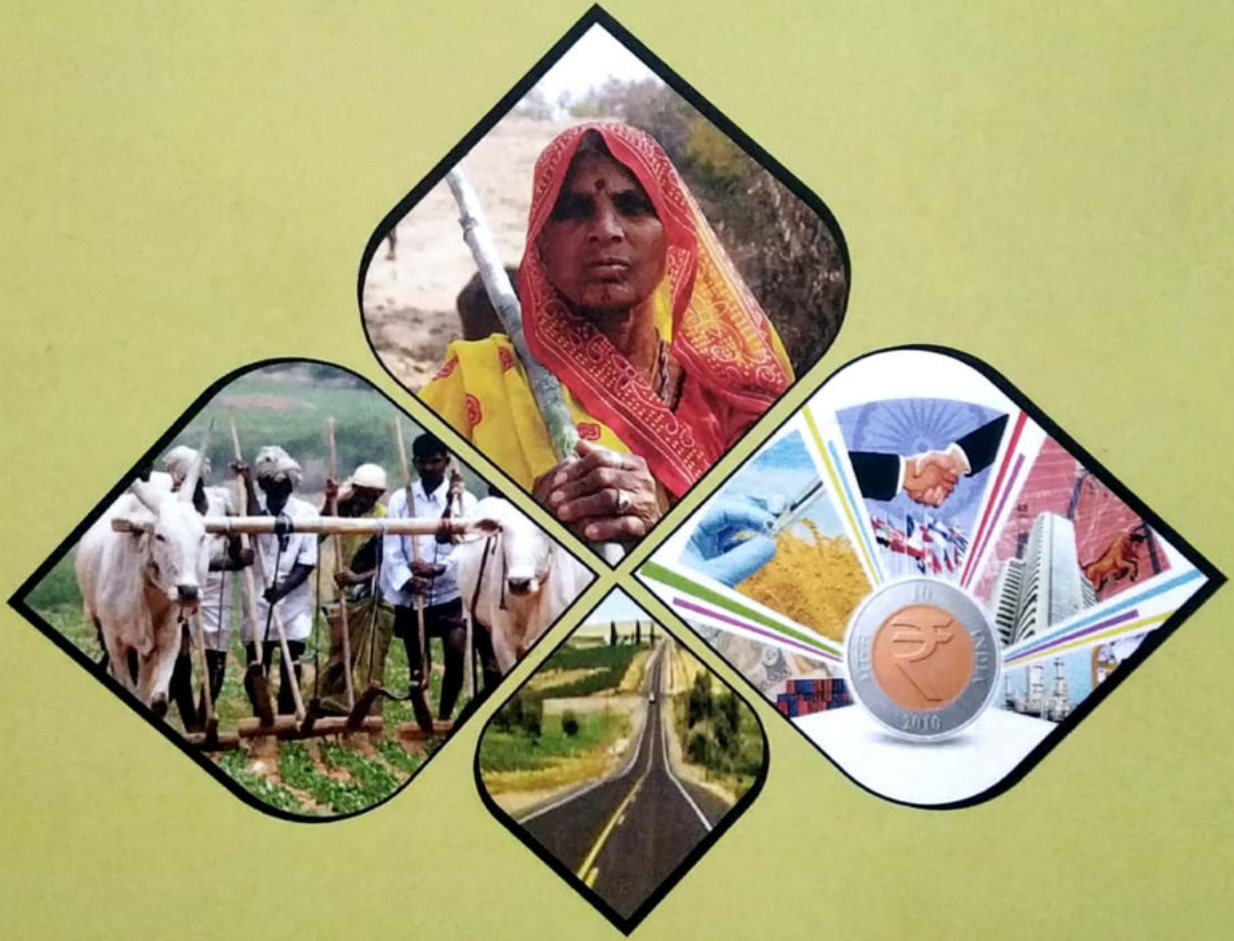


# शाश्वत ग्रामीण विकास तथा भारतीय महिलांची स्थिती



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## 12. Inclusive Growth & Development

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*Inclusive growth means making sure that everyone is included in growth, irrespective of their economic class, gender, sex, disability or religion. It takes a long term perspective for development. Sustainable development requires inclusive growth. Sustainable development in terms can be defined as that which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Inclusive growth is essential for India on account of low agriculture growth, low rate of growth of employment and low level of human development. Majority of India lives in villages devoid of basic facilities; the country is also characterized by corruption and bureaucratic inertia, securing inclusive growth, leading to sustainable development and to usher in a governance of transparency and accountability.*

**Key Words:** Elements of inclusive growth.

Rural infrastructure, which serves 70 percent of the population, doesn't get the attention it deserves. As the Planning Commission sets out to draft the country's planned investments for the next five years, it is important to take note of this gap, and the innovative solutions needed to fill it. Inclusive growth as per the literal meaning of the two words, refers to both the pace and the pattern of the economic growth of country. It focuses on economic growth which is a necessary and crucial condition, for poverty reduction. It adopts a long term perspective and is concerned with sustained growth. The important elements of inclusive growth are: agricultural growth, employment generation and poverty reduction, social sector (health and education) and reduction in regional and other disparities. An important sustainable development challenge arises from unsustainable consumption and production patterns that have evolved in developed countries, a pattern that is increasingly being followed by developing countries. This paper focuses on these four elements of inclusive growth. It suggests several policies for improving inclusive growth. India has achieved impressive growth and can achieve Millennium Development Goals. Inclusive growth strategy included a sharp increase in investment in rural areas, rural infrastructure and agriculture; spurt in credit for farmers; increase in rural employment through a unique social safety net; and a sharp increase in public spending on education and health care. Growth has to be inclusive. Growth with equity is the only road that India can take. For a rapid and sustained poverty reduction there must

be an inclusive growth that allows people to contribute to and benefit from economic growth. Rapid pace of growth is unquestionably necessary for poverty reduction, but for this growth to be sustainable in the long run, it should be broad-based across sectors, and inclusive of all parts of society.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan Strategy is 'Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth'. These are the broad objectives that successive Five Year Plans in India have sought to achieve in some form or the other right from the beginning. Of course, the context of economic reform, involving changes in the economic policy framework since 1991, has called for a careful scrutiny of the distributional consequences of the growth process and an appropriate strategy to deal with the emerging issues. Sustainable development strategies need to be inclusive and take special care of the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. Strategies need to be ambitious, action-oriented and collaborative, taking into account different national circumstances.

