

## COMPARATIVE BREAKDOWN AND ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NERLP PROGRAMMES AMONG THE YOUTH IN AIZAWL DISTRICT, MIZORAM

**Dr. Jacob V.L. Awmpuia<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr. Vanlal Malsawma Sailo<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1\*</sup> Assistant Professor, Mizoram Christian College,

<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor (Guest), Pachhunga University College, MZU.

**\*Corresponding Author:** Dr. Jacob V.L. Awmpuia

\*Assistant Professor, Mizoram Christian College,

### Introduction

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is responsible for the matters relating to the planning, execution and monitoring of development schemes and projects in the North Eastern Region. Its vision is to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development of the Region, so that it may enjoy growth parity with the rest of the country. It acts as a facilitator between the Central Ministries/Departments and the State Government of North Eastern Region in several ways including rural development, removal of infrastructure bottlenecks, provision of basic minimum services and other economic activities. For the growth and development of the northeast region and for eradication of poverty and hunger, North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) has been initiated. It aims to promote livelihood and to reduce rural poverty. North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) is a World Bank-funded project and has implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER), which aims to improve rural livelihoods covering women, unemployed youth, the most disadvantaged citizens, and community groups in the region. It was started from 2012 and is implemented in the states of Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. The main objectives of the project including improvement of rural livelihoods by providing access to economic opportunities and adoption of sustainable agricultural and natural resource management by establishing participatory and accountable community-based institutions. It aims to improve rural livelihoods, especially that of women, unemployed youth, and the most disadvantaged sections by providing access to economic and livelihood opportunities; improving adoption of sustainable agricultural and natural resource management; building capacity of community institutions; empowering women; developing skills of youth, etc.

### Literature Review

Ravinder Kaur's (2007) book of 'Urban-Rural Relations and Regional Development' is based on the doctoral dissertation of the author. This book is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter starts with the concept of Urban-Rural relations. It also covers the objectives of the study, research questions, hypotheses, and research methodology. The second chapter is named regional setting and which deals with the area of the study from several aspects like physical setting, cultural setting, economic structure, etc. Chapter three indicates a historical overview of the urban-rural relations in India and also examines the latest regional patterns of urban-rural relations in India. Chapter four is named urban-rural relations: An Evolutionary Perspective. This chapter traces the evolution of urban-rural relations in the region before and after the emergence of Chandigarh. Chapter five attempts to capture the contemporary scenario, that is post-1966, of urban-rural relations in the ISCR. This chapter is broadly divided into two parts – change in urban-rural relation – (till 1971) and change in urban-rural relations (1971-1991). Chapter six made attempts to capture changes taking place during 1991-2002 in urban-rural relations in ISCR. This chapter emphasizes the development and maintenance of good quality infrastructure

especially in the field of transportation, communication, and information technology. Chapter seven aims to find out the association between the independent (urban-rural interaction) and dependent variables (population size, road accessibility, etc.) The final chapter is dealing with a summary of the study and indicates the findings

M.K Singh's (2014) book of 'Rural Development Administration' is broadly divided into seven chapters. Chapter one starts with the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) which was implemented in Gujarat. Water conservation and sustainable natural resources management are the heart of AKRSP's work. This chapter highlights the challenges faced by rural India and its opportunity. The second chapter is named Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Development which stated about the 73rd Amendment Act 1992 and also covers the financial power of the Panchayati Raj Institution and the constitution of the State Finance Commission. It talks about the people's participation in village-level government which covers the importance of participation, who is participating, and why. This chapter also discusses some government programmes for the development of rural India. Chapter three discusses the Ministry of Rural Development which deals with the history, organizational structure, and functions of the Ministry. It emphasizes the role of the Ministry in the development and improvement of rural India. Chapter three is about the role and functions of the District Rural Development Agency. It discusses the importance of coordination between the agency and Panchayati Raj Institutions. It focuses on the administration of the DRDA like organizational structure, administrative costs, personnel policies, financial procedures, etc. It also highlights the District Urban Development Agency. Chapter five dealing with the importance and necessity of e-governance in the administration of rural development. It emphasizes capacity building through e-governance, service delivery, promotion of science and technology, human

development, and democratic governance, etc. Chapter six is concerning employment in rural India. It talks about female participation, wage rates, trends in rural employment, etc. It highlights the current situations, challenges, and potential for rural employment in India. The last chapter deals with rural development planning management. It discusses the development of the personnel and the H.R functions in India. It also stated about the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) which covers several schemes and programmes for the upliftment and development of rural India.

