

IMPACT ANALYSIS OF DAY-NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION: A STUDY IN NUH DISTRICT OF HARYANA

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ABSTRACT

The paper assesses the impact of DAY-NRLM with respect to the pattern of savings and expenditure of the members of self-help groups in the Nuh district of Haryana. These self-help groups are taken which are functioning under a government-sponsored scheme namely National Rural Livelihood Mission-Aajeevika. The study found that the groups have a positive impact on saving and expenditure pattern and assets were also generated but variations were experienced with in the social categories of the respondents. The study also highlights the experiences of women through case studies. The study recommends that the selection of livelihood activities may be done by assessing all relevant and important aspects. Further, proper attention to the selection of the items for expenditure should be given along with the mobilization to do productive expenditure. The convergence model of the mission should be implemented covering all relevant aspects.

KEYWORDS: Savings, Expenditure, Self-Help Groups.

Introduction

In the year, 1999 the Government of India launched Swarna-Jayanti Gram Swaraj Yojna (SGSY) a scheme for group-based finance, covering economical and socially deprived people exclusively for the rural women to empower them socially and beyond financial inclusion. The SGSY was a centrally sponsored largest credit-based poverty alleviation programme launched in 1999 by the Ministry of Rural Development. It was a comprehensive approach to cover all aspects of self-employment through SHG, by providing training, credit, infrastructure, technology and upgraded marketing skills. Several other schemes were amalgamated with SGSY such as Integrated Rural Development Programme, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment, Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas, Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans, Ganga Kalyan Yojana and Million Wells Schemes. The scheme was renamed Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in 2011 and finally in 2015 merged under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana (DDU-AY) - NRLM. Now the mission has more broadened its objectives and characteristics. It includes universal social mobilization and the target of some special groups. To ensure the participation of target groups, poor people identify at all levels of the community very transparently and fairly and taken as NRLM Target Group through the participatory process. It is the need for time and objectives to drive PIP as a Community-Driven Process. To strengthen the capacities of rural poor, practices related to institutional and financial management are also covered and the programme provides the revolving fund and the community investment fund as resources. Financial Inclusion is one of the significant objectives of the programme and assistance is given to promote financial literacy and capital. The use of communication and technology is being encouraged and coordination is made with the mainstream institutions in the financial sectors. It uses the frontline staff coordination with the help of community facilitators like 'Bank Mitras'. The programme also emphasizes the promotion of the existing livelihood of the poor with the help of three basic variables i.e. vulnerability reduction, subsistence improvement through enhancing and expanding existing livelihoods options and slightly knocking new opportunities in both farm and non-farm sectors. With the help of building new skill

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centres that are required to promote the new employment opportunities, generating self-employed resources and endorse micro-enterprises. Sustainable livelihood promotion is one of the key objectives with the help of convergence and partnerships and also the active involvement of Gram Panchayats

Progress of NRLM in terms of SHGs in India and Haryana

The below-mentioned table shows the state-wise performance of groups in various states under NRLM. The table shows that Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have the highest number of groups formed.

Table 1: A Current State Wise Profile of SHGs in India under NRLM in 2021

Sr. No.	States	Districts	Blocks	SHGs
1	Andhra Pradesh	13	662	707045
2	Assam	33	219	292270
3	Bihar	38	534	932371
4	Chhattisgarh	28	146	194718
5	Gujarat	33	248	254566
6	Jharkhand	24	263	245136
7	Karnataka	30	226	220404
8	Kerala	14	152	238116
9	Madhya Pradesh	52	313	319607
10	Maharashtra	34	351	494229
11	Odisha	30	314	447704
12	Rajasthan	33	352	166525
13	Tamil Nadu	31	385	302377
14	Telangana	32	542	404465
15	Uttar Pradesh	75	826	422966
16	West Bengal	22	342	871153
17	Haryana	22	141	43483
18	Himachal Pradesh	12	80	24223
19	Jammu And Kashmir	20	125	44597
20	Punjab	22	150	22350
21	Uttarakhand	13	95	32256
22	Arunachal Pradesh	25	114	3090
23	Manipur	16	70	2075
24	Meghalaya	11	46	28132
25	Mizoram	11	26	6553
26	Nagaland	11	74	12009
27	Sikkim	4	32	5061
28	Tripura	8	58	25348
29	Andaman And Nicobar	3	9	926
30	Goa	2	12	2860
31	Ladakh	2	18	451
32	Lakshadweep	1	10	154
33	Puducherry	2	3	3065
34	Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	3	3	405
	Total	710	6941	6770690

