

AN EVALUATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

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Abstract

Central Government as well as state Government has launched many rural development schemes for the sustainable development of the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh. These schemes have been based on economic and socio-cultural development. Some of them create infrastructure and generate employment. The main object of all the different programmes is sustainable human development. There is no significance of Rural Development Schemes, if it will not generate employment and no significance of employment, if it will not develop the basic structure, because all the Rural Development Schemes are interlinked to each other. Many of them have achieved significant success in this direction. In this paper, overall impact of the Rural Development Schemes has been analyzed. The efforts have been made to examine the impact of rural development schemes on different sectors. Comparison has also been made between different Rural Development Schemes and their implementation by the different departments.

Key words: Rural areas, Rural Development, Sustainable Development, Rural Development Schemes.

INTRODUCTION

Rural development is a part of larger process of development of national society. It is legitimate that it contributes to the overall goals of national development, employment generation, equity development of industries and services for self-reliance and so on. Rural development strategy logically forms an integral part of overall national development. It aims at raising quality of living standard of this population. Rural development defines its most dominant concern and major deployment of means and organizational energy. It should go for ensuring health, happiness and learning and meaningful work opportunities for rural population.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The present study aimed at to evaluate the rural development schemes launched by the centre as well as State Government Therefore, it is necessary to review the previous literature available on the present topic so as to determine the need of the present study and to establish the research gap. In view of this, all possible academic and non-academic work in the area of rural development has been thoroughly reviewed and studied with due attention to strengthen this proposed research work. It is classified as text books, journals, various articles published in academic and non academic journals, reference books and various other research works. It also establishes the relationship between different aspects of rural development as an

instrument of economic development and role of rural development in the overall development of the nation. A brief description of review of literature is given below:

Naidu, Dr. M.D., Narayana (1995) made a detailed discussion on economic development programmes. He revealed that India is undergoing through a rapid socio-economic transformation. The villagers are experiencing a great change. They are participating in the programmes of planned economic development and social change. He further concluded that rural India is no longer a contented static society and a fabric of pure traditional culture. **Anjani (1995)** highlighted the different aspects of Mahila Samridhi Yojna concerning about its conceptual frame work, implementation and its progress. The study revealed showed that this scheme was launched by the Government on 2nd Oct., 1993. The objective of the scheme was to encourage thrift among rural women.

Joshi (1996) in his research work entitled "Indira Mahila Yojna", empowerment of women stressed the importance of IMY to uplift the women in rural areas. The study concluded that Indira Mahila. Yojana was an effort to mobilize women and seeking their participation in the planning and development of women's welfare programmes. **Muttlayya (1997)** made an attempt to study "People Participation: Methodological Issues". He observed that participation of the people in all programmes for rural development has been a prerequisite in order to ensure their acceptance. He concluded in his study that sustenance participation involves voluntary contribution by people in programmes and projects to bring about the needed changes either among the people or in the environment.

Dubey and Tyagi (1997) made an attempt to assess the involvement community in Rural Development Experience in SAARC countries. The study revealed that whole planning for the micro level, flexibility may be so as to allow necessary adjustment to take into account the local people into confidence during the course of execution of the micro plan. In this way, it could make the programme more meaningful to the people. **Reddy and Srinivasa (1998)** made an attempt to assess poverty alleviation appraisal of IRDP. They further revealed that the effective implementation of programmes required proper coordination between the official machinery, credit agencies, voluntary service organisation and the people particularly poor. Finally they concluded that orientation and "training must be given to the implementing staff in various activities under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

Krishna Mohan (1998) in his paper "Scheduled Population of tribal areas in Himachal Pradesh: A Spatial Analysis" revealed that there has been even absolute

decline in Tribal population in some Tehsils. What is further surprising is that while the scheduled tribes are declining in numbers, the scheduled castes are rapidly increasing. Most significant note is that the increase in scheduled castes population reported in seven tehsils even higher than the increase in the total population of each tehsil. The paper addressed these and other related issues in the spatio-temporal perspective.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study is an attempt to highlight the significant aspects and weaknesses of rural development programmes. It is helpful for scientific and systematic planning and proper implementation of different rural development programmes/ schemes in the state.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the main objectives of the study

- To examine the awareness of beneficiaries towards rural development schemes.
- To analyse the economic impact of RDS on beneficiaries in district Bilaspur.

