

CHAPTER- II

2.1 Understanding of Development: Theoretical Framework

The concept of development is almost as old as civilization. As a generic construct the term development has been extensively used in Western societies as early as in the ancient Greco-Roman civilization to the late 19th century which carries a meaning closely related to humanity's well-being."³ The term "development" in English language literally refers to such ideas as growth, change, progress and unfolding etc. The concept of development embraces multi-dimensional ideas having their essence of betterment, advancement, enlightenment and so on. In simple meaning, the idea of development, denote the process of change and progress having attained to more "advanced" state."⁴

According Burkey (1993) "Development is a process by which an individual develop self respect and become more self confident, self reliant, co-operative and tolerant to others through becoming aware of his her potential for positive change. This takes place through working with others, acquiring new knowledge and active participation in the economic, social and political development of their community."⁵

³ Jair. Soares Jr & Rogério H. Quintella - 2008; Development: an Analysis of Concepts, Measurement and Indicators, www.scielo.br/ <http://www.anpad.org.br/bar/> p- 105

⁴ John Harriss: Development Theories; Publisher, Oxford University Press, Published-2014, www.developmentideas.info. p-3

⁵ Burkey,S 1993. People First: A guide to Self Reliant, Participatory Rural Development, referred in NR Daile in his dissertation -2009; uir.unisa.ac.za, p-13

According to Todaro and Smith “Development is both physical reality and a state of mind in which society has secured the means for obtaining a better life”.⁶

Amartya Sen (*Development As Freedom*, Oxford 2007), has seen development through perspective of freedom. For him development expands the real freedom. It is the process of expanding the real freedom which people enjoy. Here, he used the notion of development in two senses: In broader sense he has attributed development with expansion or maximisation of real freedom. For him, the people in less developed society are deprived and denied of real freedom. Further, he argued that Development requires the elimination of major problems like poverty, tyranny and socio-economic injustice.⁷

There is no general agreed notion on development. Different scholars and writers have used it in their own ways to define a particular areas or field. Development has been used in different senses as the concept is multi-dimensional in nature covering different fields within its conceptual ambit. However, in simple words development in most appropriately and instantly is used synonymously to indicate or refer change, progress, growth etc.

2.2 Development: Theoretical Background

The theories of development replicate the process of economic growth and hence, “growth” has been the focal point of all the theories of development. Indeed, many economists use the word ‘growth’ and ‘development’ as interchangeable term.

“Since 1945, development has seen as synonymous with economic growth, and it

⁶ Todaro, MP & Smith, SC. 2006, *Economic Development*. 9th Edition. Harlow: PEARSON Addison Wesley.

⁷ P.G Das, *Fundamental of Public Administration*, Publication, New Central Book Agency (P) Ltd. pp-111-112

assumed to be a dominant view among majority of government and multilateral agencies". Economic growth has been considered necessary for combating poverty. By poverty, it may be simply described as the inability of the people to meet their basic material needs through cash transaction.⁸ If one is inquisitive to understand the theoretical paradigm of development one may draw the ideas from the Classical thinkers like Ricardo's theory of Economic growth, Marxian theory of Capitalist Development, Schumpeterian theory of economic development and other post Keynesian growth model. There are many theoretical postulation of development by several economists in recent years which are mostly the manifest or extension of previous growth models. The paradigm of development has undergone through several perceptual changes over the last century. Here, the theoretical ideas of development is sought to drawn from the popular Classical theories of development transiting over to contemporary perspectives. Considering its field, the broad trust of development can be discussed into two groups pre Keynesian and the Post Keynesian on the basis of fundamental contribution of J.M Keynes.

Keynes himself has made a significant contribution in microeconomic. His work on consumption function thesis and ex-ante equality of savings and investments as the condition for micro economic static equilibrium has been a corner stone in the development of the growth theory. The Keynesian revolution in micro economics also revolutionised the analysis of the phenomena of economic growth and technical progress. Here, the chronological benchmark of Keynesian contribution is

⁸ C.Thomas & T. Evans, Poverty Development and Hunger, in The Globalisation of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations, by Balis, Smith and Owens, published by Oxford University Press P-462

categorically put into analyse the pre Keynesian theories and post Keynesian growth model.

Ricardian theory of growth and distribution gives the most systematic account of economic growth by the Classical theorist. Ricardo classify the national economy into two sectors- the agricultural sector and the non-agricultural sector. He gave a high importance on agricultural sector since agricultural sector had contributed relatively large in the growth of national economy during that period. Moreover, his focal on the corn laws of his time is replicating from his arguments and views confined to agricultural sector. Thus, Ricardo's economic growth is applicable to the development of agricultural sector. The basic assumption of his theory is based; i) circulating capital is the only form of capital in the agrarian economy; and ii) the circulating capital is homogenous. With this assumption he tried to demonstrate that how the scarcity of land limits the growth of agricultural sector and thereby the growth of whole economy. This assumption is relevant and applicable in determining agrarian rural societies of India in terms of economic growth and development position in relation to land distribution and scarcity due to population explosion.⁹ While presuming the dynamism as the fundamental nature of growth, Marxian theory advocates the structural maladjustment in the system. And, the presence of such structural deficiency and contradiction in the system neither the economic nor the structure remain the static. Thus, the Marxian theory of economic development deals with the process of change in the system. By structural adjustment he laid out the concept of *production relations*.

