



# Digital Rural Social Worker Engagement & Transformative Approaches for Humanistic Sustainability - 2030

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## Abstract

*This exploratory study examines the pivotal role of social workers—revered as the “angels of the modern era”—in transforming rural communities in India. Since independence, these selfless individuals have championed the ideals of social equality, justice, and fraternity envisioned by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. By reaching out to underserved populations in remote areas, social workers have played a crucial role in bridging socio-economic divides and improving quality of life through humanitarian and developmental efforts. A key focus of the study is the integration of digitalization into rural development, particularly through initiatives like the Smart Village Scheme. The advent of digital tools has enhanced access, empowerment, and engagement for rural masses, enabling them to become self-reliant and confident. Social workers have adopted digital platforms and innovative approaches to ensure inclusive growth and humanistic sustainability in these communities. Using secondary data collected from 2020 onwards, the research employs critical and evaluative analysis to assess the impact of digital social engagement and the changing dynamics of rural digital ecosystems. The study emphasizes that a collaborative and holistic approach involving these tireless social workers is essential for sustainable rural development. Ultimately, this study offers novel insights into how social workers, empowered by digital tools, are shaping a more humane and sustainable future for India’s rural populations, aligning with the broader goals of inclusive development and social transformation by 2030.*

**Keywords:** social working angels, social transformations, digital social engagement, humane approaches, humanistic sustainability & Indian digital smart village scheme and its implications 2030

## Introduction

### Social workers & socio economic transformations

Industrialization has changed the nature and functioning of global economies. The agricultural revolution had given impetus on agrarian activities which has helped human civilization to satisfy their basic needs and wants. The industrialization had given new directives for the nature and functioning of industries. Human living was given a center – Time which became the basic aspect which decided all events. The process of industrialization had seen

development of machine mechanics which functioned more systematically and efficiently than humans. This also changed the way humans worked as human machine interface had just began. This had given new challenges, issues and dimensions which man had never faced before.

Automation had its giant progressive leap in manufacturing process and its outcomes. Performance and quality had become the common denominator as product fault less than one in one million became a rattling reality. The process also had evolved new



systems, process and mechanics which involved human intervention in a very limited way. There was also a reduction of humans in manufacturing process which had made them to involve more in decision making. The sounds of siren became a part and parcel of human living which decided the work and personal spaces of life. 18 hours of work was more common as children were working in chimneys during this revolution had become totally dark and unidentifiable after work. The consequences of automation are more than its positive effects. The automation process by its nature and its complexity had become more than man had imagined earlier as it had made man a substitute in the entire process. With the dawn of twentieth century, we could see that the manufacturing systems had become more effective with Just in time concepts and management by walking around. These developments could be seen as early indicators which had given more development, prosperity as it also showed darker shades of socio economic implications with inclusive development and balanced growth had become a real challenge.

With technology and its imperative evasion of industries – we could see the new futuristic pathways of techno fabrication and inclusiveness across the entire globe. This techno invasion has effectively integrated all industries and segments – as techno oriented functioning has become the order of the day. The giant wheels of automation have been given more impetus, speed and direction with technology which could decide the next revolution. Internet of things, data analytics with big data management, AR & VR we have seen new revolutionary ways of industries and its progress. AI is one such immersive and integrative holistic technology which has really shaped the global industries and their prospects. With Chatbots we have seen revolutionary automated customer relations which zero human involvement. Man machine interactions and interfaces has become lesser and lesser as the slow and effective replacement of humans in industrial process has become a reality.

This technology has created robots which can effectively assimilate functions & processes as it ensures an effective system which is autonomous and more dependable than human systems of

manufacturing. It is evident that robots have assisted in complex surgeries as it can have a periodical monitoring on patients 24x7 for 365 days. So we could see and appreciate these robotic interventions which have compelled man to imagine beyond his imagination – which is a product of his own invention. The humane invention of robots now really does not need human substitution or assistance in the entire process, which really makes things scarier with a deep chill on the spines.

The need for human approaches with a concern along with dedication and kindness has been really missing in the modern era. The modern man has become more mechanical in thinking and outlook as we could see a mechanistic orientation in all aspects of life and living. The techno orientation, fabrication and integration have made man an effective productive machine which can deliver performances and outcomes like any other machine like robotics and chatbots. As robotics work 24x7 tirelessly the global organizations have fine tuned man to work and coordinate in a similar way. The only challenge lies in overcome with modern medicines which could make man 24x7 working machine.