METHODOLOGY

Consistent with the objectives of the study, different tools and techniques have been used to analyze the data. The collected data have been presented in tabular form and, analyzed with the help mathematical and statistical tools viz percentage, simple average, Weighted Arithmetic Mean, Standard Deviation, Skewness, Kurtosis and Chi Square Test.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Table No. 5.1: An Evaluation of Various Rural Development Schemes

Name of the Schemes	S.A	P.A	N.A	Total	Mean	S.D.	Sk	K _t	χ^2
Indira Awas Yojana/RGAY	115	29	6	150	2.7267	0.568	-1.8	2.369	396.1
National Family Benefit Scheme	93	48	9	150	2.56	0.606	-1.05	0.068	212
Watershed Development Programme	74	66	10	150	2.4267	0.616	-0.58	-0.59	145.9
Total Sanitation Campaign	60	59	31	150	2.1933	0.755	-0.34	-1.18	35.52
Mahila Mandal Protsahan Yojana	73	55	22	150	2.34	0.72	-0.61	-0.87	80.28
Green Gold Scheme	42	84	24	150	2.12	0.653	-0.13	-0.68	113.8
National Rural	70	58	22	150	2.32	0.716	-0.56	-0.89	74.84

Employment Gurantee Scheme (NREGS)									
Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana	52	67	31	150	2.14	0.731	-0.22	-1.11	39.24
Community Development Programme	46	66	38	150	2.0533	0.747	-0.09	-1.2	24.96

Source: Data Collected through Questionnaire

Note: SA – Strongly Agree, PA-Partially Agree, NA-Not Agree, S.D.-Standard Deviation, Sk-Skewness, K_t- Kurtosis, χ^2 - Chi-square.

Thus, it can be concluded on the basis of the data given in the table number 5.1 that majority of the respondents agree with the opinion that these schemes had played a significant role in the overall development of the Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh.

Table 5.2: Evaluation of various Departments in the Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of Rural Development Schemes

Name of the Schemes	S.A	P.A	N.A	Total	Mean	S.D.	Sk	K _t	χ^2
Panchayati Raj Institutions	117	26	7	150	2.733	0.538	-1.92	2.739	414.8
Agriculture Departments	103	41	6	150	2.647	0.556	-0.3	0.726	289.6
Horticulture Departments	70	63	17	150	2.353	0.675	-0.57	-0.73	99.48
Welfare Departments	67	69	14	150	2.353	0.645	-0.49	-0.68	116.8
I.P.H.	52	84	14	150	2.253	0.614	-0.21	-0.58	147.4
Health	49	79	22	150	2.18	0.665	-0.22	-0.77	97.56
Animal Husbandry	58	64	28	150	2.2	0.731	-0.33	-1.08	44.64
Education	75	52	23	150	2.347	0.731	-0.64	-0.88	81.48
Forest	41	77	32	150	0.06	0.696	-0.81	-0.93	68.04

Source: Data Collected through Questionnaire

Note: SA – Strongly Agree, PA-Partially Agree, NA-Not Agree, S.D.-Standard Deviation, Sk-Skewness, K_t- Kurtosis, χ^2 - Chi-square.

The different departments are implementing Rural Development Schemes in Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh. The progress of various departments has been evaluated in the table No. 5.2. It has also examined that which Department is properly implementing the Rural Development Schemes increased and a scheme in particular. This analysis reveals that all the schemes are of good quality, which is supported by analysis. This view is also supported by the mean values, standard deviations, Skewness and Kurtosis of the opinion of beneficiaries regarding the rural development schemes.

The table no. 5.2 shows that the role of various departments in the planning, implementation and monitoring of rural development schemes. It is evident that

majority of responses relating to Panchayati Raj Institutions, Agriculture Department, Horticulture Department, Welfare Department, I.P.H, Health Deptt., Animal Husbandry, Education and Forest Departments are more than the average standard score at 3 point scale. The Skewness shows that distribution of opinion is more towards higher side. The calculated value of Kurtosis is negative which depicts that distribution of responses is platy-Kurtic. The calculated value of χ^2 is also significant at 5 percent level of significance. Thus, it can be concluded that the opinion of respondents is not equally distributed over this issue. It is further concluded that majority of respondents are satisfied with the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Agriculture Department, Horticulture Department, Welfare Department, I.P.H, Health Deptt., Animal Husbandry, Education and Forest Departments. They revealed that the above Departments have played a very significant role in the implementation of various schemes.

