



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Social Science

NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL WOMEN: CASE STUDY OF GADCHIROLI DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.

KEY WORDS: Rural Development, Women Empowerment, Poverty

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ABSTRACT

NRLM came in India with the aim to eliminate poverty by empowering rural women and it is found to be effective in bringing social and economical changes in rural India. It has been successful in increasing the participation of rural women in policy making through the Self help group model and by polishing their managerial skills. This paper critically reviews the self employment program of NRLM with special reference to Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. It further talks about the approaches of the NRLM program to combat poverty. The data required for the study has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. The findings in the paper reveals that NRLM have had humongous impact on its target population. The current study also highlights the gaps and challenges by making a case for a nuanced analysis of culture for a better understanding of the linkages between NRLM and women's empowerment.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Article 14 of Indian constitution ensures to women the right to equality. On the basis of this, the empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development (UNFPA, ICPD, POA, Cairo, 1994). In India rural women are key agents for achieving the transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. But limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face, which are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Empowering them is not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to overall economic productivity, given women's large presence in the agricultural workforce worldwide. On the basis of this and support from World Bank, National Rural livelihood mission has started for empowering women in institutional and sustainable way. Making a strong institution in grass root level for rural poor and promoting an idea of gender equality is the key feature of NRLM.

2. NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION- AN OVERVIEW

National Rural Livelihood Mission which came into existence after the restructuring of the program Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar yojna (SGSY) on the recommendation of planning commission. The core belief of NRLM is that the poor have innate capabilities and a strong desire to come out of poverty. This intrinsic capability of the poor is unleashed only when they are organized into institutions which are truly owned by them, provided sufficient capacity building and handholding support. A sensitive support structure from national level to sub district level is required to induce such a social mobilization process. A strong institutional architecture owned by the poor, enables them to: access institutional credit for various purposes, pursue livelihoods based on their resources, skills and preferences, access other services and entitlements, both from the public and private sector. The project is supported by the World Bank and is currently in execution in states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF NRLM

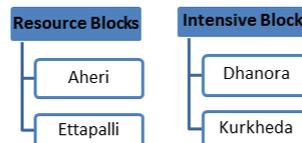
- Poor have a strong desire to come out of poverty, and, have innate capabilities
- Social mobilization and building strong institutions of the poor is critical for unleashing their capabilities
- An external dedicated and sensitive support structure is required to induce social mobilization

3. METHODOLOGY AND WORK DONE:

Researcher completed data collection under Umed- MSRLM,

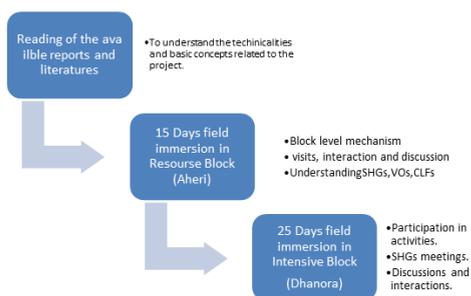
Gadchiroli; where researcher has undergone field immersion in two different blocks (Resource block- Aheri and Intensive block- Dhanora). The organizational mechanism and the project itself has provided us an opportunity to understand and development both practical and professional skills. His report will discuss about our understanding of the MSRLM architecture at district and block levels. The understanding and insights are based on our observations, interaction and discussions as well as readings done throughout this whole period of our field immersion.

The process of implementation and execution at ground is divided at district and block level and is classified as:



Resource and intensive blocks in Gadchiroli district

In order to get deeper understanding and see how the project is implemented in Gadchiroli district. How the whole process of implementation, monitoring and execution is being practiced in keeping the values and principle of NRLM. After having detailed reading and discussion, interaction with the supervisor a plan of action for the next 40 days was prepared.



The above flowchart shows plan of action.

A) RESEARCHER UNDERSTANDS AND REFLECTIONS OF RESOURCE BLOCK (AHERI):

- Interaction and discussion with the project team members showed how the co-ordination and work is divided based on expertise of the team. (BM- Mission manager, financial inclusion, livelihood and capacity building.)
- Field visits and participation in training and other activities helped us in understanding how each the work is being executed keeping in view the core vision of MSRLM.
- Participation in meetings of VOs, CLFs, helped in

understanding of how the institution functions.

- The work on capacity building is carried out by providing the training to the ICRPs, BK, MCRPs.
- Convergence with government scheme/program-Swaccha Bharat Mission (SBM).
- Participation in meeting with BM Financial inclusion helped us in understanding of financial inclusion of the institution of poor.
- The functioning of institutions of poor formed so far viz. village organization, Cluster level federation at perimeli. A well planned sustainable approach toward strengthen of sustainable livelihood.
- On sight visit to the village level organizations also provided us opportunity to understand how the farm based livelihood activities (mohwa collection) are being promoted in clusters.
- Working and participation in activities with MSRLM team at block office provided us an opportunity to work in professional setting.



