

“IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN UKHRUL DISTRICT MANIPUR”

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ABSTRACT:

Rural development in India has been a critical focus for policymakers, which aimed at alleviating poverty and enhancing the quality of life in rural areas of Manipur. This article emphasizes the importance of comprehensive strategies that integrate economic development with social empowerment to foster resilient rural societies. It aims to understand the efforts to rebuild rural life. Various government initiatives, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and many others have been implemented to address the multifaceted challenges faced by rural populations. These schemes aim to provide employment opportunities, and promote self-sufficiency among rural communities. MGNREGA guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment per year to every rural household, thereby enhancing livelihood security and creating productive assets. Despite these efforts, challenges persist, including implementation inefficiencies, inadequate infrastructure, and socio-economic disparities. The effectiveness of these schemes often varies across regions due to local governance issues and community participation levels. Overall, while rural development schemes have made significant strides in improving living standards in rural areas, ongoing evaluation and adaptation are necessary to ensure sustainable progress and address the unique needs of diverse rural communities. Key recommendations include enhancing monitoring mechanisms for programme implementation, fostering community participation in decision-making, and ensuring that development strategies are tailored to local contexts. By adopting a more inclusive and participatory framework, rural development efforts can better address disparities and promote long-term sustainability in rural regions.

KEYWORDS: government schemes, rural development, self-sufficiency, poverty alleviation, rural communities.

1. Introduction:

Rural Development in India is one of the most important factors for the growth of the Indian economy. Rural development focuses upon the development of rural economy. It also emphasizes the need to address various pressing issues of village economies that hinder growth and improve these areas. An agriculture sector is one of the most important primary activities in rural India and about two-third of India's population

depends on agriculture, the problem lies in the fact that the share in GDP of agriculture sector is on a constant decline. Rural development in India has witnessed several changes over the years in its emphasis, approaches, strategies and programmes. It has assumed a new dimension and perspectives as a consequence. Rural development can be richer and more meaningful only through the participation of clienteles of development. Just as implementation is the touchstone for planning, people's participation is the centre-piece in rural development. People's participation is one of the foremost pre-requisites of development process both from procedural and philosophical perspectives. For the development planners and administrators, it is important to solicit the participation of different groups of rural people, to make the plans participatory. The Government has planned several programs pertaining to Rural Development in India. The Ministry of Rural Development in India is the apex body for formulating policies, regulations and acts pertaining to the development of the rural sector. Agriculture, handicrafts, fisheries, poultry, and dairy are the primary contributors to the rural business and economy.

The Indian government has a number of programmes and plan for rural development. India's top organisation for developing policies, rules, and laws relating to the development of the rural sector is the Ministry of Rural Development. The main industries that contribute to the rural business and economy include agriculture, handicrafts, fishery, poultry, and dairy. (Srinivasa 2019).

2. A BRIEF PROFILE OF UKHRUL DISTRICT, OF MANIPUR:

Ukhrul District Spreads over a geographical area of 22,327 sq. kms. Manipur is home to about 27.2 lakhs people, who live in 0.7 percent of the total land surface of India. The Population of Manipur constitutes nearly 0.22 percent of the total population of India. Ninety percent of the total geographical area of the state i.e. 20,089 sq.km, is covered by hills. The remaining areas is the valley covering only 2,238 sq. kms and accounting for only one-tenth of the total area of the state. Out of the population of the state, 13.6 lakhs were males and the rest 13.5 lakhs were females (Census, India, 2011). There are 7(seven) scheduled castes communities and 33 (thirtythree), different scheduled tribes of different ethnic groups presenting complicated socio-economic phenomena. There is apparent disparity in the level of income and consumption between the rich and the poor, between the urban elite and the rural poor, between the have and have note and between the public living in the hills and in the valley. (Economics & Statistics, Manipur 2010).