There is a vital contribution of the departments in facilitating the implementation of Rural Development Scheme in the Bilaspur District of the Himachal Pradesh.

Table 5.3: Evaluation of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana as a Rural Development Scheme

Name of the Schemes	S.A	P.A	N.A	Total	Mean	S.D.	Sk	K _t	χ^2
To develop self help groups	93	50	7	150	2.5733	.5820	-1.003	.012	221.880
To trained the self help groups	86	61	03	150	2.5533	.5365	-.605	-.845	217.560
Provide help for financial assistance	62	81	7	150	2.3667	.5712	-.220	-.739	177.240
To develop resources and occupational skills of Swarojgaris	54	86	10	150	2.2933	.5843	-.160	-.575	177.720
To ensure the upgradation of technology	37	95	18	150	2.1267	.5928	-.042	-.248	193.080
To provide infrastructure and marketing facilities to Swarojgaris	37	94	19	150	2.1200	.5998	-.051	-.294	183.960
To provide self employment in rural areas	32	92	26	150	2.0400	.6212	-.026	-.402	159.840

Source: Data Collected through Questionnaire

Note: SA – Strongly Agree, PA-Partially Agree, NA-Not Agree, S.D.-Standard Deviation, Sk-Skewness, K_t- Kurtosis, χ^2 - Chi-square.

The Government of India has restructure the self employed programmes and has merged IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRS, SITRA, GKY MWS into a new scheme namely. "Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana", which has been launched from 2003. This Yojana has holistic package covering all aspects of self-employment such as organization of poor into Self Help Groups, Training Credit, Technology, Infrastructure and Marketing. The objective of SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line. The assisted families under this scheme will be individuals or groups (SHGs). However, emphasis will be laid on the group approach. Efforts have been made to examine the impact of this scheme in the table No. 5.3.

It is evident from the Table No. 5.3 that mean value of the responses in respect of the impact of SGSY is greater than the mean standard score at 3 point scale. The negative value of skewness and kurtosis shows that the opinion of respondents is distributed more towards higher side and distribution is platy-kurtic. The calculated value of χ^2 test of goodness of fit is significant at 5 percent level of significance. It is also observed that the mean value of the views relating develop self- help groups, training to the self-help groups, Provide help for Financial assistance, to Develop resources and occupational skills of Swarogaris, to ensure the upgradation of technology, to Provide infrastructure and marketing facilities to Swarogaries, to Provide self-employment in rural areas is greater than the average standard score. The negative value of skewness shows that the opinion of respondents is distributed more towards the higher. The value of Kurtosis reveals that the distribution of responses is platy-kurtic. The χ^2 value is significant at 5 percent level of significance. Thus, it can be concluded that the opinion of respondents is not equally distributed and is distributed more towards higher side. The above analysis further reveals that the SGSY is playing a significant role in the overall development of Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh.

The analysis regarding impact of SGSY under RDS shows the positive impact to various aspects of SGSY. These aspects includes, development of self help groups through SGSY, providing training to the self help groups, provide financial assistance, developing the resources and occupational skills of Swarogaris, ensuring the upgradation of technology, providing infrastructure and marketing facilities to Swarogaris and to provide self employment in Bilaspur District. This analysis has also been supported by various statistical results. Furthermore, the impact of SGRY has been analysed with the, help of various sectors contributing to the Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh.

Table 5.4: Evaluation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

Various aspects of NREGS	S.A	P.A	N.A	Total	Mean	S.D.	Sk	K _t	χ^2
To increase employment opportunities	105	43	2	150	2.687	0.493	-1.14	-0.07	322.7
To create rural infrastructure	77	62	11	150	2.44	0.628	-0.67	-0.53	143.6
To Create infrastructure for SC/ST habitation	57	75	18	150	2.26	0.658	-0.34	-0.76	101.9
To create infrastructure for supporting agriculture activities	52	81	17	150	2.233	0.638	-0.25	-0.66	123.2
To create community/ social infrastructure for educational health and road	67	68	15	150	2.347	0.654	-0.5	-0.7	110.3
To create physical infrastructure which improves welfare of the people	45	91	14	150	2.207	0.593	-0.09	-0.41	180.1
Poverty elimination	57	80	13	150	2.293	0.618	-0.29	-0.64	139.1

Source: Data Collected through Questionnaire

Note: SA – Strongly Agree, PA-Partially Agree, NA-Not Agree, S.D.-Standard Deviation, Sk-Skewness, K_t- Kurtosis, χ^2 - Chi-square.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been launched with the objective to provide additional wage employment and food security in rural areas, along with the creation of durable community, social and economic aspects and infrastructure development in these areas priority is directed towards provisions of wage employment to the poorest among poor, women, scheduled caste/scheduled tribes and parents of child labour withdrawn from hazardous occupation. Impact of the scheme on different sectors has been analysed through table No. 5.4.