Source: Report of Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, or the website: www.nrlm.gov.in

In the case of Haryana, from the initiating year of SGSY 1999, there was a total number of 712 SHGs reported in the state. These numbers increased up to 43483 in the year 2021 under NRLM, and a total number of 463436 members are getting benefits from the scheme. However, the state pursues 17 rankings in all India ranking. In the case of the district-wise number of SHGs the district Karnal (3937), Bhiwani (3597) and Nuh (3462) are leading and represents the successful story of the scheme. In special reference to the Nuh district, where the primary survey was undertaken, there are seven development blocks in which the largest number of SHG i.e. 671 reported in Tarou and followed by FerozpurJhirka with 528 SHGs in Feb 2021. Moreover, the members belong to SHGs are mainly belongs to scheduled caste and minorities in the district.

Table: 2: District Wise Current Profile of SHGs & Members in Haryana under NRLM in 2021

Sr. No:	Districts	Blocks	Gram Panchayats	SHGs	Total Member of SHGs
1	Ambala	6	420	1722	18647
2	Bhiwani	7	310	3596	37862
3	CharkhiDadri	4	169	1011	10489
4	Faridabad	3	116	1016	10773
5	Fatehabad	7	261	2905	31173
6	Gurugram	4	208	1230	13708
7	Hisar	9	314	1810	19234
8	Jhajjar	6	251	2402	26228
9	Jind	8	299	2187	22542
10	Kaithal	7	281	2686	28354
11	Karnal	8	396	3937	44128
12	Kurukshetra	7	423	1396	14889
13	Mahendragarh	8	358	754	7992
14	NuhMewat	7	324	3462	35736
15	Palwal	6	261	1416	15124
16	Panchkula	4	130	1249	12425
17	Panipat	6	175	1264	13714
18	Rewari	7	332	1619	17049
19	Rohtak	5	147	1495	15952
20	Sirsa	7	334	1474	15647
21	Sonapat	8	319	1845	19158
22	Yamunanagar	7	520	3007	32612
	Total	141	6348	43483	463436

Source: Reports of Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, or the website: www.nrlm.gov.in

Table: 3: Block Wise Current Profile of SHGs in Nuh District under NRLM in 2021

Sr. No.	Blocks	Total Population	Rural Population	Gram Panchayats	SHGs
1	Ferozepur Jhirka	175665	175665	49	528
2	Indri*	-	-	41	417
3	Nagina	147426	136009	46	461
4	Nuh	270841	139678	42	506
5	Pinangwan*	-	-	35	379
6	Punhana	262809	250197	54	500
7	Tauru	144179	138172	57	671
	Total	1000920	839721	324	3462

Source: Reports of Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, or the website: www.nrlm.gov.in and Census of India, 2011: CD Block wise Census Abstract Data (PCA) - Haryana available on censusindia.gov.in

Note: * The two blocks came under existence after the Haryana Govt – Gaz (Extra) Development & Panchayat Dept. 17 Jan 2017

Review of Literature

A good number of studies have been undertaken to assess the impact of self-help groups on savings and expenditure patterns, poverty level, women empowerment etc. This section deals with the review of related studies conducted on the above-mentioned aspects. Sooryamoorthy, R. (2005) examined the variables associated with the savings and use of credit in a study of 60 SHGs in the state of Kerala. According to the study, marital status influences both savings and credit use. Patterns of savings and use of credit reflect the requirements of family and other responsibilities of the members which they share with their parents or husbands. The study concludes that marital status directly influences the saving and credit behaviour of women and makes a difference in the enhancement of income level. In his study, Sivvachithappa. K. (2013) in his study in Mamdya district of Karnataka find out the factors of group success and cause of failure and the most important factor of impact of SHGs on women economic status and the result was found that with the help of SHG women beneficiaries encouraged their saving. Now they are free from the pressure of money lenders and they can put more expenditure on food items, health and education of their children's. Tamble and Vadlelu et.al. (2017) evaluated the National Rural Livelihoods Mission in five districts of Madhya Pradesh during 2016-17 and examined the identification of beneficiaries, pattern of household investment priorities, assets accumulation and exit strategy. The research found that the scheme was successful in giving benefit to the poor, while the ultra-poor were unable to repay the loans and thus compel to live in poverty and the very poor households are burdened with multiple vulnerabilities and will need additional support as a