⁹ Bakul H Dholikia, Ravindra H Dholakia: Theory of Economic Growth and Technical Progress, An Introduction, P-10

Marx argues that the relations of production determine not only the productivities of the factors of production but also the entire social, cultural, legal, and institutional structure of the society. The advancement in the societies brings the changes not only in the production relations but also bring changes in entire structure of society. In other words, changes in the mode of production lead to change in the social structures. Thus, Marxian theory advocates the mode of production as the determinant factors of social change.¹⁰ Like Karl Marx, Schumpeter described economic development as a part of social phenomena. Though, their approach to economic development is similar but both differ in their concept and analysis. Schumpeter applied “Circular flow of economic life” as an analytical tool to determine the economic growth and development. The basic assumption is that the entire process of economic development takes place in a circular process. The state of economy remains equilibrium and stable in the long run because the total output every year would remain the same without any variable changes in the system. The basic idea of circular flow of economic life is that the economic activities keep going on in the same direction at a constant time rate through the same channel without any change. These pattern repeats in every stages of economic development.¹¹

Rostow was a celebrated figure in the field of development theories. In his classic work “*The stages of Economic Growth*” Rostow outlined five stages of Economic development eventually all societies undergo before they become industrially developed countries. These are:

¹⁰ Ibid, p-24

¹¹ Ibid-pp-31,32

i) **Tradition:** At this stage Rostow prescribed that the traditional societies are developed within limited production functions. He also clarified that traditional society in no sense is a static. There is always a scope for improvement in the productivity through the use of technical innovation in the field of agriculture, industry and trade. However, he feels that the application of technical innovation in this field are either not regular, systematic or not available.¹²

ii) **Pre-Conditions for Take-off:** This is a transition stage of societies. This stage is marked with providing an enhance preconditions for take-off. At this stage the preconditions like social, political, trading possibilities, natural resources, infrastructural facilities etc. are developed to create conducive environment for better exploitation of technology for higher productive and benefits.¹³

iii) **The Take-off:** This stage comes off with over all enhanced infrastructure. The societies at this stage, overcome old blocks and resistances to steady growth. The forces making for economic progress, which yield limited bursts and enclaves of modern activity, expand and come to dominate society. Growth reached in its normal conditions. It will see the expansion of new entrepreneurs and growth of investment in private sectors. It will also see the wide application of modern technology and tools in agricultural and industrial sectors.¹⁴

iv) **The Drive to Maturity:** The societies to reach this stage take a long interval. With the regular growing economy would be able to extend modern technology over

¹² W.W. Rostow, The Five Stages of Growth, in, M.A Seligson & J.T Passe-Smith; Development and Under Development, The Political Economy of Global Inequality, published by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd. P,124

¹³ Ibid, P-125

¹⁴ Ibid, P-127

the whole front of its economic activity. At this stage, the level of production or the output will outstrip the increase in population.¹⁵

v) **The Age of High Mass- Consumption:** Rostow predicted to happen two things with the societies attained maturity in the twentieth century: i) real income of a large number of persons will rise higher will also increase the consumption capacity beyond its basic needs and ii) the structure of the working force will increased to changed in the urban as well as total population. In this post-maturity stage, Rostow referred the western societies as it is seen today had shift its focus more on social welfare and security rather than modern technology.¹⁶

Over time ‘development’ has carried very different meanings. The term ‘development’ in its present sense differs from the post-war era of modern development thinking. In hindsight, earlier practices have been viewed as antecedents of development policy, though the term ‘development’ was not necessarily used at the time.¹⁷ For many years, almost everyone looked the development of poor countries solely in terms of economic goals. Development for so long has been narrowly defined in terms of economic growth and development without giving other aspects a vital importance. A theory that, “Development meant a rising gross national product, an increase in investment and consumption (the twin pillars of traditional economics) and a rising standard of living.¹⁸ This theory of development failed to convince most of the third world countries in practical ground and it was criticised on the ground of being

¹⁵ Ibid, P-128

¹⁶ Ibid, Pp-129-130.

¹⁷ Pieterse, J.N; Development Theory, Second Edition. P-5

¹⁸ Hope, Kempe R.: Development and Development Administration: Perspectives and Dimensions, in Arora, Ramesh K. & Sharma, Sangeeta (ed) 'Comparative and Development Administration', Ideas and Action: Arihant Publishers, Jaipur, 1992; P. 25.

one way theory. Thus, the notion that “development” is synonymous with “economic growth” has received a stiff challenge from the third world countries. ”By far the most significant is that of Amartya Sen, who has argued that “commodities”—the production of which is a major part of economic growth—are only of value to us in terms of what they allow us actually to do. Sen advocates that we should think about development rather in terms of people’s capability to achieve those things that they have reason to value.”(Sen 2009: 231,)”¹⁹Consequently, the challenges from different sections of development theorist have led the quest for a new and comprehensive meaning and approach to development.

In modern times, the dynamism of development notion over time had switched to embrace broader areas involving the total process of change in economic, social, political and cultural dimensions. And, specifically in the context of rural development all these goals are to be achieved not relying on external assistance but it is to be achieved through national efforts embodied in local community’s participation and targeted at removing all signs of external economic dependence.²⁰ Moreover, the emergence of new approach in the field of development in particular is assertive on local considerations in the formulation of development policies and programmes. Local needs and values would determine the direction of development takes in a particular country and local institutions would be responsible for carrying it out.”²¹

¹⁹ Harriss, John; Development Theories, P- 4

²⁰ Hope, Kempe op.cit, PP. 25, 26.

²¹ Kasdan, Alan R: The Third World: A New Focus for Development. Cambridge, Schenkman Publishing Company, 1973; P. 10.

Such a self-reliant approach lays central emphasis in fulfilling the basic needs of the poor nations. The basic needs concept basically is taken to include two elements:

First, it includes the meeting of basic minimum requirements of a family for consumption like- adequate food, shelter and clothing along with other household equipment and furniture.

