

# Saga on Rural Development in Karbi Anglong, Assam: An Understanding from Gandhian Perspective

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## Abstract:

Agriculture makes a significant economic contribution to Karbi Anglong in a number of ways, including by providing food for the region's expanding population, sufficient raw materials for a burgeoning industrial sector, a significant source of employment, and a market for the industrial sector's output, among other things. In this paper, it is stated that the agricultural sector has a solid rural foundation, making it associated with rural development and the foundation of agriculture and agricultural development in Karbi Anglong, without which all attempts at agricultural development will be fruitless. It notes that in Karbi society, agriculture is still primarily conventional and is owned by smallholders and pastoralists. Neglecting agriculture has led to a mass exodus of rural inhabitants, which has led to a qualitative and quantitative decline in the population of the rural area and made it less and less intriguing for socioeconomic investment. It comes to the realisation that elevated agricultural growth and development in Karbi Anglong depend substantially on rural development. Therefore, in this study, an effort has been made to highlight the economy and the factors that influence its dependency. Gandhi, a national political figure, mostly relied on populist activism and their economic advancement via the superfluous growth of cottage and small-scale enterprises. It makes an effort to study the Gandhian model of development and assess its applicability in the current setting.

**Keywords:** Rural Development, Rural Economy, Karbi Anglong, Sustainable Development and Gandhian.

## Introduction

In fact, the term "rural" is imprecise. The term is not precisely defined, although rural areas are "unambiguously identifiable." It make up the area where infrastructure and human habitation are sparsely distributed, with the majority of the terrain being made up of water, mountains, forest, deserts, and pastures. Rural residents often reside in farmsteads or households of 5–10,000 people, however this statement also emphasises how arbitrary and variable national divisions between rural and urban areas are. Beyond these fundamental characteristics, which are linked to the availability of resources and population density, rural areas can be described in a variety of ways, including as places where most people spend the majority of their working time on farms due to the abundance and relative affordability of land, high transaction costs linked to long distances and subpar infrastructure, and geographical conditions that heighten the risk of elite capture or urban bias.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, so many locals live in poverty because of the rural environment. Compared to towns and cities, rural regions have lower

average earnings and a greater percentage of those who fall below the designated poverty level. Despite predictions that rising urbanisation in emerging nations will, in the medium term, result in the vast majority of the world's poor living in cities, the vast majority of the poor still reside in rural regions, probably to the extent of 75% or more.<sup>ii</sup>

Rural development is another idea that is essential to discuss in this article. Rural development will become more apparent if the notion of development is understood. Simon defines development as an increase in both quantitative and qualitative measures of life quality (as opposed to only material standard of living). According to his opinion, development must be viewed as truly occurring in time and location and must be relevant to place, period, society, and culture. Development is the process of making or developing something more prosperous. It is the continual expansion of anything to make it more advanced, more robust etc. According to this concept, development entails growth through slow, steady changes.<sup>iii</sup>

There has been much disagreement about the definition of rural development. From one perspective to another, rural development is defined differently. As the processes and/or objectives of development have changed throughout time, so has the meaning of rural development. Rural development might be defined as "development that benefits to people of rural areas," where "development" is defined as the continual raising of the quality of living or welfare of the populace. The goal of locals living in rural regions to take on the challenge of improving their own lives and their immediate surroundings can be considered as rural development, not as an outside intervention.<sup>iv</sup>

According to Olayide et al., rural development is a process in which coordinated efforts are made to encourage a significant increase in the productivity of rural resources with the primary goal of boosting rural income and fostering employment opportunities in rural communities to encourage rural residents to stay in the area. A good healthcare delivery system, inexpensive high-quality education, enhanced and sustainable agriculture, etc. are among the ultimate goals of this integrated approach to food production, infrastructure provision on the physical, social, and institutional levels, etc.<sup>v</sup> Van der Ploeg et al. assert that rural development serves the well-known self-interest of growing segments of the rural population while rebuilding the degraded economic foundation of both the rural economy and the agricultural sector.<sup>vi</sup>

