

PMAY in Manipur: A Hope for Rural Livelihood

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Abstract

Globalization in Twenty-first Century has changed the very nature of livelihood of rural people. The arrival of Neo liberalism, democratic values, and human rights enable the people to decide their own choices and put forth their demands. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY) acts as saviour of poverty which facilitates to improve overall living standard of the rural people. Various rural development programmes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCR) etc have been implementing in order to improve and develop rural areas so as to bring over all development in the country since independence. The flagship programme can be instrumental in easing difficulties and economic hardship of the rural people. Additionally, Local Self Government i.e. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) that have been strengthened by guaranteeing the constitutional status through the 73rd Amendment Act 1992 can play a major role to execute the programmes effectively. The paper examines PMAY and discusses their role in helping to lessen the homeless problems in particular and economic difficulties in general in rural Manipur and discusses the need of focusing the benefits of the schemes to reduce hardships of the rural people.

Key words: Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY), Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), 73rd Amendment Act 1992, Savior, Poverty.

Introduction

Manipur traditionally known as Kangleipak that considers to be “the jewel of India” owing to its natural beauty. It is also famous for its rich culture and for its abundant flora and fauna. It has a beautiful central Imphal valley surrounded by hills from all sides which gives unique geographical characteristics. It is home to the famous unique brow-antlered deer locally known as Sangai and the unique shirui lily found in ukhrul district of Manipur. It is in north-eastern part of India bordering with Myanmar to the south and east, Mizoram to the south, Nagaland to the North, and Assam to the West. It shares the international boundary with Myanmar. It has a border town called Moreh widely known as a gateway to South East Asia Countries. Manipur has a total area of 22,327 square kilometer. Imphal valley with an area of approximately 1843 square kilometers lies in the central part of Manipur and the remaining areas i.e. 20484 km² (BSEM, 2017). As per census of 2011, the state has a population of 28, 55,794 out of which nearly 70.79 % lives in rural. There are more than 33 communities in the state (morning express, 2024).

Literature Review

There are abundant literatures to be analyzed and referred for the study. Some of the referred literatures are as follows:

A.K. Mishra, Naved Akhtar & Sakshi Tarika in their – Role of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development (An Analytical Study of Uttar Pradesh) thoroughly discussed the need of the development of rural areas for all round development of the country and importance of introduction of 73rd constitutional amendment. The study further analyzed various measures and rural development programmes taken up through PRIs in order to develop rural India. The study also emphasized the need of overcoming certain drawbacks and loopholes i.e. unutilization and improper use of funds so as to enhance the growth of rural areas of India. Suggestions like proper collection of data, adoption of Private Public Partnership (PPP) model for better utilization, participation of NGOs etc are made so as to implement rural development programmes effectively.

Ime Okon Utuk deals with the importance of rural areas and their negligence for long in Nigeria. Even though there are development plans but there is negligence in implementation part that led to limited success. The government has failed to focus on important matters in rural development plans that call for the need of NGOs who can engage rural people in rural development for more effective implementation.

Objectives of the Study

1. To analyse PMAY-G.
2. To discuss overall housing assistance to the poor people.
3. To recommend for the better execution of the programme.

Delimitations of the Study

1. The study is limited to Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana (PMAY-G).
2. The study is limited to Rural Areas.

Methodology of the Study

In order to achieve above objectives, the study is of content analysis in a qualitative research kind. It has been conducted on the basis of Secondary sources. The Secondary sources comprise of government publications, journals, articles, books, newspaper etc. The most reliable sources are used for the study.

Democratic Decentralization

In this twenty first century, the role of PRIs becomes more imminent when Government started emphasizing the necessity of decentralization and people's participation in governance, decision making and execution of rural development works so that the benefits reach to the needy ones. Importance of Panchayati Raj Institutions is clearly emphasized when our former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who could proudly say while inaugurating PR in Rajasthan in 1959: "We are going to lay the foundation of democracy or Panchayati Raj in our country"

(B.L. Fadia 2005, 575). The main objectives of PRIs as defined in the Article 40 of the constitution of India are to promote economic development and social justice.

