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Impact of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) on the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries in Nagaland, India

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ABSTRACT:

NRLM is the flagship program of Govt. of India launched in 2011 by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and is focused on promoting self-employment and organization of rural poor. The Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NSRLM) is the implementing agency of NRLM in Nagaland, India.

A sample survey was conducted during July 2018 in three districts of Nagaland using Simple Random Sampling Without Replacement (SRSWoR). A sample survey was conducted during July 2018 in three districts of Nagaland comprising the beneficiaries using Simple Random Sampling Without Replacement (SRSWoR). Altogether, 120 beneficiaries were selected as the final respondents and information was collected basing on their socio-economic aspects before and after intervention of NRLM.

It was concluded that there had been a positive impact in the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries within the 5 years timeframe intervention of NRLM.

KEY WORDS: Socio-Economic, Nrlm, Impact, Income.

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INTRODUCTION

Nagaland, the sixteenth state of India attained its statehood in 1963, was formally inaugurated on December 1, 1963 at Kohima, the capital of the state, by the then president of India. Physically, the state is triangular in shape, lying in an area of lofty hills and valleys situated in the North-Eastern Hill region of the country having a geographical area of 16,579 square kilometers. The state lies between 25°60' North and 27° 40' North latitudes and 93° 30' east to 95°15' east longitudes and consists of 12 districts viz., Kohima, Dimapur, Kiphri, Longleng, Mokokchung, Mon, Peren, Phek, Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto and Noklak. The study was conducted in 6 villages of 3 districts viz., Dimapur, Mokokchung and Longleng. Most of the women of the area are uneducated and unskilled and are dependent on agriculture, weaving, daily wages and livestock rearing etc. They don't use any modern technology of farming and also lack market place to sell the products. The women folks in the rural areas face different problems for their socio-economic development and thus involve in any income generating activities to support their family economically. This study emphasizes on the impact of NRLM in the study area which is supporting women to develop their socio-economic condition.

NRLM is the flagship program of Govt. of India launched in 2011 by 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. Structurally, NSRLM comprises of the workers at the State, District and Block level to cater to the requirements of rural areas across the State. NSRLM aims to reach out to Poorest of the Poor (PoP) households across 11 districts 74 blocks, 1151 villages and stay engaged with them till they cross the threshold of poverty.

OBJECTIVE:

1. To assess the impact of NRLM on the Socio-Economic status of the beneficiaries

METHODOLOGY/ EXPERIMENTAL SECTION:

For empirically studying the Impact of NRLM on the Socio-Economic status of the beneficiaries, a descriptive research was carried out for which a multi-stage sample survey was conducted. From a total of 12 districts of Nagaland, only 9 districts were covered by NSRLM. Peren and Tuensang were under the coverage of parallel livelihood projects viz., North East Rural Livelihood Programme (NERLP) and the district Noklak being newly formed in 2017 was functioning under Tuensang district. From the 9 districts, 3 districts were selected for the present study using Simple Random Sampling Without Replacement (SRSWoR). From the 9 districts, 3

districts were selected for the present study using Simple Random Sampling Without Replacement (SRSWoR). From every selected district, 1 block was randomly sampled and 2 villages were selected having maximum number of Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NSRLM) beneficiaries. Hence, from 6 villages, 120 beneficiaries (20 from each selected villages) were considered for this study as respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

**Table 1: Change in socio-economic status of beneficiaries before and after NRLM intervention
N= 120**

Socio-economic aspect	Average		Difference
	Before	After	After - before
No. of Helpers in their enterprise	0.242	1.075	0.833
Working Hours in their enterprise	1.833	4.208	2.375
Purchased Land	0.233	0.483	0.250
Built/Renovated House	0.158	0.475	0.317
Savings/ month	577.083	1800.833	1223.750
Income/ month	8595.833	15370.000	6774.167
No. of Income Source	1.275	2.075	0.800
Credit Crunch	5.108	1.583	-3.525
Purchase of 2/4 Wheeler	0.142	0.558	0.417
Member of Organization	0.517	1.992	1.475

It is clearly visible from table 1 that, the beneficiaries had a positive change in their major aspects of living standard. It was found that, there was an increase at an average of at-least 1 member in the number of helpers in their home based enterprise and with the availability of credit facilities and ideas to expand their business there was a positive impact on their working hours with an average difference of 2 hours. Though many reported about purchase of land and building of houses during the survey, the overall impact on it were less significant. The monthly saving habit of the beneficiaries was increased by an average difference of Rs. 1224 after the intervention of NSRLM and the income per month was also significantly increased at an average of Rs. 6774. However, this doesn't generalize the financial capacity of all the beneficiaries because a huge difference in the saving habit and income of the have and have-not's was observed even before the intervention of NSRLM. It was also found that the number of income source increased by an average of at-least 1 income source which justifies that NSRLM has helped the beneficiaries in learning at least one skill of getting income. Similarly, the credit crunch of the beneficiaries had reduced admirably from 5 months per year to 1 month per year at an average of -4 which is indeed a great relief for the beneficiaries. On the Personal level, some beneficiaries had purchased 2/4 wheeler or upgraded themselves from 2 wheeler to 4 wheelers but generally, it was found that, there was no significant impact in the purchase of vehicles and finally, it was observed that the respondents had insignificant participation in social activities before the intervention of NSRLM, however after the intervention of NSRLM, it was found that the social participation had increased by an average of at-least 1

organization among the beneficiaries due to personality development through involvement in NSRLM.

2 Impact of NSRLM on Monthly Income of beneficiaries.

For comparison of performance of income level of beneficiaries “before” and “after” NSRLM intervention, the time value of money for the “before” was considered.

Table 2: Impact of NSRLM on Monthly Income of beneficiaries N=120

Monthly Household Income of Beneficiaries (Rs.)	Before NRLM	After NRLM	Time Value	Average Change in Income
	Average Monthly Income	Average Monthly Income		
High (>20000)	8710.909	14849.091	10414.000	4435.091
Medium (2001 – 20000)	29000.000	39444.444	35230.556	4213.889
Low (<2000)	646.809	6759.574	773.511	5986.064
Grand Total	8595.833	15370.000	10360.625	5009.375

It is clearly evident from Table 2 that, the highest change in income through NSRLM was on the beneficiaries of low household income category, with an average income of Rs. 5986.064, followed by the high income category at an average of Rs. 4435.091 and finally, the medium income category at an average of Rs. 4213.889.

The study also revealed that, majority of the beneficiaries were from the low and middle income categories and it was motivating to find that there had been a massive improvement in the income of both the low and middle income beneficiaries. The results showed that, the beneficiaries who had a monthly income of less than Rs.2000 were now realizing an average income of Rs.5986 per month after the intervention of NSRLM. From the findings, it can be inferred that the relative gain on monthly household income was the highest on the beneficiaries of low income category.

CONCLUSION:

From the findings, it can be concluded that, there had been a positive impact in the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries within the 5 years timeframe intervention of NSRLM. In the status of income level of beneficiaries “before” and “after” NSRLM intervention, the time value of money for the “before” was considered and it was concluded that the relative gain on monthly household income was the highest on the beneficiaries who had an income of less than Rs. 2000/month (low income category).

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