The modernisation of rural society and its shift from its conventional solitude to integration with the national economy are both ensured by rural development. It is crucial in order to produce foreign currency and draw in money to support governmental and private investment and consumption. Rural development may be viewed as both an idea and a method. It could refer to planned changes by government organisations with offices outside of rural regions, such the federal government and international organisations. Activating the countryside and transforming its substandard character into something more superior in terms of activities may also be seen as contributing factors.<sup>vii</sup> As per the World Bank, rural development must be explicitly planned to boost output. In addition to directly enhancing the physical well-being and quality of life of the rural poor, it is acknowledged that improved food security and nutrition, along with access to fundamental services like health and education, can also indirectly increase these people's productivity and capacity to contribute to the national economy.<sup>viii</sup>

Agricultural development, which rural development encompasses and surpasses, can be differentiated. Successive administrations have had the false perception that rural development primarily refers to agricultural growth. Therefore, efforts should be made to include the provision of modern infrastructure, primary health care, shelter and sustenance, job opportunities, entertainment venues, inexpensive and

mandatory primary and secondary education, loans and other rewards, to be part of rural development for the well-being of rural dwellers. Initiatives should be designed by such governments to invest capital into the agricultural sector, failed to produce the substantial shift expected.<sup>ix</sup>

Rural development may, in essence, entail a broad-based reconfiguration and mobilisation of rural people in order to improve their ability to effectively handle the everyday challenges of their existence and the changes that follow.<sup>x</sup> The aforementioned makes it clear that rural development is neither a one-time event or a sudden phenomenon. Instead, there is a slow and steady progression towards perfection with a predetermined ideal in mind.

### Objectives

In this paper, an attempt has been made to highlight and discuss certain issues pertaining to rural development and tried to understand from Gandhian viewpoint.

1. To figure out the rural development processes and conditions in Karbi Anglong region.
2. To highlight the relevance of Gandhian view on rural development at present for the development of Karbi Anglong region.

### Methodology

This study is mainly emphasis on the rural development and relevance of Gandhian perspective for rural development in the present scenario. In this study, therefore, an effort has been put to describe the concern issues based on descriptive research design. The geographical location of study is Karbi Anglong region of Assam, which is divided into two districts such as West Karbi Anglong and East Karbi Anglong districts in the year 2016. These areas are taking into consideration for the study is because of being marginalize rural poor area from among the districts in Assam. Furthermore, another reason for choosing Karbi Anglong districts is that this region is tribal dominated region. Moreover, they are predominantly agriculture-dominated society. It is the fact that most of the population in the region relies on agricultural activities for their sustenance. Therefore, it is crucial to know the importance of rural development in India in the light of situation of the rural development of Karbi Anglong. For the study, several available secondary sources pertaining to rural development and the Gandhian perspective on rural development have been accommodated in order to portrait and visualize the concern issue into light.

### Status of Rural Development of Karbi Anglong

Rural development is measured through various parameters. First of all, the population of the area because the resources are evenly distributed to the population while measure the development indicators. Then other sources are also accounted such as food production, natural resources and its utilization, educational status etc. All these parameters are discussed in the following grounds in detail.

**Demography:** In this portion, an attempt is made to have a discourse about those aspects of the people that directly affect how the hill districts make a living. These include education, abilities, knowledge, job capability, and health condition, which taken collectively allow people to seek various means of subsistence. According to Census 2011, Karbi Anglong has a total population of 9.65 lakhs, with 1.77 lakh residences, the majority of which are rural (88.19%). Since the previous two decades, the districts' decadal growth rates have been on the decline. Similar to this, a continuous decline in the category's

population share in the overall population as compared to 2001 is seen in the population of children in the age range of 0–6 years, which stands at 151681 for Karbi Anglong and represents 15.86% of the total populations of the districts. The increasing sex ratio in the Child (0-6 Years) category in the Karbi Anglong area is another unfavourable sign. Karbi Anglong district has a substantially lower population density (92 people per square kilometre) than Assam (398 people per square kilometre).<sup>xi</sup>