It is clear from Table No. 5.4 that mean score of the responses related to increase in employment opportunities, create rural infrastructure, create infrastructure for SC/ST habitation, create infrastructure for supporting agriculture activities, create community/social infrastructure for educational health and road, create physical infrastructure which improves welfare of the people, poverty elimination depicts that majority of respondents are shifting towards higher side of average score. While skewness is negative, it also shows that the distribution of their opinion is more towards the higher side of the average score. The calculated value of Kurtosis is negative, which depicts that the distribution of responses is platy-kurtic: The calculated value of χ^2 test is significant at 5 percent level of significance. Implied by that the opinions of the people is not equally distributed over poverty elimination and is more towards higher side. Thus, it can be concluded that majority of people are

agree that NREGS helps to, remove poverty from Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh.

The above analysis conclude that the impact of NREGS under Rural Development Schemes. It is revealed that NREGS under the rural development schemes have resulted into increase in employment opportunities for SC/ST habitation infrastructure for agriculture activities, infrastructure for health, road and education, infrastructure for the welfare of society and poverty elimination. This result has also been supported by the mean, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis of these variables.

IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN BILASPUR DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The rural development schemes have been launched by the government of India in all over the country and as such by the state government in all the districts of Himachal Pradesh. The main objectives of the Rural Development Schemes are to generate employment, alleviation of poverty, providing higher standard of living and to improve the socio-economic life of rural people as a whole and many of them have achieved significant success in this direction. The Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh has three development blocks. The impact of Rural Development Schemes on these blocks has discussed on the basis of availability of various amenities, like housing facility, cooking gas, T.V., refrigerator, telephone, washing machine, motor car, and scooter, bank deposits and other essential amenities.

IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME IN SADAR, JHANDUTTA, GHUMARWIN BLOCK OF BILASPUR DISTRICT

The following tables 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7 depict the impact of rural development schemes in Sadar, Jhandutta and Ghumarwin Block of Bilaspur district: -

Table 5.5: Impact of Rural Development Schemes on various Amenities in the Sadar Block of Bilaspur District

Amenities/ Variables	Before Schemes		After Schemes		Total (N)
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	
House Kaccha/ Pakka	.6456	.4814	1.000	.0000	59
Cooking Gas	.0506	.2206	.2025	.4045	59
T.V. Colour/ B&W	.5949	.4940	1.000	.000	59
Refrigerator	.000	.000	.000	.000	59
Telephone	.1013	.3036	.3418	.4773	59
Washing Machine	.000	.000	.000	.000	59

Motor Car and Scooter etc.	.000	.000	.000	.000	59
Bank Deposits	.000	.000	.5570	.4999	59
Other essential amenities	.5063	.5032	1.000	.000	59

Source: Data Collected through Questionnaire

Note: S.D.-Standard Deviation, N- Total Number of responses.

Table 5.6: Impact of Rural Development Schemes on various Amenities in the Jhandutta Block of Bilaspur District

Amenities/ Variables	Before Schemes		After Schemes		Total (N)
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	
House Kaccha/ Pakka	.4286	.4984	1.000	.000	48
Cooking Gas	.000	.000	.0429	.2040	48
T.V. Colour/ B&W	.3286	.4731	.9143	.2820	48
Refrigerator	.000	.000	.000	.000	48
Telephone	.000	.000	.2571	.4402	48
Washing Machine	.000	.000	.000	.000	48
Motor Car and Scooter etc.	.000	.000	.000	.000	48
Bank Deposits	.000	.000	.5000	.5036	48
Other essential amenities	.4857	.5034	1.000	.000	48

Source: Data Collected through Questionnaire

Note: S.D.-Standard Deviation, N- Total Number of responses.

