SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION (NRLM) IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

DR KULDEEP KUMAR ATTRI[1] AND NEHA[2]

[1] Professor, Department of Commerce, International Centre for Distance Education and Open Learning (ICDEOL), Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla

[2] Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla

Abstract

The Indian government used NRLM as a kind of livelihood promotion intervention through the reformation of SGSY. It is helping to alleviate poverty to a greater extent. The target group for NRLM was chosen based on participatory identification of the poor rather than choosing a group from the SGSY Below Poverty Line (BPL) list, the target group for NRLM was chosen based on participatory identification of the poor rather than picking a group from the SGSY Below Poverty Line (BPL) list. On April 1, 2013, NRLM was introduced in Himachal Pradesh. The main objective of the present paper is to analyze the perception of beneficiaries regarding the social development of women through NRLM. Primary data is used for the study. 540 individual members of NRLM were interviewed through the multistage sampling method. The mean value of responses for all variables related to social development is higher than the average score. It is concluded that National Rural Livelihood Mission. (NRLM) is helpful in the social development of women.

Key words: NRLM, SGSY, Poverty, Social Development, Social Development, Women

INTRODUCTION

The success of achieving the goal of sustainable development of our country lies in empowering rural India where 69 per cent of its population resides. Realizing the significance of rural development, India has adopted various innovative strategies and approaches for ensuring the basic rights of the rural population. In this regard, the Government has implemented National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) to support rural people living below the poverty line. This scheme was launched in 2011 and is one of the flagship programmes of the Ministry of rural development. This is one of the world's largest initiatives to improve the livelihood of the poor. It aims to make a multidimensional impact on the lives of India's rural poor by mobilizing them, particularly the women, into robust grassroots institutions of their own where, with the strength of the group behind them, they will be able to exert voice and accountability over providers of educational, health, nutritional and financial services. This is expected to have a transformational social and economic impact, supporting India's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on Nutrition, Gender, and Poverty. The core belief of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission*(NRLM) is that the poor have innate capabilities and a strong desire to come out of poverty. The

challenge is to unleash their capabilities to generate meaningful livelihoods and enable them to come out of poverty.

NRLM is a form of livelihood promotion intervention implemented by the Indian government through the reorganization of SGSY, which shifted the approach from allocation to demand. It contributed to a larger degree of poverty alleviation. Because of the significant number of inclusion and exclusion mistakes that were involved in the BPL list, the target group for NRLM was chosen based on participatory identification of the poor rather than picking a group from the SGSY Below Poverty Line (BPL) list. Furthermore, rather than giving one-time financial help, the National Rural Livelihood Mission guarantees that financial assistance is provided until the goal is met. Beneficiaries do not get a subsidy under the present scheme; instead, they receive an interest subsidy.

.On April 1, 2013, NRLM was introduced in Himachal Pradesh. Initially, the intensive and non-intensive block method was used**.** It is the government of India's flagship initiative aimed at reducing poverty by strengthening poor people's institutions, particularly women's, and enabling them to access a variety of financial and livelihood services. By the end of the financial year 2024-25, the Government of India intends NRLM would reach all of Himachal Pradesh districts and blocks in a gradual way. Initially, the Government of India's rules dictated that an intense and no intensive block approach be used.

REVIEWS OF LITERATURE

Sinha (2018) explained various poverty alleviation programmes and found that over the previous four years, funding resources for upgrading rural infrastructure, diversifying livelihoods, and decreasing poverty have increased significantly, as seen by programmes such as PMAY-G, PMGSY, MGNREGS, and DAY-NRLM. **Agrawal (2018)** investigated the government's numerous job creation programmes and concluded that the government of India has taken several actions that, taken collectively, are likely to have a meaningful influence on job creation in the country.

Singh (2018) conducted a study "New age skills-generating opportunities for youth and explained that youth is the fountainhead for national growth and development. As a result, their development is required. To do this, a nonlinear leapfrog approach must be implemented. **Chinnapai & Ashok (2018)** concluded that the Indian government has taken a multi-pronged strategy to improve the standard of living of people living in rural regions. People in rural India are far better off now than they were a decade ago as a result of these initiatives. After the study, the author proposed that to offer

the rural poor greater economic possibilities, a dynamic agricultural sector should be established.

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)** described the role of higher education in women and asserted that through higher education women find their identity and contribute to the national economy. For this reason, the government should implement additional schemes, scholarships, and awareness programmes to encourage women to pursue higher education.

Muttesha (2019) through their study attempted to demonstrate that SHGs are one of the means through which women's empowerment may be improved. **Bishnoi (2019)** tried to explain the role of SHG (Self Help Group) in women empowerment and sound that SHG has a nearly favourable socioeconomic, educational, and political influence on women. Without a doubt, women's engagement in SHGs had a major influence on their social and economic empowerment. **Tripathy (2020)** highlighted the budget 2018-19. The researcher indicated that 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 present study will help to know the role of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in social development of women.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY
- To analyze the perception of beneficiaries regarding the social development of women through the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

THE HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY
H_0: The opinion of beneficiaries regarding social development though National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is equally distributed.