**Educational Status:** Literacy rates in Karbi Anglong district (69.25%) are lower than those in the Assam state (72.19%).<sup>xii</sup>

Sex Wise Literacy Rate in Karbi Anglong District<sup>xiii</sup>

Total	Male	Female
69.25 %	76.14%	62%

In Karbi Anglong, the GER<sup>1</sup>, NER<sup>2</sup> rates are substantially lower than the state average. This demonstrates that children are not studying at age-appropriate levels. It indicates that children start school at a younger age. Despite having equal or more effective PTR<sup>3</sup> compare to the Assam State, dropout rates of children in Karbi Anglong are significant at the lower Primary Level alone. The age group that this set of pupils falls within is the "6–10 years" range. This is troubling information because it demonstrates that the educational system has failed for a variety of reasons despite having the necessary infrastructure in place. Additionally, a primary school is reportedly within 1 km of about 75% of the villages in Karbi Anglong. Again, the distance to the closest secondary school is five km or more for more than 60% villages in the district.<sup>xiv</sup>

**Trends of Occupation:** Regarding the percentage of the people in Karbi Anglong districts who are employed, it is shown that between 2001 and 2011, there was hardly any change in this ratio. But compared to state figures, the participation percentage is greater.<sup>xv</sup>

Pattern of Workers between 2001 and 2011<sup>xvi</sup>

Year	Total Worker	Total Population	Percentage
2001	330480	813311	40.63
2011	383441	956313	40.10

Further investigation may turn up the causes of the education sector's poor performance. When the workforce is broken down, it is clear that the bulk of the primary employees and marginal workers work in the agriculture industry. The four primary industrial categories—cultivators, agricultural labourers, household industry workers, other workers, and non-workers—are used to classify main workers and marginal workers. According to Census 2011 statistics, cultivators predominate among the "main workers" in the hill areas. The Karbi Anglong region is around 66% hilly, making it perfect for jhum farming. Compared to plain areas, shifting agriculture requires much more man-days per hectare. Furthermore, productivity-boosting support services are insufficient in the hill district. In Karbi Anglong, for example, barely 2% of farmed land has been irrigated. This increases the labour intensity of agriculture and has a negative influence on enrollment and drop-out rates. In mentioned hill districts,

<sup>1</sup> GER is the percentage of the population who were at a school at a level of education (regardless of age) to the number of school age population corresponding to the level of education.

<sup>2</sup> NER is the number of children of official primary school age who are enrolled in primary education as a percentage of the total children of the official school age population.

<sup>3</sup> PTR means Pupil-Teacher Ratio.

the Household Industry contributes slightly as both 'main' and 'marginal' workers. However, there is a significant contribution from the 'Others' group as 'main' and 'marginal' workers in both hill districts. Non-farm enterprises are classified as 'domestic industry' or 'others' based on their nature and features, according to the definitions of 'household industry' and 'others'. However, skill and traditional knowledge have significantly supplemented the population's livelihoods.<sup>xvii</sup>

**Agriculture and Horticulture are the Major Contribution in Rural Economy:** In addition to the production of paddy (407712 MT), Karbi Anglong also produces pulses, jute (16761 MT), and cotton (485 MT). Karbi Anglong also produces high-value oilseeds including sesame (2515 MT) and mustard (17061 MT). Turmeric, black pepper, ginger, and sugarcane are some other goods with significant economic value in the hill areas. The cultivation of coconut and areca nuts boosts the agricultural economy in some of the districts' plain belts. Over the past ten years, the production of a variety of horticulture products, including pineapple, orange, papaya, and bananas, has increased and is now a prospective source of revenue in the districts. Additionally, bamboo is a significant source of revenue due to the paper mills' ongoing need for it, particularly the Hindustan Paper Mill, Jagiroad.<sup>xviii</sup>