Ukhrul district is one of the hill districts of Manipur State which is bounded by Myanmar in the East, Chandel district in the South, Senapati district in the West and Nagaland in the North. Located between 24 degrees North, 25 degrees South and 41 degrees 47 minutes longitude, covers an area of 4,544 sq. km. In 2011 Census, the district has recorded a total population of 183,998 of which 94,718 are males and 89,280 are females. It has sex ratio of 943 per one thousand males. It has a density of only 40 persons per sq.km. (Census Manipur, 2011)

There are scores of the Centre and the State sponsored developmental programmes implemented in the state. The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Manipur, deals with the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes in the rural areas of Manipur. The schemes/ programmes from this Department are implemented and monitored through various agencies/departments. Major developmental programmes implemented in the state are listed below:

1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
2. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY)
3. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
4. International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)
5. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)
6. Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM)
7. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)
8. Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY)

9. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)
10. Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)
11. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
12. Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
13. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)
14. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
15. Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)
16. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)
17. Backward Region Grant Fund (BFGF)
18. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)
19. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
20. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
21. MLA Local Area Development Programme (MLALADP)
22. MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)
23. Border Area Development Programme (BADP)
24. Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)
25. District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHA)
26. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)
27. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)
28. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)/ National Rurban Mission (NRM)
29. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

3. Review of Literature:

Chris Dixon (1990) in his book, “Rural Development in the Third World” provides a general introduction to the approaches, policies, and problems associated with Third World rural development. The rural regions of the Third World are often perceived as being dominated by the poor, but Chris Dixon argues that this view is becoming less accurate. Wealth is indeed present, as landowners frequently enjoy lifestyles similar to those of affluent urban residents. Although land continues to serve as the foundation of true wealth, many rural workers are diversifying beyond agriculture, engaging increasingly in manufacturing, processing, trade, and various service sectors. Yet still rural poverty persists. And the book illustrates just how difficult it is to assess the success of development initiatives adopted to eradicate rural poverty.

Ganiee (2014) It has been noted that rural development typically refers to enhancing the quality of life and economic well-being of individuals residing in remote and sparsely populated regions. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is regarded as a “Silver Bullet” for eliminating rural poverty and unemployment by creating demand for productive labor in villages. It provides an alternative source of livelihood which will have an impact on reducing migration, restricting child labour, alleviating poverty, and making villages self-sustaining through dynamic assets creation such as road construction, cleaning up of water tanks, soil and water conservation work, etc.

4. Rationale of the Study:

The rural India is facing the major problems of housing, absence of infrastructure in villages, and towns to village connectivity by all-weather roads and absence of employment opportunities in villages. The primary occupation of the people of the rural area of India is agriculture, However, there are a number of problems even this sector if we compare to the people of urban areas because of bad connectivity. In order to understand the problems of the rural people we need to study the role of Government in providing pucca houses, roads and employment to rural people.

In such a way I have some objectives to the study this topic in order to understand the role of rural development schemes in Ukhrul district of Manipur. In the secondary objective I intend to indicate the achievements of schemes implementation which includes, the number of houses constructed under PMAY-G Scheme, to study the increased number of roads construction under PMGSY Scheme and to evaluate employment provided to households and individuals under MGNREGA Scheme in the years mentioned and various other schemes as given below.

5. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G):

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gamin (PMAY-G) is a scheme meant for Public Housing Programme in the country started with the rehabilitation of refugees’ immediately after independence and since then, it has been a major focus area of the Government as an instrument of poverty alleviation. Rural housing programme, as an independent programme, started with Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) in January 1996. In view of Government’s commitment to provide “Housing for All” the scheme of IAY had been restructured into Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G) and was launched on 20th November,2016. In the State of Manipur, it was launched on 28th August,2017 with the objective to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to all houseless households living in kutchra and dilapidated houses in rural areas by 2024.

The scheme is expected to boost job creation in rural areas. The cost of unit (house) is shared between Central and State Governments in the rate 90:10 for north-eastern and hilly States. And, provision of toilet at Rs 12000/- are provided to build toilet to each beneficiary under Swachh Bharat Mission and 95 days of unskilled wage labour can be achieved under MGNREGA over and above the unit cost. Identification and Selection of PMAY-G beneficiary was done by the community through the GRAM SABHA from the SECC 2011 List, based on the housing deficiency and other social deprivation Parameters

Those who deserve a pucca house but are not in the SECC 2011 List were added in the NON-SECC (Awaasplus) list under the Scheme. The Unit cost fixed by Government of India per beneficiary i.e., Rs. 1,30,000/-is released in three instalments in the State as;

1st Installment @ Rs. 45,000/- at the time of House Sanction

2nd Installment @ Rs. 62,000 at Plinth Level

3rd Installment @ Rs. 20,000/- at Lintel Level

All Payments to the beneficiaries are made electronically through FTO to their Bank/Post Office accounts that are linked to Aadhaar with consent.

