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Q5(b)

Discuss the challenges in Implementing the Rural Development Programmes in India

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Rural and Agrarian transformation in India

Rural and Agrarian transformation in India: Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes; Green revolution and social change; Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture; Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the challenges in implementing the Rural Development Programmes in India
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Village power captures lists and assets.

Class-blind schemes subsidise the landed.

Admin overlap, leakage and weak staff blunt delivery.

Factions and migration split the imagined community.

Audit and rights-based design are the implementation keys.

Introduction

Rural development programmes fail less on paper than on the village power map. Implementation meets caste, class, and a thin local state.

Body

Structural challenges

- Dominant castes capture panchayat lists and assets, as Srinivas's Rampura insight still travels.
- Landless and women are listed as beneficiaries while men and maliks sign.
- **A. R. Desai's class lens:** schemes that ignore tenancy and wages become subsidies to the already landed.

Administrative challenges

- Overlapping missions, delayed funds, and target theatre produce roads without livelihoods.
- Poor last-mile staff, leakages, and weak **social audit** repeat across **MGNREGA**-type work, housing, and livelihoods missions.

Social challenges

- Literacy, migration, and faction, which S. C. Dube noted in village leadership, split 'the community' the plan imagines.
- Adivasi areas need **PESA** consent; programmes often arrive as contractors.

Flow diagram

Rural programmes -> Caste class capture
Rural programmes -> Admin leakage targets
Social audit voice -> Better implementation

Conclusion

Implementation challenges are political economy, not only clerical delay. Rural programmes work when the landless can audit, women can hold the job card, and the local state is not a faction office.

Facts & figures

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Rights-based work whose leakage and delay show implementation politics.

Dominant caste

Local bloc that often mediates who enters a beneficiary list.

Social audit

Public checking of works against capture.

Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA)

Required consent in scheduled areas that programmes frequently skip.

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