**Contribution of Industry in Rural Economy:** The investigated area's district-level data demonstrate that the sector's performance is not particularly acceptable. Although the government has supported different industries with infrastructure, they have not been able to operate sustainably. Only three of the five sheds assigned at Karbi Anglong's Bokajan Industrial Estate are now operational. Four sheds were built at the Hamren Industrial Estate, although none of them were given to any particular party.<sup>xix</sup>

Pattern of Infrastructure for Supporting Industries in the Subdivision of Karbi Anglong (Industrial Estate)<sup>xx</sup>

Name of Industrial Estate	Total Area (sq. m)	Total No. of Sheds	No. of Sheds Allotted	Open Area Allotted (sq. m)	No. of Units Functioning
Bokajan	80266	5	5	4000	3
Hamren	20066	4	0	0	0

Pattern of Infrastructure for Supporting Industries in the Subdivision of Karbi Anglong (Growth Centre)<sup>xxi</sup>

Name of Industrial Area	Total Area (sq.m)	Total No. of Sheds	No. of Sheds Allotted	Open Area Allotted (sq. m)	No. of Units Functioning
Bokulia	803	2	2	0	2
Manja	803	2	0	0	0
Sarihajan	6689	4	0	0	0

Dynamics of Registered Factories in Karbi Anglong Region, 2013<sup>xxii</sup>

Numbers	Type of Industry	Karbi Anglong	
		Factory	Worker
1	Manufacture of Food Products	19	324
2	Manufacture of Beverages	1	100
3	Manufacture of Wood & cork, except furniture, articles of	9	377

	straw & plaiting material		
4	Manufacture of Other Non-Metallic mineral Products	7	338
5	Manufacture of Basic Metals	1	50

The distribution of enterprises in the hill districts reveals that the majority of factories in Karbi Anglong are engaged in the production of food items. However, factories that make items from wood, straw, or both offer the majority of jobs.

**Sericulture as a Major Contribution in the Rural Economy of Karbi Anglong:** Sericulture is a highly traditional and native cottage enterprise among the local tribal people. More than 6,000 households from roughly 1500 villages are engaged in sericulture in both districts. While eri silk (80–96 MT) dominates the market in the hill areas, muga and mulberry silk are also produced in small quantities (0.5–1.75 MT). Despite the fact that the district has a sufficient number of weavers, it is apparent from reports that the handloom and textile department's support for such activities has not been utilised, as evidenced by the fact that none of Karbi Anglong's ten Handloom Training Centres had any trainees.<sup>xxiii</sup>

**Conditions of Health and Hygiene:** Analysing the facilities provided and using indicators like infant mortality rates are two ways to assess the population's health. Karbi Anglong has a very small population, and as a result, the average area covered by a doctor there is only approximately 47 square kilometres, compared to 20 square kilometres across the state as a whole. Despite the district's IMR being comparable to the state's, Karbi Anglong has much more female children than the state overall. Additionally, the IMR in the aforementioned district is lower than the state average for male children. This reflects the gender gap in access to paediatric healthcare.<sup>xxiv</sup>

Pattern of Health Infrastructure in Karbi Anglong<sup>xxv</sup>

Facilities	Karbi Anglong
Civil Hospital	1
Sub-Divisional Civil Hospital	1
Public Health Centres	51
Community Health Centres	5
Sub-Centres	145
Doctors	222
Nurse	118
Mid-wives	227

Unhygienic water sources continue to be the major source of drinking water for roughly 77% of the communities in Karbi Anglong, despite the Government of India's focus on providing clean drinking water since the 5th Five Year Plan. In Karbi Anglong, 35.2% of households have access to drinking water sources on-site, while 33.4% have sources nearby. These show a worse position as compared to the Assam statistics (54.8% and 26.7%). The fact that some areas of the district have significant fluoride concentration in the water and that just 17% of the villages have access to piped water supply speak to the district's deplorable overall state.<sup>xxvi</sup>