District-wise number of houses constructed from 2016 to 2024 in Manipur;

Table no.1

Sl. No	District Name	Sanctioned	1 st instalment released	2 nd instalment released	3 rd instalment released	Completed
1	Bishnupur	9000	8226	1166	818	840
2	Chandel	5270	4539	2328	1493	1738
3	Churachandpur	12575	8656	6286	5163	5214
4	Imphal East	13195	10011	3108	1772	2129
5	Imphal West	14198	8011	1543	905	1019
6	Jiribam	2699	2630	1629	1214	1629
7	Kakching	11100	10088	2932	2416	2847
8	Kamjong	1784	1758	1584	1183	1579
9	Kangpokpi	4685	3883	3411	2452	3412
10	Noney	1576	1569	1537	1457	1522
11	Pherzawl	3449	2415	1463	1381	1402

12	Senapati	3902	1430	843	843	843
13	Tamenglong	3460	2377	1721	1466	1616
14	Tengnoupal	3756	3178	1618	1197	1262
15	Thoubal	9827	3948	2733	2141	2416
16	Ukhrul	1072	1072	1071	1068	1070
Total		101548	73791	34973	26969	30538

(Annual Administrative Report 2023-24 RD&PR Department)

6. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):

Rural Road Connectivity is not only a key component of Rural Development by promoting access to economic and social services and thereby generating increased agricultural incomes and productive employment opportunities in India, it is also as a result, a key ingredient in ensuring sustainable poverty reduction. Notwithstanding the efforts made, over the years, at the State and Central levels, through different Programmes, many Habitations in the country are still not connected by All-weather roads. It is well known that even where connectivity has been provided, the roads constructed are of such quality (due to poor construction or maintenance) that they cannot assure as all-weather roads. With a view to redressing the situation, Government had launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on 25th December, 2000 to provide all-weather access to eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas of the country having population of 500 persons and above in plains areas and 250 persons and above in special category states, selected tribal and desert areas. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The scheme has been started in Manipur w.e.f. 25th December 2000 with the conversion of 642 roads of works of the then erstwhile Rural Roads Scheme under BMS (Basic Minimum Services) to PMGSY Phase -I with six divisions from the Public Works Department, Manipur as Programme Implementation Units (PIUs). The PMGSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which is being implemented by the Manipur State Rural Roads Development Agency (MSRRDA) which was established in March, 2005. Bharat Nirman (BN) is also a part of PMGSY. BN covers new connectivity to villages having population of 500 in Manipur. From Phase VII onwards, only BN component has been considered along with BADP Roads of Border Blocks.

Road completed under PMGSY in Manipur for the year 2020-21 to 2022-23.

Table no.2.

District	Completed Length			Connected Habitations in kms.		
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1 Senapati/Kangpokpi	204.900	161.410	137.780	3	3	6
2 Tamenlong/ Noney	195.640	116.490	330.455	2	1	0
3 Churachandpur/Pherzawl	146.310	167.960	363.780	4	4	3
4 Chandel/Tengnoupal	173.820	61.920	199.610	6	2	3
5 Ukhrul/Kamjong	151.705	51.550	206.350	0	0	2
6 Imphal East/Jiribam	13.490	73.330	14.990	3	0	0
7 Imphal West	1.925	27.430	12.040	0	0	0
8 Bishnupur	1.830	4.070	27.980	0	0	0
9 Thoubal/Kakching	3.000	19.350	46.950	0	0	0
Total	892.620	683.510	1339.935	18	10	14

Source: Manipur State Rural Roads Development Agency.

7. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 had been renamed later as the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act", (MGNREGA), as an aims to guarantee the 'right to work' as per the Indian labour law and social security measure. It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The act was first proposed in 1991 by P.V. Narasimha Rao. It was finally accepted in the parliament and commenced implementation in 625 districts of India. Based on this pilot experience, NREGA was scoped up to cover all the districts of India from 1 April 2008. The MGNREGA was initiated with the objective of "enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year, to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work". Another aim of MGNREGA is to create durable assets of the workers. Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence, and minimum wages are to be paid the government. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance. Thus, employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement. MGNREGA is to be implemented mainly by Gram Panchayats (GPs). The involvement of contractors is banned. The Labour-intensive tasks such as creating infrastructure for water harvesting, drought relief and flood control are preferred. Apart from providing economic security and creating rural assets, NREGA can help in protecting the environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban migration and fostering social equity, among others. It has a proper guideline in order to safeguards and promote the effective management and implementation.

