

**ADMINISTRATION OF NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD
PROJECT IN MIZORAM: A STUDY OF AIZAWL DISTRICT**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY**

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**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Thesis titled '**Administration of North East Rural Livelihood Project in Mizoram: A Study of Aizawl District**' submitted by **Mr. Jacob V.L. Awmpuia** in partial fulfillment for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in the Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University, Aizawl.

This Thesis is an original work of his research which has not been used previously and which has not been submitted to any other university for any purpose. It covers the topic of research adequately.

Aizawl

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APRIL, 2021

DECLARATION

I, Mr. Jacob V.L. Awmpuia, hereby declare that the subject matter of this thesis is the record of work done by me, that the contents of this thesis did not form basis of the award of any previous degree to me or to do the best of my knowledge to anybody else, and that the thesis has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other University/Institute.

This is being submitted to the Mizoram University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration.

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(JACOB V.L. AWMPUIA)

ABBREVIATIONS

AC	:	Area Coordinator
BPC	:	Block Project Coordinator
BPL	:	Below Poverty Line
BRGF	:	Backward Region Grant Fund
CADP	:	Command Area Development Programme
CAPART	:	Council for Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology
CDG	:	Community Development Group
CDP	:	Community Development Plan
CSP	:	Community Service Provider
DAY-NRLM	:	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission
DDP	:	Delivered Duty Paid
DDU-GKY	:	Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana
DoNER	:	Development of North Eastern Region
DPAC	:	District Project Advisory Committee
DPAP	:	Drought Prone Areas Programme
DPMU	:	District Project Management Unit
DRDA	:	District Rural Development Agency
DWCRA	:	Development of Women and Child in Rural Areas
EPA	:	Entry Point Activity

GKY	:	Ganga Kalyan Yojana
GSDP	:	Gross State Domestic Product
HH	:	House-Hold
HYV	:	High Yielding Variety
IAY	:	Indira Awas Yojana
IBRD	:	International Bank of Recontruction and Development
ICSID	:	International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
IDA	:	International Development Association
IFC	:	International Finance Corporation
IRD P	:	Integrated Rural Development Programme
IWDP	:	Integrated Watershed Development Programme
IWMP	:	Integrated Watershed Management Programme
JGSY	:	Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana
MGNREGA	:	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MIGA	:	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MIS	:	Management Information System
MKSP	:	Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana
MNP	:	Minimum Needs Programme
NE	:	North East
NELPS	:	North East Livelihood Promotion Society
NERCORMP	:	North Eastern Regional Community Resource Management Project

NERLP	:	North East Rural Livelihood Project
NGO	:	Non-Government Organisation
NREP	:	National Rural Employment Programmes
NRLM	:	National Rural Livelihoods Mission
NSAP	:	National Social Assistance Programme
NTFP	:	Non-Timber Forest Product
PFT	:	Project Facilitation Team
PMAY-G	:	Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin
PMGSY	:	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
PRA	:	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RLEGP	:	Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme
RPMU	:	Regional Project Management Unit
RTI	:	Right to Information Act
SGRY	:	Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yozana
SGSY	:	Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
SHG	:	Self-Help Group
SHGVF	:	Self-Help Group Village Federation
SITRA	:	Supply of Improved Tool-kits
SPSU	:	State Project Support Unit
SSA	:	Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan
TRYSEM	:	Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment

GLOSSARY

(In Mizo)	(In English)
Khawnbawl Upa	: Village Elder
Lal	: Chief of Mizo
Mizo	: Name of Tribe
Mizoram	: Land of Mizo
Pathian	: God
Phawngpui	: Name of a mountain in Mizoram
Zawlbuk	: Mizo Bachelors' Dormitory
Tlawng	: Name of River in Mizoram
Tuirini	: Name of River in Mizoram

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PREFACE

Livelihood opportunities are important for the people of rural India. The present study deals with the working of the North East Rural Livelihood Project in Mizoram with a focus on Aizawl District.

The first chapter starts with the concept of poverty and rural development. It highlights the requirement of development in rural areas. The study indicates the status of North East India covering the problems faced by this region other than other parts of the country. The first chapter highlights the North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) indicating the coverage area and how this project is going on. The introductory chapter also consists of a Review of Literature, Statement of the problems, Objectives of the study, Research Questions, Chapterisation, and Methodology used for the study.

The second chapter is named as a conceptual study of rural development and livelihood. This chapter starts with the concept of rural development which indicates its requirement for the upliftment of the status of the people of rural areas. It discusses the concept of livelihood and covering the several problems faced by rural livelihood. This chapter highlights the programmes and steps taken by the government of India for the growth and development of rural areas. This chapter emphasized the requirement of rural development for the overall development of the country.

The third chapter covers the area under study. This chapter broadly highlights the four north-eastern states in which the project is implemented such as Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. Among these four states, two districts each are selected for the implementation of the project. This chapter focuses on Mizoram and studies in detail the district of Aizawl which consists of five blocks.