**Natural Resources and its Contribution to Karbi Anglong Economy:**

Tropical vegetation bloomed in profusion over the hills and plains of the Karbi Anglong district in the 1970s due to enough rainfall. The area was abundant in teak and sal, as well as bamboo and other types of timber. Elephants, deer, bears, buffaloes, leopards, and other wild species may be seen in great numbers throughout the Karbi Anglong woods. According to research by Sarkar (1993) on the herbaceous plants of the Karbi Anglong area, the local populace is directly dependent on a wide range of plants for a number of different purposes. About 9 species are now in danger of extinction due to widespread use and commercial exploitation. The investigation also discovered 58 vegetable species and 164 kinds of medicinal plants that enriched the area. Aside from that, Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), such as dyes, resins, fruits, leaves for ceremonies, firewood, etc., are essential for meeting the requirements of the residents in a variety of ways. Limestone, china clay, field spar, and coal are among the additional natural resources found in Karbi Anglong. The Jamuna, Kapili, and Dhansiri River valleys, which are located in Karbi Anglong's eastern region, make up the plain lands. Other smaller streams in Karbi Anglong, in addition to these three main rivers, are Kaliani, Barapani, Patradisa, and Dikharu. A crucial component of the ceramic industry is the China clay from the Karbi-Anglong area. Fruit crops including orange, lemon, pine-apple, banana, pomegranate, papaya, and others flourish and are produced more readily in Karbi Anglong due to its favourable agro-climatic conditions and altitude. In the hills, significant amounts of other species are also grown, including ginger, chilies, cardamom, turmeric, etc. In the district's Nilip, Chinthong, Amri, and Socheng development blocks, horticultural crops are widely farmed. According to the Forest Survey of India's State of Forests Reports (SFR), 2001, the total area covered by forests in the Karbi Anglong district was 7,97,200 hectares, or 76.4% of the total area. Only 31% of the entire land is designated as forest, though. A mere 12% of the entire land is used for agriculture. The remaining 57% is made up of various types of land that are not suitable for agriculture, including water-logged terrain, social forestry, and barren and uncultivable ground.<sup>xxvii</sup>

**Status of Financial Access:**

People use their financial resources to accomplish their goals for a living. There are several varieties of commercial banks operating today, along with regional rural banks and Assam Co-operative Apex Banks. Karbi Anglong now has a banking network of 71 branches, 49 of which are operated by Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank (LDRB). In comparison to All India Figures, the Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of All Scheduled Commercial Banks in the state of Assam is low. The statistics paint an ominous picture for the Karbi Anglong highland area. The hill districts' economy greatly depends on RRBs. The hill district's somewhat superior and quicker CDR growth indicates possibilities for NFE expansion. On their primary deliverables, several SCBs have fallen short. Potential entrepreneurs' goals are quashed at the bud stage due to limited access to finance. Only 10 bank branches are offering Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) loans to business owners in the Karbi Anglong area, and these loans are once again marred by problems with political involvement, slow processing, and short moratoria periods. Although the performance of the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP) is uncertain, the Swarnajayanti Gramme Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) or the present National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) has been able to offer financial services to some level. It is necessary to figure out how to provide other services, such insurance and remittances, in the district's remote regions. To expand financial inclusion in North East India, banks and the government must work together to disseminate financial information.<sup>xxviii</sup>

When analysing the purpose-wise position of LDRB advances, it is clear that advancements made by SHGs, JLGs, or under SGSY are on the decline. In 2012–2013, the yearly advance was worth Rs 1344 lakhs; in 2015–16, it was worth Rs 861 lakhs. However, at the same time span, gains made for small businesses and retail commerce increased by around three times. While there is a little increase in loans issued to cottage industries, small businesses, and rural craftsmen during this time, there is a decrease in the quantity and size of loans given to transportation companies. As contrast to the agriculture sector, the general demand and recovery situation for advances has been stronger in the non-farm industry. While the non-farm sector has received the bulk of demand from 2011–2012 to 2014–2015, the recovery position also validates the non-farm sector as a stronger investment zone from the bank's perspective. The non-farm sector's recovery rate has consistently been around 90%, whereas the agricultural sector's is currently at about 64%.<sup>xxix</sup>