In this mechanized world filled with competition and business orientation, we could find only social workers who listen, attend to and take care of human problems, challenges and issues with a real humanistic orientation. With the techno fabrication and integration man has lost the sense of human perspective and thinking which is even more dangerous for future. This makes it clearer and evident that the role and impact of social workers in this modern era makes us spell bound and speechless. The world has really benefited from their services as they do not care to present themselves before it as they serve in a more subtle way with a helping hand, soft touch and provision of needy things for the needy. This care, attention, love and dedication of social workers has really makes this world going in the most silent way which makes it really awesome. This study is an evaluation on the role of digital village transformation in Indian economy brought in with smart village scheme. This study also assesses the role



and effects of digital rural social worker engagement & transformative approaches for humanistic sustainability towards 2030. The next section would deal with literature review aspects and related dimensions.

### **Literature Review**

Vareed, B.P., 2023 had done research study to explore in to the dimensions of identity and power with its impact on social work practices. This study has been done in Indian context. The position and identity of social workers is remarkable as they have a good image among Indian people as Samaritans. There is a problem of balance in power between the social workers and clients which makes this work really challenging. This social work is also exhaustive in nature as it leads to emotional and psychological problems as it affects work life balance. This study states that few complications do exist in the nature of social connectedness between social workers and clients. It is also evident that research studies have not been done on digital rural social worker engagement & their transformative approaches towards humanistic sustainability -2030. This research is an empirical attempt on the same.

Piippo, S., Hirvonen, P. and Anand, J.C., 2022 had examined the nature of social worker and their self positioning in their professional work situations. This study is specific as it assesses the role of social workers towards domestic violence in Indian context. For this study primary data has been collected from 18 respondents. This has been done with four personal interviews and two focus group interviews done on an exchange program in Indian university. It is found from this study that self positioning of social workers is very important as they become more confident to handle domestic violence victims who are more prevalent in Indian context. It is also found from this study that digital rural social worker engagement & transformative approaches has not been studied or evaluated in Indian context as this research is an attempt on it.

### **Research Methodology**

#### ***Aim of the Study***

This study is an evaluation on the role and impact of social workers in Indian socio economic fabric. This study is an evaluation on the role of digital village transformation in Indian economy brought in with smart village scheme. This study also assesses the role and effects of digital rural social worker engagement. This study aims to provide transformative approaches for humanistic sustainability towards 2030.

#### **Hypothesis**

H<sub>0</sub>: Digital rural social work engagement does not lead to socio economic development and human welfare

H<sub>1</sub>: Rural social work leads to social innovation and transformation of rural communities

H<sub>0</sub>: Smart village plan has no impact on rural social work & development in Indian context

H<sub>0</sub>: Smart village digital program has no impact on social work and public services

H<sub>0</sub>: Smart village plan has no impact on rural social work & development in Indian context

H<sub>1</sub>: Social workers and their contributions have a positive impact on quality of life of Indian rural communities

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### **Problem Statement**

Techno fabrication has integrated the modern world. although it has given new impetus and outlook it has really changed the man and mental orientations. Human beings have transformed as they have indeed really lost humanness with a concern, kindness and soft touch. Social workers have come as angels in this situation to rescue mankind and humanness which have been totally lost in this process of techno orientation.

Social workers have redefined Indian social fabric as they have reached to all corners of the country with dedication, patience and kindness. They have also given new hopes as they have ensured new possibilities of living which has transformed millions of people. However it is evident that the problems and



challenges in digital Dig rural social worker engagement & related issues have to be studied. The role of social workers in providing transformative approaches and related problems has not been studied so far. The role of social workers towards humanistic sustainability -2030 has not been assessed as it can give new strategies, approaches and possibilities. This study is an attempt on these aspects and dimensions, problems which has not been studied till now in Indian context. This study is an empirical attempt on it.

### Data Collection and Analysis

This study uses secondary data only. For this study secondary data has been collected from various sources from 2020 till now. Critical and evaluative analysis has been done.

### Scope & Limitations

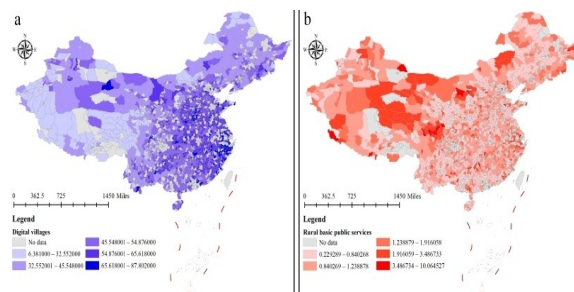
This study is done with secondary data only. In this study hypothesis testing has been done with critical analysis and evaluation based on secondary data this study confines to smart village digital scheme implemented in India as it also comprehensively covers all researches done on social workers all over the world in data analysis.