grant to kick-start their journey out of extreme poverty. The study suggested that special needs have to be addressed differently from poor households. Sunny and Pereira (2011) in a field level study in the Thane district of Maharashtra described that the microfinance services have helped to create synergies between micro-savings, and micro-enterprises. Their increased income and savings helped them to face and handle the difficult times in their families. The study recommended that the growth of enterprises is a must condition to get the proper benefits. Karale (2019) discussed some case studies and various issues related to income and savings and described that the respondents are now taking interest in savings and livelihoods. Batra et al. (2020) in their study in the state of Rajasthan found that SHGs were helpful to the members to put more expenditure on health, education as well as food items. The study suggested giving more focus on livelihood activities so that the increased income level can be utilized more on the important aspects such as health, education and food.

Objectives, Data and Methodology

The specific objectives of the study to show the progress of NRLM in the country and especially in Haryana the main objective of this paper is to assess the impact of self-help groups on savings and expenditure patterns. The study is undertaken in one of the backward districts of Haryana namely Nuh (erstwhile Mewat). This district is situated in the southern part of Haryana and people are mainly dependent on the agriculture sector for employment and livelihoods. In this study, a total number of 350 women beneficiaries from 55 self-help groups were randomly selected which are functioning under DDAY-NRLM. A simple statistical and tabular analysis is done to interpret the data and findings. Some case studies are discussed to analyze the success stories of the programme.

Results and Discussion

Patterns of Savings in the Groups

Saving is mandatory for all members to continue their existence in the group and the group itself. Members used to save a set quantity of amount regularly and utilise these savings for all other lending and expenditure. Examining the saving issue, on average a respondent monthly saved Rs. 375 from the income generation activity. The respondent engaged in primary activities save less amount of money compared to those connect to secondary and tertiary income generation activities. Due to the demand for the items like pickle, *papad*, toys, handloom and handicraft items etc. in the open market outside the village make the secondary activities more profitable. Therefore, the per month savings is higher in the secondary sector. Specific to tertiary activities, the respondents run general store or shop also save a significant amount than others. Similar to the general caste amount of saving than that to BC-A, BC-B and SC caste group. While associating the saving and education, training, the pendency of loan and economic status, it has emerged out that training and economic status played a vital role in deciding on average saving. However, in education, the pendency of loan has no significant role in the different of average monthly saving.

Figure 1: Income Generation Activities and Monthly Saving

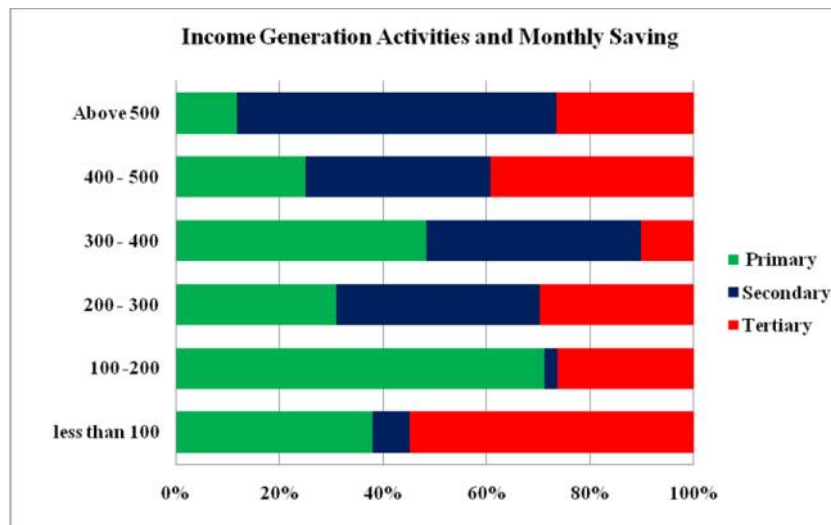
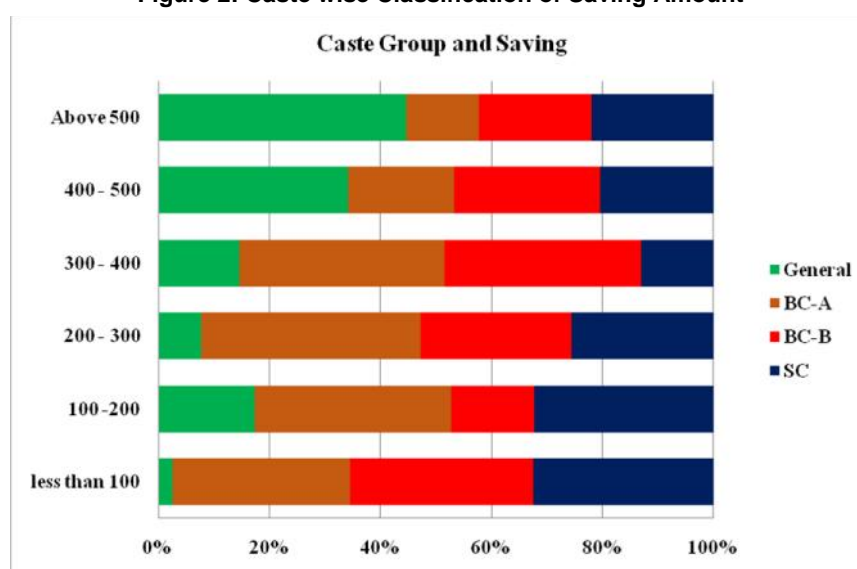