**Power and Electricity:** Power is the fundamental infrastructure necessity for the expansion of certain industrial sectors and the state's economy as a whole. The area offers enormous potential for energy, from hydro to natural gas, but the district's development is not meeting expectations. In the districts, there is still a discrepancy between the supply and demand for electricity. Only 9% of the settlements on the highlands are electrified. NEEPCO constructed the "Kopili Hydrel Project" near Umrangso in Dima Hasao, which generates a significant amount of power. The only significant project in the Karbi Anglong area that was finished in 2006 is the 100 MW Karbi Langpi Hydroelectric Project. In addition, the Bordikharu Micro Hydrel Project is situated in the Karbi Anglong area, 18 kilometres from Dokmoka. There are 2256 villages in this district of Assam that are electrically connected.<sup>xxx</sup>

**Transportation and Communication:** The aforementioned hill area in Assam has a distinctively mountainous and rough landscape. Transport has been a significant obstacle for the district's economic growth because of its geographic remoteness.<sup>xxxi</sup>

- 1. Roads:** The districts are well connected to one another via a number of roads. The Public Works Department (PWD) is responsible for maintaining the districts' internal roads. In Karbi Anglong, the closest bus stop is at least 5 km away for over 50% of the communities. In Assam's economically underdeveloped remote hill areas, road transit is the most vital form of communication for the movement of people and products.<sup>xxxii</sup>
- 2. Railways:** In Karbi Anglong district's transport system, rail route holds a significant position. Only 3.76% of the state's rail route is made up by the Karbi Anglong district's rail route.<sup>xxxiii</sup>
- 3. Airport:** The hill districts don't have an airport. Karbi Anglong's closest airport is at Dimapur, which is 54 km from Diphu.<sup>xxxiv</sup>
- 4. Tele-Communication:** In Karbi Anglong, there is relatively little mobile telecom connectivity. 'Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North Eastern Region' was authorised by the government on September 10, 2014. 5336.18 crore is the anticipated cost of implementation. The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) planned to provide funding for the project. 'Provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and Karbi Anglong district of Assam' is one of the project's initiatives. BSNL will carry out this on a nomination basis.<sup>xxxv</sup>



### Gandhian Perspective on Development

The Gandhian philosophy of development differs significantly from the western approach. Its foundation was metaphysical idealism, with a focus on the supremacy of moral principles and ethical development strategies. It was a programme for rebuilding society, politics, and morality. A holistic and people-centered approach to rural development is the Gandhian model. It is based on his ideologies and ideas about the kindness of people, truth, and nonviolence, which include six core values:

- The true India (South Asia) may be discovered in its villages rather than its metropolis;
- Eliminating violence towards city inhabitants is necessary for the resurrection of the village;
- The path to eternities and other forms of bliss is simple living and elevated thought, voluntarily reducing materialistic desires, and pursuing moral and spiritual ideals of life;
- Refusing mechanisation to preserve the dignity of workers and their ability to support themselves via hard physical labour;
- It is imperative to practise the usage of indigenous goods such as Khadi, Charkha, and Swadeshi Maal, services such as Sewa, Dharma, non-violence, truths, and humanism, and institutions such as panchayati swaraj, trusteeship, and organisation; and
- The relationship between means and ends must be well-balanced.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

### The Gandhian Viewpoints of Sustainable Development

The diverse elements necessary for both current and future generations' survival are being taken care of by sustainable development. According to some, Gandhi's non-violent development model fits the criteria for sustainable development. We are a component of the Earth's life, which the Earth owns and sustains. Our relationship with the environment is unhealthy and hazardous. The idea that we control it and can use it to our advantage is our worst mistake. Gandhi's viewpoints are crucial for preserving Mother Earth's carrying capacity and conserving the environment. Gandhi places particular emphasis on the economy, society, and environment. According to him, changing the current materialistic way of life is necessary for sustainable growth. Gandhian economics directs us in the direction of a sustainable way of living. The Gandhian lifestyle model recommends the following actions for developing a sustainable way of life.

