



**Indradeep Kumar,**

Research Scholar, Glocal School of Arts and Social Sciences,  
Glocal University, Mirzapur Pole, Saharanpur (U.P)

**Dr. Parveen Kumar,**

Research Supervisor, Glocal School of Arts and Social Sciences,  
Glocal University, Mirzapur Pole, Saharanpur (U.P)

---

## **ABSTRACT**

*Sustainable development is impossible without high-quality infrastructure, and this is particularly true in rural regions. Since the majority of Indians (70%) reside in rural areas with lower per capita income, these areas need greater investment in infrastructure. Since the infrastructure sector has both lag and lead ties to the agricultural and industrial sectors, its expansion is crucial to the economy as a whole. In particular, investments in rural infrastructure boost GDP development by raising worker productivity and enhancing residents' satisfaction with their daily lives. Roads, irrigation, housing, water supply, electrification, and telecommunications are just some of the areas that have been targeted by the government's Bharat Nirman programme (2005), which was launched to address the deteriorating state of rural infrastructure. Bharat Nirman's rural infrastructure is the primary subject of this report, which presents recommendations for development.*

**Keywords:** *Bharat Nirman, Rural Infrastructure, Rural Sociology, Democratic Planning*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

There are around 83.5 million (70 percent) Indians who reside in rural regions. Given the population size, present socioeconomic circumstances, and standard of living in rural areas, it is imperative that these areas invest in infrastructure development if they are to achieve the long-held objectives of fair and inclusive growth with social justice. Throughout the planning period, India's economists and planners have acknowledged the potential of a vibrant rural India and pushed for the development and upgrading of rural socioeconomic infrastructure. The twelfth five-year plan (2012-2017) recommitted itself to the construction of physical infrastructure like roads, railways, ports, airports, power, and telecommunications networks after the eleventh plan (2007-2012) found a direct and significant causal relationship between infrastructure and the incidence of poverty in states. As a response to the critical role infrastructure plays in sustaining economic development, the Indian government announced the 'Bharat Nirman' initiative, a four-year timetable for building rural infrastructure (2005-2009). Irrigation, potable water, electricity, roads, housing, and rural telephone were all part of the scheme. For the purpose of completing numerous infrastructure development projects as quickly as possible, the initiative sought an active and transparent public-private collaboration. Even though Bharat Nirman had made significant progress by 2009, the government of India decided to extend the deadline for the fulfilment of the program's aims to 2012 [1].

### **A. Bharat Nirman: Intensifying Effort toward Achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Target for Rural India**

*Since Bharat Nirman's appointment, rural India has seemed to be on the path to meeting its Millennium Development goals. As a starting point, these are a few of the program's main objectives:*

1. **Poverty and Hunger Reduction:** Inadequate rural infrastructure, according to the Planning Commission's studies, has played an important role in driving up rural poverty, and insufficient buying power among the rural population eventually leads to widespread hunger and food insecurity throughout rural India. An emphasis on need-based rural infrastructure development and an emphasis on irrigation has resulted in substantial developments in this direction under Bharat Nirman [2].
2. **Universalisation of Primary Education:** In rural India, poor infrastructure has been a significant obstacle to getting a good education. Electricity, clean drinking water, and well-maintained roads have all been prioritised under Bharat Nirman. This has led to an increase in the number of children and young people, particularly females, requesting and obtaining educational opportunities across the county.
3. **Health Related Goals-Goal 4, 5 and 6 (Reducing Child & Maternal Mortality Combating Diseases):** It is becoming more clear that access to clean and safe water under the Bharat Nirman initiative is a boon for achieving the Millennium Commitments' health goals, including child and maternal health as well as the fight against diseases like HIV.
4. **Ensuring Environment Sustainability:** As a result of improved access to clean water and sanitation, rural India has seen an increase in sanitary behaviours. Environmental sustainability has benefitted from this [3].

#### a. Rural Roads

More than 38,484 villages with a population of more than 1000 and all 20,867 habitations with a population of more than 500 in hilly and tribal regions are included in the government's plan to improve rural infrastructure.

To meet Bharat Nirman's goals, 1,46,185 kilometres of new roads need be built by 2009. 66,802 disconnected qualified habitations in the nation will benefit from this. A total of 1,94,132 kilometres of current Associated Through Routes are also to be upgraded to enable complete farm-to-market connectivity. To accomplish this, a total investment of around Rs.48,000 crore is planned.