Figure 2: Caste wise Classification of Saving Amount**The pattern of Expenditure and Assets Generation**

Examining the monthly expenditure on households' item and assets generation, it has come out that the largest amount of income is spent on the reinvestment or to the continuation of their income generation activities. The region is predominantly rural thus the maximum of people found engaged themselves mainly in agriculture or livestock activities. Moreover, the location of the study area in the shadow of large cities i.e. Gurugram, Faridabad and Delhi make it more important for such activities. Due to such location, there is always a rich demand for milk products in the region and directly or indirectly enforced people to engage themselves in the livestock business and generate their assets. Thus as a result the highest amount of money is spent by beneficiaries on livestock activities to earn more. Next to IGA, the average per month expenditure is spent to generate assets on kitchen & food items i.e. Rs.870 and followed by the repayment of old debt and EMI (equated monthly instalment) of pending loan amount i.e. Rs. 671 and then clothing/apparels. A small amount of expenditure on children's education and health, and distressing to state on recreation other associated activities is basically due to their family background. The maximum of respondents belongs to normal socio-economic background, thus earning money is their primary need, as a result, their children do not study up to a higher level and spending on recreation is not possible for them in such conditions. Moreover, education and health facilities are also almost free provided to them by the government agencies thus children's education and health cover low monthly expenditure in listed items in the table, and least in recreation due to poverty.

Table 1: Monthly Expenditure on Household's items and for Assets Generation (in Rs.)

Sr.No	List of Important Items	Average Expenditure (Rs./Per Month)	Item wise Expenditure in percentage to Total
1	Agriculture	402	0.86
2	Livestock	1560	10.64
3	Automobile & Transport	571	11.26
4	Clothing/apparels	282	5.15
5	Kitchen & Food Items	870	21.89
6	Children's education and health	256	3.97
7	Family Needs: health, recreation and others	154	2.24
8	Basic amenities Drinking Water, Electricity etc	306	7.42
9	Repayment of old debt/loan	671	2.04
10	Others: IGA*	1693	34.51
Total			100.00

Note: IGA* excluding agriculture and livestock activities

Source: Field Survey

Table 2: Expenditure of Loan (SHG and Bank) on Household and other Assets

Sr.No.	List of Items	Expenditure (in Rs.)		Percentage	
		SHG	Bank	SHG	Bank
1	Agriculture & Livestock	15,41,000	3,71,500	27.42	8.94
2	Automobile	5,97,000	2,05,000	10.62	4.93
3	Household's: Marriage, Education, Health etc.	9,11,000	4,60,500	16.21	11.08
4	House Repair	9,66,000	3,03,500	17.19	7.30
5	Repayment of Old Debt/loan	2,12,000	88,000	3.77	2.12
6	Other; IGA*	13,93,500	27,29,000	24.79	65.64
	Total	56,20,500	41,57,500	100.00	100.00

