



E-ISSN: 2789-1615  
P-ISSN: 2789-1607  
Impact Factor: 5.69  
IJLE 2021; 1(2): 156-160  
[www.educationjournal.info](http://www.educationjournal.info)  
Received: 24-09-2021  
Accepted: 28-10-2021

**Dr. Nasra Shabnam**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Adult &  
Continuing Education &  
Extension, Jamia Millia  
Islamia, New Delhi, India

## Sustainable rural development during the period of COVID-19 and role of social work

**Dr. Nasra Shabnam**

### Abstract

The purpose of the study is to explore the experience of rural social work. This paper will focus on the social work in the rural areas and the importance of rural development in bringing the change in the life of the rural people. The attempt of the research is to understand the practice of the rural social work and the experience of the social workers. Results of the study reveal that rural social workers experience both challenges and strengths. Rural Development is the process of improving the life and economic well-being of people living in the rural areas and social work is a practice based profession that promotes the social change and development in people. The paper has also put some light on the government schemes and methods that are in working for the development of the rural people in light of improving their knowledge, education in terms of skills and enabling them to increase their economic conditions. Prior to this the main research question will be that how much it is beneficial for the rural people and how far rural people follow the practice. There are variety of programs and schemes that are run by government of India under the ministry of rural development and other non-governmental organization to fulfil the need of the rural people in rural development. The study of this paper reveals that social work plays a vital role in developing the rural area and the people. Results shows that how the social work help people to know about the different government schemes and how to implement such schemes. The paper also discussed about the social work during the current pandemic situation in the country that how the social work helps the people in surviving and living during this crisis of COVID-19. The data is collected through the primary and secondary source and some on the personal and professional experiences of the rural areas in the field.

**Keywords:** Rural development, Skill enhancement, social work

### Introduction

Rural is defined as any population, housing or territory that is not Urban is Known as Rural and Rural development is the process of improving the quality of life of the rural people. Social Work is the practice that promotes the social change and social development of the people where the Social worker is the profession that follows the social work practice. According to Mahatma Gandhi “The future of India lies in the villages”. However today the increasing urbanization and the change in global production networks have transform the nature of rural areas.

Rural development is the term that emphasis on the development of the area in terms of economy. However, fewer areas that needs more focus and demands in rural areas are

- Education.
- Women Empowerment.
- Infrastructure.
- Sanitisation.
- Health care.
- Employment Opportunities.

Due to lack of basic facilities the area leads to poverty and during the tough times when global problems urge rural people suffers in majority. During this time the social work plays a very important role in the life of the rural people. It helps to prevent crises and counsel individuals, families, and communities to cope more effectively with the stresses of everyday life. At present the development sector is largely controlled and managed by the welfare or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)—who are doing the pioneer work towards the overall development of the society. Various governmental programs are also running to help in rural development. Agriculture is still major source of livelihood in the rural areas. About 75% of the people lives in the rural areas of the Indian population and depends on Agriculture as their occupation.

**Correspondence**  
**Dr. Nasra Shabnam**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Adult &  
Continuing Education &  
Extension, Jamia Millia  
Islamia, New Delhi, India

So the improvement in the agriculture facilities may help in the development of the rural area.

Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities, and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance well-being. Social work has its roots in the attempts of society at large to deal with the problem of poverty and inequality. Social work is intricately linked with the idea of charity work; but must be understood in broader terms. The concept of charity goes back to ancient times, and the practice of providing for the poor has roots in all major world religions. The concept/profession of social work in India is about 63 years old. It starts its journey in the year 1936 by establishing the school of social work named the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work later it was renamed as Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS). Social work in broader term refers to influence people, to help people, to motivate them in improving their life style. Social work practice plays a very important role in improving the rural conditions and their life's. While dealing with the issues of the rural people social workers also faces many challenges in the field. The rewards of helping people can exceed the problems faced by social workers in this stressful occupation. Social workers work as patron for children, elders and adults while empowering others to take charge and overcome their problems to personal or professional. This is a profession with challenges yet rewarding.

### Objectives

1. To study the socio-economic profile of the rural people.
2. To study the effectiveness of the social work in the rural area.
3. To study the Gender sensitization in the rural areas
4. To study the basic needs of the rural people.

### Research methodology

To conduct the research study Quantitative research method is used in this paper. The data is collected through survey and questionnaire and also some secondary source is also used.

