



IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTAL SCHEMES ON THE LIVING STANDARD OF NAGA'S

Imrongsungba¹

¹Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Nagaland University, H.Q: - Lumami, Nagaland,
India.



ABSTRACT

Basically, Naga's society was agricultural backbone. Majority of Naga population survived decade long fully engaged in agricultural allied activities for livelihood. Attainment of Nagaland statehood on 1st December 1963 marks a significant for transition. Every India's Five Year Plans have looked upon hope and great expectation for Nagaland state development. Nagaland state's literacy rate is improving over the decade. Government developmental schemes such as MGNREGA and SGSY in Nagaland carry greater dividends to the grass-root section of Naga's. As surveyed from Mokokchung and Wokha districts of Nagaland state, as sample districts, it was found that rural transition is taking place as an impact of government developmental schemes that features Naga rural improving their standard of living.

KEYWORDS: Naga Population, Livelihood, Employment, Amenities, Income.

INTRODUCTION

Standard of living connotes a higher quality and quantity of goods and services available to individuals and to society, contributing to material well-being. It can also be used to compare distinct points in time. There is no objective, single measure of standard of living; rather, it is a value judgment made by individuals.

Nagaland State is bounded by Assam in the west, Myanmar (Burma) on the east, Arunachal Pradesh and part of Assam on the north and Manipur in the south. It has an area of 16,579 square kilometres (6,401 sq miles) with a population of 1,978,502 per the 2011 Census of India.

The attainment of Nagaland Statehood on 1st December 1963 was a gigantic landmark, turning the State into introducing multiple developmental packages from centre. Prior to this only adhoc schemes were being implemented without long term objectives. In recent times, many central sponsored programmes have been launched in order to eradicate poverty and generate employment in Nagaland to change the living standard of the people.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Department of Planning and Co-ordination, Government of Nagaland, in their "Thematic Report 2009" titled "**Livelihood and employment opportunities in Nagaland – Sectoral issues**", emphasised that huge pool of human resource in Nagaland is grossly under utilised due to non existence of private sector players to absorb the manpower. The State Government has therefore been exploring all possibilities for drawing up strategies to facilitate the creation of employment opportunities in different sectors within and outside the State.

Longchar Tiajungla, Longkumer J., in their International Journal of Bio-resource and Stress Management, titled "**Analysis of Socio-economic Attributes of MGNREGA Beneficiaries in Nagaland with Special Reference to Employment Generation and Community Empowerment**", volume 3, issue 2, April 2014, discussed that beneficiary's annual income was with little or no savings. However, the saving habit of the people improved marginally after the programme owing to additional income generation. Employment generation was found to have positive and significant relationship with annual income and awareness about MGNREGA.

Sanjoy Das, in the IUP Journal of Agriculture Economics, volume VIII, issue I, January 2011, titled "**Houses, Household Amenities and Living Standard in Nagaland**", examines the status of availability of the type of houses and some important household amenities in Nagaland. As far as the availability of household's amenities is concerned, the Nagaland state showed an impressive performance relative to the country, whereas the position of the state with regard to the availability of drinking water and LPG connection was not good relative to that of the country. The study proved that the access to most of the basic amenities was extensively limited in comparison to the urban households.

OBJECTIVES

The objective is to explore at what extend the government developmental schemes have transformed the living standard of Naga's. Keeping this in view, the paper is divided into 4 sections. Section I deals with the relation between government developmental schemes and the transformation of living standards. Section II highlights the perspective of government developmental schemes in Nagaland and its impact on the Naga's living standards. Section III examines the bottlenecks in the implementation of these schemes. Section IV contains concluding remark with findings and suggestions.

METHODOLOGY

The study is fully based on primary data collected through field survey in the sample districts. Two districts, namely, Mokokchung and Wokha, were taken under consideration in studying 6 villages, that is, 3 villages from each district have been surveyed. Data collected through 150 respondents (90 male respondents and 60 female respondents) have been analysed. Two developmental programmes,

such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), have been taken under study for 10 years, i.e., 2000-'01 to 201-'11, and their impact on the Naga's living standard has been studied.

LITERACY DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1.1 Change in literacy percentage rate by residence – Persons

State/Districts	Change in Percentage		
	Total	Rural	Urban
Nagaland	+ 13.52	+ 13.07	+ 5.47
Mokokchung	+ 8.76	+ 9.34	+ 2.28
Wokha	+ 7.05	+ 7.98	+ 5.06

Source: Census of India 2011, Provisional Population Totals – Nagaland.