R&D in the roads industry is focused on creating a road infrastructure that is equivalent to the finest in the world. This strategy's different components include better design, more up-to-date building methods, the use of better materials in line with the most recent fashions, the creation of more precise specifications, and so on. "New rules, code of practises, instructions/circulars, compilation of state-of-the-art reports, and seminars/presentations are used to disseminate these issues." Department-sponsored projects are often applied in nature, which means they may be adopted by user agencies and departments once finished. Roads, road transportation, bridges, traffic, and transportation methods are just a few of the topics that will be addressed. Many academic and research institutes and universities provide a hand in the implementation of the plans developed by the Department. A budget of Rs.600.00 lakhs has been allocated for research and development year 2007-08:

#### Roads:

1. a GIS-based National Highways information system is being developed
2. Highway engineering soil nailing method guidelines;
3. Overloading of road infrastructure: a pilot study
4. The field performance of bituminous mixtures including changed binders is being investigated.
5. R&D studies employing equipment and laboratory testing to evaluate the performance of rigid pavements in high-density traffic corridors.

This is in addition to IIT, Roorkee's application for a Ministry's Chair in Highway System Development, which has been approved.

#### Bridges:

- The Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), New Delhi, has established a full range of

independent testing facilities.

### **b. Rural Housing**

Humans must have a place to live in order to survive. Possessing a home is a life-changing experience for a homeless person, giving him an identity and integrating him into his local social context.

For the purpose of giving financial help to rural poor who are living below the poverty line for the building of pucca houses, the Ministry of Rural Development is executing the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). The following are the specifics of the plan, as well as how it performed:

### **c. Indira Awaas Yojana(IAY)**

Indian government has been providing financial help to low-income families in rural India since the 1980s via the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), a government programme that provides financial assistance for the building or upgrading of housing units for low-income families in rural India. "Non-Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes rural BPL poor were included to the scope of the plan in the year 1993-94, subject to the proviso that the benefit on-SC/ST would not exceed 40% of the overall IAY grant." Ex-families servicemen's have also been given access to the benefits of the IAY, with 3% of the Houses designated for the rural BPL physically and mentally handicapped, and finances and physical goals under IAY are also being targeted for BPL minority in each state beginning in 2006-07 [4].

On a 75/25 system, the federal government and the states each get 75 percent of the funds.

In order to reduce homelessness, 75 percent weight is given to housing shortages and 25 percent to the poverty ratios mandated by the Planning Commission for state-level funding. Again, 75 percent of the district allocation is provided to housing shortages and 25 percent to the population of SC/STs in the districts concerned.

Rural development agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishada (ZPs) determine the number of dwellings to be built in each Panchayat under IAY and in close proximity to the Gram Panchayats concerned based on the allocations made and the objectives set.

It then picks recipients, limiting the number of eligible families to that authorised, from those on the Permanent IAY Waitlists [5].

There is no need for additional clearance from the higher authorities.

It has been increased from Rs.25,000 to Rs.35,000/- per unit in the plain regions and from Rs.27,500/- to Rs.38,500/- per unit in hilly/difficult areas from 1.4.2008. "It has also been increased from Rs.12,500/- to Rs.15,000/- per unit for the upgrading of kutchha houses." A proposal has been made to include IAY homes in India's Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) programme, which lends up to Rs.20,000 per unit at a 4.5% interest rate, by the Ministry of Finance.

Furthermore, the recipient family should always include a female member who is entitled to a housing unit. Alternatively, it might be given to both the husband and the wife to use at their discretion. The home may only be given to a male member of the family if the family does not have any eligible female members.

Each IAY residence must have a sanitary toilet, a smokeless chullah, and good drainage.. Separate from the IAY home, latrines may be built on the beneficiary's property.

The recipient is solely responsible for the building of the homes. The use of independent contractors is outlawed.

An IAY home does not have a predetermined design. The beneficiaries have complete control over the design, technology, and materials used in the building of an IAY home.

At a total cost of Rs.36900.41 crores (up to May 31, 2008), IAY has built around 181.51 million homes since its foundation.

### **d. Irrigation**

Bharat Nirman's Irrigation Component aims to complete identified ongoing major and medium irrigation projects as quickly as possible in order to create additional irrigation potential of 1 crore hectares over a four-

year period (2005-06 to 2008-09). In order to achieve irrigation potential of 42 lakh hectares, such ongoing big and medium projects should be completed as quickly as possible.

Between the irrigation capacity that has been generated and the capacity that has been consumed, a huge hole has opened up. "Under Bharat Nirman, the irrigation potential of 10 lakh hectares is to be restored and used via the execution of extension, rehabilitation, and modernization of schemes in addition to command area development and water management methods."