In Manipur, the programme started in some selected district such as Tamenglong District in the Phase I initially. In Phase II, the programme was extended to additional 130 districts, including Chandel and Churachandpur districts of Manipur. The remaining districts were brought under MGNREGA with effect from 1st April 2008. The present study area The Ukhrul District Manipur was also incorporated in Phase III.

7.1. MAIN OBJECTIVES.

The main objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is to enhance livelihood security through generating assets, protecting environment, empowering rural women, reduce migration, fostering social equity. This scheme promotes:

- 1) Rural connectivity for all weather access including culverts and drainages wherever necessary,
- 2) Flood control and protection works including drainage in water logging areas,
- 3) Renovation of traditional water bodies including de-silting of tanks,
- 4) Land development/ reforms owned by the beneficiaries of Rural Housing Scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana,
- 5) Irrigational canal including micro and minor irrigation works,
- 6) Drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation,
- 7) Water conservation and water harvesting, and
- 8) other works which notify by the central government with the consultation etc. which promotes employment generation and land development works in the rural areas.

Number of employments generated under MGNREGA in Ukhrul district of Manipur till date.

Table.3.

Employment provided to Households:	0.4352 Lakh
Person days [in Lakh]Total:	23.75
SCs:	0.04 [0.15]
STs:	23.51[99%]

Others:	0.2[0.85%]
Total works taken up:	1111
Works completed:	1
Works in progress:	1110

Source: MGNREGA Statistics.

An overall examination of the implementation of MGNREGA in Ukhrul district reveals as successful. The implementing agency at the district level put in place all mechanisms for effective execution of the programme, and in equal term, the local Vigilance & Monitoring Committee (VMC) and Village Authority (VA) ensured a smooth undertaking of the works in their villages. The deserving beneficiaries were issued job cards, and all efforts were taken to address various aspects as required under the provisions of the Act. In spite of satisfactory implementation, the hurdles were non-functional departmental office and non-availability of banking services at the Block level. These factors caused a lot of inconveniences and delay in transaction of paper works and finances. A major concern of implementation was the irregular and poor financial transaction even at the banks in the district headquarters. There were scores of instances of non-availability of cash in banks. In most cases the Block Development Office (BDO) was seen to be functioning as transit office at the district headquarters, whereas the office at the Block level was almost non-functional, thereby causing people to travel to district headquarters. However, the main factor that contributed to this situation was the shortage of staff in District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), the implementing agency of the district.

8. Conclusion:

Government of India has announced Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme is to provide houses, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to build roads and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to provide employment to rural people. These three schemes are playing main role in rural development of Ukhrul District of Manipur. Rural development schemes in Ukhrul district have had a significant positive impact on poverty reduction, infrastructure development, and women's empowerment, primarily through initiatives in microfinance, agriculture, and public works. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have improved road infrastructure in remote villages, enhancing accessibility to markets, schools, and healthcare facilities.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in Ukhrul district has had a positive impact by providing permanent housing, improving living standards, and empowering women, while also generating some employment. However, the scheme faces challenges including fund delays, high construction costs, and fair implementation issues.

The study found that The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has created community assets like roads, drainage, and embankments, and provided wage employment, which has helped workers meet household expenses including children's education and healthcare. MGNREGA impacts the lives of the rural poor by generating employment, social inclusion of the marginalized, increasing beneficiary income, reducing poverty, giving women greater economic independence, increasing purchasing power in the local economy, and creating long-term assets for individuals and communities. It serves as a social safety net for the vulnerable by providing a backup source of employment when other options are scarce or insufficient. It adds an element of equity to the process of growth. However, the success of the schemes depends mainly on the greater and efficient functions of Panchayats, the quality of planning, transparency, and strict monitoring mechanisms for programme implementation, fostering community participation in decision-making, and ensuring that development strategies are tailored to local contexts. If government operations are planned and carried out in accordance with environmental changes, economic development will be successful. However, the main shortcoming was a lack of adequate administrative as well as technical experts at the gram and block panchayat levels. Despite its limitations,

MGNREGA not only creates additional employment opportunities for the rural poor, but it also channels its vast potential into nation-building through the development of social and economic infrastructure, which has the potential to transform the rural face and boost the national economy.

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