Table 1.2 Change in literacy percentage rate by residence – Males

State/Districts	Change in Percentage		
	Total	Rural	Urban
Nagaland	+ 12.13	+ 11.91	+ 4.67
Mokokchung	+ 7.52	+ 7.98	+ 2.92
Wokha	+ 5.18	+ 5.89	+ 4.00

Source: Census of India 2011, Provisional Population Totals – Nagaland.

Table 1.3 Change in literacy percentage rate by residence – Females

State/Districts	Change in Percentage		
	Total	Rural	Urban
Nagaland	+ 15.23	+ 14.49	+ 6.68
Mokokchung	+ 10.13	+ 10.83	+ 1.50
Wokha	+ 9.26	+ 10.32	+ 6.43

Source: Census of India 2011, Provisional Population Totals – Nagaland.

Above tables 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 shows that rural literate percentages increase are higher than urban during 2001 and 2011 decade in total, male as well as female basis. Also, Mokokchung district has better literate increase percentage than Wokha district during this decade.

I

Respondent's living standard transformation as a resultant of government developmental schemes during the decade 2000-'01 to 2010-'11 are as follows;

Out of 150 respondents, 33.33% respondents own car, 58% respondents own two-wheeler vehicle, 20.67% respondents resides in semi-RCC building, 79.33% respondents still resides in kutcha house,

20.67% respondents have fan facility, 96.67% respondents are mobile phone user, 44% respondents have computer facility, 77.33% respondents have television, 52.67% respondents have refrigerator facility, 100% respondents have access to safe drinking water, electricity connection and proper toilet facility, 82% respondents are accessible to banking habit, 62.67% respondents are access to newspaper, 74% respondents have Liquefied Petroleum Gas facility, 82.67% respondents have electric rice cooker, 37.33% respondents have electric water boiler, and 89.33% respondents have domestic water supply connection. Thus, rural people in these sample districts are moving forward and standard of living is taking place.

II

During field survey, 49 respondents from Wokha district and 56 respondents from Mokokchung district were conducted for MGNREGA. Also, 41 respondents from Wokha district and 32 respondents from Mokokchung

district were taken as sample for SGSY to measure the socio-economic transition of grassroots people of Nagaland.

a. Employment generation:-

Employment generated in the sample districts as a result of MGNREGA and SGSY are discussed below;

Table 3.1 No. of employment generated by beneficiaries in a year under MGNREGA

District	Village	2007-'08	2008-'09	2009-'10	2010-'11	Total manday's
		Manday's	Manday's	Manday's	Manday's	
Wokha	Wokha	20,160	73,000	66,430	80,200	239,790
	Tsungiki	18,960	32,805	32,670	49,595	134,030
	Sungro	7,350	11,613	7,379	16,320	42,662
Mokokchung	Mepongchuket	5,324	38,982	45,144	50,616	140,066
	Chuchuyimlang	5,764	18,180	50,832	82,176	156,952
	Longsa	8,349	33,264	83,850	1,09,564	235,027

Source: Field Survey

Table 3.2 No. of employment generated by a beneficiary in a year under SGSY

	Wokha District Villages			Mokokchung District Villages		
	Wokha	Tsungiki	Sungro	Mepongchuket	Chuchuyimlang	Longsa
Average manday's	180	175	125	240	190	260

Source: Field Survey

Table 3.1 shows employment generation of Wokha district and Mokokchung district under MGNREGA. During this period, in Wokha village an employment generation was increased by 25.04%, in Tsungiki village it was increased by 22.86% and in Sungro village it increased by 21.03%. In case of Mokokchung district, during the same period, employment generation increased by 32.33% in Mepongchuket village, in Chuchuyimlang village it increased by 48.67% and in Longsa village an employment generation increased at 43.06%. Relatively, Mokokchung district generated more employment percentage than Wokha district under MGNREGA.

Under SGSY, as table 3.2 shows, in case of Wokha district, a beneficiary annual average manday's generation in Wokha village was 49.31% days of the year, in Tsungiki village it

was 47.94% days of the year and in Sungro village it was 34.24% days of the year. Also in Mokokchung district, a beneficiary annual average manday's generation in Mepongchuket village was 65.75% days of the year, in Chuchuyimlang village it was 52.05% days of the year and in Longsa village it was 71.23% days of the year. Relatively, Mokokchung district have generated more manday's percentage than Wokha District under SGSY. Therefore, as a result of MGNREGA and SGSY in Nagaland, employment transition is taking place.

b. Income generation:-

Income earning by a beneficiary under MGNREGA is determine on annual basis. However for SGSY, income earning by a beneficiary is determine on monthly basis with average analysis because beneficiaries earn different level of income as well the duration of business is varied.