Note: IGA* excluding agriculture and livestock activities
Source: Field Survey

The next part of the expenditure of loan amounts describes that the highest amount of loan availed from banks was spent on start or continuation of income generation activities i.e 65.64 per cent of the total amount. However, the loan from SHGs the maximum is spent on agriculture and livestock activities i.e 27.42 per cent. This is due to agriculture and livestock activities is also part of income generation activities as this generates assets also but account individually to investigate the role of investment in other activities. After income generation activities the second largest investment or expenditure is done in marriage, education, health etc. However, exclusively within the item, the largest amount is spent on marriage functions. On the other side loan availed from the bank is spent on house repair and thus generating assets. Last, the lowest amount of loan is used for repayment of old debt. Lastly, in concluding remarks during the study it has observed the largest part of beneficiaries are Muslim and belongs to the scheduled caste group. The maximum number of respondents have found illiterate or study up to the primary level. Besides, also accounts for landless or having a very tiny agricultural land less than half an acre, and living their life in limited availability of basic amenities or household's facilities. This deprived condition is somehow found the basic reason for joining SHG. But after joining SHG definitely, there is a positive change or increase in income, savings and expenditure have been observed. A good amount of money is also spent on the continuation or starting for income generation activities.

Case Studies of SHG Members- A Qualitative Analysis

- **Case Study of an SHG Member-Harooni**

Harooni is 48 years old illiterate married women from Rewasan village of Nuh block of the district. Her maximum life spends in poor financial condition and continuous struggling for bread and butter. Large family size, non-availability of agricultural land and jobless husband enforced her to earn money to feed her children and family members. This situation has created a great challenge in front of her. She feels helpless as she is illiterate and because in her community, where females are not allowed to do jobs and mobility to the outside surrounding is highly prohibited. Moreover, her alcoholic husband spent all earning of her inherited savings. Lastly, survival becomes a hard truth for her, and finally, she decided to join FizaSHG in 2011 for livelihood. In her group, there are 12 members and all are female and now she is working as President of the group. The Mewat Development Agency provided her training on the various aspects of the group. After getting training on saving and potential economic activities, she started the livelihood activity of tailoring. In the year 2013, the bank provided her with a loan amount of Rs. 35000 and with the help of the amount, she purchased the machine and start the work. Now she is earning around Rs. 5000 per month from her business. With the help of this income, she is now able to put more expenditure on her children's education and health. Before joining the group, she was a housewife and her income was zero. After joining SHG, the expenditure on food, health and education of the children has also improved. Now she is free from the burden of the moneylender for which she had to pay a huge amount of interest rate on borrow amount. With the help of the loan amount, she is planning to purchase more machines and targeting to provide jobs to needful females who are struggling for their livelihood.

- **Case Study of an SHG Member-Savitri Devi**

Srimati Savitri Devi is a widow who belongs to a village MandiKhera of Nagina block of Nuh district. After the death of her husband, the survival of her children was a great challenge for her, and the nightmare of taking care of the family alone made her disturbed. As a result of the search, she came to know about the self-help group, and become a member of the group. Now she is holding the position of secretary of the group. She joined the group in the year 2014. They were 12 members in the group at

that time. Before joining the group, she was doing nothing and her husband's savings were not sufficient for the family survival. The customary thinking of her husband never allowed her to go outside for livelihoods. Unfortunately, she lost her husband in a road accident. Now the whole family pressure was on her shoulders. She was very thoughtful about the education for her children. A neighbour told her about the self-help group. After joining the group, the bank provided her with a loan amount of Rs. 20,000. With the help of this first loan amount, she acquired a shop on a rental basis and started the activity of cosmetic goods. Before joining the group, she was unemployed but her life changed after a long struggle and now she is saving more than Rs 2000 per month after putting necessary expenditures into the household. Now, she can put more expenditure on food, health and children's education. She repays the instalment of the loan amount on regular basis. Just like Harooni, she is also free from the burden of a local moneylender and fully satisfied with the group activities. She is very eager to learn new business opportunities and interested to expand her business and therefore she has applied for more loan and getting professional training as a beautician.

Conclusion

The study has explored various dimensions of savings and expenditure patterns of the members of self-help groups formed under NRLM in the study area. It is recommended that to achieve the real objectives of the group approach, there is a need to strengthen the capacities of all stakeholders so that a target-based strategy can be planned and implemented. The savings in the groups are very essential and prime requirement and efforts should be made to encourage the member to do saving regularly. A good amount of expenditure on various household requirements is helpful to enhance the standard of living and this can be increased and sustained through regular income. Therefore, the selection of livelihood activities may be done by assessing all relevant and important aspects. Further, the members are also required to give proper attention to the selection of the items on which they are interested to put more expenditure and for this their mobilization is necessary and they need to give proper attention on productive expenditure. As this programme is comprehensive and many significant aspects related to livelihoods have already been added, now a proper strategy for implementation should be formed based on the local requirements.

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