Second, it includes providing essential services to the community at large, such as safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, public transportation, educational institutions and health care facilities.²²

Development at present occupies the prime position in all the matters related to Planning and Policies of every country. In fact, the developing countries has been quite assertive towards developmental goals is evident from the fact that it can be found expressed in the Constitution of many countries. For instance, the securing of welfare of the citizens through developmental goals is largely found mentioned in the DPSP of Indian Constitution. It may not be wrong to generalize that the Governments of most of the developing countries have been consistently asserting on development by means of planned changes and people's participation in the process of socio-economic development.

2.3 Rural Development: A Conceptual Analysis

Before examining the concept of rural development, it is desirable to examine the meaning of "Rural" and "Development" in separate terms. The Webster's dictionary meaning for rural is "open land". According to the US census rural includes all the persons living on farm outside urban area. "Development" as already is defined

²² Hope, Kempe, Op. Cit., P. 29.

above refers to growth, evolution, and stage of inducement or progress. In broader sense Development is a concept that encompasses all the aspects of human life. In simple words, it essentially refers to the activities of the State, involving formulation of plans and policies and their execution for the betterment and well being of the society.

So far as rural development is concerned the subject gained widespread appeal in recent years. This is largely a result of the way issues regarding development themselves began to be perceived. The growing of new paradigm in development theory, during post World War era had subsided the traditional concept of development. The development theorist were dissatisfied with the way traditional concept of development emphasised growth and ignored the issues of distributive justice and other dimension of development. The interest in rural development is partly an offshoot of such disenchantment and also on account of growing realisation of importance of rural development in facilitating the process of overall development.²³

The notion of rural development has been conceived in diverse ways, by the researchers. It is because the possibility of the nature of problems and phenomena of development in different rural areas varies in degree. For instance, the problems of rural societies of developed nations and developing nations can be well demarcated on many grounds especially in their approach and strategy of development. The problems of developing societies are not only multi-faceted in nature but also very giant and complex. The rural folks in developing societies are oppressed in every walk of life.

²³ Barik, B.C, Rural Development in India, P-32

Many rural societies of developing states still lives with primitive cultures and traditional way of living far from modern urban cultures. This isolation of rural and urban cultures in developing societies is relatively much wider than that of developed societies. This gap determines the needs of degree in strategy and approach in narrowing down the problems and catching up with modernisation. Whatever, may be the differences is in conceptualising the notion of rural development, the essence remain largely identical as it is primarily concern with poverty alleviation and distributive justice oriented economic transformation in rural areas. Considering, such a view, the objectives of rural development can be drawn in the following:-

- i. To improve the living standards of rural population by providing basic needs like food, shelter, clothing, employment and education.
- ii. To increase productivity in rural areas and reduce poverty.
- iii. To involve rural people in development process through their participation in decision making at local government bodies.
- iv. To ensure distributive justice and equalisation of opportunities in the society.²⁴

Rural Development has become an integral part of present day economy. It occupies the topmost priority particularly in the Planning processes of the Third World Countries. The growing popularity of rural development in a Welfare State has aroused keen interest in the concept both in theory and practice. In contemporary times it has a great relevance and impact on rural life. As a means for socio-economic transformation it could be an instrumental in changing the scenario of rural life.

²⁴ Ibid, P.34

Considering, it's great potential in promoting all round development in rural areas, it has been the urgent need of the hour to know and understand and practise it in its correct perspective.²⁵

According to Ensminger (1974) "Rural Development is a process of transformation from traditionally oriented rural culture towards an acceptance and reliance on science and technology."

Lele has (1975) defined rural development as an improvement in the living standard of the masses of low-income population residing in rural areas and making the process of self-sustaining.²⁶

Maboguje (1980:30) opines that: "Rural development is concerned with the improvement of the living rural standards of the low-income people living in the rural area on a self sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities. It implies a broad based reorganization and mobilization of the rural masses and resources, so as to enhance the capacity of the rural populace to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and with the changes consequent upon this."²⁷

The rural development has a special significance having its implication with the activities for socio-economic enhancement. It has to do with the extent of modernisation in technical knowledge, the level of democratisation in governance, upward changes in the economic system, educational and health facilities. Rural development is thus a process of change culminating in improved quality of life for

²⁵ Mai Pratap: Infrastructural Development for Agriculture and Rural Development; P. 190.

²⁶ *ibid*, P- 190.

²⁷ Ibietan,Jide, The role of Local Government in Rural Development Issues, P-32

rural people. In wider sense, it implies the development and utilisation of natural and human resources, technologies, institutions and organisations for promoting basic infrastructure and speeding up the all round development of rural people on a self-sustaining basis. Rural development though can be defined in several ways but for all practical purposes it means helping the poor people living in the villages in their economic development.²⁸

2.4 Rural Development: Indian Context

The Indian context of rural development gives an Integral account of the development. Rural development in India has been looked through broad sense as “Integrated development”. It encompasses the concept of all round development of rural area and the people living there, through the optimum utilisation of local resources- physical and human resources. It focuses on attaining all round development through enhancing structural reformation, institutional capabilities and attitudinal changes. It encompass not only the enhancement in economic field i.e. agricultural, allied activities, rural industries but also emphasis on setting a required social infrastructure and services in the area of health and nutrition, sanitation, housing, drinking water and literacy with ultimate objective of improving quality of life of rural poor and the rural weak.” And, these ought to be brought through empowering the rural people politically by linking them from bottom to top in the decision making process. Thus, in simple Rural Development concept implies the

²⁸ Mai Pratap, op.cit; P- 190.

effort to bring all round development in rural areas through planned development policies.²⁹

According to Mishra and Sharma (1979), “rural development is not merely development of rural areas but also the development of quality of life of the rural masses into self-reliant and self-sustaining modern communities, so that each component of rural lives changes in a desired direction.”