### **Meaning of INCLUSIVE GROWTH?**

The Eleventh Plan defined inclusive growth as a "growth process which yields broad-based benefits and ensures equality of opportunity for all" it stands for "equitable development" or "growth with social justice".

Inclusive growth is necessary for sustainable development and equitable distribution wealth and prosperity. Inclusive growth is a broad concept covering economic, social and cultural aspects of development. A growth is broad-based across sectors and inclusive of the larger of the country's poor, disadvantaged, deprived and excluded sections of citizens. Inclusive growth people of all sections and regions get on participate in the growth process, which implies engendering the policy design that includes the people who get excluded in normal course as also to make a variety of provisions and services accessible to all sections including those who got excluded so far. The concept of inclusiveness involves four attributes viz opportunities, capabilities. Access and security. Consistent with this, 'inclusive growth' is a process, in economic growth, measured by a sustained expansion in GDP, contributes to an enlargement scale and scope of all four dimensions. India's recent growth performance has been spectacular line country remains one of the fastest growing economies in the world. But these achievements have created new challenges. Inclusive rural development is of paramount importance as majority of population lives in villages.

The term inclusive growth, a comparatively new concept in macroeconomics, does not have a unique meaning. It is being understood in different ways leading to confusion for policy prescriptions. The term has been used to mean "shared growth", "pro-poor growth" and even redistribution of income through government subsidies in favour of targeted groups of people. As if subsidies in food, fertilizers or petroleum products are engines of inclusive growth. Inclusive growth has been defined differently

by different organizations and scholars. The dictionary meaning of the term "inclusive" is "comprehensive", "including all extremes" and not excluding any section of the society. The growth is inclusive growth when it is socially inclusive, regionally balanced, which enables every state to do better than in the past, which narrows the gap between different communities, which also brings in our concern for gender equality, upliftment of women, improving their educational condition and social status. The key features of Inclusive growth are as follows: Economic growth is a precondition for inclusive growth, though the nature and composition of growth has to be conducive to inclusion. Inclusive growth is to include the poor and lagging socio-economic groups such as ethnic groups, weaker sections as well as lagging regions as partners and beneficiaries of economic growth. The Inclusive growth addresses the constraints of the excluded and the marginalised. It has to open up opportunities for them to be partners in growth. Inclusive growth should be non-discriminatory and favourable for the excluded. This implies that inclusive growth has to be broad-based in terms of coverage of regions, and labour-intensive in terms of creating large-scale productive employment opportunities in the economy. Inclusive growth is expected to reduce poverty faster in the sense that it has to have a higher elasticity of poverty reduction. Inclusive growth has to ensure access of people to basic infrastructure and basic services/capabilities such as basic health and education. This access should include not only the quantity, but also quality of these basic services.

While it is quite evident that inclusive growth is imperative for achieving the equity objective, what is, perhaps, not so obvious is, why inclusive growth is now considered essential even to sustain the growth momentum. Majority population living in rural areas, it is often identified with the agriculture sector. However, it is the unorganised non-farm sector that is increasingly absorbing most of the labour force. This sector has huge potential for growth once there is sufficient investment in infrastructure ensuring linkage to markets and easier access to assets and skills. Infusion of appropriate technology, skills, and easier access to credit, especially start-up capital, apart from facilitating market development, can make this segment an expanding base for self-sustaining employment and wealth generation and also foster a culture of creative and competitive industry. Entrepreneurial development has to be encouraged by having an enabling competitive environment and easy availability of finance for newer projects and enterprises. *The 'inclusive growth' as a strategy of economic development received attention owing to a rising concern that the benefits of economic growth have not been equitably shared. Growth is inclusive when it creates economic opportunities along with ensuring equal access to them. Apart from addressing the issue of inequality, the inclusive growth*

*may also make the poverty reduction efforts more effective by explicitly creating productive economic opportunities for the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.*

According to Ex. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the key components of the inclusive growth strategy included a sharp increase in investment in rural areas, rural infrastructure and agriculture spurt in credit for farmers, increase in rural employment through a unique social safety net and a sharp increase in public spending on education and health care. The five interrelated elements of inclusive growth are:

• Poverty Reduction • Employment generation and Increase in quantity & quality of employment. • Agriculture Development • Industrial Development • Social Sector Development • Reduction in regional disparities • Protecting the environment. • Equal distribution of income. The inclusive growth approach takes a longer-term perspective, as the focus is on productive employment as a means of increasing the incomes of poor and excluded groups and raising their standard of livings.

In short we can say Inclusive growth is a wider association about social, economic and political factors. In a social context, lack of inclusive growth leads to unrest among many people. An important aspect of generating “inclusive growth” is shifting the target of government aid to rural areas. Typically, large projects such as power generation, roads whereby goods can travel, and airports receive the lion’s share of government subsidies, while rural infrastructure receives comparatively small. Sustainable development strategies of developing countries will continue to give priority to human development, with the eradication of poverty as its central goal.

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