

# Development, Rural Development and Gandhian Approach Towards Rural Development

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# Development

- ▶ **Development** is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components.
- ▶ The purpose of development is a rise in the level and quality of life of the population, and the creation or expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities, without damaging the resources of the environment.
- ▶ Development is visible and useful, not necessarily immediately, and includes an aspect of quality change and the creation of conditions for a continuation of that change.

- ▶ Amartya Sen, developed the “capability approach,” which defined development as a tool enabling people to reach the highest level of their ability, through granting freedom of action, i.e., freedom of economic, social and family actions, etc. This approach became a basis for the measurement of development by the HDI (Human Development Index), which was developed by the UN Development Program (UNDP) in 1990.
- ▶ Martha Nussbaum developed the abilities approach in the field of gender and emphasized the empowerment of women as a development tool.

# Rural development

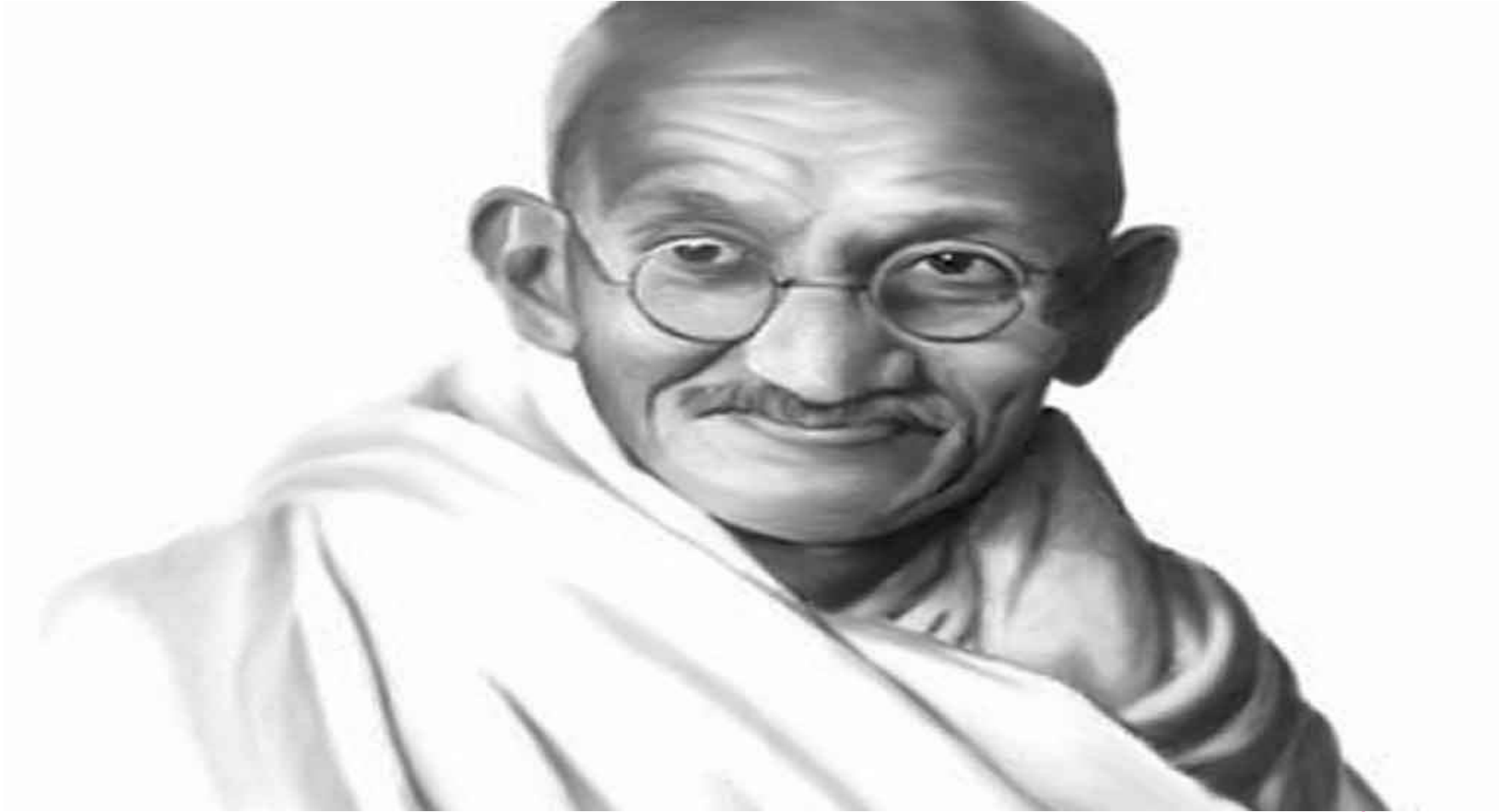
- ▶ Rural development is the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in rural areas, often relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. Rural development actions are intended to further the social and economic development of rural communities.
- ▶ Rural development programs have historically been top-down from local or regional authorities, regional development agencies, NGOs, national governments or international development organizations. Local populations can also bring about endogenous initiatives for development.

