

SOCIO-LEGAL MECHANISMS FOR ACHIEVING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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The rural development policy in India is a mixture of decentralized governance, rights based legislative acts and environmental custodianship in order to foster economic prosperity, social inclusion and sustainability. Panchayati Raj Institutions are empowered by the Constitution 73rd amendment and the laws that reinforced the livelihood security and ecological governance include MGNREGA, NFSA, FRA, PESA, and the Biological Diversity Act. There are however loopholes as a result of insufficient fiscal devolution, bureaucracy as well as social inequities. It takes a more powerful local institution, more accountability and community involvement to take meaningful rural transformation. The socio-legal vision held by India appreciates that sustainable rural development relies not solely on legal frameworks but also on participatory governance in action with the global sustainability objectives.
