



SMART VILLAGES BUILDS SMARTER INDIA

Professor S.V.RAJU¹, SHAIK ANWAR², M.MANI DEEPIKA³,
Professor¹, Student²

Department of Commerce & Business Administration,
Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

Abstract -- The villages epitomize the soul of India. With more than 70% of the Indian population living in rural areas and constitute a vital base of the national economy. Progress of the nation depends on all round development. Unless developmental plans and programmes consider the rural people also giving equal importance, given to others as well as providing the necessary facilities for people's participation in development, we cannot achieve the nation's objectives. No wonder then that holistic development of India as a Nation rests on a sustained and holistic development of rural India, improving the overall quality of life in the rural area requires effective and result oriented planning supported by proper management and application of Information and Communication Technology. Hence smarter a village becomes smarter the INDIA.

INTRODUCTION:

“The future of India lives in its villages.”- Mahatma Gandhi “We have to find newer methods of co-operations, so that the core competitions of even remote villages can be synchronized for competitive products.”-Dr.A.P.J.AbdulKalam

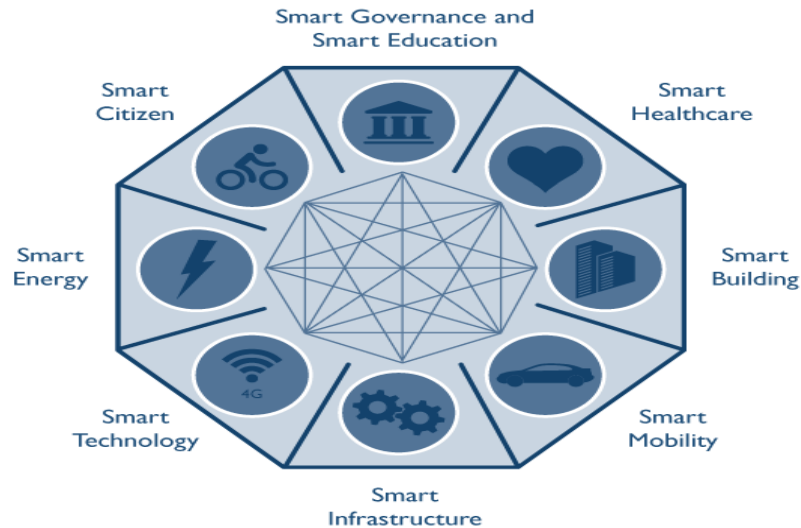
The policies of the present Government have been recognized and have come for appreciation even at the International level. The launch of Jan Dhan Yojana, land Reform Bills, Real Estate Bill, Demonetization of higher currency and others have been welcome steps and may auger well for the countrymen sooner than later. These are all positive developments though the outcome and impact may be seen a little while later. Developing villages and rural India will be an ideal solution to bring the deprived, exploited and those considered in the lowest strata of society to rise and be partners in a developing India. We need to make each village a potential knowledge hub, an innovation center in itself. A key driver of these solutions lie in the village is the youth who should be provided with the platform to be inventors, innovators, entrepreneurs, implementers and thinkers. For the youth to be disruptive change makers, we have to provide them with the necessary tools.

Smart Village = Ideal Village + Digital Village:

The idea of smart village in the present day context seems more plausible as there is a limit of growth of cities which is leading to creation of urban jungles, where the population ratio per km of land is way above the desired norms. To take baby steps initially would lead to a campaign at National level once the fruits of this effort start bearing fruits, which surely would be visible for all to see sooner than expected. To obtain a smart village the following clusters would be developed by provisioning of training linked to economic activities, developing skills & local entrepreneurship and by providing necessary infrastructure amenities.

- ✓ Skill development training linked to economic activities
- ✓ Agro Processing, Agro Services, Storage and Warehousing.
- ✓ Fully equipped mobile health unit.
- ✓ Upgrading school/higher education facilities.
- ✓ Sanitation
- ✓ Provision of piped water supply.
- ✓ Solid and liquid waste management.
- ✓ Village streets and drains.
- ✓ Street lights.
- ✓ Inter village road connectivity.