K.Mahadevan, M.Lalitha and N.V. Narayana (2002) jointly writes the article 'Rural Participatory and Sustainable Development in the book of Participatory Experiment in Holistic Rapid Development which starts with the definition of rural development as 'improving living standards of the mass of low-income population residing at the rural areas and making the process of their development self-sustaining.' This article discusses the several rural development schemes adopted in the state of Andhra Pradesh like Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojan (SGSY), Women's Self-Help Groups, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Special Project under SGSY, Watershed Development Programme, Neero-Meeru Programme, Janmabhoomi – A people's Movement, Chief Minister's Employment of Youth (CMEY), Yuva Shakti Scheme, etc. This article highlights the strategies for rural development. The application, implementation, and achievement of those programmes are indicated in this article.

Manoj Kumar Singh (2010), in his article 'People's Participation in Rural Development: Some issues' published in the book of Rural Development in North East India focuses on people participation in rural development. It starts with the definition of rural development and defines it as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of people in a rural settlement and, in particular, it focuses on the rural poor comprising the small-scale farmers, tenants, and the landless. This article is about people's participation and highlights the concept and objectives of people participation. This article indicates that the purpose and process of people's participation is the involvement of human resource

development (HRD) in executing any activity. This article also highlights the needs and importance of people participation in rural development which says that people participation is required for maintaining democracy through decentralization of power. This article indicates the several problems associated with people participation like the absence of a strong commitment on the part of the government, the unhelpful attitude of civil service, etc. It also highlights the role of the development agency and indicates the importance of a field-level personnel plan for the involvement of the people in development activity. This article concludes with the relevance and requirements of people's participation in rural development.

B. Narayan (2011), in his article 'Some aspects of Management of Rural Development Programmes published in the book *Dynamics of Rural Development: Potential and Constraints* –I starts with highlighting the several programs launched for rural development and indicates the failure factors. It says that the meaning of rural development is not just to provide some physical infrastructure like school, health services, providing fertilizers, etc. but, the management of rural development must focus on understanding rural reality and local needs, mobilization and utilization of resources, planning and coordination, developing appropriate organization and institutional structure, monitoring, and evaluation. This article concludes that for proper management and implementation of rural development programs, it is essential to reorient the existing organizational structure and establish new ones with appropriate vertical and horizontal linkages keeping in view the short term and long-term effect of each program to ensure proper development from each program.

As seen from the above articles and books, the NERLP is proposed to have a great potential impact on economic and other skills pertaining to livelihood development. This study will focus on the respondents' utilisation and opinion about the projects that comes with the NERLP. Comparison among the programmes in tabulated forms is utilised to see the effectiveness of each in contribution to fulfilling the major objectives of NERLP. The utilised data and information were collected through a questionnaire and indicated in the following tables followed by the interpretation.

## Findings and interpretation

**Table No. 1: Programme Acknowledgement (N = 240)**

| Source              | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Facilitation Team   | 156                | 65         |
| Family Member       | 60                 | 25         |
| Friend(s)           | 20                 | 8.33       |
| Others              | 4                  | 1.67       |
| Programmes          |                    |            |
| SHG                 | 190                | 79.17      |
| Skill Dev. Training | 56                 | 23.34      |
| CDG                 | 85                 | 35.4       |

*Source: Field Study*

The present study observed that 156 (65%) of the respondents get information/knowledge on NERLP through the facilitation team, 60 (25%) respondents were from a family member, 20 (8.33%) of

respondents get information from friends and other 4 (1.66) getting from newspaper and other beneficiaries. This indicates that the Project Facilitation Team (PFT) fulfils their responsibilities and attains 65% for spreading knowledge/ information about the project. NERLP has implemented several programs, three major programs are highly beneficiated namely, SHG, Skill Development Training for Youth, and Community Development Group. The sample shows that 190 respondents have joined SHG and 56 members of the respondents were engaged in skill development training. There were 85 respondents who were also engaged in CDG. The majority of these members have been engaged in more than one programs which resulted in an access number of respondents i.e. 240 respondents.

