



WORKINGS OF THE MIZORAM STATE RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION IN EAST LUNG DAR RURAL DEVELOPMENT BLOCK, INDIA

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Abstract

The Mizoram Rural Livelihoods Mission was launched in 2013. It functions under the supervision of the central government. It plays an important role in the upliftment of the rural poor through mobilization, employment generation, and capacity building. The main objective of the present study is to find out the workings of MzSRLM in achieving its goals in East Lungdar RD Block, India. The study found that 1515 members were enrolled in self help group, 84 engaged in new jobs after joining self help group, and 119 attended capacity building trainings.

Key words: NRLM, MzSRLM, Workings of MzSRLM

Introduction

In recent years, the importance of rural livelihoods in India has increased as the rural population surpasses the urban population. As per the Census of India 2011, the percentage of the rural population is 68.84% and the urban population is 31.16%.¹ At the central level, in June 2011, the Ministry of Rural Development launched the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). It was renamed DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana– National Rural Livelihood Mission) on March 29, 2016. The scheme falls under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), and is funded jointly by the central and state governments at a rate of 75:25 (90:10 for the North Eastern States). The central government created a manual for the establishment of organizations, components, objectives, etc. According to the manual, the State Mission Management Unit oversees the implementation of the mission at the state level, the District Mission Management Unit functions as a capacity building and support unit for implementation at blocks and lower levels, and the Block Mission Management Unit mobilizes the poor households into self help groups, strengthens them, and builds their capacities.

¹ Wayback Machine. (n.d.-a). https://web.archive.org/web/20120226224319/http://censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/paper2/data_files/india/Rural_Urban_2011.pdf (accessed on 06/01/2020)

The objective of the Mission is mainly to promote sustainable livelihoods for the rural poor and uplift them out of poverty. Therefore, the mission tries to facilitate access to formal credit, entitlements, and public services.²

At present, the Mission has covered 729 districts and 7035 rural development blocks in 28 states and 6 Union Territories (except Delhi and Chandigarh). The present number of members enrolled under this mission is more than 86.4 million.³ In the North Eastern States of India, the mission covered 124 districts out of 132 (as of January 2024) and 609 rural development blocks.⁴

The Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MzSRLM) is a registered society under Mizoram Society Registration No. 385 of 2011 and was formally inaugurated on 22nd April, 2013. At its inception, the mission was established only in the two districts of Mizoram, i.e., Kolasib and Serchhip Districts. Later, the mission was extended into six districts, i.e., Lawngtlai, Champhai, Saiha, Mamit, Lunglei, and Aizawl. At present, the mission covers 28 rural development blocks and eleven districts (Aizawl, Champhai, Hnahthial, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Mamit, Saiha, Saitual, Serchhip, Khawzawl, and Kolasib) within Mizoram.

Area of the Study

The present study was conducted in the East Lungdar rural development block in the Serchhip District of Mizoram. As no village establishment was found in Tuichang, Puallawi, Leilet NV, and Maicham, the study was conducted in twelve villages, i.e., Bawktlang, Chekawn, East Lungdar, Khawlailung, Leng, Lungchhuan, Lungkawlh, Piler, North Vanlaiphai, Sailulak, Sialsir, and North Mualcheng.

Table: 1

Name of Villages in East Lungdar RD Block

Sl. No	Villages in East Lungdar RD Block
1.	Bawktlang
2.	Chekawn
3.	East Lungdar
4.	Khawlailung
5.	Leng
6.	Lungchhuan
7.	Lungkawlh
8.	Piler
9.	North Vanlaiphai (NT)
10.	Sailulak
11.	Sialsir
12.	N.Mualcheng
13.	Tuichang
14.	Puallawi
15.	Leilet NV
16.	Maicham

Source: *Census of India, 2011*

² National Rural Livelihood Mission. (n.d.). [https://darpg.gov.in/sites/default/files/National Rural Livelihood Mission.pdf](https://darpg.gov.in/sites/default/files/National_Rural_Livelihood_Mission.pdf) pdf (retrieved on 06/01/2020)

³ Nic. (n.d.). *Day NRLM eGov Application - Ministry of Rural Development: Government of India*. DAY NRLM eGov Application - Ministry of Rural Development | Government of India. <https://nrlm.gov.in/> (as on 06/01/2024)

