



CONTRIBUTION OF NRLM TOWARDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN NAGALAND, INDIA

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Abstract: Nagaland State rural livelihood mission (NSRLM) is the implementing agency for NRLM in the State and embodies the principles and vision of NRLM while keeping in mind the unique features of the State. It was launched in 2012 in Nagaland. Nagaland is the 16th state of India inaugurated in 1963 on the North Eastern Part of India. NRLM is a poverty alleviating project whereby the women folks are organized into self sustaining SHGs. Through the concept of SHG the socio-economic status of women has improved effectively all over the world and therefore, through this small study, the contribution of SHG's towards community development in Nagaland has been analyzed. The descriptive research method was adopted to meet out the research objectives. Both primary and secondary data were used. The primary data was collected by using structured schedule. The study concluded that NSRLM provided great opportunities by giving necessary training which enables them to contribute towards their community development and while developing themselves the SHG members were also contributing to the larger community and thus bringing about a change in the mindset of the people by setting good examples.

Key Words: NRLM, NSRLM, SHG, Contribution, Community, Development.

1. INTRODUCTION:

National rural livelihood mission (NRLM) is a poverty alleviation project launched in 2011 by the ministry of rural development, government of india, and is focused on promoting self-employment and organization of rural poor. Nagaland State rural livelihood mission (NSRLM) is the implementing agency for NRLM in the State and embodies the principles and vision of NRLM while keeping in mind the unique features of the State. It was launched in 2012 in Nagaland. In the context of NSRLM, the target beneficiaries who are considered as the poor are mostly the women members of the household who express the need for self-reliance and also, NRLM ensures adequate coverage of vulnerable sections of the society where the women beneficiaries are targeted to be 50% of the total.

Governments, donors and non-profit organizations are increasingly delivering interventions through locally organized SHGs, in the belief that such institutional arrangements will enhance development outcomes, encourage sustainability and foster capacity in local civil society (¹Gugerty et.al, 2019) , thus, the basic idea behind NRLM programme is also to organize the poor into SHG (self help groups) groups and make them capable for self-employment. Self-help groups (SHGs) are a common form of community-based organization in many developing countries. Self-help groups are mutual assistance groups in which individuals having like minded personalities share a common platform to address their socio-economic issues and undertake collective action with the goal of improving their own lives. There have also been many success stories of SHG where working in groups have helped in generating additional benefits by providing peer pressure, commitment mechanisms that encourage the adoption of new norms, practices or behaviours towards achieving their goal. When women come together and work in groups, they are able to execute their innovative ideas into action which may be replicated far and wide. Group participation is often hypothesized to support the development of individual and group capacity, empowerment and self-efficacy (²Quisimbing & Pandofelli, 2009). The results from a study in rural india by ³Joshi et al (2010), also confirmed that SHGs can be a powerful instrument of development policy, moreover, placing women at the center of development policy can have far-reaching impact.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW: ⁴Mandahar et al. (2004) found that women's group members reached an average of six other women with information on health strategies. Several studies suggest that individuals who participate in any



group are more likely to be well connected and participate in multiple groups or community-based organizations, which may lead to spill over effects in the community ⁵(Anderson et al 2009; ⁶davis & negash 2007). ⁶Terdal (2018) in his study on role of SHG concluded that SHG movement has achieved a grand success in bringing out many positive and rapid changes in the lives of poor in term of socio-economic and politico-cultural aspects and paving a concrete path towards their social, economic and political development, despite many problems and constraints. The study on SHG by ⁷Murugan, bala., (2019) concluded that, majority of the respondents agreed that the self help groups has improved the socioeconomic empowerment in the way of access to credit, improved economic status, self confident and improved awareness and ability to do solve financial problems.