### Government programs under rural development

For the development of the rural areas and administrators the participation of different groups of rural people, to make the plans participatory is equally important. As the social workers the Government has also planned several programs pertaining to Rural Development in India. The Ministry of Rural Development India has different schemes under different sectors. Some are:

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna Gramin PMAY-G aims at providing a Pucca house, with basic amenities, to all houseless householder and those households living in kutchha and dilapidated house, by 2022. Public housing programme in the country started with the rehabilitation of refugees immediately after independence and since then, it has been a major focus area of the Government as an instrument of poverty alleviation. Rural housing programme, as an independent programme, started with Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) in January 1996. Although IAY addressed the housing needs in the rural areas, certain gaps were identified during the concurrent

evaluations and the performance Audit by Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in 2014. These gaps, *i.e.* no assessment of housing The shortage, lack of transparency in selection of beneficiaries, low the quality of the house and lack of technical supervision, lack convergence, loans not availed by beneficiaries and weak the mechanism for monitoring was limiting the impact and outcomes of the programme.

According to recent data of PMAYG 2019 the number of houses complete increased from 1, 41,227 during 2014-15 to 13, 75,027 during 2018-19 in five years of period. Highest number of houses completed in the year 2016-17. (Rural Development scheme in India- A Study)

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY): This programme was launched to provide the connectivity to the unconnected habitations as a part of a poverty.
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 later it is renamed as the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act", (MGNREGA), is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'. It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

### Social work & people attitude towards social work.

Social workers, the name itself says that the ones who actually work for the very social causes for the betterment of our own society. To know the people's perception towards the social work and to know the socio-economic profile of the rural people the study is conducted in Uttar Pradesh state in Bulendshahar district, Gazipur village.

### 1.1 Gender distribution

Table 1: Gender wise distribution

S. No	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	18	75%
2	Female	06	25%
	Total	24	100%

Source: primary data

The above table 1 shows the gender distribution of the total respondents. From the above table this can be seen that total number of 18 male respondents has reverted to the questions *i.e.* 75% and about 06 females *i.e.* 25% of the total respondents that is 24.

### 1.2 Age Group

Table 2: Age wise distribution

S. No	Age group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	19-25 years	04	16.6%
2	26-32 years	08	33.3%
3	33-39 years	04	16.6%
4	40-46 years	03	12.5%
5	47-53 years	03	12.5%
6	54-60 years	02	8.3%
	Total	24	100%

Source: primary data

The age group of the selected respondents is presented in Table 2. It can be noted from the table the highest number of the respondents 16.6% are in the age group of 19-25 years and the lowest 8.3% are in age group 54-60 years.

**Religion Wise**

**Table 3:** Religion wise distribution

S. No	Religion	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Hindu	21	87.5%
2	Muslim	03	12.5%
	Total	24	100%

The above data shown in table 3 reveals the number of respondents with their religions. Out of 24 respondents *i.e* 24 families total 21 (87.5%) are Hindu and 03 (12.5%) are Muslims.

**1.3 Caste wise**

**Table 4:** Caste wise distribution

S. No	Caste	Number of Respondents			
		Hindu	Percentage	Muslim	Percentage
1	OBC	17	80.95%	01	33.33%
2	General	04	19.04%	02	66.66%

*Source:* Primary data

The above table 4 shows the caste wise distribution of the respondents with their religion and the data shows that 80.97% *i.e.* 17 respondent families are Hindu OBC and 19.04% *i.e.* 04 are Hindu general out of 21 Hindu families while 33.33% are Muslim OBC and 66.66% are Muslim General out of 3 Muslim Respondents.

**1.5 Type of house**

**Table 5:** House wise distribution

S. No	Type of house	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Kachcha house	07	29.16%
2	Pucca house	17	70.83%
	Total	24	100%

*Source* primary data

The above data represents the number of respondents who have the knowledge of COVID-19 and the number is 24 out of 24 families which shows 100% respondents knows about the novel coronavirus. Second is the number of respondents and their families who are vaccinated and about 19 respondents' opted that they are vaccinated *i.e.* 79.16% out of 100% and 20.83% are not vaccinated. Thirdly table 1.8 shows how effective Social Work is proved during the lockdown period according to the people and the result shows 91.66% responds agree with question that social work is more helpful and effective during the crises and 8.33% shows they are not much effective.

The above table 5 show that 17 families have Pucca house and 07 families have Kachcha house in the village.