According to Agarwal (1989) rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people, the rural poor.

India is a land of villages. About two-thirds of total population in India live in villages. Naturally development of India means the development of rural India. Keeping in mind the need for realisation of development our Constitution framers consciously made it supreme priority for State; thereby directing it to enshrine partly the State responsibility in the Directive Principles of State Policy. Consequently, State is made legally responsible to work for all round development under several provisions. In this connection, Article 40 of the Constitution enumerates that “State shall take steps to organise village Panchayat and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self Government.” Since, democracy is believed to be the most potent way of development. It was a clear gesture towards emancipation of rural areas from poverty through constitutionally empowered grass root level institution i.e. Panchayati Raj System. Further, DPSP consider adequate means of livelihood as the rights of every citizen and direct the State to secure it. It is believed that development in general and rural areas in

²⁹ Ibid, P-191

particular is possible only with the proper distribution of wealth. In this connection, Art. 43 of the constitution announce that the state shall endeavour to secure by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise a living wage.” Again, Article 48 also directs the state to promote agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines. The State is imperative towards development of agriculture and animal husbandry for the development of rural India. Our State is quite keen towards the use of modern technology in any sector for the development.³⁰

2.5 Background of Indian Rural Societies:

Rural society is widely used interchangeable term with the words like ‘villages’, ‘country side’ or ‘folk society.’ In India, it literally refers to a community living in a village whose population is less than 500 persons per Sq. Km, and who among 3/4th of the total population are engaged in primary occupation like agriculture and having a Village Panchayat is identified as village for administrative purposes.³¹ For sociologist the rural society is characterised by agriculture and allied activities, animal husbandry, simplicity, joint family and strong collective conscience, pre-dominance of religion. Durkheim has called societies having all such features as the mechanical type of social solidarity”. Interestingly, Kropotkin has compared the rural society with “calm water in pond” while the urban society with “boiling water in the kettle.” While Daniel Thorner made a classification of rural social stratification, he talked about three main classes in rural society. These are *Malik* (owner) *Kisan*

³⁰ P.G Das: Fundamental of Public Administration, Publication: New Central Book Agency(P) Ltd, P-381

³¹ Cms.gcgl11.ac.in

(Peasant), and *Mazdoor* (labour).³² In case of Indian rural societies the later i.e. *Kisan* and *Mazdoor* constitute the larger part of the total population.

It is well known fact that India is pre-dominantly an agrarian society. About 70 percent population of India lives in country side and their livelihood depends directly or indirectly on agricultural activities and other non-agricultural activities like farming of live-stocks, dairy farming etc. The poor peasants generally are engaged in agricultural activities and other allied activities for their livelihood. These agricultural activities and farming of live stocks is the backbone of rural economy and perhaps, only the primary source of income for their livelihood. In that note, since, 3/4th of Indian population lives in rural societies, it can be rightly claimed that “*Village is the soul of India and Real India is rural India.*” And moreover, the agricultural products constitute a major source of national income and exports. Therefore, prosper of our country largely depends on the agricultural production. The agro based economy constitutes the large portion in our National development. Hence, development of agro-based industries in villages assumed utmost importance along with the application of scientific methods and modern tools in agricultural activities to increase the productivity. The Government’s effort is quite visible in this direction from the fact that over the last fifty years it has been more or less, solely moved by the advancement of Agro based economy. However, despite a good contribution in consolidating the nations the vast agricultural sectors remain gigantically poor.

Nearly 76% of population lives in rural areas and 70% of them depends on agriculture for livelihood. The inequality of cultivators holding is considerable in

³² Manpal Singh: Rural Sociology, publication; Anmol Publications Pvt. Ltd.

India. With the average size of holding was about 7-5 acres, about 70% of the holding were below this average. The farmers holding less than 1 acre land formed about 17% and those farmers holding between below 2½ acres and around 5% acres of land constitute about 21 %. At the other end, 16% holding between 10-24 acres account for 32.5% of the area and another 5.6% holds above 25 acres covers around 34% of the area. The average land holding in North India was around 5.3 acres. But, as high as 40% farmers is holding only up to 2.5% acres. In East India zone, the overall average holding was 4.5 acres and as high as 45.8% is holding less than 2.5 acres.³³ In South India Zone also the overall average size of holding is very less with 4.5%. However, in West Zone, the overall average size of holding was relatively higher with 12.3 acres, but the farmers holding below 10 acres is as high as 61%. Similarly, the Central India has relatively higher average holding of 12.2 acres. The North-West India Zone has the highest average holding up to 12.6 acres.³⁴ Going by the figures it can be assumed that the land holding of farmers are considerably low. Another, problem is that more than 30% of the rural population still lives under BPL and more than 30 million unemployed youth lives in rural areas. The figures of farmers holding agricultural land, numbers of BPL and unemployment problems are quite distressing in India. The scene of rural India is very alarming since larger population of the rural areas still lives in pity conditions and the marginal farmers, landless labourers and the poor constitute this population. Thus, the emancipation of these vulnerable groups of society is the primary goal of rural development programme. And, the economic development of

³³ Ibid. P-65

³⁴ Ibid, P-66

India is possible only when the rural masses are emancipated from unemployment and poverty. Gandhiji's remark in this relevant was quite imperative that "*the real development of India lies in the development of rural areas*". The development of rural areas will in fact, develop the country as a whole in real sense.