H_1: The opinion of beneficiaries regarding social development though National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is not equally distributed**.**

METHODOLOGY
The Data required for the study has been collected from the primary Source only. Questionnaires were used by the researcher in three districts namely Mandi, Shimla

and Kangra of Himachal Pradesh**.** 540 individual members of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) were interviewed through the multistage sampling method. The Statistical tools namely Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation, skewness and kurtosis and Chi-square test (goodness of fit) have been employed to have perfect inferences from the analysis.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Descriptive statistical analysis of statements related to the Social Development of women through National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)

Variables	Nature of response					Total	$\bar{x}$	σ	Sk	Kt	χ^2	P-Value
	SD	D	N	A	SA							
Freedom of action	52 (9.6)	98 (18.1)	48 (8.9)	151 (28)	191 (35.4)	540 (100)	3.61	1.374	-.596	-1.016	144.204	.000
Self-actualization	43 (8)	115 (21.3)	46 (8.5)	138 (25.6)	198 (36.7)	540 (100)	3.62	1.370	-.532	-1.134	158.500	.000
Exposure to outside world	45 (8.3)	92 (17)	71 (13.1)	147 (27.2)	185 (34.3)	540 (100)	3.62	1.328	-.575	--.945	120.778	.000
Increased communication ability	43 (8)	88 (16.3)	73 (13.5)	141 (26.1)	195 (36.1)	540 (100)	3.66	1.324	-.611	-.900	134.333	.000
Confidence Level increased	46 (8.5)	88 (16.3)	63 (11.7)	155 (28.7)	188 (34.8)	540 (100)	3.65	1.328	-.635	-.871	137.759	.000
Respect in family	40 (7.4)	130 (24.1)	67 (13.5)	137 (24.1)	169 (30.9)	540 (100)	3.47	1.340	-.315	-1.259	95.352	.000
Respect from society	37 (6.9)	130 (24.1)	67 (12.4)	137 (25.4)	169 (31.3)	540 (100)	3.50	1.331	-.350	-1.239	108.963	.000
Gender equality	49 (9.1)	141 (26.1)	75 (13.9)	120 (22.2)	155 (28.7)	540 (100)	3.35	1.369	-.195	-1.338	74.185	.000
participation in organizing activities	42 (7.8)	96 (17.8)	41 (7.6)	156 (28.9)	205 (38)	540 (100)	3.71	1.337	-.701	-.857	191.685	..000
Participation in the help of others	47 (8.7)	101 (18.7)	38 (7)	134 (24.8)	220 (40.7)	540 (100)	3.70	1.387	-.665	-.996	202.685	-.000
Participation in political activities	77 (14.3)	92 (17)	134 (24.8)	108 (20)	129 (23.9)	540 (100)	3.22	1.360	-.177	-1.147	21.611	.000

Source: Data Collected through Questionnaire

Note: SA – Strongly Agree, A- Agree, N-Neutral, D-Disagree, SD- Strongly Disagree, $\bar{x}$ - Mean, σ.-Standard Deviation, Sk-Skewness, K_t- Kurtosis, χ^2 - Chi-square.

It is evident from the table above that the mean value of responses for variables related to social development is higher than the average score. The negative value of skewness shows that their opinion is distributed more toward the higher side of the average standard score. The Kurtosis is also noted as negative, which further depicts

that the distribution of responses is platyKurtic. The calculated value of the Chi-square test of goodness of fit is noted more than the table value at 1 per cent level of significance. Therefore null hypothesis is rejected. The significant value of the Chi-square, the test of goodness of fit depicts that the distribution of the opinion is not equal and it is more towards the higher side. Thus, it can be concluded that National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is helpful in the social development of women.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Overall, the majority of Self Help Group respondents are satisfied with the National Rural Livelihood Mission's efficiency, according to the survey. According to the study, women are much more confident than they were before the National Rural Livelihood Mission was implemented (NRLM). Their communication skills, self-assurance, capacity to expose oneself to the outside world, and family and societal esteem have all increased. Gender differences have also shrunk significantly. They've began to get involved in a range of organisational as well as political activities. Based on the aforementioned data, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents were agreed that National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) has greatly helped in improving the status of women in terms of participation, organization, self-sufficiency, and participation in decision-making processes. Thus, it has been proved beneficial for the social development of women.

The government should make it a priority to link as many poor women as possible with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) It's also becoming more necessary for women to be free of any flaws, such as abuse of any kind, cultural differences, and traditional and customary customs. Prizes should be given to the best-performing women so that other women might be motivated.

REFERENCES

Diwan, P., Upadhyay, R., & Maheshwari, S. (2017). Knowledge of national rural livelihood mission among rural women of Udaipur district. *International Journal of Home Science*, 3(2), 631-634.

Mishra, A. (2017). Self-employment programmes in India: A journey from Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) to National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). *International Journal of Advanced Research*, 5(7), 2036-2038.

Annual Report (2016-17) of Rural Development Department, Kusumpti, Shimla

Sinha, A.(2018), "Livelihood Development and Diversification" Yojana, pp 25-29

Agrawal, G. K.(2018). Employment – The Indian Perspective.*Yojana,* 62-65

Singh, J.(2018).New Age Skills-Generating Opportunities for Youth", *Yojana,*33-36

Chinnadurai, M, Ashok, KR(2018), "Multi-pronged approach to bridge the urban-rural divide" Yojana, 55-58

Mehta,R.(2018). Creation of Livelihoods: Core of Policy Making.*Yojana,*43-46

Nagaraja, K. (2018). Empowerment of Women Through Higher Education. *International Journal of Current Research*, *10*(2), 66113-66115.

Muttesha, N., Ashwini, K.(2019). A Study on Women Empowerment through Self Help Groups (An empirical study in Harihara, Davangere district). *IOSR Journal of Business and Management,*21(4), 16-31

Sucharita, S., Bishnoi, I. (2019). A study on SHG members regarding their knowledge and involvement in financial activities was carried out in their SHG. *International Journal of Applied Home Science,*(5),48-52.

Tripathy, K (2020). Rural Livelihood And Employment. *Kurukshetra*, 68(5); 43-46