**1.6 Occupation**

**Table 6:** Occupation wise distribution

S. No	Type of Occupation	Person working	Percentage
01	Business	07	17.5%
2	Employed	10	25%
3	Skilled	05	12.5%
4	Unskilled	02	5%
5	Farmer	16	40%
	Total	40	100%

*Source:* primary data

The above data shoes the numbers of the people working in 24 families. From the above data this can be seen that highest number of people working are as a farmer which is 40% and lowest as the unskilled worker which is only 5% of total people working and the rest are employed 25%, skilled 12.5%.

**1.7 Salary wise**

**Table 7:** Salary wise Distribution

S.No	Salary	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	10,000 & below	02	8.33%
2	10,000 – 20,000	03	12.5%
3	20,000 – 30,000	05	20.83%
4	30,000 – 40,000	08	33.33%
5	40,000 – 50,000	05	20.83%
6	50,000 – 60,000	01	4.16%
	Total	24	100%

*Source:* Primary data

The above Data shows number of family earnings.8.33% family earns 10,000 and below which is only families out of 24 families taken and the highest number is 33.33% families who earn between 30,000 to 40,000 which is 8 families out of 24 families. The lowest number is 4.16% which is between 50,000 to 60,000 of income.

**1.8 COVID-19 and Social Work**

**Table 8:** People Attitude towards Social work during Lockdown

S. No	Attitude of the Respondents	Number of Respondents				Total no. of Respondents
		Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Total
1	Know about COVID- 19	24	100%	00	00%	24
2	Vaccinated For Covid-19	19	79.16%	05	20.83%	24
3	Social work proved Helpful During Global Crises	22	91.66%	02	8.33%	24

*Source:* Primary data

**1.9 Work of Social Work on people's need**

**Table 9:** Gender Sensitisation, Women Empowerment & Skill Enhancement

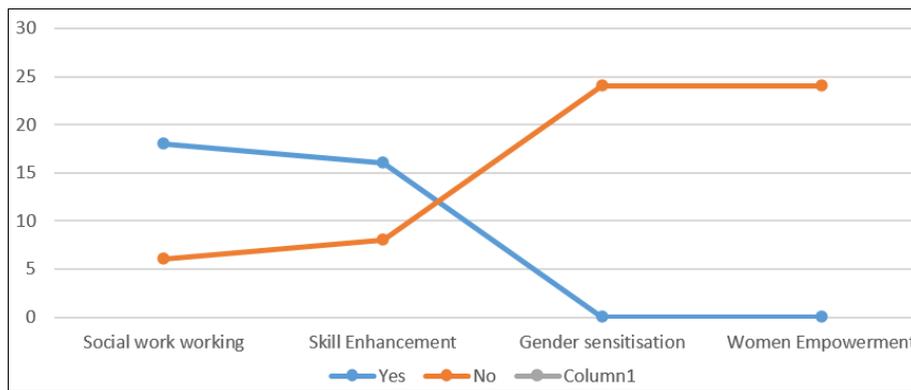
S. No	Social work on People Need	Number of Respondents				
		Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Total
1	Gender Sensitisation	00	00%	24	100%	24
2	Women Empowerment	00	00%	24	100%	24
3	Skill Enhancement	21	87.5%	03	12.5%	24

*Source:* Primary data

The above table 9 shows the work is doing effectively in

rural area. The data shows that social work is more active and working on skill enhancement i.e. 87.5% respondents agree on skill enhancement work of the Social Work and

100% are disagree on gender and Women empowerment work by Social Work.



**Fig 1:** The above graph shows the 24 families attitude towards the social work and the different programmes.

**1.10 Social Entrepreneurship**

**Table 10:** Entrepreneurship

S.No	Entrepreneurship	Number of Respondents				Total
		Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	
1	Work on Entrepreneurship	22	91.6%	02	8.33%	24
2	Helpful for People	21	87.5%	03	12.5%	24

Source: Primary data

The above data from the table 10 shows that how many people agree social workers are doing work on entrepreneurship and how much this programme is helpful. According to the data 22 respondents i.e. 91.6% of families agree with the entrepreneur work by social work and 2 respondents i.e. 8.33% disagree and says no work is done on entrepreneurship out of 24 respondents. On the other hand, how much helpful and effective is the work data reveals that 21 respondents agree with the helpfulness and 03 respondents disagree with their effectiveness.