The development of rural India since independence has been a complex phenomenon. The magnitude to pull out the sinking villages from the state of poverty and destitute has magnificently been in needs of addressed. It has been an uphill task to accomplish, because poverty constitutes the larger portion of rural population. Another, challenge for rural development is the multi-dimensional character of the problems. The fact is that a sizeable portion of the rural population lives under abject poverty which covers more than 3/4th of total population in more than half a million villages. It constitute a great challenge to address this problems since it cover people living under great variation of social setting, wide regional disparity, climate, ecology, culture and especially when the nature of their issues and problems varies in degree. In such state, the all-India or centralised planning appears unproductive, if not supported by the grassroots mobilisation. Since, the problem of rural India is multi-faceted it is a creative challenge for social engineer to find way out to transform rural India into modern India.³⁵

2.5 Review of Rural Development Programme in India:

So far as programmes for development and welfare of community of rural areas are concerned, there are many such noble efforts taken during pre Independent period. A good number of programmes were seen initiated by individual pioneers,

³⁵ P.N Singh: Rural Development Some Basics Issues, PP, 7-8

missionaries and state level bodies in respect of rural development prior to the introduction of Community Development Programmes. In this connection, some of them are highlighted. One of these pioneering efforts towards development of villages was Rabindranath Tagore's Institute of Rural Reconstruction at Sriniketan which he started in 1921. His focus on agricultural problems like fertility of soil, cattle breeding, poultry, vegetable gardening, modern methods of farming, selections of seeds, fodder growing, rotation of crops etc. were initiatives towards rural development. He also helped in the revival of dying cottage industries like weaving, book binding, tailoring, leather works, embroidery etc. He also opened a girl school where girls are taught vocational training like needle work besides formal education under Shiksha-satra.³⁶

Another landmark contribution in this field is F.L Brayne in 1927 when he carried out development programmes like rural sanitation, agricultural development, education, Social reforms etc. Brayne also suggested the means to organise village work through "knowledge" particularly girls' education, women's organisation and welfare work; spirit of service and village organisations. His experiment in Gurgaon towards improved farming, health, educating the women and reducing wasteful customs was productive in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry though it was short lived programme.³⁷

Another, benchmark towards village development was Sevagram initiated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1931. Gandhiji was the pioneer advocate in the field of village development of his time. Perhaps, it can't be dismayed that the model of the current

³⁶ Jogesh Deka: Panchayat and Rural Development in Assam: A Structural and Functional Analysis, Thesis submitted to GU), P-33

³⁷ Ibid, PP-34-35

rural development programme towards socio-economic transformation of the villages had its root in the vision of Mahatma Gandhi's ideal to establish self sufficient village. His experiment "*Sevagram*" was a blueprint for national reconstruction by regenerating Indian villages. His development programmes was mainly concern with the generation of rural economy through village industries like Khadi, agricultural activities and farming cattle and other live stocks etc. Besides, he equally emphasised on addressing social problems like social inequality communal disharmony, untouchability, and gender inequality and so on. Further, he gave a great importance to education. He urges to provide basic education to all with equal stressed on adult education as well and appeal the students for doing social work. His "*Sevagram*" also focussed on the necessity to provide health care facilities to the villagers including village sanitation facilities. He was also concern with the needs of educating villagers politically and for that he emphasised on organising peasants and labourers for securing their just rights. Through, such scheme he sought to build the nation from the bottom upward and bring about all round development in the villages. Gandhiji had a deep understanding on issues of Indian villages and was able to strike the cord because he looked the issues through the eyes of peasants.³⁸ Besides, the programmes like Grow More Food, Baroda Plan, Firka Development Scheme, Mahewa Etawah Pilot Project, India Village Service and so on are the significant effort towards development of rural areas in the past.³⁹

³⁸ Ibid, PP-35-36

³⁹ Ibid, P-40

When India had just come off from the exploitation of colonial master the state of Indian villages and people was stricken by endless socio-economic problems like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, under-development and so on. Despite of many challenges towards nation building however, the post independence era brought a new dawn among the people of India. It appeared an uphill task for the Indian leaders and the policy makers to identify the priority areas and accordingly frame the inclusive policies for development programmes in such a heterogenous society covering vast land. However, the untiring effort had yield the nation as India is transforming socio-economically viable and strong to this far in the threshold of positioning itself as economic giant nation.

From 1952, a series of projects have been initiated by the government for transforming economic conditions of rural people. Starting from 1952 a community development programme was initiated with an objective to reduce poverty in rural India. Its aim was to involve the rural people in development programmes through creation of block level bodies. For the purpose, 55 blocks was created in the beginning taking 100 villages and the number goes up to 1075 throughout the first five years plan.⁴⁰ Similarly, National Extension Service was launched in 1953, more or less with the same purpose. Between, 1957-60, the Government launched a number of projects like Village industries programmes and Khadi, Tribal development programmes and intensive agricultural programme etc. The Khadi and Village industry were setup with a view to promote small scale industries like weaving, cottage industries etc. to boost the rural economy by generating employment among rural people.

⁴⁰ Anil Kr. Jana, Administering District Plan in India, P-36

It is well known fact that agricultural development in England which took place miraculously in second half of the 18th century was largely due to the application of modern technology and methods. The Communist Govt. of China under Mao Se Tung in 1949, also prioritise the agricultural development because they thought that development in rural China would be impossible without the development of agriculture.⁴¹ In this direction, Indian Government launched several programmes with a purpose to develop agriculture sector like Intensive Agricultural Programmes, Farmers Training and Education Programmes, High Yielding Variety Programmes, Rural Work Programme and Tribal Development Block etc. for improving the productivity of agricultural sectors.