**Table No. 2: Self-Help Group status**

| Self-Help Group                |                        |                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------|
|                                |                        | No Respondents | Percentage |
| Federation Enrolment           | Yes                    | 190            | 100        |
|                                | No                     | 0              | 0          |
| Satisfaction on SHG Federation | Yes                    | 120            | 63.157     |
|                                | No                     | 70             | 36.84      |
| Training                       | Yes                    | 165            | 86.84      |
|                                | No                     | 25             | 13.16      |
| Benefit from Training          | Yes                    | 120            | 72.72      |
|                                | No                     | 45             | 27.27      |
| Major Income Activities        | Agriculture and allied | 140            |            |
|                                | Livestock              | 50             |            |
|                                | Loan lending           | 188            |            |
|                                | Others                 | 170            |            |
| Increase in Family Income      | Yes                    | 132            | 69.47      |
|                                | No                     | 58             | 30.5       |
| Co-ordination within Group     | Yes                    | 160            | 84.21      |
|                                | No                     | 30             | 15.78      |
| Fund from NERLP                | Yes                    | 190            | 100        |
|                                | No                     | 0              | 0          |
| Receive Fund in right time     | Yes                    | 155            | 81.37      |
|                                | No                     | 35             | 18.42      |

*Source: Field Study*

In the above table, the number of respondents was lesser as compared with the previous tables and charts, because, this study also covers beneficiaries other than SHG, many beneficiaries are enrolled in

more than one program. The above table indicates the observation of the Self-Help Group. This study observes that all the SHGs were enrolled in the Federation in each village. 120 (63.157%) were satisfied with the SHG Federation in the way of looking after the SHGs and 70 (36.84%) of the respondents were not satisfied with the SHG Federation. Regarding training conducted for the SHG, 165 (86.84%) of the respondents were attending the pieces of training conducted by the officials and federation, whereas 25 (13.16%) of the respondents were not attending the training. This study indicates that training was conducted as per the norms and almost all the beneficiaries are attending the training. The observation indicates that 120 (72.72%) of the respondents were getting benefits like gaining knowledge, leadership, skills, etc. from training, but 45 (27.27%) were not getting benefits from their training. One of the reasons they told is training is a little bit difficult to understand for uneducated people and gives suggestion to simplify the training system. Almost all the groups were acting as a group and the present study observes that 180 respondents were doing agriculture and allied works for earning money. 50 respondents were using livestock as their source of income and at the time of this, the project mandate lending loan within their group as a source of income. So, 188 respondents were lending loans within their group with having the interest, the interest rate of the group loan is fixed by the meeting resolution of the group. The present study observes that the income of 149 (78.42%) respondents were increased after joining the group, whereas 41 (21.57%) of the respondents say that their income was not increased even after joining the SHG. This study indicates that there was good coordination among the members of the group in the majority of the groups. 160 (84.21%) of the respondents agree that there was good coordination among the members within the group, whereas not from 30 (15.78%) of the respondents. All the groups of the SHGs were getting financial assistance from the program and 155 (81.57%) of the respondents were getting those funds. Almost all the groups were getting funds at the right time, but 35 (18.42%) of the respondents were not getting funds at the right time.

