

# IMPACT OF NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION (NRLM) IN GENERATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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## Abstract

The Government of India restructured SGSY to create the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). NRLM's guiding concept guarantees that the poor have a strong desire and inherent ability to come out of poverty. The present study will be useful to analyze the impact of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in Generating Employment Opportunities and Poverty Alleviation in Himachal Pradesh. 540 individual members of NRLM were interviewed through the multistage sampling method. It is further observed that the mean value of the responses related to all variables is more than the average standard score. Thus, it can be concluded that majority of people are satisfied with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) that it has positive impact in employment generation and thus helpful in poverty reduction.

**Keywords:** NRLM, Poverty, SGSY, Employment, Livelihood

## INTRODUCTION

IRDP's shortcomings have been highlighted in a number of studies, including a lack of collaboration among supporting agencies, a regional disparity in the distribution of funds, poor management, a poor infrastructure, non-utilisation of funds, tricky rules and regulations, an absence of inter-sectoral connectivity, participation of middle men, a disinterest from civil servants, and middle man participation. The government was obliged to construct the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarazgar Yojana (SGSY) in April 1999 as a complete group-based strategy to supplement many employment-generating programmes due to the IRDP's prior limits. Due to the absence of poor people's enterprises and their poor credit creditworthiness, SGSY employed a bank linkage model, wherein SHGs were founded and sponsored by banks. The project employed a poverty financing technique for the poor due to a shortage of credit. As per the Radhakrishna committee report, the program's effectiveness was deemed adequate in the states of Manipur, Andhrapradesh, Kerala, Nagaland, and Assam. There was even a 55.38 percent increase in total cultivated areas and an improvement in the earnings of beneficiaries who worked in the field before the programme was implemented.

SGSY, on the other hand a lot of drawbacks. SGSY, on the other hand, had its own set of limitations. A difficult credit application procedure, a short payback period, paucity of program-related knowledge, and several obstacles faced by beneficiaries in

filing out the bank application form ,were identified as the program's key drawbacks. Only a fourth of the recipients were observed to be engaged in income-generating activities. The SHG program's foundation appeared to be very poor, since participants left after getting the revolving fund, and beneficiaries who cleared the grade II test appeared to have to wait for a longer period of time to receive a loan and subsidy amount. The credit delivery process, according to RRC, has further issues. As a fundamental feature of Self Help Group (SHG) funding, bank branches utilise a traditional approach rather than a microfinance strategy. As a consequence, the committee recommended converting from a self-employment strategy to a wage-employment system in order to fight poverty's fundamental illness. The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), a rural livelihood fund, and a hybrid model of self-employment and paid employment were also advocated by the RRC. The Government of India reformed SGSY to create the National Rural Livelihood Mission in response to the RRC's recommendations (NRLM). The guiding principle of the NRLM ensures that the poor have a strong desire and innate capacity to escape poverty.

## **REVIEWS OF LITERATURE**

Jagdeeshwari (2015) found from her research that NRLM has benefited the poor, as they have gained a significant level of self-reliance and, as a result, increased economic confidence. Shankar (2016) concluded that SHG method has improved the economic situations of many BPL households in Kolar district, since credits were properly utilised for income-generating activities. Roy and Dasgupta (2017) attempted to enumerate the literature on topics such as poverty, vulnerable sector livelihood promotion, various promotional schemes, including NRLM, and their responsibilities in promoting the aforementioned section towards a sustainable livelihood promotion programme.

Boro (2017) investigated rural women's livelihood and socioeconomic development as part of the National Rural Livelihood MISSION (NRLM). It was discovered that there is a growing need to improve women's livelihoods and the implementation of NRLM initiatives.

Sinha (2018) explained various poverty alleviation programmes such as PMAY-G, PMGSY, MGNREGS, and DAY-NRLM. These are some examples of infrastructure development and livelihood development programmes that contribute to the creation of direct and indirect jobs. Agrawal (2018) investigated the government's numerous job creation programmes and came to the conclusion that the government of India has taken a number of actions that, taken collectively, are likely to have a meaningful influence on job creation in the country. Mehta (2018) defined budget (2018-19). The

budget seeks to maintain its focus on poverty, rural economy, health care education, and infrastructure digitalization in the face of sluggish economic development, tough fiscal conditions, and agricultural distress.

