



Role of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Rural Development: A Case Study of Pampoli Village, Seppa, Arunachal Pradesh.

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Abstract

Rural Development is one the crucial component for every economy. It faces multifaceted challenges, primarily driven by poverty, limited infrastructure, and a heavy, often subsistence-level, reliance on agriculture. Government of India has taken various initiatives and scheme to address the challenges. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is one of them which are defined in term of road connectivity for rural poor remedies by policy makers. A successful effort has been made to reduce by connecting the rural area through this program PMGSY. Therefore, to understand the realism of this program, this study is designed. Under this study, n attempt has been made to see how much this program has been helpful in increasing the income, employment opportunities and area development for rural people, specifically at Pampoli village. In order to fulfill the objective of the study, primary data has been collected from Pampoli village, Seppa, East Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh. This study will continue the role of the road in the study of rural employment and income opportunities.

Introduction:

Rural economy is characterized by subsistence farming, local handloom, abundance of natural resource and inadequate infrastructure. In addition poverty in India is a serious problem, for which many poverty eradication programs have been run by Government. However it has been observed that such schemes cannot be permanent solution to the employment problem because of the very high cost and less productivity nature of the types of works taken up under such programs. The ultimate solution for the employment problem in rural areas lies in creating infrastructure, better connectivity and increased employment opportunities by connecting such areas to the markets and to places of employment in abundance. The availability of roads will facilitate more business in the villages thereby increasing the employment opportunities as well as helping people travel to outside for jobs. It has been observed that better connectivity can also result in increase in production capacity of the existing enterprises in the villages as well as creation of new opportunities in the villages both will result in more people getting jobs in these enterprises.

Rural roads play an important in creating employment for unskilled worker and social awareness. Effective transport system is essential for sustainable economic development and modernization. There is no doubt that transport has an important role in the overall development of the country' economy. This is not only the main infrastructure for the development process, but also plays an important role in maintaining national integration. Hike rate of growth will definitely indicate high transport demand. It is belief that the growth of GDP and transport sector has positive relationship. Policy maker have been given great importance to road connectivity for rural people remedies. Efforts have been made to reduce poverty by connecting the rural area with road connectivity through the launch of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana(PMGSY) in 2000. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is 100 percent centrally sponsored scheme for this programme. 50% cess tax has been levied on high speed diesel and PMGSY is one of the largest development initiatives in the country for the development of rural roads, with the establishment of National Rural Road Development Agency (NRRDA) to the support the program through advise on technical specification, project appraisal, and the appointment of part time Quality Control Monitors, Management of Monitoring Systems and submission of Periodic Reports to the Ministry of Rural Development. This agency is considered as a compact, professional and multi-disciplinary body Objectives of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are:

Objectives of the Study:

To know, how PMGSY alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods in rural areas by facilitating access to Economic opportunity.

1. To understand how PMGSY promote connectivity, by way of an All-weather road (with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structure, which is operable throughout the year).
2. To learn how PMGSY provide access to Social and Economic services such as Schools, Health clinics, employment generation and markets.

The present study was done in the Pampoli village which is located in Seppa, East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. This research is based on primary and secondary source personal interview, questionnaire, oral narration and observation methods have been adopted for the present study. The secondary source includes articles, newspapers. Personal interviews

Research methodology: this study follows a review based research design aimed at evaluating the impact of PMGSY on rural connectivity and economic development in the Pampoli region. It has also followed an interview based research methodology for data collection technique as a primary source and it also adheres to the secondary source of data collection methodology like reports, articles, etc.

Area of the Study:

Pampoli is the medium six villages located in Seppa circle of East Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh with total 84 families residing. The Pampoli village has population of 501 of which 229 are males while 272 are females as per population census 2011. Pampoli village has higher literacy rate compare to Arunachal Pradesh. In 2011 literacy rate of Pampoli village was 73.13% compare to 65.38 % of Arunachal Pradesh. As per constitution of India and Panchyati Raj Act, Pampoli village is administered by Sarpanch (head of Village) who is elected of representative of village.

Result and Discussion:

The analysis reveals that PMGSY has significantly improved rural connectivity in the area of study, enhancing access to markets, healthcare, and education. PMGSY roads connect four villages namely, Jayanti, Yanje, Nachiwa and Fenze village. The total area of Pampoli is 3Kms approximately. The PMGSY scheme was implemented in the year 2010. Furthermore, health centers (2 primary health centers) and schools (private) were inaugurated after the introduction of the PMGSY scheme.

Impact on agriculture

It is belief that better connectivity resulting in easier access to markets and upgraded flow of information can attribute to many improvements in agriculture production and incomes of the farmers in the area of Pampoli Village.