**Table No.3: Skill Development Training for Youth (N=56)**

| Skill Development Training |     |                    |            |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------|------------|
|                            |     | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
| Selection Transparency     | Yes | 52                 | 92.85      |
|                            | No  | 4                  | 7.143      |
| Training System            | Yes | 41                 | 73.21      |
|                            | No  | 15                 | 26.78      |
| Placement Offer            | Yes | 33                 | 58.92      |
|                            | No  | 23                 | 41.07      |
| Benefit from Training      | Yes | 47                 | 83.92      |
|                            | No  | 9                  | 16.07      |

*Source: Field Study*

This table indicates the Skill Development Training for Youth. As mentioned previously, the respondents were only 56 and those were the beneficiaries of the Skill Development Training. The present study observes that 52 (92.85%) of the respondents say the selection criteria and process for Skill Development Training were fair and transparent, whereas 4 (7.14%) of the respondents were not agreed with this. 41 (73%) of the respondents agreed that the training systems, courses and institutions and trainers were good enough and but not agreed by 15 (26.78%) of the respondents. Some of the

beneficiaries were facing minor problems during their training including language problems, lack of expert trainers, etc. The majority of the respondents 58.92% say that there was a placement offer for the trainee after finishing the training course and it depends on the performance during the training. 41.071% of the trainee were not getting placement offer from the institution/ training agency. 83.92 % of the trainee were getting benefits from the training programme whereas 16.07 % of the trainee were not getting benefits from training programme.

**Table No. 4: Community Development Group (CDG) (N=85)**

| Community Development Group      |     |                    |            |
|----------------------------------|-----|--------------------|------------|
|                                  |     | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
| Awareness about CDG              | Yes | 72                 | 84.70      |
|                                  | No  | 13                 | 15.29      |
| Transparency of Work             | Yes | 68                 | 80         |
|                                  | No  | 17                 | 20         |
| Coordination within Group        | Yes | 74                 | 82.35      |
|                                  | No  | 11                 | 12.94      |
| Coordination between PFT and CDG | Yes | 78                 | 91.76      |
|                                  | No  | 7                  | 8.23       |

*Source: Field Study*

In this study, there were 85 respondents from the beneficiaries and were selected through random. Regarding awareness about the Community Development Group (CDG), 72 (84.705%) of the respondents were getting awareness about the organization, functions, and working process of the CDG. 13 (15.29%) of the respondents were not knowing the CDG in details. This shows that the project needs to spread about the project to the beneficiaries as much as possible. Each work is done by the CDG itself. 68 (80%) of the respondents say that the working process of the CDG is fair and transparent, whereas not by 17 (20%) of the respondents. During the implementation of the project and in the administration of the group, 74 (87.05%) of the respondents says that there was good coordination among the members of the group, but not by 11 (12.9%) of the respondents. There was good coordination between the Project Facilitation Team (PFT) and CDG from the opinion of 78 (91.76%) respondents during the implementation of the project. But, 7 (8.23%) of the respondents say that there were no good relations and coordination between PFT and CDG members.

### Officials and Beneficiaries

This part is about the officials and beneficiaries – their coordination, relation, condition of working, etc. and indicated in the following tables and charts:

**Table No. 5: Project Monitoring (N=240)**

| Monitoring  | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| Good        | 164                | 68.33      |
| Satisfy     | 50                 | 20.83      |
| Not Satisfy | 26                 | 10.83      |

*Source: Field Study*

The Project Facilitation Team and other officials of the project were responsible to monitor the works and implementation of the project. During the implementation, 164 (68.33%) of the respondents says that the PFTs were good in monitoring the works, 50 (20.8%) of the respondents were satisfied with PFT in terms of monitoring, but, 26 (10.8%) of the respondents were not satisfied by the PFTs in monitoring the project.

**Table No. 6: Coordination between Officials and Beneficiaries (N = 240)**

|              | Category | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------|----------|--------------------|------------|
| Coordination | Yes      | 190                | 79.16      |
|              | No       | 50                 | 20.83      |

*Source: Field Study*

The above table indicates that 190 (79.16%) of the respondents say that there was good coordination between the officials and beneficiaries of the project during the implementation. But 50 (20.83 %) of the respondents were thinking that there was some gap and miscommunication between the Officials and the beneficiaries.

## Conclusion

The formation of a self-help group is one of the main activities to uplift the socio-economic status of the villagers. SHG is a small group of rural poor, who have voluntarily come forward to form a group for improvement of the social and economic status of the members. It can be formal (registered) or informal. NERLP gives funds to support their activities based on their performance, funds given to the SHGs are to be used for group loan capital. Till the end of the project, 87 Self-Help Group Federations is formed in Aizawl District.