During 1970s, the Government launched a large number of schemes to reduce the poverty of the rural people. In this connection, Paul Brass had observed that Anti-Poverty Programmes of India can be grouped in two broad categories. i) One is designed for long terms or life beneficiaries to above BPL by providing them either “productive assets” or “skills” or “both” so that by using these they can sustain for longer benefits or earn higher income. These schemes covered the Marginal Farmer and Agricultural Labour Programme, Small Farmer Development Agency and Integrated Rural development Programme (IRDP). ii) Another type of programme was basically designed for a short term- aim at providing temporary wage employment to the poor and landless during the season when employment become scarcity and in the time of drastic reduce of employment opportunities or in such areas which are often affected by draught or dry, or flood and other calamities (P-269). In this connection, in

⁴¹ P.G Das, op.cit, PP-381-382

1970, Draught Prone Area Programme was launched. Again, similar type of programme called Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme was launched in 1972. Another significant programme called National Rural Employment Programme was introduced in 1980. All these programmes are poverty alleviation measures aiming at development of rural areas. These programmes like NREP and IRDP have played a transforming role of rural economy during the last few decades.

The 1990s onward seen even more number of introduction of programmes by the Central Government for economic development of rural people. Some of the significant schemes of this era are- Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana (PMRY), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Swarna jayanti Gram Swarogjar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana, Annapurna Yojana etc. All these schemes are launched to generate employment opportunities in the rural areas with a view to provide economic benefits and wages for livelihood. Jawahar Rajgor Yojana was instrumental in generating employment opportunities in the first stage and in subsequent stage it enhanced the infrastructural facilities needed for the take off or the growth of economic development in the rural areas. It aims at housing for the BPL under IAY and digging well, tube well, ponds etc. Other scheme like Anapurna was launched in 2000, to provide food security to the indigent senior citizen who is not covered under the targeted Public Distribution Schemes (PDS) who have no income of their own. Another, bold and significant scheme was the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarogjar Yojana that provided financial aid to youths to make them self-dependent. Under this scheme technical institutes were setup for vocational training for the rural youths to make them self-employed and self-dependent.

On 15 Aug. 1995, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) was launched to provide financial assistance to the poor BPL households for the old age, widow and physically impaired. It also includes provision for one time financial assistance to widow belonging to BPL family. At present NSAP comprises of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). Under this scheme the old aged between 60-79 years are provided pension of Rs. 200 per/month and Rs. 500 per/month to above 80 aged. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) was introduced in 2009. Under this scheme, the widows aged between 40-79 years are benefited with an amount of Rs. 300 per/month. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) was also introduced in 2009 to help disabled persons with finance belonging to BPL family. The aged between 18-79 years are benefited under this scheme with an amount of Rs 300 per/month. National Family Benefits Schemes (NFBS) is another scheme that provides one time financial aid of amount Rs. 20,000 to poor widows aged between 18-59 years belonging to BPL family. NSAP from 2014-15 has been converted into Centrally Sponsored Scheme and funds are released by the Ministry of Rural development to States.

Another, highly acclaimed programme towards poverty alleviation by providing daily wage for livelihood through employment generation was MGNREGA. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA) is a programme aims at providing livelihood security through guaranteed wage employment of unskilled manual work for at least 100 days in a financial year to every household. Its main aim is to strengthen the livelihood resource base of the poor through proactive ensuring social inclusion. The MGNREGA covers the entire country

other than districts having hundred percent urban populations. The Independent research on “India Human Development Survey” by Josh, Desai, Vanneman and Dubey ‘2014, found that poor household and members of vulnerable communities are more likely to participate in MGNREGA. During the initial year, 4.67 Crores households were provided employment in 140.24 lakhs works and in the process 187.91 crores person-days of employment was generated. There was very high participation from marginalized groups like- SC, ST (39%) and women (56%). Several studies also suggest that MGNREGA had a positive impact particularly on agrarian household. Another, study by Agarwal, Gupta and Kumar in 2012, also revealed that cultivation cost of individual has decreased whereas cropping intensity has increased and crop productivity as well. It also revealed that it can be the foundation stone for increased income, improvement in agricultural production and better livelihood. Further, it has also revealed that it helped the rural households in sustaining a smooth manner in consumption between the agricultural peak season and lean season. Klonner and Oldiges (2013-14) in their research report found that poverty between Phase- I and Phase- II district has drastically declined. Among SC and ST households both Phase- I and Phase- II district has seen decline in inequality.

In this direction, to develop backward areas another scheme called “Backward Region Grant Fund” (BRGF) was launched by former PM Manmohan Singh at Barpeta, Assam on 19th Feb. 2007. It is designed to redress regional imbalances in development. It covers 250 identified districts in 27 States. Its main aim was to supplement and converges the existing developmental inflows into identified by providing financial resources so as to: i) Bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and

other requirements that are not being adequately met through existing inflows. ii) Strengthen the Panchayat and Municipality level governance with more appropriate capacity building, to facilitate participatory planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring, to reflect local felt needs. iii) Provide professional support to local bodies for planning, implementation, and monitoring their plans iv) Improve the performance and delivery of critical functions assigned to Panchayats and counter possible efficiency and equity losses on account of inadequate local capacity. Under this programme each identified districts received 10 Crores financial aids from Central Government for development activities. Assam has three district covered under BRGF all covers under 6th Schedule. Kokrajhar District covered under BRGF in Non-Part IX and IX A of the Constitution. Kokrajhar district was categorised within the larger regional council. For required village level planning local bodies can be formed. Since, NREGA is in operation under this district, for the village level planning NREGA may be adopted for BRGF. However, the programme has now ceased in Kokrajhar District.⁴²

2.6 Rural Socio-Economic Account of BTAD:

BTAD was created in 2003 under Sixth Schedule of the Indian with an objective to fulfil the economic, educational & linguistic aspirations & preservation of land rights, socio-cultural & ethnic identity of Bodos and as well as speed-up infrastructure development in BTC area. The areas of BTAD cover 9688 sq.km with majority of population living in the rural areas. As per the population census report 2011, the total population in BTAD areas was estimated 3151047 out of which

⁴² Annual Report 2016-17, Ministry of Rural Development: Government of India, www.rural.nic.in,

30,10953 lives in rural areas as against 140094 urban population. BTAD like other district of Assam is no exception in terms of development.