Photo 1: Group of women doing Mohwa collection at appapalli village



Photo 2: Meeting at perimeli cluster level federation

B) RESEARCHER UNDERSTANDING AND REFLECTION OF INTENSIVE BLOCK (DHANORA):

- Participation in SHGs meeting and interaction with the members helped in understanding how these institution functions at micro level.
- Visit to both villages (murungaon and khedegaon) was an onsite field experience to witness various livelihood activities in action (piggery, fishery, vegetable cultivation and SRI plantation of peddy).
- Interaction and discussion with MCRP, ICRP, krushi sakhi and mashya sakhi helped us in understanding how social mobilization works.
- Participation in VO, ICRPs meeting and trainings- a step toward capacity building.
- Our 25 days long stay in the village itself has helped us in understanding of the ground realities and challenges while we work on field. (social system, culture, language and traditions)

4. INTERACTION WITH SELF HELP GROUPS AT VILLAGE LEVEL: CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY 1:

On the date of 27 may 2017 we have interacted with 'Unnati Mahila Prabhag Sangh' at Perimali village of Aheri block. Researcher interacted with members and they have introduced themselves. They have started a general store apart from their savings. Under that cluster 17 villages covered. That store runs by that SHG member and they have giving special discount for those who are become a member

of SHG. One of the women was telling before that shop they used to buy those things from local shopkeeper but that shopkeeper has given a high rate and low quality material to them. After started that shop members have daily things from their own shop. These women discussed about problems like a Naxalism, communication, addiction and intergroup conflict. After that women have discussed about MSRLM works on only those villages on the road. They have not connected with interior villages. In those interior villages 'Madiya' tribe people are living and they are not connected with other people. Before that shop Madia people have given a 3 kg 'Mohwa' for 1 kg 'jwar' 1kg Jwar (sorghum) is on 20rs kg and 1kg 'Mohwa's is 40 rs kg they have looted by that local shopkeeper as well as lack of awareness about price rate or importance of that specific thing they have not fulfill their basic needs. After that thing, SHG has bought that Mohwa and they have bought Mohwa on rupees 40 and they have earned 27000 in three months. Because of SHG shop they have stopped loot from local shopkeepers.

CASE STUDY 2:

On the date of 20 June 2017 we have visited at Khed village that village is nearby Murungao. Mainly Gond and halba tribe people living in khed village. We have interacted with charulata dilip margiya and their group. They have started with of mine as well themselves. They had 11 members in their group. Most of the people are doing piggery as well as community farming but they were gone through the loss. After getting RF from MSRLM they were started fishery program. They have hired a village pond for that thing and they are giving rent to Grampanchayt. After that thing in that particular season, they generated 60,000 from that program. She mentioned specific problems about community level. One of the main reasons is alcohols addiction. Most of the time meeting has held at night and their community, as well as family members, has created a disturbance in that meetings. They were using those specific words like 'kuch kaamdhandana nahi hai kya' (you don't have any work or not) or 'tumko paisa milta humko kya' (are you getting money from this). Afterwards, she was telling on how MSRLM came and how they came tougher for saving as well as generating a sustainable business.

5. LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES:

- SHGs meetings and their timings (in Murungao the meetings were held at 8pm).
- In the beginning it was difficult to break ice with the SHGs members (shy, limited communication and interaction).
- Because of their daily schedule it was difficult to meet and interact with all the members of the group (Seasonal and agricultural activities).
- Availability of transport and traveling means.
- Language barrier (Aheri block language is influenced by Telugu and Gondi while in Dhanora block the local language is influenced by Chattishgrahi).

6. CONCLUSION / SUGGESTIONS

The SHGs and the institutions (VOs and CLFs) which are being run by the women of the communities are a great step toward women empowerment. The approach adopted from social mobilization, institution building, capacity building and sustainable livelihood is centered toward the community development. The equal participation and sharing of responsibility in order to support, help each other has also brought together women under an umbrella. Also the mechanism and implementation strategies which are being used by the project team are more effective where the emphasis is given on transparency, accountability and work delivery. The commitment and ground efforts adopted by all the members (ICRPs, MCRPs, Bank/krushi/Mashya sakhi, CFM/CAM and cluster co-coordinator) are the driving force behind the work at grass root level under the support of the professionals at both Block and District levels.

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