Table 3.3 Income generated by a beneficiary annually under MGNREGA

District	Village	2007-'08	2008-'09	2009-'10	2010-'11
		Income (in Rs)	Income (in Rs)	Income (in Rs)	Income (in Rs)
Wokha	Wokha	3,200	10,000	10,738	11,800
	Tsungiki	4,800	8,100	7,788	10,738
	Sungro	5,000	7,900	5,546	11,328
Mokokchung	Mepongchuket	1,100	7,300	7,788	8,732
	Chuchuyimlang	1,100	3,000	8,496	11,328
	Longsa	1,100	3,600	8,850	11,564

Source: Field Survey

Table 3.4 Monthly income generated by a beneficiary under SGSY

	Wokha District			Mokokchung District		
	Wokha	Tsungiki	Sungro	Mepongchuket	Chuchuyimlang	Longsa
Average income/day	Rs. 68	Rs. 70	Rs. 85	Rs. 80	Rs. 90	Rs. 96
Average income/month	Rs. 2,040	Rs. 2,100	Rs. 2,550	Rs. 2,400	Rs. 2,700	Rs. 2,880

Source: Field Survey

In the table 3.3, annual income of MGNREGA respondent's in Wokha district is displayed. During 2007-'08 to 2010-'11 periods, a beneficiary annual income in Wokha village has increase by Rs. 8,600, while in Tsungiki village it increased by Rs. 5,938 and in Sungro village annual income of a beneficiary increased by Rs. 6,328. In Mokokchung district, during 2007-'08 to 2010-'11 periods, a beneficiary annual income in Mepongchuket village has increased by Rs. 7,632, while in Chuchuyimlang village respondent's annual income increased by Rs. 10,228 and in Longsa village a beneficiary annual income increased by Rs. 10,464.

Looking at the table 3.4, it shows a beneficiary average monthly income in Wokha district's and Mokokchung district's villages under SGSY scheme.

Thus, income transition is taking place in these sample districts, i.e., Wokha and Mokokchung, and thereby the living standards of respondents have improved too.

III

While during these implementation, certain bottlenecks were detected and which are discuss below;

a. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Certain flaws detected through the field study are job card have not really reached the people in few villages, contractors are increasingly becoming a threat to the NREGA, Village Development Board (VDB) officials pay less attention to do NREGA paper work, disruption of work on account of the monsoon, delays in wage payments, beneficiaries got less than 100 manday's, creation of durable and sustainable assets not satisfactory, conduct of field trips to the worksite by field level functionaries is limited, total deployment of machineries instead of proposed works to be done by job card holders, insufficient or incomplete data maintained by Village Development Board, still lacks transparency and accountability, and most of the beneficiaries are still unaware about their specific rights.

b. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

Various constraints such as quality Self Help Groups could not be formed, few SHGs got defunct after they received subsidy and loan

from bank, involvement of commercial banks in the formation of SGSY-SHG is limited, loan portfolio is dominated by consumption loan, group savings were not regular in every group, amount sanctioned by bank's for a particular scheme led to misuse and diversion of funds, marketing sheds constructed were not according to project report, training is not imparted to all the groups, mismatch was found between the activity chosen by the group and the training given, no proper guidance from banks or any other official about selection of Self Help Group's activity, apathetic and pessimistic attitude of Banks towards SHG members, banks were always defensive in lending full amount of the loan sanctioned, and shortage of staff was found in Banks.

IV

While interacting with the beneficiaries during the field survey, certain findings were found and which are discussed below;

1.FINDINGS

a. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- ☆ There were 2 beneficiaries illiterate, 43 beneficiaries studied primary level, 51 beneficiaries attained middle school level and 9 beneficiaries studied high school level.
- ☆ Irrigated land area increased by 24% in Wokha district and 31% in Mokokchung district.
- ☆ Income from winter (rabi) crops has increase variation from 9% to 17% in these two districts.
- ☆ Cropped area, especially under rice, has increased in these two sample districts.
- ☆ Beneficiaries could construct or repair house on their own as a result of additional income.