⁴ Ibid

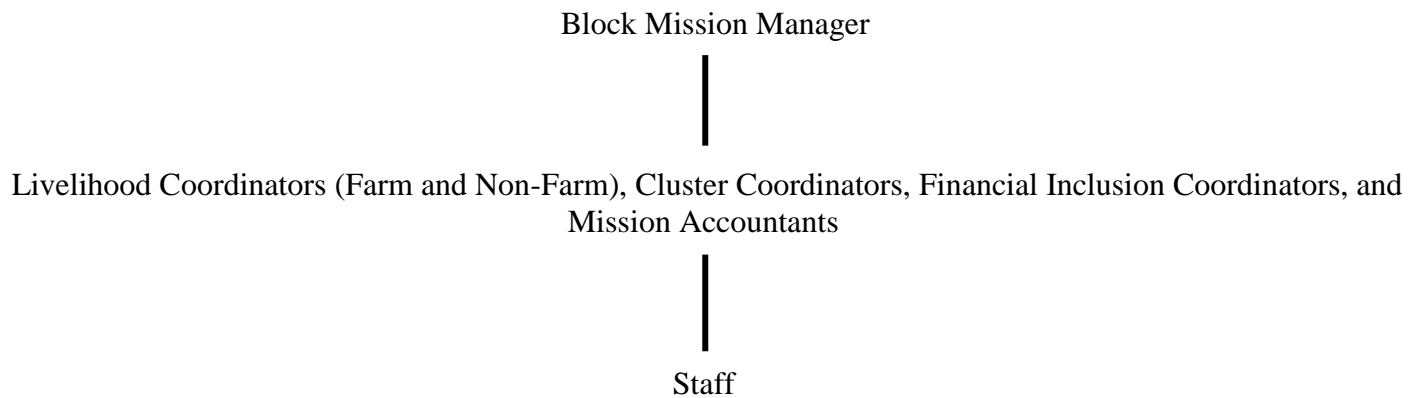
Methodology

For this study, primary and secondary data were employed. Primary data were obtained through interviews. 181 Self Help Group members were interviewed through structured questionnaires. Simple random sampling was used to select the respondents. Secondary data was employed through the internet and manual.

Organizational set-up of Mizoram State Rural livelihoods Mission at the East Lungdar RD Block

At the block level, the mission is headed by 1 Block Mission Manager. 1 Farm Livelihood Coordinator, 1 Non-Farm Livelihood Coordinator, 2 Cluster Coordinators, 1 Financial Inclusion Coordinator, 1 Mission Accountant, and 1 Data Entry Operator administered the organization.

Organizational set-up of MzSRLM at East Lungdar RD Block



Source: MzSRLM Block office, East Lungdar

Workings

The main role of the Block Mission Management Unit (BMMU) under MzSRLM is to mobilize the poor households into self help groups, strengthen them, and build their capacities. The main achievements of East Lungdar RD Block to achieve its role are given as follows:

a) Mobilization of the poor households into self help groups

Table: 1
Total number of VOs, SHGs, and Member

Village Organisation	15
No. of Self Help Groups	230
Members	1515

Source: *Field study*

As the above Table No. 1 shows, MzSRLM in East Lungdar RD Block mobilized the poor households/members into self help groups (10-20 households/members in a group) and federated into a village organization. There are 15 village organizations, 230 self help groups, and 1515 members in East Lungdar RD Block.

b) Strengthened through employment generation

Table: 2
Acquired new jobs after joining Self Help Group

Yes	No	Total
84	97	181

Source: *Field study*

The above Table 2 indicates the number of beneficiaries who acquired new jobs after joining self help groups. While 46.41% said that they acquired new jobs after joining self help groups, and 53.59% never started new jobs after joining self help groups. The kinds of new jobs include poultry farming, piggery farming, hotels, shops, tailoring, taxi business, cow rearing, and other businesses.

c) Building capacity through training

Table: 3
Attendance of training after joining Self Help Group

Yes	No	Total
119	62	181

Source: *Field study*

The above Table No. 3 provides the number of beneficiaries who attended trainings after joining self help groups. 65.75% said that they attended trainings after joining self help groups, and 35.25% said they never attended trainings after joining self help groups. The kinds of training include auditor training, bookkeeping, baking, mushroom cultivation, poultry farming, cow rearing, pickle making, pig farming, soap making, bank linkage, etc.

Problems

As indicated in the previous page, the number of staff of MzSRLM in East Lungdar RD Block is only 8. Insufficiency of personnel is one of the problems faced in East Lungdar Block.

From the above Table No. 3, we can see that the trainings imparted to the self help groups are not inclusive enough to reach all the members.

Suggestions

More personnel should be employed by the government of Mizoram to check the insufficiency of personnel.

Trainings should be inclusive to reach all the members of self help groups.

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