3. MATERIALS AND METHOD: The present study was carried out in the State of Nagaland. A total of 6 blocks (2/districts) from 3 districts (Mokokchung, Longleng, Dimapur) were selected. A list of all the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) were collected from the sample districts and from which, 18 Self Help Groups (6/district) which were actively functioning were purposively selected. A total of 120 beneficiaries were selected as the final respondents.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

4.1 Reason for joining SHG

Table 1 distribution of beneficiaries based on reason for joining SHG n=120/reason

Reason for joining	Beneficiaries	
	F	%
Improves social status	66	55.00
Improves economic status	105	87.50
Promote saving habit	105	87.50
Obtain financial support	102	85.00
Initiate group activities	68	56.67
Community development activities	46	38.33
Influenced by friends and relatives	10	8.33

The findings indicated that majority of the beneficiaries were concerned towards improving their economic status and to promote saving habit while obtaining financial support was also one of their main reason which also justifies their reason for improving economic status. It was also observed that they were less concerned about obtaining social status and to initiate group activities or community development activities by joining SHG. It can be inferred from the findings that, the people gave more importance to improve their economic status than all other reasons. Hence, keeping up with one of their main objective i.e., 'alleviation of poverty', NSRLM is positively working towards economic improvement of the beneficiaries.

4.2 Activities of SHGs

18 SHGs were interacted upon to collect information on the various income generating activities and social/community based actions performed by them and finally, the most responded community activities carried out by them were selected and grouped as under.

Table 2 distribution of SHGs based on income generating activities (IGA) n=18/category

Category	F	%
Dish wash, detergents, pickles	3	16.67
Tailoring, knitting, weaving	13	72.22
Home based shops	13	72.22
Noodles	1	5.55
Others (vermi compost, farming)	14	77.77

It is clearly revealed from table 2 that, 14 SHGs (77.77%) practice vermin-composting and farming for source of income. 13 SHGs (72.22%) does knitting, tailoring and weaving and also home based shops for source of income. 3 SHGs (16.67) out of 18 SHGs prepares dish wash, detergents and pickles for income and 1 SHG (5.55%) was found to prepare raw noodles as a source of income.

The findings revealed that the beneficiaries were more comfortable using the skills that they have such a tailoring, weaving and they were also practical by raising incomes by selling products which most household would



require. However, it was found that, weaving was mostly done by the SHGs from mokokchung district, dish wash, detergent making and noodles were undertaken by the SHGs from dimapur district and home based shops were undertaken mostly by the SHGs of longleng district while the remaining were generally done by all the SHGs. Therefore, NSRLM may prioritize the type of training to be provided for the SHGs as per their skills, needs and interests for income generation activities.

4.3 SHG towards community development

Table 3 distribution of SHGs based on community development n=18/category

Category	F	%
Social works at-least once in a year	13	72.22
Donation to society/organizations	6	33.33
Minimum pension support to single/old aged person	11	61.11
Help the needy	12	66.67
Others (visit orphanage, domestic violence)	7	38.89

It is clearly evident from table 3 that, 13 SHGs (72.22%) conducts social work for the welfare of the public for at-least once in a year. 12 SHGs (66.67%) gave donation for betterment of the society or public organization. 11 SHGs (61.11%) had also gave monetary support as pension to single or old aged person. 12 SHGs (66.67%) had also helped the needy and 7 SHGs (38.89%) had done other charity works like visiting orphanage, advocated domestic violence etc.

The study revealed that while developing themselves they were also contributing to the larger community and thus bringing about a change in the mindset of the people by setting good examples. Therefore, the NSRLM has brought about positive changes in the community through the SHGs.

5. CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS :

The findings indicated that, one third of the beneficiaries had their share of interest in community development activities through various SHG activities and therefore joined SHG with that particular reason above all other choices. The findings also revealed that the beneficiaries were more comfortable using the skills that they have such a tailoring, weaving and they were also practical by raising incomes by selling products which most household would require. The study concluded that NSRLM provided great opportunities by giving necessary training which enables them to contribute towards their community development and while developing themselves the SHG members were also contributing to the larger community and thus bringing about a change in the mindset of the people by setting good examples. Thus, the NSRLM has brought about positive changes in the community through the SHGs.

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