There has been a new turn for Democratic Decentralization in early 1990's as and when the Central Government passed and enacted 73rd constitutional amendment guaranteeing constitutional status to PRIs recognizing them as self governing institutions with 29 subjects under articles 243G-243H and added eleventh schedule of the constitution. The passing of 73rd constitutional amendment Act has made it mandatory to establish local self government and allocate the necessary powers and functions so as to enable them to work independently and effectively. A unique character of the Act is the reservation of women to not less than one – third of the seats. It shall enhance women participation in decision making and their involvement in political affairs as representative thus contributing towards the society. It shall also increase women empowerment as a whole.

Likewise, Manipur Government has also passed Manipur Panchayati Raj Act 1994 to strengthen the PRIs in the state thus, enacting towards effective decentralization process and governance at the grass root level.

A Brief on Rural Development Programmes

There was a new eye opening on Community Development in January 1957 with appointment of a working committee on Community Development and National Extension Service headed by Shri Balwant Rai Mehta in order to appraise the working of the CDP.

The subsequent governments of India have initiated various steps for the rural development. Rural Development comprises improving the socio-economic level of the people in rural areas on a sustainable basis through the best possible use of local resources both natural and human (Dr. I. Satya Sundaram, 2019). In order to achieve these goals, Government of India launched some developmental and employment programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) etc.

The programmes are meant to minimize the gap between rural and urban populace which would help ease imbalances and speed up the development process thus narrowing down the economic inequality. Gandhiji's dream has been translated into reality with the introduction of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system to ensure people's participation in rural reconstruction and governance (Chaturvedi T.N., 1996). The Passing of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992 which came into effect in 1993 and subsequent Manipur Panchayati Raj Act 1994 have enabled the PRIs to function as self governing body. Government of Manipur's keen interest in rural development can clearly be acknowledged with 69 Block Development Offices (18 C.D. Block in valley and 51 T.D. Blocks in the hill) are established in the whole state in 2015-16 (Statistical Year Book of Manipur 2018, 164).

Some important on-going programmes implementing in the state are MGNREGS, PMAY etc. PMAY is to provide housing for the poor in this country. Similar programme was started in 2015 for urban poor. The programme has constructed and provided many houses to homeless people.

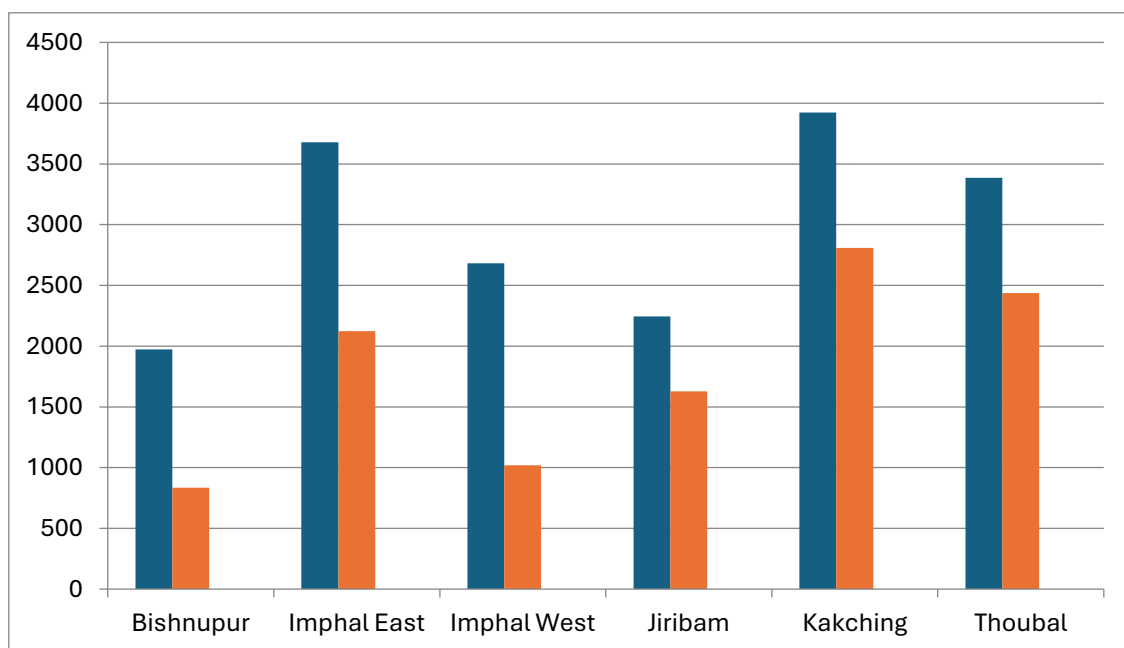
Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana

It is a flagship programme under the initiative of Government of India. It is to construct houses to all eligible households thus targeting to provide “Housing for all”. The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) programme was renamed as Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY). PMAY comprises of two components – one rural housing known as Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana (PMAY-Gramin) launched in 2016 and another one is urban housing called PMAY (Urban) launched in 2015.

Additionally the programme was launched in Manipur on 28th August 2017(Directorate of Economics & Statistics Government of Manipur, 2022-23). The main purpose of the programme is to provide pucca houses with minimum necessities to all houseless households in rural areas by 2024(Ibid). Parameter for identification and selection of beneficiaries of PMAY-G at the Gram Sabha meeting, from the SECC 2011 List, based on the housing deficiency and other social deprivation Criteria (Ibid). Those who prefer a pucca house but are not in the SECC 2011 list are added in the Non-SECC Awaas plus list under the Scheme. Assistance of Rs 1, 30,000 per house is granted in three instalments to beneficiaries shared between the state Government and Central Government in the ratio 10:90 (Ibid).The sharing in this pattern (10:90) is done especially for north-east and hilly states.

The Fig. shows the category wise number of beneficiaries under PMAY-G in Manipur

District wise cumulative Physical progress FY 2016-17 to 2022-23



Source: Economic Survey Manipur 2022-23

The Fig. explains the Valley District wise cumulative Physical progress of PMAY-G. From the above figure number of beneficiaries of Imphal East District has come down from 3678 in 2016-17 to 2122 in 2022-23. Kakching has 3923 and 2808 in 2016-17 and 2022-23 respectively. Kakching has been on top spot in receiving maximum number of houses in the respective years. Bishnupur is with minimum number of houses with 1972 and 835 in the respective years.

Some Observations

Performance of PMAY-G in Kakching District and Thoubal are quite remarkable as compared to that of other valley Districts. Districts like Bishnupur and Imphal West are seen with lower performance. There are signs of uneven performance among the valley districts in the state. Some districts have achieved with good performance.

Concluding Remarks

Rural development programme PMAY boost economic conditions of rural people and housing conditions respectively. Government must try to utilize the benefits provided under the schemes, of course fulfilling the requirements keeping in mind the rules and the criteria so that the houses of homeless people are constructed at maximum. There is need to pay special attention of the concerned authorities mainly the state Government and the central government to construct houses under the PMAY. Those districts with lesser performance have to improve after knowing the very reason of the lack of Efficiency as compared to the other districts of better performance in the state.

Lastly but not the least, PRIs in particular can play a great role in implementing the work efficiently. Their sincerity and efforts are also needed to reach the benefits to the needy rural people. More transparency in selection of beneficiaries would further enhance in achieving the overall performance of the programme. Grass root level functionaries are required to be involved with greater powers and functions so that the work reaches to the grass root. Their greater contribution shall surely help in increasing the efficiency of the programme.

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