Socio-Economic forms a major foundation of modern civic society. The in-depth study of it helps to determine and measure the state of any civic society. The Socio-Economic concept embraces vital areas including education, health, agriculture, industry and so on. The study mainly intends to throw a light on some of the major socio-economic aspects of BTAD after its inception.

Education is a vehicle of transforming the knowledge of a society from generation to other. BTAD area categorically can be placed among the most backward in the field of Education. The region has been in the bottom list in comparison to other districts of Assam. In recent years, BTAD government has taken a keen interest in the process of development in education sector and its infrastructure. Despite, a good number of higher educational institutions have been setup in recent decades like- University and Colleges, Technical institutions like CIT, Engineering Collage and others; yet, the region performs poor in this sector. Census report 2011, clearly indicate the literacy rate of BTAD in alarming low with 67.11% against 73.18% of State.

In health sector, this region has lot more to do to improve. Each district of BTAD has a Civil Hospital. The health services and health care facilities in this area are in poor conditions. The region lack good hospital, sub-centres at rural level, and good and insufficient medical staff and other man power. The whole BTAD area has a single Sub-Divisional Civil Hospital. The number of Primary Health Centre and Community Health Centre is only 137 and 15 respectively in whole BTAD area. The number of

Sub-Centres is 552 which are relatively smaller proportion to the numbers of villages in BTAD areas. As per the Health and Family Welfare Department, BTC, the total number of beds in different type of health institutions in 2014-15 is only 1328 for around 32 lakhs population. Thus, the health sector in BTAD region is a matter of serious concern. The region also lagged in road and communication infrastructure, electricity, and other modern means and facilities for good and convenient life.

The economy of BTAD largely depends on Agricultural sectors and other allied activities and small scale industries like household industries, fisheries, livestock and poultry farming, sericulture, khadi and village industries, tourism and forest industries like small tea grower and rubber production etc. Agriculture in this area is the lifeline of both the rural and urban population. Agriculture constitute major source of income for livelihood in rural BTAD. Some, of the major agricultural products yield in BTAD are rice, wheat, jute, sugarcane, potato, rape and mustard, pulses and oil seed and other cash crops etc. As per the 2014-15 economic survey report the agriculture yield rate of some of the selected crops are-

Table: 2.6.1 Yield rate in Kg./Hector 2014-15

Rice	Wheat	Jute	Sugarcane	Potato	Rape & Mustard	Pulses	Oil Seeds
6657	1370	1780	42227	11928	719	985	705

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics BTC, Kokrajhar

As per the economic survey the number of agricultural cultivators in BTAD are 3116888 and the area of 344288.51 hector is the agricultural land in operation. The Net Irrigated area is 75,221 hector and 87,225 hector is Gross Irrigated area in which

86945 hector have a canals and 280 hector is irrigated with tube wells.⁴³ Development in agricultural sector has been the urgent need of hours since it is the backbone of rural economy in BTAD. To increase the agricultural productions the department have taken several initiatives. During 2015-16, the department have distributed 700 Qtls. of HYV Certified Paddy Seeds during Kharif season to 7000 beneficiaries. During 2015-16 around 44200 farmers and in the 2014-15, around 71400 farmers were distributed Certified Mustard Seeds and Hybrid Maize Seeds to around 14000 farmers. The HYV seed has been distributed to the farmers from season to season. The department also encourage the farmer to practise Eco-friendly IPM concept and organic farming in order to minimise the soil damage. To encourage the farmer the department organise Zonal workshop, Cluster training, and Kishan Mela with a view to exchange ideas between farmer and agricultural scientist to educate the farmer with scientific farming to raise the productions. In recent years the “*Post Graduate Diploma in Bamboo Industrial Utilisation of North East*” course was introduced in Bodoland University with a purpose of higher learning in the Agricultural sector.⁴⁴

Again, livestock and poultry farming is another allied agro-commercial sector which contribute considerable amount in economy of rural population in BTAD. The livestock and poultry farming include raring of cattle, goat, buffaloes, ducks, pigs, chicken etc. for small scale trading and earning livelihood. The economic report 2014-15 suggests that the production of milk was 68.19 million litres, the numbers of egg production was 65.25 million and the production of meet was 9.22 tonnes. The live

⁴³ BTC at a Glance 2014-15, Dept. of Economic and Statistics BTC, Kokrajhar, PP-5-14.

⁴⁴ BTC An Achievement 2015-16, Published by Information & Public Relations Department. PP- 21,22

stock farming has been an integral part of traditional life among rural households in BTAD. Almost all the households in the villages are engaged in the live stock farming like pig, cattle, poultry, and others. However, the live stock farming in BTAD has never been taken as serious for large scale trading purpose among many except few. Traditionally, such farming is practised by the rural folks to enable occasional supports to their household needs with capital help and during their urgent needs in time of financial crisis.