### Data Analysis

HO: Digital rural social work engagement does not lead to socio economic development and human welfare.

Digital services have a tremendous profound lasting impact on public services and its effective reach. It is also evident that digital services could improve the socio economic conditions in rural areas. It could provide transformative solutions as it also leads to socio economic development {Mao, Z., Zhu, X., Zou, Q. and Jin, W., 2024} human welfare. It provides a holistic approach as it can ensure faster growth and progress in rural areas. Research studies have been done which clearly show positive connection & engagement of digital rural social services on public health service delivery and positive outcomes. This research has been done with 1840 counties in China as the digitalization of social

services has had positive impact on overall growth and development of this country.



Source: {Mao, Z., Zhu, X., Zou, Q. and Jin, W., 2024}

It is evident from the above spatial diagram that digitalization of 1840 counties in China has been successful which is evident in picture a in blue color as the distribution of counties has been given in picture b. so there has been a transformation and effective integration of social work with public services as its efficiency and effectiveness has improved a lot which can cover all the counties of China.

It is also evident that the hypothesis statement is rejected as it has been proven that digital rural social work engagement has led to overall increase of social services as it has ensured efficiency and effectiveness of reach among various rural counties in China. It is also proven from this study that digital rural social engagement leads to socio economic development and human welfare.

H1: Rural social work leads to social innovation and transformation of rural communities

Rural social work leads to new innovative novel methods of reaching rural communities in the most effective way.

This has also given effective and purposive contributions towards social innovative methods, strategies, tools, technologies {Vercher, N., 2022}& approaches which are unique and special. This hypothesis states that rural social work has does not lead to social innovation & transformation of rural communities. Primary data for this study has been collected from well-defined geographical scope: the parish of Birse (northeast Scotland, UK) and Ibiza–Formentera (Balearic Islands, eastern Spain. Primary data was collected from 33 sample respondents for



this study. Birse Community Trust (BCT) had ensured an effective integration of social work activities with local community initiatives which ensured transformation, growth and progress. This could be seen from the results given through qualitative semi structured interview observations

It is evident that there is a need for effective collaborative work of social welfare organizations and the local community which can ensure success. This would also ensure that there is an effective implementation of social welfare works which could benefit rural communities across the world. There is a need to save the ecology as it could also involve long term social welfare goals. As the social work could involve the entire community with an effective collaboration of environment with a holistic approach – social work by nature could ensure transformative solutions for rural communities across the globe. The social work could be effectively carried out by creating a welfare trust which could coordinate all aspects & organs of our society. Social work can also provide purposive collective goals which can provide long term solutions with care and concern.





### ***Smart Village Plan in India & Effective Implementation***

With the Indian government focus on digital initiatives which can ensure consistent and faster development across the country with a balanced regional growth and development, the results have been positive & progressive. This has provided new focus for social work initiatives which could be done with care, attention and effective reach. This has also provided new hopes for effective social transformation of Indian villages through smart digital initiatives.

As the hopes of smart village in India have taken new dimensions with purposive approaches – growth and integration is very much possible.

Hope has come in to Indian rural systems as monitoring and control is also made easier & simpler. This has led to effective integration of industries with global needs as the supply of rural India {Pathak, V. and Deshkar, S., 2023} could reach new platforms and markets which can provide consistent growth with new approaches, processes and digital systems. This

could be the future way forward as we could envision new strategic growth possibilities towards 2030.

