Bank: Data released on November 2012)*

* **Conciseness rising**

To rise conciseness many organization work for it. The main concept of rural development that is economic freedom and conciseness rising of women.

* **Decision making power:**

Today women got decision making power more then past decade because of rural development. Rural development enter women in development process like as education, economic freedom etc which give women decision making power. In every steps of life women can give their decision though women are less then decision making power then men.

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