The fourth chapter studies the organisational structure of the North East Rural Livelihood Project. This chapter covers the origin, structure, personnel, rules and procedures, philosophy, and process of working in the implementation of the

project. This chapter also states the administrative linkages with the Central Government and the State Government, District Officials, Block, and Villages, etc. This chapter in detail highlights the implementation arrangement including the Ministry of DONER, North East Livelihood Promotion Society (NELPS), Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), State Coordination Unit, District Project Management Units (DPMU), and Project Facilitation Team (PFT).

The fifth chapter focuses on the functions and role of the North East Rural Livelihood Project. This chapter indicates for the NERLP takes steps for the uplift and development of the rural area. It highlights the functions, working, programmes, schemes of the project. It also indicates how they spend the fund on the development of the rural area. One of the most important parts is the beneficiary and this chapter indicates how useful is this project for the unemployed youth, women and the most disadvantaged group of the society.

The sixth chapter indicates the results and discussion of the study including the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries analyzed with tables as given according to the data and information collected through questionnaire and interprets about the results. This chapter indicates the status of the beneficiaries and indicates the working conditions of the NERLP through livelihood-related questions and answers. The impact of this livelihood project is also indicated in this chapter. The issues, problems, and comments are also indicated in this chapter, that information is collected from questionnaires and informal interviews conducted with the beneficiaries and project implementing units.

The final chapter is divided into two parts. The first part covers a summary of the study. It highlights all the previous chapters including the concept of poverty, rural development, and status of North East India. The actions taken by NERLP for the development of rural areas are indicated in this chapter. The second part starts with answering the research question one by one. This chapter covers the general issues, problems, and challenges of the project. This chapter deals with the solution ideas originally from the study regarding the project implementation.

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CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Poverty is a state of an individual, a family, or a society where people are unable to satisfy even their basic needs of life. The concept of poverty is generally regarded as the measurement of poorness in a standard of living and livelihood. Poverty relates to hunger, illiteracy, lack of health services, lack of safe drinking water, etc. The human poverty index contains many aspects like lack of freedom, inability to participate in decision-making, lack of personal security, inability to participate in the life of the community and threats to sustainability and inter-generational equity, etc.¹

In India, according to census 2011, the total population is 121 crores and among those, 83.3 crores settled in rural and 37.7 crores in urban areas. The livelihood of family and society in rural areas is difficult to satisfy certain basic minimum needs for a sustained, healthy, and reasonably productive living, because of several problems like lack of transportation, communication, infrastructure, education, health service, etc. Due to these, the poverty rate is higher in rural areas as compared with urban areas. The development of rural areas is important for the economic planning, growth, and development of our country. The progress of the country depends on the status of rural areas. If there is a disparity in growth and development, the remote area or the rural area suffers a lot. So that, rural development needs to be emphasized by the government.

Rural development is the process of improving the living condition and quality of life of rural people. It aims at improving the living standard of rural people to meet their needs and to eradicate hunger and poverty. In practice, all the problems may be difficult to remove, but it aims to make improvements and progression to

¹K. Nageswara Rao (2005). *Poverty in India – Global and Regional Dimensions*. New Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications Pvt. Ltd., P. xiii

satisfy the needs. The concept of rural development can be viewed as a process of realizing improvement in health, housing, nutrition, communications, transportation, and command of the rural people over resources in the rural areas. It is fundamentally a process of transformation that involves the whole rural society including its economic, social, political, and physical structures as well as the value system and way of life of the people. Rural development is referred to as a process of continuous progress; uplifting the people from the stage of dependency towards self-reliance; assuring equitable distribution of opportunities and resources, and ensuring socio-economic justice and harmony among all sections of the society in the rural areas. World Bank defines rural development as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of the rural poor. It involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas.²

The government of India also emphasised rural development and takes actions in several ways to eradicate poverty and for the upliftment of the rural people. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India is committed to eradicating poverty and hunger from rural India and usher in the all-round development of rural masses. Accordingly, the ministry is implementing several programmes, which aims at bridging the rural-urban divide, guaranteeing wage employment and ensuring food security, provide for economic upliftment by self-employment, creating rural infrastructure, providing dignified living by providing shelter, and restoring lost or depleted productivity of natural resources like land, water, and biomass. MoRD implements various rural development schemes in rural areas of the country through State Governments and Union Territory Administration.³

Northeast India is the eastern-most region of India and is isolated from other parts of the country due to geographical and geo-political reasons. It comprises eight states including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim. Northeast India is generally considered to be a backward region in a progressing economy. It is one of the most challenging regions

²<https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/india/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-sociology/13519>

³https://rural.nic.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines_Evaluation_Impact_Assessment_Research_Studies_Economic_Monitoring_Wing.pdf

of the country. The economy of northeast India depends mainly on agriculture and allied activities. The main hindrance to the economic development of the region is the disadvantageous geographical location. Due to this, it faces many problems in different manners. The standard of living of people in this region, as measured by per capita Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), has lagged significantly behind that of the rest of the country. The main issue which hampers the developmental process of the northeast region is the multidimensional and complex nature of poverty involving the inability to satisfy basic needs, lack of control over resources, lack of education and skills, poor access to water and sanitation, etc.