- The road connectivity under PMGSY has an impact of the marketing related factors: roads have brought markets to the villages and facilitated farmers accessing the markets easily. Farmers growing cereals have shifted from selling their produce to on-farm gate local traders to outside traders after PMGSY roads was constructed whereas this change was reported by only few farmers in the control habitations.
- Improved agricultural incomes and prosperity in the areas of Pampoli village are also reflected by the fact that in the connected habitations.
- Enhanced connectivity can result in changes in cropping patterns followed by the farmers in the area. It reflects that there has been an increase of cropped area under vegetables, fruits and other cash crops after the PMGSY road was constructed.
- The number of households growing horticultural items like fruits,(orange pineapple and banana) in the land have also reported an increase in the use of fertilizers after the PMGSY road was constructed. Some of the households rising cereal products also reported increased use of improve seeds post PMGSY. Most of the households have reported increase in quantity of production post PMGSY.
- Because of PMGSY road connectivity, all weather transportation has developed, as a result access of farmers to agricultural product markets, chemical fertilizers and seeds centers has become easy.
- Thus, the agriculture produced by farmers can easily reach the market of Seppa town and other districts, towns and farmers can get the actual return price for their products.

Impact on employment generation:

The impact of PMGSY on employment is particularly in strong in hilly and remote areas, where better access has been transformative for local economies.

1. Some of the households have reported that at least one of their earning members has shifted their place of employment from within the habitation to outside the habitation.
2. More than one third house hold reported increase in number of days of employment in the principal occupation of their earning members post PMGSY.
3. As of construction of PMGSY roads, employment opportunities outside the Pampoli village have increased. And creation of additional man days in farming activities due to additional crops being cultivated has risen.
4. Above half of the persons who reported their principals occupation as construction labors have reported increase in number of days of employment.
5. Only few of them reported change in their principal occupation after the road was constructed.

Impact on income and poverty alleviation program;

This program has been a transformative initiative in rural areas, directly impacting income levels and adding poverty alleviation by providing all weather road connectivity to previously isolated habitation.

- a) Some of the households have reported owing better dwelling unit as compare to the type of house they owned before the construction of PMGSY road. Few habitations have been new enterprise setup feasibility of which was possible only after the new connectivity was provided.
- b) Both in and out migration has increased due to the road connectivity.
- c) The respondents have reported that there has an overall increase in the income levels of the people in the habitation as a result of the PMGSY road.

- d) Rural roads are the important enabling conditions for livelihood development of people in rural areas. The poor and very poor primarily benefit through the indirect impact of road improvements, of better access to state services and improved provision of services to the villages and opportunities in alternative income stream.
- e) The BPL families used to carry basic amenities (like rice, salt and other essentials) on their backs manually. But with the introduction of the PMGSY, they have been simplified and are carried by vehicles.

Impact on healthcare:

This program has significantly improved rural health by enabling all weather access to health care facilities, reducing emergency travel time and increasing health worker visit.

- a. In case of highest habitations there has been a reduction in the travel time to reach the nearest health facilities in case of maternity emergencies.
- b. Some of the habitations also reported that there has been an increase in availability of government doctors to the habitations after the road was constructed.
- c. Other health services like vaccination, polio and free health check up has been facilitated after the construction of PMGSY road.

Impact on education:

The provision of an all season road in the village facilities creation of infrastructure, institutions, increase in manpower and other improvement in the sample habitations, details on status of education facilities before and after PMGSY road.

1. Construction of road under PMGSY, facilitated many children to have access to education without any difficult challenges. Before the construction of road attendance of students were low, especially in monsoon season. Furthermore, after the advent of the said program it made convenient for students to travel and attend their classes.
2. In addition there has been increase in the number of schools either private or government enabling more inclusivity in the respective area.
3. It was found that there has been an increase in the number of 'Anganwadi' centers (approximately 11 in number) in some of the sample habitations after the construction of the PMGSY road.
4. Construction of PMGSY also provided assistance to those students who were studying in the college in the respective area. The location of college is in the hilly terrain region, making it difficult for students to attend the classes, but this program helped them a lot in terms of travel to top hilly region.

Problems:

The associated problems in implementation of the said program are unskilled labor which is the main obstacles in respect to productive work. In addition, use of sub-standard raw material and increase in the cost of raw materials making it difficult for the entity to implement the program effectively. Furthermore, land compensation, regional political problems, lack of monitoring by administrator due to other work load, monsoon and geographical problems, suspension in road construction work because of lack of competent contractors and engineers.

Suggestions:

- The district may use the resources from Employment Programmes and other available sources from the District for providing connectivity to the lower order settlements.
- To reduce the surface run-off discharge and checking erosion in the downhill side especially in hilly regions.
- Road route should be finally approved by Panchayat.

- Contractors should be penalized for delay in work.
- District magistrate should be finally approved by Panchayat.
- To create a green belt and avenues for meeting aesthetic recreational needs and thereby providing shade to pedestrians and reduce the ambient temperature.
- Proper drainage system should be maintained so as to prevent depletion of road condition.
- Solve the problem of ineligible contractors and engineers by using the Electronic bid system (tender).
- Community should be included when it comes to maintain or taking care of road.
- There should be one team to be appointed in order to monitor the program implemented in the study area.
- Political biasness while distributing work should be eliminated and those competent individuals/groups should be given the opportunity.

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