- ✓ *Public transport.*
- ✓ *LPG.*
- ✓ *Digital Literacy.*
- ✓ *Citizen Service Centres for electronic delivery of citizen centric services/e-gram connectivity and Components pertaining to agriculture and allied activities.*



Seventy percent of population of India lives in villages and the youth belonging to this segment are passing through a dramatic psychological turmoil. The invasion of bedroom from the skies in the form of television and the advancement in telephony through internet has given his mind dreams that were unthinkable few years ago. However, the ground realities around him by way of minimum educational avenues, minimum basic needs of life and same age old shabby surroundings are deterrent for his talent and the dreams to take shape and flourish. Now that the young population of workable age is going to be highest in India across the globe and stay that way for atleast two to three coming decades, it is the right time if the Government also looked at an idea of “looking to villages” to tap the rural youth and make them vocationally trained assets. 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.

To create and develop SMART VILLAGES across the country. The authorities thought process would need a shift . On the lines that 100 cities being shortlisted to become SMART CITIES, each district may be divided in cluster of 10 to 15 villages (consisting of a specific number of population say 50-75,000). Each district could have 7to20 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 and NGOs. 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 blue print of the requirement of the cluster including need to develop Infrastructure like roads, buildings, bridges, water, sewage, schools, colleges, hospitals and other facilities as per need 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. Each cluster of villages once finalizes its blue print it shall also mention the contribution that the local population can make available like funds, infrastructure, trained/untrained manpower to make their cluster a fore runner to be selected to make it a “Smart village cluster”. The Government should allocate funds for development of rural clusters as per their plans.

We may start at a slower speed without compromising on quality and as per the plans and acquire greater speed in due course and at a high pace once the experiment bears good results.

The following criteria and more such requisitions as per need should be made prerequisites of a smart villages cluster:-

- *Smart Security.*
- *Smart traffic control (traffic signal)/only one way roads without crossings etc.*
- *Smart & effective emergency response systems.*
- *Zero tolerance on crime.*
- *Smart policing.*
- *Usage of technology like CCTV/speed monitors/smart surveillance systems.*

- *Speed cameras for detecting speeding vehicles.*
- *High resolution cameras for detecting stolen vehicles.*
- *Equi-distribution of facilities across all corners of cluster.*
- *Smart Sewage treatment facilities.*
- *Smart rain harvesting/rain water drainage system.*
- *Smart and efficient public transport system.*
- *Adequate & latest firefighting systems.*
- *Disaster management trained officials (only Disaster Management trained officials from paramilitary/NCC be deployed).*
- *Renewable energy/Solar Energy systems should be installed.*
- *Vehicle emissions should be controlled/private vehicle holding to be controlled by law.*
- *Make adequate green areas/parks/sanctuaries/water bodies mandatory for each cluster.*
- *No beggars (All beggars should be provided residential areas (boarding/ lodging) by Government and provided vocational training to sustain life independently).*
- *Smart garbage collection/recycling system should be put in place. Different color coded dustbins should be promoted.*
- *Provision for seniors' citizen homes should be made.*
- *Smart E- Governance should be put in place.*
- *Smart collection of all kind of bills like electricity, gas, water, fares, tolls, property tax etc. should be put in place.*
- *Smart/Automated hazard detection, weather forecast, calamities should be put in place*
- *Public address system in any emergencies should be put in place.*
- *Smart electricity grids compatible with renewable energy systems should be put in place.*
- *'No vehicle' areas should be earmarked.*
- *Cycling only zones should be developed.*
- *Adequate leisure activities should be developed and provided to public.*
- *Latest and affordable medical facilities should be made available.*

CONCLUSION:

Every year one or two clusters of villages could be short listed for development of smart and safe cluster of villages. A homogenous project made for next 50 years could start as a small step in paving way in easing burden of villagers drain to cities. A time may come, if the project succeeds that the reverse drain (from cities to villages) eventually takes place in due course of time. The whole state shall gain and non-ending process of all states can be chalked out and developed in a dedicated time frame over next decades. This shall help absorb newer upcoming projects/requirements which could be taken up for fulfillment in the next upcoming cluster. This may result in even foreign nations making a beeline to adopt one or more clusters of villages in different states for different streams of professions.

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