Domain of Development	Approaches	Objectives	Examples (Villages)
<b>Smart Environment</b> 	Planting native trees, Afforestation	Managing the built and natural environment to improve livability	Betul, Madhya Pradesh
	Reuse and Recycling of waste materials		Payvhir, Melghat, Maharashtra
	Use efficient cook stoves to reduce deforestation caused by traditional biomass energy sources such as charcoal/ wood	The reduction of waste production, monitoring and managing pollution, emission reduction, achieving energy efficiency, and accelerating the local energy transition	Anadwan, Hemalkasa, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra
<b>Smart Energy</b> 	Acting as regional ecotourism hubs		
	Provision of clean and sustainable energy	To reduce resource depletion the use of fossil fuels needs to be reduced	Chhotkei, Odisha
	Implementation of Smart Nano grid	Need for efficient use of renewable energy sources	Odanthurai, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
<b>Smart Water Management</b> 	Use of Renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind and hydro power		Dharni, Jehanabad, Bihar
	Rain Water Harvesting	To improve ground water level	Ralegaon Siddhi, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
	Water percolation tanks		
<b>Smart Sanitation</b> 	Dams constructed by waste Materials	To monitor, control and regulate the usage and quality of water resources as well as maintain the associated equipment	Hivare Bazar, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
	Rejuvenate rivers		Anadwan, Hemalkasa, Maharashtra
	Drinking RO water in schools	To reduce water wastage	Dhanora, Dhulpur Rajasthan
	Water purification Plants		
	Soil and water conservation	Reducing the burden of disease	
	Individual toilets		
	Recycle and Reuse of waste water	To create environments that enhance dignity, self-esteem, and safety particularly for women and girls	
	Monitoring quality of potable water		Ramchandrapur, Telangana

**Source:** Pathak, V. and Deshkar, S., 2023

It is evident that social work could take new heights, perspectives and transformatory approaches as smart village scheme in India could provide impetus for change across rural communities. This can also provide smart energy, environmental, sanitation and water management as it can lead to improved social work with efficiency & effectiveness across the country at all levels.

HO: Smart village digital program has no impact on social work and public services

Smart village digital program can improve effective social work across all public services like education, agriculture, horticulture as it ensures smart connectivity with local population with a consistent reach.





Domain of Development	Approaches	Objectives	Examples (Villages)
Smart Connectivity	Integrate ICT solutions, applications, and services into smart technology solutions for various domains, such as agriculture, water management, education, and healthcare	Application for environmental monitoring	Mori Village, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh
	To allow rural communities to become more aware of their social, economic and political rights, engage in governance processes at all levels	Involving rural communities is expected to lead to better awareness, engagement, and knowledge about their own development.	Paniyara, Uttar Pradesh
		Forming base for many entrepreneurs and start-ups within social innovation.	
Smart Agriculture/Horticulture	Infusion of technology for agriculture Practices	To gather data from the environment to monitor weather conditions	Climate SV Noorpur Bet, Punjab
	Improving capacity building of farmer	To provide benefit of allowing farmers to use a precarious resource such as water carefully.	Hware Bazar, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
	Improvisation in farming practices such as irrigation and crop cultivation		Eraviperor, Kerala
Smart Health	Assisting mobile health diagnostic solutions which required relatively low levels of local medical skill	Application of health services to remote areas such as remote patient monitoring, remote medical assistance, simultaneous monitoring and reporting, notifications and alert management	Anadwan, Hemalkasa, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra
			Nandangram, Dinaipur, West Bengal
Smart Education	By introducing skill development centres run by village residents who have links with the nearby city and a reasonable degree of organizing capability	To increase students' engagement and enable teachers to adapt to students' skills, interests and learning preferences.	Paniyara, Uttar Pradesh
	By generating distance and adaptive learning which reduces the need to move to towns or cities to achieve higher levels of education.	To establish innovations centres for students/youth	Nandangram, Dinaipur, West Bengal

Source: Pathak, V. and Deshkar, S., 2023

It is evident from this study that digital social work can improve performances across rural communities. This can ensure smarter connectivity as it can provide rural networking and exposure to global communities. It can provide effective horticultural, agricultural, and educational & health solutions.

However digital social work across the country should provide inclusive balanced regional growth across the country which could be the futuristic transformatory approaches for Indian rural communities towards 2030.

### Inclusive Sustainable Rural Social Work Solutions for 2030

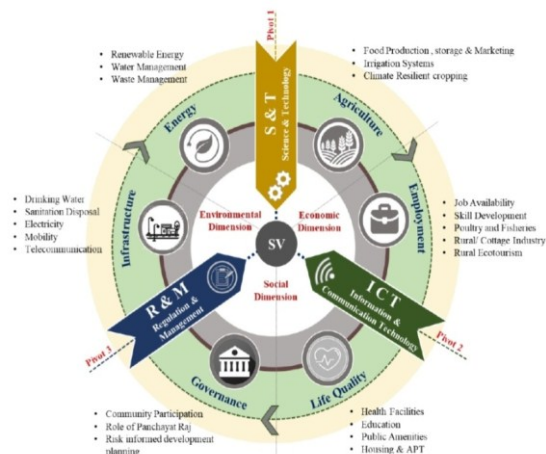


Source: Pathak, V. and Deshkar, S., 2023

Social workers and institutions across the country must ensure sustainable manageable and adaptive digital solutions which can transform Indian rural

communities. Although implementation of smart villages' digital programs is continuing across the country – there is a need for its effective and purposive implementation towards 2030 which is the need of the hour.

