



Smart Village-The Real Future of India

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Abstract-- “If the facilities available in the cities are not made available to rural population, the Governments will not have done their duties” Dr.A.P.J.AbdulKalam, Former President of India. Smart Villages is a community based initiative of Samanvay.Com Welfare Society, primarily aimed to harness the benefits of information technology for rural folks. The initiative is a community effort to mobilize the collective strengths of people from various streams and integrate it with information technology to provide benefits to the rural community. Gandhian Concept of Ideal Village-SWARAJ. Gandhi Ji said, my idea of Village Swaraj is that it is a complete republic, independent of its neighbors for its own vital wants, and yet interdependent for many others in which dependence is a necessity. Reconstruction of rural India on the basis of the concept of ideal village was Gandhian dream because it embodies great environmental ambience needed for healthy human living. Theoretically, Gandhian approach to rural development maybe labeled as ‘idealist’. It attaches supreme importance to moral values and gives primacy to moral values over material conditions.

INTRODUCTION:

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 area creation of foreign domination”. Gandhian approach to rural development strives to reconstruct village republics which would Benton violent, self-governed and self-sufficient so far as the basic necessities of ruralites are concerned. Apart from creating a new socio-economic order, it Endeavour’s to transform man; otherwise the changes in the socio-economic order will be short lived Inspired by the Gandhian philosophy and thoughts, the Smart Villages Project was conceived to provide' **Global Means to the Local Needs'**.

WHAT IS SMART VILLAGE?

M	Moral, Methodical and Modern	Moral values of Gandhiji, Swami Vivekananda etc Methodical using Total Literacy and latest techniques Modern like cities
A	Aware, Adaptive and Adjusting	Highest level of awareness on global social & economic issues Adaptive and adjusting to fast changing environments
R	Responsive and Ready	Responsive to collective wisdom, cooperative movement & larger social issues Ready to generate own resources for self sufficiency and self- reliance
T	Techno- Savvy and Transparent	Techno-savvy for IT and Mobile usage Transparent in harmonic relations and delivery of services
S	Social, Skilled and Simple	Zero Tolerance for Caste and Creed or better no caste creed and no discrimination on Gender and Religion Everyone is Literate and skilled Simple living and high thinking

In the challenge of transforming rural India, the Centre has selected 60 villages in three districts of Rajgarh, Sehore, and Satnato develop as ‘Smart Villages’ under the most ambitious smart cities project. For the development of these smart villages, the NDA government will provide funds for specific development. In this smart village’s development, each village will get Rs. 25 crore.

In the development of smart villages, the government will focus on climate change, smart energy, agriculture, and water. Smart village development will come about in the state in coordination with Environment Planning and Coordinating Agency (EPCO). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will focus on uplift of rural areas by greater credit flow to give push to agriculture and rural non-farm sector.



The project is expected to be of three years duration. However, 20 villages have been selected for development in districts tagged as climate change smart villages. As per available statistics there are 676 districts in 29 states and 7 Union territories in India with a total number of 6,38,000 villages. 72.2% of population of our country lives in villages where as remaining 27.8% lived in about 5,480 towns and urban agglomerates. The rural youth finds a great disconnect with the way of life in cities which impacts him culturally, professionally and mentally only to add to his woes and thrusts him on the path of crime, except in few cases. These results in tremendous socio economic disconnect.

The cities face invasion by illiterate, uneducated, untrained youth who find themselves unfit thus create more problems for the cities resulting in law and order problem, unplanned excessive burden on each facility of a city, which is unable to cope up with such an influx. The policy of "look to villages" should envisage creating and developing SMART VILLAGES across the country. 100 cities being shortlisted to become SMART CITIES, each district maybe divided in cluster of 10 to 15 villages (consisting of a specific number of population say 50-75,000). Each district could have 7 to 20 such clusters of villages depending on its size of population {One cluster of Villages should be picked up by local authorities with the help of public leaders} since it may seem impossible to take up one village at a time to make it a smart village, it would be more practical and convenient if a cluster of villages is formed in each district. All the clusters should be assigned to create a team of thinkers who would prepare a complete blueprint of the requirement of the cluster including need to develop Infrastructure like roads, buildings, bridges, water, sewage, schools, colleges, hospitals and other facilities as preened based on local talent available, local vocations available, local raw materials/facilities available, service/vocational avenues available locally or in the district or within the state.