Nagaraja (2018) proposed that women instructors should be appointed in preference to male teachers, and that specific initiatives for women's welfare, such as Pradhan Manthri Sukanya Samridhi, should be created (PMSSY). Sucharita, Bishnoi (2019) tried to explain the role of SHG. The number of women SHGs is growing every day, and it is proven to be beneficial. It is critical to the society's economic growth and hence to the people's economic empowerment. Tripathy (2020) indicated that in order for the National Rural Livelihood Mission to be effective in rural regions, village-level training, skill development, and placement-oriented programmes are needed.

### **NEED OF THE STUDY**

The ongoing study will be relevant in analysing the effect of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) on job creation and poverty reduction in Himachal Pradesh. It would assist policymakers as well as rural people in the growth of Himachal Pradesh's rural regions. It is also believed that the government will plan best and that people would provide their full cooperation and involvement to ensure the success of the Himachal Pradesh Rural Development Scheme. Methods and Methodologies Used

This research categorically followed the Qualitative approach so far as the primary method of research is concerned. The constructionist view and inductive angle of the qualitative approach helped in multiple interpretations. For example: how the idea of 'Rela' is seen differently in different Gharanas and how their understanding of the emotion is reflected differently in their performances. The principal orientation towards the understanding of the research is related to the theoretical perspective generated through critical views and discussions. So far as other methods are concerned, we have taken into account the primary 'bols' and structures of the different rhythmic circles which have provided us different Discourses in Tabla. Interview as a method has also been used and the help of electronic database helped immensely in forming the hypothesis.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To analyze the impact of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in generating employment opportunities and poverty alleviation in Himachal Pradesh.

## HYPOTHESIS

**H0:** The opinion of beneficiaries regarding the impact of NRLM in generating employment opportunities and poverty alleviation in Himachal Pradesh is equally distributed.

**H1:** The opinion of beneficiaries regarding the impact of NRLM in generating employment opportunities and poverty alleviation in Himachal Pradesh is not equally distributed.

## METHODOLOGY

The Data required for the study has been collected from the primary Source only. Questionnaires were used by the investigator in three districts namely Mandi, Shimla and Kangra of Himachal Pradesh. 540 individual members of NRLM were interviewed through the multistage sampling method.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Descriptive statistical analysis of statements related to the Impact of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in Generating Employment Opportunities and Poverty Alleviation

| Variables                                     | Nature of response |               |              |               |               | Total        | $\bar{x}$ | $\sigma$ | Sk    | Kt     | $\chi^2$ | p Value |
|---|--------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|----------|-------|--------|----------|---------|
|   | SD                 | D             | N            | A             | SA            |              |           |          |       |        |          |         |
| Economic independence                         | 66<br>(12.2)       | 80<br>(14.8)  | 48<br>(8.9)  | 130<br>(24.1) | 216<br>(40)   | 540<br>(100) | 3.64      | 1.436    | -.665 | -1.000 | 169.407  | .000    |
| Minimized family dependence on money lenders  | 53<br>(9.8)        | 101<br>(18.7) | 46<br>(8.5)  | 141<br>(26.1) | 199<br>(36.9) | 540<br>(100) | 3.61      | 1.393    | -.583 | -1.070 | 150.815  | .000    |
| decisions regarding utilization of money      | 53<br>(9.8)        | 122<br>(22.6) | 64<br>(11.9) | 117<br>(21.4) | 184<br>(34.1) | 540<br>(100) | 3.48      | 1.405    | -.359 | -1.298 | 101.981  | .000    |
| Increase in saving                            | 33<br>(6.1)        | 68<br>(12.6)  | 54<br>(10)   | 142<br>(26.3) | 243<br>(45)   | 540<br>(100) | 3.91      | 1.264    | -.944 | -.325  | 273.352  | .000    |
| Increase in capacity to spend more            | 51<br>(9.4)        | 82<br>(15.2)  | 58<br>(10.7) | 154<br>(28.5) | 195<br>(36.1) | 540<br>(100) | 3.66      | 1.348    | -.681 | -.837  | 149.167  | .000    |
| Improvement in basic facilities and amenities | 47<br>(8.7)        | 93<br>(17.2)  | 59<br>(10.9) | 150<br>(27.8) | 191<br>(35.4) | 540<br>(100) | 3.64      | 1.345    | -.613 | -.941  | 138.889  | .000    |
| Increased living standards                    | 47<br>(8.7)        | 89<br>(16.5)  | 68<br>(12.6) | 149<br>(27.6) | 187<br>(34.6) | 540<br>(100) | 3.62      | 1.334    | -.602 | -.918  | 125.963  | .000    |