Table 5.7: Impact of Rural Development Schemes on various Amenities in the Ghumarwin Block of Bilaspur District

Amenities/ Variables	Before Schemes		After Schemes		Total (N)
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	
House Kaccha/ Pakka	.3333	.4752	.8413	.3684	43
Cooking Gas	.1905	.398	.4921	.5040	43
T.V. Colour/ B&W	.2381	.4293	.5238	.5034	43
Refrigerator	.000	.000	.000	.000	43
Telephone	.000	.000	.5873	.4963	43
Washing Machine	.000	.000	.0476	.2147	43
Motor Car and Scooter etc.	.000	.000	.0952	.2959	43
Bank Deposits	.000	.000	.2381	.4293	43
Other essential amenities	.000	.000	.9048	.2959	43

Source: Data Collected through Questionnaire

Note: S.D.-Standard Deviation, N- Total Number of responses

From the Table No. 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7 respectively, it has been observed that after taking the benefits of the scheme, the housing facilities have been increased which shows a considerable increase in the opinion of responses related housing facilities after the implementation of Rural Development Schemes, It is observed that majority of people in this block is the opinion that Rural Development Schemes have improved

the services of cooking gas. The mean value support the above view that after the implementation of schemes the services of cooking gas have been improved. The mean value. of responses related to the availability of colour, B&W T.V. has been increased after inclusion of the scheme. It leads, to conclude that this facility has been increased due to the benefits of Rural Development Schemes. The table further shows that mean score of responses regarding the availability of various amenities like refrigerator, washing machine and motorcar remained, same after entering the Rural Development Schemes. It shows that Rural Development Schemes have laid no impact on above amenities. The mean value of responses related to communication facilities have also been increased during the study period, which shows. a considerable improvement in telecom services. The table shows that respondents in respect of the bank deposits have not respondents but after the scheme there is a significant increase in the above amenities. It can be said that there is a positive impact of Rural Development Schemes on above amenity.

Finally, it is observed that other essential amenities have also been increased due to the benefits of Rural Development Schemes in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh. Thus it can be concluded out the basis of above analysis that rural development schemes have increased all these amenities in the area under study. Further more, the above analysis concludes that the responses regarding housing facility, availability of cooking gas, T.V., telephones, bank deposits and other essential amenities have a considerable increase in above amenities. In case of the few situations, remain same after inclusion of Rural Development Schemes. Thus it can be concluded that above amenities have been increased only due to the benefits of Rural Development, Schemes in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh.

CONCLUSION

It has been revealed that the people from Bilaspur district of Hiamchal Pradesh after getting the benefit of Rural Development Schemes different amenities as mentioned above have been positively increased. The living standard and life style of the beneficiaries have been improved and developed because of the revolutionary increase in their overall income due to the benefits of Rural Development Schemes effectively in the Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh). Further, it can be concluded that Rural Development Schemes spread positive impact on the above amenities.

The study further revealed that the procedure of getting benefits under Rural Development Schemes is very complicated and majority of the beneficiaries faced the problem of more formalities and long procedure. Therefore, the efforts should be

made simplify the procedure to getting the benefits of Rural Development Schemes and the formalities should be minimized according to the knowledge and understanding of the rural people. The researchers also observed that respondents were not satisfied with the amount of the scheme disburse to them. Finally the study concludes with the hope that it will help the policy maker as well as the rural people in the development of Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh and also hope government will plan best and people will give their full co-operation and participation for the success of Rural Development Schemes in Himachal Pradesh.

SUGGESTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of whole research work indicates that the development of Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh depend upon the Rural Development Schemes. The following suggestions and recommendations have been made: -

It is observed from the study that majority of the respondents are not aware properly with the Rural Development Schemes and there is no proper system to educate the rural people about various schemes and their importance. Therefore, to overcome this short coming and to make Rural Development Schemes familiar in rural poor the government accelerates the pace of their publicity efforts and there should be a separate wing of publicity of the Rural Development Schemes. Moreover, meeting and seminars may also be organized with rural people at village level.

It is evident that majority of the beneficiaries were not satisfied with the functioning of the officials at the various level of management, the element of responsibility and accountability should be introduced at each level. These, responsibilities should be transparent and measurable. So that the performance could be analyzed. There should be criteria to analyze the performance of the officials of Rural Development Schemes.

A plan is as good as implemented, monitoring is continued to be undertaken through reports, review meetings and field visits. Therefore, the government should made efforts to achieve full utilization of resources and should give the attention on the future planning. Working committees and vigilance committees may be formed at village level for the monitoring of Rural Development Schemes.

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