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The Indian smart village: Foundation for growing India

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Abstract
A smart village knows about its citizens, available resources, applicable services and schemes. It knows what it needs asnd when it needs. Smart village initiative focuses on improved resource-use efficiency, empowered local self-governance, access to assured basic amenities and responsible individual and community behaviour to build a vibrant and happy society. The present research paper discusses about rural development in developing world for the up-liftman of livelihood of the rural masses. The driving motivation behind the concept on "Smart Village" is that the technology should acts as a means for development, enabling education and local business opportunities, improving health and welfare, enhancing democratic engagement and overall enhancement of rural village dwellers. Now it's need of the hour is - strategy, integrated planning and above all monitoring and execution of the activities using appropriate governance models. The present era is increased on Information and Communication Technology. This technology has proved its potential in various sectors of development in urban and rural areas. Researcher has made an attempt to correlate the different factors of the smart village and its implications.

Keywords: Smart Village, Rural, Technology etc.

Introduction

A rural area is a geographic area that is located outside cities and towns, while rural areas are also known as 'village' in India. In these villages, agriculture is the chief source of livelihood along with fishing, cottage industries, pottery, etc. According to the Erstwhile Planning Commission of India, a settlement with a maximum population of 15,000 is considered as "Village". Much of India's rural population lives in nucleated villages, which most commonly have a settlement form described as shapeless agglomerate. India being a rural dominated country, the smartness concept is not even thought about the rural areas.

All areas which are not categorized as urban area are considered as rural area. Number of rural units or villages in India are approx 6, 38,588. According to 2011 census, rural area has population of 68.84%, whereas urban area has population of 31.16% only.

In the Indian context, villages are the heart of the nation. Hence, for the overall development of the country the focused must be given to the grass root level, and that means the focus areas should be the Indian village. There is a large scale migration of the people from rural areas to urban areas, which has its own risk parameters on the urban areas, and still there are many villages in India with heavy population. So the main aim to smarten the villages by offering basic facilities, education, employment generation activities, technology etc. The vision of Mahatma Gandhi – "The best, quickest and most efficient way is to build up from the bottom. Every village has to become a self-sufficient republic. This does not require brave resolutions. It requires brave, corporate, intelligent work.

Smart Village and its Importance

The idea of smart village in the present day context seems more reasonable as there is a limit of growth of cities which is leading to creation of urban jungles, where the population ratio per km of land is way above the desired norms. To take baby steps initially would lead to a campaign at National level once the fruits of this effort start bearing fruits, which surely would be visible for all to see sooner than expected.

Just like smart cities, a smart village should be interactive and multi-functional; there should be active participation of people in various activities. A smart village is one which will automatically link local production with local procurement and local distribution. A smart village will also have power, knowledge, healthcare, technology, entrepreneurship and

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internet connectivity. A smart village will not only bring Internet connection to the rural lands, but will also provide support to sustainable agricultural practices. A network of small scale industries linked to agriculture, and a strong network of rail and road corridors with civic amenities such as education and health for all, including farmers, will transform the face of real India.

The National Sample Survey 61st Round results show that among persons of age 15–29 years, only about 2% are reported to have received formal vocational training and another 8% reported to have received non-formal vocational training indicating that very few young people actually enter the world of work with any kind of formal vocational training. This proportion of trained youth is one of the lowest in the world. The corresponding figures for industrialized countries are much higher, varying between 60% and 96% of the youth in the age group of 20–24 years.

Aims of Smart Village
- Homes with access to toilet, safe drinking water and regular power.
- A Smart Village knows all information about its citizens, available resources, applicable services and schemes.
- Every household has diversified livelihood opportunities and/or micro enterprise. Microenterprise a business operating on a very small scale, esp. one with a sole proprietor and fewer than six employees.
- Maintain its Identity, culture and Heritage
- Plans for development based on People, Assets and Service Centric information and tracks its progress.
- It works towards Revenue generation.
- Has functional solid/liquid waste management system.
- End all preventable maternal deaths and infant deaths which means proving good basic health facilities in Health care centred
- 100% institutional deliveries
- Interacts with Government, NGO's, Social Entrepreneurs, Experts for its needs
- Functional toilet, potable water electricity available in schools, health centres.
- Awareness on new technologies that can be implemented in villages, farms and nearby places. e.g. Drip Irrigation, Solar Panels Lighting Systems on streetlights etc.
- Good facilities for Domestic animals like dogs and cattle: dispensaries, pond for cattle, veterinary hospitals and vets

Government Programs for Smart Village
In maiden independence day speech, Prime Minister Modi took the opportunity to announce the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojna (Parliamentarian's Model Village Scheme), under the new scheme, each parliamentarian is mandated to adopt three rural villages and ensure that these village are transformed in to "Smart Villages" by 2019.

Villages will be backed up by the provision of basic amenities that are often only available in urban areas and a social security system. This new drive will provide more opportunities to report on exciting developments, undertake fruitful collaboration with other partners and disseminate impactful findings that can benefit off-grid communities far beyond India.

Major Programs in Agriculture
- National Agricultural Development Program
- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Program
- Fertilizer Subsidy
- Bank loans, Free Electricity

Major Programs to Improve Employment
- Public Distribution System
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
- National Food Security Bill

Major Programs & Partnerships to Improve Nutrition Security
- Mid Day Meal Scheme
- Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)
- Annapurna Scheme (Ministry of Rural Development) for senior citizens
- The Nutritional Program for Adolescent Girls
- Emergency feeding program (in eight districts in Orissa)

Model Village: Punari Village, Gujarat
This is a village in Gujarat region, nearby Gandhinagar. Punsari has been dubbed a "model village" by the state government and its young headman, Himanshu Patel, proudly states that his village offers "the amenities of a city but the Spirit of a village".

About the Village
- Every house has a toilet, two primary schools and healthcare
- Street lights and drainage system
- Enabled with CCTV camera and Wifi
- Public Address system with 140 loudspeakers
- which cover entire village
- No school Dropouts
- Mid day meal schemes in schools
- Offers computer classes

Conclusion
Smart Villages are the need of the hour as development is needed for both rural and urban areas for better livelihood and technology will offer effective solution. The technological support already exists at the urban side and there is a tremendous pressure on urban landscapes due to migration of rural people for livelihood. Smart Villages will not only reduce this migration but also irrigate the population flow from urban to rural area as well.

Taking education, skill for vocations etc to villages can well channelize the energies of the youth as a powerful tool for the nation. An educated rural youth will be an asset to the country and even if he shifts to a city he shall prove to be an asset rather than a burden as is happening now. And at most the overall development of the country can be possible with the development of the villages only.

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