|   |             |               |              |               |               |              |      |       |       |        |         |      |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------|-------|-------|--------|---------|------|
| More opportunities for income generation                | 52<br>(9.6) | 87<br>(16.1)  | 69<br>(12.8) | 137<br>(25.4) | 193<br>(36.1) | 540<br>(100) | 3.62 | 1.364 | -.593 | -.970  | 125.074 | .000 |
| Minimizing the gap of social classes                    | 46<br>(8.5) | 88<br>(16.3)  | 89<br>(16.5) | 121<br>(22.4) | 196<br>(35.3) | 540<br>(100) | 3.62 | 1.342 | -.532 | -1.001 | 115.907 | .000 |
| Acquisition of skill for income generation              | 51<br>(9.4) | 93<br>(17.2)  | 47<br>(8.7)  | 127<br>(23.5) | 222<br>(41.1) | 540<br>(100) | 3.69 | 1.396 | -.667 | -.981  | 190.296 | .000 |
| NRLM has improved the economic condition of swarojgaris | 38<br>(7)   | 110<br>(20.4) | 44<br>(8.1)  | 135<br>(25)   | 213<br>(39.4) | 540<br>(100) | 3.69 | 1.354 | -.611 | -1.043 | 192.167 | .000 |
| Self-employment   | 43<br>(8)   | 87<br>(16.1)  | 58<br>(10.7) | 147<br>(27.2) | 205<br>(38)   | 540<br>(100) | 3.71 | 1.329 | -.690 | -.826  | 167.556 | .000 |
| Poverty Alleviation                                     | 53<br>(9.8) | 92<br>(17)    | 58<br>(10.7) | 138<br>(25.6) | 199<br>(36.9) | 540<br>(100) | 3.63 | 1.379 | -.599 | -1.007 | 138.537 | .000 |

Source: Data collected through Questionnaire

The mean value of all responses pertaining to all factors is more than the average standard score, as shown in table no. 1.7.1. The computed skewness value is negative, which shows that the distribution of opinion is lying towards higher side over these issues. The Kurtosis is also recorded as negative, indicating that the response distribution is platykurtic. At a 5% level of significance, the estimated result of the chi square test (goodness of fit) is substantially greater than the table value. It leads to accept alternative hypothesis. As a result, it can be concluded that the National Rural Livelihood Mission has met the expectations of the vast majority of people (NRLM). It also has a significant influence on creating job opportunities and reducing poverty in Himachal Pradesh.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Women have now been able to start their own businesses. They are receiving training from the government. As a result, their technical and practical abilities have improved. They're learning how to make new things by working together in the group. Members benefit from education and training given by a variety of organisations, including the government, which helps them become more conscious of social issues and improve marketing and entrepreneurial skills. SHG members have been able to earn more income, enabling them to save and spend more money.

The National Rural Livelihood Mission has resulted in a rise in job opportunities (NRLM). As a result, it is possible to infer that the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) has a favourable influence on women's job options. As a nutshell, it's proven

to be an effective instrument for reducing poverty. NRLM is undeniably beneficial to women's welfare. The government should make it a priority for more women to engage with the NRLM. People in rural areas should be informed about the different programmes and their importance. To solve this issue and make the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) more visible to rural poor people, the government may step up its public relations efforts and create a special department dedicated to women's development.

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