The residents of villages having taken upon themselves to transform the lives of their village and its residents, The villages have chalked out the plans for their village not only according to their needs/requirements and choices but have contributed financially and by labour (shramdan) in carrying out the transformation of their villages. Stories from Rajasthan where water based projects were taken up not only by one village but by a cluster of villages thereby constructing small dams for conservation of rain water, resulting in transformation of their lives in a big way. Their achievements were appreciated at National as well as International level. These are not one off stories but there are plenty of such cases. This should prompt the Government's at State level and at Central level to shift part of their focus to this need. The following criteria and more such requisitions as per need should be made prerequisites of a smart villages cluster:-

1. *Smart Security.*
2. *Smart traffic control (traffic signal)/only one way roads without crossings etc.*
3. *Smart & effective emergency response systems.*
4. *Zero tolerance on crime.*
5. *Smart policing.*
6. *Usage of technology like CCTV/speed monitors/smart surveillance systems.*
7. *Speed cameras for detecting speeding vehicles.*
8. *High resolution cameras for detecting stolen vehicles.*
9. *Equi distribution of facilities across all corners of cluster.*
10. *Smart Sewage treatment facilities.*
11. *Smart rain harvesting/rain water drainage system.*
12. *Smart and efficient public transport system.*
13. *Adequate & latest firefighting systems.*
14. *Disaster management trained officials (only Disaster Management trained officials from paramilitary/NCC be deployed).*
15. *Renewable energy/Solar Energy systems should be installed.*
16. *Vehicle emissions should be controlled/private vehicle holding to be controlled by law.*
17. *Make adequate green areas/parks/sanctuaries/water bodies mandatory for each cluster.*
18. *No beggars (All beggars should be provided residential areas (boarding/ lodging) by Government and provided vocational training to sustain life independently).*
19. *Smart garbage collection/recycling system should be put in place. Different color coded dustbins should be promoted.*
20. *Provision for seniors' citizen homes should be made.*
21. *Smart E-Governance should be put in place.*
22. *Smart collection of all kind of bills like electricity, gas, water, fares, tolls, property tax etc. should be put in place.*
23. *Smart/Automated hazard detection, weather forecast, calamities should be put in place*
24. *Public address system in any emergencies should be put in place.*
25. *Smart electricity grids compatible with renewable energy systems should be put in place.*
26. *'No vehicle' areas should be earmarked.*
27. *Cycling only zones should be developed.*
28. *Adequate leisure activities should be developed and provided to public.*
29. *Latest and affordable medical facilities should be made available.*



Finally this cluster of 10/15 villages prepares a blueprint of the cluster for roads, infrastructure, Industrial area, educational area, parks, tourism spot development, hospital, water/sewerages etc. as per requirements as above. All the facilities that the villagers of the cluster can provide from their own resources should also be incorporated in their blueprint. There should be various thumb rules as to which cluster of villages out of the cluster of 4/5 districts is allotted a particular project. One of the thumb rules could be that whichever cluster of villages is ready to provide maximum land and financial/other contributions in the execution of the project.

CONCLUSION

The major gains of the country from this project may bring a windfall for the rural school dropout youth belonging to these clusters of villages, who could find ample avenues to take up one vocation or the other and help the nation to grow in the villages rather than depending heavily on the cities. Taking education, skill for vocations etc to villages can well channelize the energies of them out has a powerful tool for the nation. An educated rural youth will be an asset to the country and even if he shifts to activity he shall prove to be an asset rather than a burden as is happening now. India needs educated population and not literate but uneducated otherwise all the smartness of cities or villages will result in failure.

Smart Village= Ideal Village+ Digital Village

Coming to villages and making their youth educated can only be achieved if we plan smart village