- ▶ The term is not limited to issues of developing countries. In fact many developed countries have very active rural development programs.
- ▶ Rural development aims at finding ways to improve rural lives with participation of rural people themselves, so as to meet the required needs of rural communities because an outsider may not understand the setting, culture, language and other things prevalent in the local area.

# The components of rural development:

- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Artisans
- ▶ Handicrafts

# The Gandhian Approach to Rural Development



- ▶ In the Indian context rural development may be defined as maximising production in agriculture and allied activities in the rural areas including development of rural industries with emphasis on village and cottage industries.
- ▶ It attaches importance to the generation of maximum possible employment opportunities in rural areas, especially for the weaker sections of the community so as to enable them to improve their standard of living.
- ▶ Provision of certain basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, especially for the productive purpose, link roads connecting villages to market centres and facilities for health and education etc. figure prominently in the scheme of rural development.



- ▶ Theoretically, Gandhian approach to rural development may be labelled as ‘idealist’. It attaches supreme importance to moral values and gives primacy to moral values over material conditions.
- ▶ The Gandhians believe that the source of moral values in general lies in religion and Hindu scriptures like the Upanishads and the Gita, in particular. Building of character is one of the most important aspect of development according to Gandhiji.
- ▶ The concept of ‘Rama Rajya’ is the basis of Gandhiji’s idea of an ideal social order. Gandhi defined Rama Rajya as “sovereignty of the people based on moral authority”.

# Ideal Village:

- ▶ The village is the basic unit of the Gandhian ideal social order. Gandhi succinctly pointed out, “If the village perishes India will perish too... We have to make a choice between India of the villages that is as ancient as herself and India of the cities which are a creation of foreign domination”.
- ▶ Gandhi’s ideal village belongs to the Pre-British period, when Indian villages were supposed to constitute the federation of self-governing autonomous republics.

- ▶ The work of the central authority will only be to coordinate the work of different village republics and to supervise and manage things of common interest, as education, basic industries, health, currency, banking etc.

## Decentralisation:

- ▶ Gandhi firmly believes that village republics can be built only through decentralisation of social and political power. In such a system decision-making power will be vested in the Village Panchayat rather than in the State and the national capital.
- ▶ The representatives would be elected by all adults for a fixed period of five years. The elected representatives would constitute a council, called the Panchayat.

- ▶ The Panchayat exercises legislative, executive and judicial functions. It would look after education, health and sanitation of the village. Resources for Gandhian Approach to managing village affairs would be raised from the villages.

# Self-sufficiency:

- ▶ Such a decentralised polity implies a decentralised economy. It can be attained only through self-sufficiency at the village level. The village should be self-sufficient as far as its basic needs - food, clothing, and other necessities - are concerned.
- ▶ Production of cash crops was also emphasised but only after production of required food grains.
- ▶ Production of cash crops should be used for growing useful cash crops like tobacco, opium, etc. to enable the village to get in exchange things which it does not produce.
- ▶ Physical labour occupies a central place in the Gandhian concept of the self-sufficient village.

# Industrialization:

- ▶ Gandhiji maintained that industrialization would help only a few and will lead to concentration of economic power.
- ▶ Industrialization leads to passive or active exploitation of the villages. It encourages competition. Large scale production requires marketing. Marketing means profit-seeking through an exploitative mechanism.
- ▶ Gandhiji said that, Rural- urban migration of labourers for working in urban industries is not good for villages.
- ▶ He always promoted the handicraft and handlooms for the development of rural areas.

# Trusteeship:

- ▶ Gandhiji firmly believed that land should not be owned by any individual. Land belongs to God.
- ▶ Gandhiji was not against the institution of private property. But he wanted to restrict the right of private property to what was necessary to yield an honourable livelihood. For the excess he prescribed the principle of trusteeship.
- ▶ The poor workers, under trusteeship, would consider the capitalists as their benefactors.



## Nai Talim:

- ▶ New or Basic Education (Nai Talim) Gandhiji developed the idea of Nai Talim, for the 'all round drawing of the best in child and man, body, mind and spirit'.
- ▶ The three pillars of Gandhi's pedagogy were its focus on the lifelong character of education, its social character and its form as a holistic process. For Gandhi, education is 'the moral development of the person', a process that is by definition 'lifelong'.

# Removal of untouchability:

- ▶ **Rural Reconstruction through removal of untouchability** :Untouchability is a social evil and should not be looked upon as a mere political necessity The socio-economic evils associated with this system must be abolished.