Although, the live stock farming is not a primary source of income yet it contribute a considerable capital support to the rural household. The rural household in general and the government in particular should not overlook the commercial prospects in live stock farming. Notably, this sector in recent years has seen catching the eyes of small section of interested export traders. This sector can be cash-commercial for many rural households which can provide avenues of their living if the promotion of it is taken seriously. The government should encourage the rural folk to introspect into its commercial prospects and profits.⁴⁵

The fishery sector also contributes in the economy of rural people of BTAD as the areas is surrounded by many small and medium size rivers and water bodies and swamps like ponds, tanks. Fish farming is fast growing sector in BTAD. It has total number of 114 beel fisheries both registered and unregistered and as many as 27445 numbers of pond and tank. As per the report there are 14835 hector under fisheries. The production of fish seeds was 349 million numbers and production of the fish was 14851 tonnes during the year 2014-15. Considering it, the fishery department have

⁴⁵ Ibid, PP-17,20

taken a good numbers of schemes to develop the sectors particularly with a view to employ the youth in the pisci-culture. The department have constructed the fishery complex, (Meen Bhawan) at Kargaon, Kokrajhar, construction of DFDO at Udalguri and Baksa, SDFDO office at Gossaigaon. The department provides grant-in-aid to the poor fish farmers. This office look after the construction of Fish Seed Farms, reclamation and development of derelict water bodies, establishment of improved Mini Eco-hatcheries for production of quality fish seeds, and provides training and incentives to fish seeds traders and growers. During 2015-16, under AOP and amount of Rs. 325 lakh was earmarked for the development of derelict of water bodies, incentives to 120 numbers of fish seed trader and development of Model Fishery Villages, Development of existing ponds (IBS) and beel/river fisheries.⁴⁶

BTAD have a rich forest resource since the area covers with lush green forest both reserved and protected with one National Park and three Wildlife Sanctuaries which can promote tourism industry. It can be a great potential to boost up the economy of BTAD if these forest resources are taken care of by the government. The areas in recent years have seen rise in the number of small tea growers. Though, the area doesn't have a big tea grower as well as big tea industries like in some other district of Assam, yet, around 283 numbers of small tea growers have registered in recent years. Besides, the rubber plantation is also encouraged in the areas. In the year 2014-15, around 496.25 metric tonnes of rubber production also contributed in the economy of BTAD.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ Ibid, PP-24,26

⁴⁷Ibid., PP- 27-30

The areas still lack big industry. However, in recent years, there are few establishment of small scale agro based industries and factories. It has total numbers of 81 registered factories. Some of them are- 10 Agro based, 3 Forest based, 1 Chemical, 4 Textile and 7 Electronic based small scale industries. It has only one big thermal power industry (NTPC) located at Salakati in Kokrajhar District. Notably, with the creation of BTAD some section of political elites have owned and set up medium scale private industries like carbon industries, stone crushers and hotel business, automobiles dealers and so on.

The sericulture farming was very popular among rural folk in early years in BTAD. The rearing of Eri silk worm for food as well as for silk production purpose was practised almost in every rural household in early year. The Muga and Mulberry Cocoon farming were also very popular in early years however, it has seen declined drastically in recent years. As per the economic survey report 2014-15 only few families were found engaged in sericulture farming. The total number of 1580 sericulture villages is registered till the year 2014-15. The sericulture farming has a high potential with good prospect to usher the economic development in the region. It is necessary that the government of BTAD should introspect in this sector to open up new possibilities of market and commercial activities. The sericulture farming can floor a solid foundation for the establishment of small scale industries like Khadi industries, silk production industries and weaving industries. The statistical figures of sericulture farming in BTAD during the year 2014-15 are highlighted below:⁴⁸

⁴⁸ BTC at a Glance Op.Cit.

Table: 2.5.2 Table Showing Sericulture Farming & it Production

1. Families engaged in Sericulture	Units	2014-15 (year)
Eri	Nos.	50,710
Muga	„	548
Mulberry	„	597
2. Area under Silk worm's food plants	Hect.	2014-15 (year)
Eri	„	1846.18
Muga	„	1127
Mulberry	„	214.48
3. Yield of Cocoons	MT (Metric Tonnes)	2014-14
Eri Cut Cocoon	MT	886
Muga Cocoon	Lakh Nos.	693
Mulberry reeling Cocoon	MT	51.75
4. Production of Silk Yarn	MT (Metric Tonnes)	2014-15
Eri Raw Silk	„	710
Eri Raw Silk	„	11.65
Mulberry Raw Silk	„	4.87

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics BTC, Kokrajhar

Considering, the prospects in these sector the BTAD government in recent years has setup few handloom training centre, Weavers Extension Service Unit and Handloom Production Centre in four districts of BTAD. In this connection, the BTAD has setup 12 Handloom Training Centre (HTC), 10 Weavers Extension Service Units and 6 Handloom Production Centres. Despite of the region is known for its popular culture of artistic handy craft and hand woven the development in the sector of weaving industry has been very steady and gradual. Neither, the government is taking keen interest to promote this sector. Undoubtedly, this industry could absorb many crafty young unemployed youths through generation of employment opportunities if it is taken seriously by the government.

While examining the scenario and position of the BTAD in development activities since its inception much changes in infrastructure is visible though; but socio-economic front still remain critical since the progress in this sector has been very gradual. BTAD prior to its inception has been reeling under deplorable conditions in all the fields. With its inception, undoubtedly the new dawn of development has sneaked in this region; though, not in a manner of big leap as many had expected but to a fair extent it has enabled to aroused the people of this region towards embracing modernisation. Since, the region was lagging far even in providing basic infrastructural facilities in the rural areas in particular and to the people in general, it was an uphill task for the council administration to accelerate the development in the regions and simultaneously to address all the persistent issues with a small amount of funds it receives. Rural re-construction came to manifest as the top priority in development manifesto before the council government. Considering the urgent need of infrastructural development in rural areas several policies were initiated to bring the remote places in accessible conditions. To enhance the socio-economic conditions of the regions, inclusive policies were framed to connect all the villages with proper road linkages and other infrastructure like sports complex, cultural complex, up-gradation of academic infrastructure, hospital, school, collages and so on. Nevertheless, BTAD have miles to go for bringing all round development in the region.