Ground water resources are underutilised in large parts of the nation. Groundwater development is expected to offer an irrigation potential of 28 million hectares.

For the remaining 10 lakh hectares, surface flow irrigation projects are expected to be used to meet the remaining objective for irrigation potential.

Additional irrigation capacity of 10 lakh hectares is also anticipated via water body repair and restoration as well as irrigation system expansion and renewal [6].

#### **e. Telephone Connections**

An significant aspect of the endeavour to improve rural infrastructure is the expansion of telecom services. There are now 66,822 revenue villages in the nation without access to a Village Public Telephone (VPT), which will be serviced under the Bharat Nirman Programme. 14,183 isolated and far-flung settlements will get access to digital satellite phone terminals as a result of this initiative. The Universal Services Obligation Fund will cover both the capital and operating costs of these VPTs (USOF).

#### **f. Rural Water Supply**

India's government announced in 2005 that Bharat Nirman, a four-year plan to improve rural infrastructure, would go into effect in 2005-06 and last through 2008-09. Bharat Nirman's six components include rural drinking water. Around 3.31 lakh slipped-back habitations and 55,067 un-covered habitations would be covered by drinking water facilities throughout the Bharat Nirman era. 2.17% of the impacted areas will be treated for water quality issues.

Arsenic and Fluoride-infected habitations have been given the highest priority, followed by iron, salinity, nitrate, and other pollutants in the water quality concern. Sustainable drinking water sources and systems have been given top focus in order to prevent habitations once equipped with drinking water supply infrastructure from reverting to water shortages. "Conjunctive use of water, i.e. the wise use of rainfall, surface water, and ground water, is advocated to attain drinking water security at the village/habitation level."

As a means of empowering rural residents to assume control over their own water delivery systems, a decentralised, community-managed method modelled after India's Swajaldhara system has been implemented. "Five people from each Gram Panchayat will be taught to conduct regular monitoring of drinking water sources under the National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance initiative, which began in February 2006 and provides 100% financial support including water testing kits."

#### **g. Rural Electrification**

In April 2005, the Ministry of Power established the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), a programme aimed at supplying electricity to all rural homes within four years. Bharat Nirman has taken on the ambitious task of implementing this initiative. "Electricity distribution infrastructure under the Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB), Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI), and freestanding grids with generation when grid supply cannot be achieved are all expected to be implemented under the RGGVY." This infrastructure will support agricultural and other rural activities, such as irrigation pump sets, small and medium businesses, khadi and village industries, cold chains, healthcare and education, and IT, amongst other necessities. This would aid in the development of rural areas, as well as the creation of jobs and reducing poverty [7].

Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC), a central body for the execution of the plan, will provide 90 percent of the subsidy for capital expenditures. A 100% capital subsidy of Rs.1500/- per connection would be

provided to all rural habitations for the electrification of un-electrified homes below the poverty line (BPL). Franchisees are in charge of overseeing Rural Distribution Management. Rural Electrification initiatives might benefit from the assistance of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU).

Source: National Portal Content Management Team, Reviewed on: 18-02-2011 ([www.archive.india.gov.in](http://www.archive.india.gov.in))

#### Achievement of *Bharat Nirman* glance from 2005-06 to 2009-10

Components	Target Variables	Overall Achievement (in percentage)
Roads; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna PMGSY (2005-06-2009-10)	New Construction	62.17
	Up gradation	93.35
	Coverage Habitation	58.74
Housing: Indira Awaas Yojna IAY(2006-07 TO 2009-10)	Houses constructed for rural BPL families	60
Drinking Water: Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARRRRWSP)	Un-covered Habitation	98.86
	Slipped Back Habitations	108.07
	Quality Effectuated Habitations	142.85
	Total	119.73
Power: Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)	Electrification of Un/De-Electrified Villages	61.9
	Intensive Electrification	27.9
	Rural Households	25.7
	Below Poverty Line Households	38.4

