THE CHALLENGES BEFORE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT
India has the potential of becoming a leading economy and has the unique opportunity to make that growth inclusive, provided there is willingness on the part of all sections of society to put in hard and disciplined work, together with serious, sustained and purposeful planning. First, there is much that needs to be done to build up India’s potential. Better governance, more and better educational institutions, higher agricultural productivity, controlled inflation and improvement in infrastructure are some of the major and more important steps required in this direction. I mention these specifically, because each of these steps has a bearing on the inclusiveness of growth as well. Agriculture is extremely important for inclusive growth, since a large majority of the Indian population is dependent on farming. Improved agricultural productivity would bring in its wake increased family incomes for this vast majority. This, together with better infrastructure in the countryside – greater rural connectivity, rural electrification and investment in irrigation, would aid tremendously in tackling rural poverty, as well as add to the overall prosperity of the nation.

KEYWORDS: Challenges, mainstreaming, Inclusive development, marginalized groups