The main objective of the skill development training is to enable the youth in the project area to find new employment opportunities. The youth would be also encouraged to start their enterprises based on the skills developed or upgraded to contemporary context and requirements. In Aizawl District till the end of the project, 579 youth were getting training, and out of that, 230 were getting job placement. Beyond these, NERLP plays a very crucial role in the implementation of the Project. Decentralization of power is very useful in this project, the PFTs were empowered to make an appointment of Community Service Provider (CSP) including Para Vet, Bank Facilitator, and SHG Facilitator. It has a good impact in several ways such as promoting economic activities through self-help groups, skill development training, etc., and also helps in increasing the income of the beneficiaries. This project has a lot of positive impact like making self-confidence, making leadership quality, imparting knowledge to maintain family accounts, record keeping, etc. among the beneficiaries especially in members of self-help groups. It makes improvement and progression in the community assets through community development group, but not ideal.

Still, there is a need for improvement of the project such as irregular monitoring of the activities in some areas, overlapping in the implementation of the project, the complexity of the paper works to be

maintained by the beneficiaries, etc. So, the study found that the working of NERLP is not effective enough. It is suggested that there should be good coordination and relation between the functionaries from the top to the grassroots level. For this, the top-level should understand unforeseen problems faced by their subordinates and visit as much as possible to see those problems. It is suggested that allocation of more funds for development works should be made, rather than high allocation of administrative cost, which will make the project more successful.

### References:

1. Kaur, Ravinder. (2007). *'Urban-Rural Relations and Regional Development'*. Kerala: Regal Publications.
2. Singh, M.K. (2012). *'Rural Development Administration'*. Delhi: Anmol Publication.
3. Mahadevan, K., Lalitha, M., and Narayana, N.V. (2002). *'Rural Participatory and Sustainable Development'*. *Participatory Experiment in Holistic Rapid Development*. Delhi: B.R. Publishing Corporation.
4. Manoj Kumar Singh (2010). *'People's Participation in Rural Development: Some issues'* in Rural Development in North East India. New Delhi: Concept Publishing.
5. Narayan, B. (2011). *'Some aspects of Management of Rural Development Programmes'*. *Dynamics of Rural Development: Potential and Constraints – I*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.
6. Singh, Katar. (2009). *Rural Development - Principles, Policies and Management*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
7. Singh, Kh. Menjor. (2008). *Participatory Development – A Case Study*. New Delhi: Mittal Publications.
8. Singh, M.K. (2012). *'Rural Development Administration'*. Delhi: Anmol Publication.
9. Singh, Ram Shankar. (2012). *'Rural Development Through Community'*. Delhi: Globus Press.
10. Suguna, B. (2011), *Empowerment of Rural Women Through Self Help Groups*. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House.
11. Thakur, Baleshwar., Sinha, V.N.P., Prasad, M., Sharma, N., Pratap, Rana., Mandal, R.B. and Singh, R.B.P. (2005). *Urban & Regional Development in India*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.
12. Verma, R.B.S., Verma, H.S. and Singh, Raj Kumar. (2006). *Empowerment of The Weaker Sections in India*. New Delhi: Serials Publications
13. Verma Bihari, Sawalia., Sharma, Krishna Murali. and Sharma, Kumar Niraj. (2008), *Better Quality of Rural Life*. New Delhi: Sarup & Sons.
14. Verma, S.B., Singh, R.D. and Jiloka, S.K. (2006). *Rural Poverty Alleviation and Employment*. New Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications Pvt.Ltd.
15. Agrawal, Meenu. and Singh, Prabha. (2011). *'Urbanisation of Rural Areas and Poverty Eradication through Innovations'*. *Poverty Eradication and Development through Innovations*. New Delhi: New Century Publications. New Delhi: New Century Publications. pp- 25-38.
16. Bimal J. Deb. (2008). *'North East India and its Council for Development'*. *Globalization and North East India*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company. pp – 6-20.
17. Ghosh, Samir. (2013). *'Women Empowerment and Role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Micro-Finance'*. *Micro Enterprise and Rural Development in India*. New Delhi: Serials Publications. pp – 299-305.