Source: Lalwani (2010) *Economic and Political Weekly*

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies have been conducted on the Bharat Nirman Yojana to determine its impact on rural development. Bharat Nirman Yojana, according to Avnesh Kumar Gupta, is a significant step in India's economic restructuring. It attempts to establish a favourable environment for the growth of rural India by providing rural infrastructure [8-10]. A decreased incidence of poverty, greater health care and educational possibilities are expected as a consequence of this policy. "When it comes to sustainable development in rural regions, Younis Sheikh writes in his study Review of Rural Infrastructure under Bharat Nirman: Current Scenario and Future Perspective that high-quality infrastructure is essential." More attention is needed to improve rural infrastructure in India since more than 70% of the population lives in rural regions with low levels of per capita income. By defining time-bound targets under several initiatives, the Bharat Nirman Programme aims to instil urgency in rural infrastructure development, which is part of the Bharat Nirman Programme. All aspects of the rural economy are considered to be part of rural development by Anubhav Dwivedi in his study on Rural Development in India: An Overview. People's well-being is inextricably tied to the development of rural areas. It is critical that rural regions in India have the same access to basic services as metropolitan areas if Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's vision of a nation-state is to be realised. Rural roads, power, water supply, housing, irrigation, and telecommunications were all supplied as part of the

Bharat Nirman Programme in order to meet this aim [10]. Infrastructure in rural regions is essential to the growth of agriculture, agro-industry and rural economic development according to Dr P Balamurgan They also happen to be a source of basic necessities for the rural poor. Infrastructure development in rural regions is critical to boosting agricultural production and efficiency, which in turn helps reduce rural poverty by increasing the ability of the economy to absorb debt, boosting the yield of crops and animals, and creating jobs [11]. As outlined in his research paper on "Business Plan for Rural Infrastructure," "Dr. Vishnu Bhagwan argues that Bharat Nirman, a four-year (2005-09) time-bound plan that aims to achieve identified goals in six key areas of rural infrastructure - housing and electrification of roads, water supply and irrigation, and telephony - will unlock potential, equalise opportunities, and make rural India the new growth opportunity by implementing" New Deal for Rural [12].

### III. CONCLUSION

Both economic growth and poverty reduction may be attributed to improved infrastructure. Although urban and rural infrastructures are under strain, rural communities get the worst of it. Phases I and II of the Bharat Nirman program's investments are expected to boost rural economies and reduce the disparity between rural and urban India's economic development. "All of the Bharat Nirman components' infrastructure-building initiatives must be synchronised with various other development-oriented initiatives already in place like programmes for alleviating poverty and creating gainful employment, ensuring social security, and improving the standard of health and sanitation, as well as educational opportunities." There is still a long way to go for Bharat Nirman. Rural infrastructure was regarded to be in dire need of upgrading. As an example, here are some excellent ideas:

1. Decentralized local institutions functioning at the village level must be strengthened so that local resources may be mobilised and allocated to businesses in order for rural industrialisation to be successful.
2. Secondly, public participation should be encouraged in the development of infrastructure and regions formerly regarded as public property.
3. Small-scale community-based infrastructure should be supported and cultivated.
4. In order to finance the infrastructure industry, India needs to create a rupee-denominated long-term bond market.
5. There is a need to lessen the financial system's dependence on infrastructure finance.
6. It is necessary to reevaluate the long-term financial support provided by the India Infrastructure Financial Company Limited (IIFCL). The IIFCL financial engineering technique is attractive yet problematic.
7. A pipeline of PPP projects and long-term sources of finance, such as pension money pouring into infrastructure, are necessary for India's economic development to accelerate.

### REFERENCES

- [1]. Guhan, S. (1986), Rural Poverty Alleviation in India: Policy Performance and Possibilities, Madras Institute of Development Studies.
- [2]. Hebbler, C.K. (1991), Integrated Rural Development programme: Retrospect and Prospects, Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi.
- [3]. Sanyal, S. (2014). Bharat Nirman- the journey so far. Kurukshetra journal of Rural Development, Vol.62, No.05
- [4]. Indra Awas Yojana guidelines (2010). Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi, MAY
- [5]. Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no.6707, dated 08.05.2013
- [6]. India, Planning commission (2011). Report of the Committee on Restructuring of Central Sponsored Schemes, pp.3-4
- [7]. Evaluation study on Rural Road Components of Bharat Nirman (2010), planning evolution organisation. planning commission government of India, New Delhi
- [8]. Jain Menu, (2011), "Rural development programme in India", JBD publication New Delhi, pp 271-272

- [9]. Dr. Nath V (2010), "Rural Development Planning in India, JBD publication, New Delhi, pp 189-191
- [10]. Gupta K.R., (2011), "Rural Development in India", Atlantic Publisher, New Delhi, pp 59- 60
- [11]. Singh Ramesh, (2014), "Indian Economy - Civil Services McGraw Hill Education, New Delhi, pp 52.
- [12]. Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Annual Report 2007-08, pp 230- 231