1. **Sustainable agriculture:** Bio-manures and bio-insecticides should be used instead of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
2. **Verme-culture:** Verme-culture and vermin composting should be used since they are essential for repairing the soil's health.
3. **Village industries are Eco-friendly:** To reduce poverty and generate jobs in the rural areas. Therefore, khadi and other goods produced should be advertise in rural areas.
4. **Appropriate Technologies:** We should embrace straightforward technology that our villages can understand and use independently.
5. **Renewable Energy Sources:** Solar energy has no end and will never run out. Solar energy may be used for lighting and warmth. Electricity may also be generated using wind and water energy.
6. **Tree Plantation:** We should follow the rule of planting two trees for every one we remove. If we simply cut down trees and do not grow new ones, then trees as a source of energy are non-renewable.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

### **The Gandhian thought for Sustainable Rural Development**

The meta-model for Indian development was the Gandhian plan for rural regeneration. It placed particular emphasis on three areas: rural industrialisation, village engagement in self-development, and socioeconomic development of localised needs.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

Millions of people who are terribly poor, ignorant, and living in appalling conditions are left behind while India develops into one of the greatest economies in the world. Therefore, ending poverty is essential for environmental conservation and, without a doubt, a tremendous step towards attaining sustainable development. When people rely heavily on the natural resource base of their surrounding area for their livelihoods, poverty and environmental degradation are intimately associated. A key component of any plan to end poverty is enhancing natural resources and restoring natural systems at the local level.<sup>xxxix</sup>

The natural resources and climate-sensitive industries directly support 700 million people in rural India. Since the bulk of people live in rural regions, they are impoverished and have the worst circumstances. It is clear that rural regions are the primary source of environmental and other natural resource violations. Though one of the biggest barriers to sustainability has been the introduction of policies, programmes, and target plans to reduce poverty with a concentrated focus on job creation. Increasing the wealth of the underprivileged, safeguarding the environment, and revitalising rural India. India's sustainable development is more dependent on the rural sector because the majority of the country's citizens reside there. Poor rural areas are to blame for many of the issues that affect sustainable development, including environmental deterioration, deforestation, poverty, and other social hindrances.<sup>xl</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Rural development is important because majority of the population in India generally inhabited in rural and they are considerably the agriculture-base society. Agriculture is the predominant occupation for sustenance for them. The condition of the rural areas of Karbi Anglong region is not sound that can be visible through the status of education, involvement of labour or workers, agricultural development, cottage industries, electricity, irrigation etc. However, agriculture sectors are relatively good than other sectors. But, infrastructural development in terms of roads and irrigation facilities are crucial for bringing all round rural development that is lagging behind in the aforesaid districts of Assam. Therefore, the Gandhian perspective on self-sufficient and self-reliance village is substantially necessary and suitable condition for rural upliftment. Rural development is the only model to be a prosperous country for India because of being major of people rural dwellers.

Rural development is a dynamic, versatile, and diversified endeavour. It has several distinct objectives and evaluation criteria. Development occurs when public amenities and facilities are heavily funded. If villages are built with schools, universities, hospitals, drainage, roads, parks, etc. Then there is actual development, and all of these things help to improve the health and wellbeing of rural residents.<sup>xli</sup> As a result, different countries have used various ways and tactics to achieve their goals of rural development. Rural development is therefore a multi-dimensional strategy for the welfare and well-being of rural people. The free trade, capitalism market economy upon which the USA was built. China and the Soviet Union both developed using a method that was diametrically opposed to the socialist concept of public ownership of property. Sweden used a third approach, fusing socialist and capitalist elements to establish a mixed or welfare economy.<sup>xlii</sup> The Market Model, the Socialist Model, and the Mixed or Welfare Model are therefore the three fundamental models of economic growth.

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