**1.11 Social work & co-operation of the People**

**Table 11:** Social Work & Co-operation of the People

S.No	Social Work & Co-operation	Number of Respondents				Total
		Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	
1	Satisfied with the social Work	12	50%	12	50%	24
2	Co-operate with the Social Workers	23	95.83%	01	4.16%	24

Source: Primary data

The above table reveals the satisfaction level of the people with Social Work and their co-operation with the social workers. The results are 50% of the respondents are satisfied with the Social Work out of 24 families or respondents and 50% are not satisfied. This shows that the ratio is equally divided between the satisfaction and not satisfied with the work. On the other hand, the table also shows the peoples co-operation with the social worker and result shows that 95.83% of the people co-operate with the

social work and the workers and rest 4.16% are not cooperating with the social workers.

**1.12 Needs of the people**

**Table 12:** Needs of the People

S.No	Felt Need of the People	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Health, Education, Income	22	91.66%
2	Gender	01	4.1%
3	Income	01	4.1%
	Total	24	100%

Source: Primary data

The above table 12 shows the needs of the people which they want social work to focus on. According to the data shown the more need is for the improvement in the health facility education of the children & Income which is 91.66% of people agreed with this and only 4.1% want to get improvement in gender sensitization and income facilities.

**Conclusion**

The Primary aim of the social welfare work was to help to provide better livelihood to the people. Social work from different aspects can be seen to be very important in daily life or in the urging of the global crises. From the analysis of the above data this can be conclude that people are more active in the day to day activities and different programmes and also are ready to co-operate with the social workers. Peoples attitude towards the social work is equally positive and negative from the above data. This shows that 50% of the respondents agreed with the fact that social work is playing and important and effective role in their day to day life while on the same side 50% of the respondents also feels that it is not much effective. From this it can also be conclude that social work is equally challenging and hard to make all the people satisfied at the same time. This will make work harder for the social worker. The sample drawn for the study reveals that people want social workers to focus more on the health, education, and income but this shows that gender sensitization, women empowerment are the factors that programs on these were not being conducted on these factors. Social work plays an important role during the lockdown period when the world is struggling with the

huge economic crises many social workers helped the rural people with all the basic facilities they can arrange for them including medicines, food, availability of the hospitals and doctors and also making them aware with the COVID -19 and also conduct awareness campaign to get covid vaccination.

### References

1. Richard Pugh, Brian Cheers. Rural Social Work-An international perspective. The Policy Press University of Bristol; c2010.
2. Cagliero R, Cristiano S, Pierangeli F, Tarangioli S. Ancona Evaluating the Improvement of Quality of Life in Rural Areas. 122- EAAE Seminar Evidence-Based Agricultural and Rural Policy Making; c2011 Feb 10.
3. Dhavaleshwar CU. The Role of Social Worker in Community Development. International Journal of Social Science. 2016 Oct;5(10):61-63.
4. Dr. P Srinivasa Rao. Rural Development Schemes in India – A Study. International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews; c2019 Jan 6.
5. Hussain MR, Shabnam N. Role of Support to Voluntary Agencies Scheme in Promotion of Adult Education and Skill Development in India, Sanskruti International Multidisciplinary Research Journal. Journal homepage: <http://wwwsimrj.org.in> Journal UOI: 1.01/simrj
6. Ngozi AA, Okechukwu AC, Chinenye EC. Women involvement in rural community development in Enugu north senatorial zone of Enugu State, Nigeria. Int. J Agric. Extension Social Dev. 2019;2(1):01-06. DOI: 10.33545/26180723.2019.v2.i1a.15
7. Vijay Kumar Sarabu. Rural Development in India A way Forward; 2018 Oct.
8. <https://byjus.com/commerce/meaning-of-rural-development/>
9. <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/52005/1/Block-1.pdf>
10. <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/51701/1/BLOCK%20-4.pdf>
11. file:///C:/Users/cs/Downloads/SSRN-id2854682.pdf
12. Global Definition of Social Work, July 19, 2017 International Federation of Social Workers. ifsw.org. Retrieved
13. <http://www.iay.nic.in/netiay/about.aspx>
14. <http://www.onefivenine.com/india/villages/Bulandshahr/Sikanrabad/Ghazipur>
15. [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2854682](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2854682)
16. [ps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural\\_area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural_area)
17. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/289088813\\_Professional\\_social\\_work\\_in\\_India\\_Some\\_issues\\_and\\_strategies](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/289088813_Professional_social_work_in_India_Some_issues_and_strategies)
18. <https://www.socialworkfootprints.org/articles/social-work-in-india-a-semi-profession>
19. Shabnam N. Sustainable Development Goals and Inclusive Development: An overview. International Journal of Humanities & Social Science; c2019;5(1-2).