- ☆ Money earned was used for procurement of food grains and other consumable items.
- ☆ Beneficiary's level of living improved due to participation in MGNREGA.
- ☆ Due to better road connectivity, rural people find convenient and easier communication.
- ☆ Water scarcity battle among poor rural people have solved gradually.
- ☆ In almost all villages, black-topping, plastering of village canal, construction of footsteps and walls.
- ☆ Each Village Development Board emphasised MGNREGA fund of 25% for women development, 20% for youth development and remaining 55% for general development.

b. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

- ★ All the 73 (32.44%) beneficiaries were member of SHGs.
- ★ 61 (27.11%) beneficiaries out of total respondents started micro enterprise.
- ★ 64 (28.44%) beneficiaries out of total respondents attended trainings so far.
- ★ 27 beneficiaries from Wokha district and 76 beneficiaries from Mokokchung district received Individual subsidy.
- ★ A total of 40 Self Help Groups were assisted from 3 villages of Wokha district.
- ★ A total of 38 Self Help Groups were assisted from 3 villages of Mokokchung district.
- ★ No sampled beneficiaries were illiterate, 27 beneficiaries studied middle school level, 21 beneficiaries were matriculate, and 17 beneficiaries were higher secondary level and 8 beneficiaries were graduate degree.

- ★ No training programme for 19 SHGs in Wokha district and 7 SHGs in Mokokchung district.
- ★ Out of total 73 sampled beneficiaries, 67 beneficiaries got loan while 6 beneficiaries were waiting for the same till the date of survey.
- ★ 24 beneficiaries faced marketing problems and 49 beneficiaries did not face marketing problem.
- ★ Annual income of 73 beneficiaries has increased and living standard of 68 beneficiaries has been improved.

2. SUGGESTIONS

Despite of its certain drawbacks in the process of implementation, few suggestions are putting forwards and which are discussed below;

a. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- ✧ Present target of 100 days employment per household should ensure strictly.
- ✧ More transparency is needed about the sanctioned work and financial involvement therein.
- ✧ Any kind of political intervention should be stopped.
- ✧ Improve institutional capacities of Village Development Board.
- ✧ Bank branches must be extended to all rural development blocks for financial inclusion.
- ✧ Access to Information at every stage of implementation is quite necessary.
- ✧ A partnership with academician, media, legal fraternity and financial institutions is quite necessary.
- ✧ Due to difficult terrain and topography of the land of Nagaland, use of machinery may be allowed for limited and justified purpose only.

- ✧ Locally available materials may be allowed due to transportation and other local problems.
- ✧ More training should be incorporated for human resource development.
- ✧ Payment of wages must be made regularly and periodic checks are required to ensure this.

b. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

- ↳ The current sanction loan limits should be immediately revised.
- ↳ Proper monitoring of groups needs to be done at various stages of their growth. Special training centres should be constructed and quality teachers should be appointed.
- ↳ Skill up-gradation needs to be strengthened for quality products produced.
- ↳ Swarozgaris need not be pressured in the matter of choice of economic activity.
- ↳ Separate Bank employees specifically working for Government policies should be appointed.
- ↳ Income generating activities should be based on available local resources and a reasonable assured market.
- ↳ More guidance should be imparted to SHGs members in relation to regular savings.
- ↳ It is necessary to make women equal partners in the national development process and equip them to make choices in order to actualise their self worth.
- ↳ Annual plans for SHG activities should be done by the group in consultation with the NGOs.
- ↳ Groups effect upon common fund, constant monitoring becomes very crucial and leaders need to be trained.

↳ NGOs as well as Block Offices in-charge of SGSY should provide awareness programme again and again to SHGs members.

3. CONCLUSION

Despite the progress made in the grassroots level of Nagaland, yet again there are certain general challenges that Nagaland State rural socio-economic still confronts. Foremost among them is relatively isolation, difficult terrain, inaccessibility to the rest of the world, continued insurgency and lack of efficient management of developmental funds. These challenges also handicap the overall Nagaland State endeavours towards industrial and entrepreneurial development, private sector partnership in spearheading development initiative and all round State planning.

Nevertheless, initiatives such as seminars, workshops and trainings are organising timely to Village Development Board members and Block's Personnel in order to gain organisational skills. Also, Ministry of Rural Development is conducting close monitoring on the implementation of rural development programmes frequently. On the other hand, the Government of Nagaland is alerting in ways round to maintain peace, law and order, and tranquility in the State.

Hence, the overall scenario of this paper reveals that Naga's are improving standard of livings as a consequence of developmental schemes from government.

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