### Smart Digital Social Service Solutions for 2030



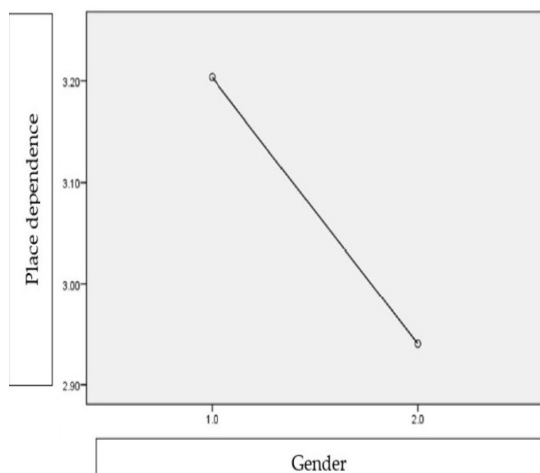
Source: Pathak, V. and Deshkar, S., 2023

The need for digital social work solutions which could effectively integrate the various rural community aspects with a holistic long term approach has to be carried out as it needs dedication, commitment and consistent efforts of Indian social workers towards 2030.

H1: Social workers and their contributions have a positive impact on quality of life of Indian rural communities

### Social Work & Rural Community Quality of Life

Social work engagement with consistency and continued efforts has transformed the rural community living. It has also added value to their quality of life. It has improved their living conditions {Tešin, A., Dragin, A.S., Mijatov Ladičorbić, M., Jovanović, T., Zadel, Z., Surla, T., Košić, K., Amezcua-Ogáyar, J.M., Calahorro-López, A., Kuzman, B. and Stojanović, V., 2024} social status. Social workers have ensured quality of life among rural communities which is really appreciable. This study has been done with 299 sample respondents in Serbia and Croatia.



**Source:** Tešin, A., Dragin, A.S., Mijatov Ladičorbić, M., Jovanović, T., Zadel, Z., Surla, T., Košić, K., Amezcua-Ogáyar, J.M., Calahorro-López, A., Kuzman, B. and Stojanović, V., 2024

It is evident from this study that gender had little impact on social work and its impact on place dependence. It is found from this study that quality of infrastructure and education along with culture had a very limited impact on rural development and overall satisfaction. The study also highlights the need to have new transformatory approaches which can improve the over all quality of living among rural communities. However it is also evident that academic researches have to focus on the relationships which prevail between social work & over all satisfaction of rural communities in Indian context which needs to be explored more empirically.

It is evident that rural social work had changed the social and infrastructural fabric of India as it has given new impetus, progressive pathways. This has also lead to improvement in socio economic development, prosperity, regional development & growth. But balanced regional growth and progress across Indian rural communities still remains a challenge. It is also evident that the consistent and constant engagement of social workers in India continues to inspire and transform Indian rural communities which have improved their quality of life as well.

### Findings of this Study

1. It is found from this study that digital village programs have been successfully implemented across the globe which has had positive effect on human development as it ensures sustainability for future
2. It is found from this study that smart village program has been successfully implemented across the country as it encounters implementation challenges also
3. It is found that digitalization of Indian villages has had positive effects on social workers as their performances and contributions have increased significantly
4. It is also found that digitalization of Indian villages has had positive effects on social workers as they are able to give sustainable contributions across rural industries
5. It is also found that digitalization of Indian villages has had positive effects on social workers as they are able to give increased quality of life for rural communities with effective engagement
6. It is also found that digitalization of Indian villages has had positive effects on social workers as they are able to give humanisitic sustainability of rural communities towards future.

### Conclusion and Suggestions

#### *Humanisitic Sustainability of Indian Rural Communities 2030*

It is concluded that social workers have really contributed to the socio economic welfare and progress of Indian rural communities. Their consistent and constant engagement with the people has led to positive and purposive results as we could see the socio economic development of Indian rural setting. It is also evident that social workers retain the humanistic orientation and interventions which can ensure sustainability towards 2030. It is also concluded that social workers magical contributions would continue to inspire us towards sustainable progress as it is done with love, kindness and consistency which is marvelous and appreciable. Social workers are the productive organs of Indian



society who have given remarkable contributions towards rural communities as it would continue to inspire us to contribute with dedication, love and affection for the masses towards 2030.

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