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is responsible for the matters relating to the planning, execution and monitoring of development schemes and projects in the North Eastern Region. Its vision is to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development of the Region, so that it may enjoy growth parity with the rest of the country.⁴ It acts as a facilitator between the Central Ministries/Departments and the State Government of North Eastern Region in several ways including rural development, removal of infrastructure bottlenecks, provision of basic minimum services and other economic activities. For the growth and development of the northeast region and for eradication of poverty and hunger, North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) has been initiated. It aims to promote livelihood and to reduce rural poverty.

North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) is a World Bank-funded project and has implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER), which aims to improve rural livelihoods covering women, unemployed youth, the most disadvantaged citizens, and community groups in the region. It was started from 2012 and is implemented in the states of Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. The main objective of the project including improvement of rural livelihoods by providing access to economic opportunities and adoption of sustainable agricultural and natural resource management by establishing participatory and accountable community-based institutions. It aims to improve rural livelihoods, especially that of women, unemployed youth, and the most

⁴<https://mdoner.gov.in/>

disadvantaged sections by providing access to economic and livelihood opportunities; improving adoption of sustainable agricultural and natural resource management; building capacity of community institutions; empowering women; developing skills of youth, etc. The study looks into the organisational setup and project area of NERLP. It also aims to study the role and functions of NERLP in Mizoram and how the project takes steps for the development of rural areas in the state.

1.2 Review of Literature

The topics such as rural development, poverty eradication, and livelihood opportunities in the rural areas have been the focus of several books and articles. Some of these sources are covered here which are reviewed as follows:

Gagan Kumar Singh's (2003) book *'Administration for Rural Development Programmes in India'* indicates a complete picture of the meaning, historical background, and working of rural development programmes in India. This book is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is an introductory chapter and dealing with the concept and nature of the development. It also highlights the features and images of India for the development of the people. The second chapter covers the historical perspective of rural development in India. It highlights the pioneering efforts, Martandam Experiment, Gurgaon Experiment, Baroda Experiment, Gandhian Movement, etc. It also talks about the Constitution of India and rural reconstruction in India. It also indicates the various rural development programmes implemented in India. The third chapter dealing with the organizational setup for rural development programmes which covers the administrative setup of IRDP, the role of banks, the role of voluntary organization, etc. Chapter four is about the personnel administration of rural development and the problems of coordination at several levels in India. Chapter five is concerning the rural development programme implemented in Khagaria District. Chapter six is about the concept of sustainable

rural development and emphasized the needs of the people's participation. The last chapter is the concluding chapter and highlights the cover area of the book.⁵

Manoj Sharma's (2004) book of *Local Government: Rural and Urban* deals with local government in the rural and urban areas. It highlights the status of an urban area and rural area which indicates their difference and conditions of each other. This book focuses on the meaning, nature, and scope of local governments. It indicates how the local government administers the people in rural and urban areas. It highlights the major features and structure of local government in India which covers the administrative setup and organization, role and important functions, etc. It covers different systems and practices of local government in India, UK, USA, and France which gives the importance of cross-cultural studies and gives lessons for the improvement in several ways for the development of local government. It also indicates the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in India and which focuses on the urban and rural local government administration. The role and functions of local government –urban and rural are indicated and also indicate the administrative organization and setup of urban-rural local government. It discusses the relationship between state and local government which is one of the most important for the success of the administrative system of local government.⁶

Vasant Desai (2005), his book of *Rural Development in India – Past, Present, and Future: A challenge in the crisis* consists of forty-two chapters grouped into eight sections including Rural India, Rural Development, Present Rural Development Programmes, Approach to Rural Development, Financing Rural Development, Rural Management, Future of Rural Development and Case Studies. It highlights the socio-economic structure of India and indicates rural poverty. The main theme of this book is the eradication of poverty and rural development. The concept of rural development is indicated and highlights the several rural development programmes imparted in India including Rural Housing Programmes, Special Area Development Programmes, National Assistance Programme, Rural

⁵Ganesh Kumar Singh (2003). *Administration for Rural Development Programmes in India*. New Delhi: Abhijeet Publications.

⁶Manoj Sharma (2004). *Local Government: Rural and Urban*. New Delhi: Anmol Publisher.

Water Supply Programme, Rural Sanitation, Wage Employment Programmes, and Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship Development. The important approaches to rural development including agriculture management, water management, Energy management, social forestry, rural industrialization, and others are also analyzed. The book gives the importance of financing rural, rural banking system, the role of voluntary agencies for rural development, training for rural development and management of rural areas for development, plan for rural India and development of the rural areas, etc. This book also indicates the factor which hinders the development including poor governance, corruption and lack of accountability. At the same time, it also gives the importance of legal and institutional reformation. It emphasized economic growth and it has to be supplemented by human development. It also talks about the parity of economic and social development. It says that poverty reduction cannot occur without infrastructure development including provisions of road, electricity, water and sanitation, transportation, and communication.⁷

Rahul Mudgal's (2006) book of *Rural Development: Policies and Management* is important and useful for a planner, administrator, and even for a layman. It highlights the status of rural villages in India and talks about the actions taken by the Government of India for the development of its economy, policy, and cultural conditions through five-year plans. It indicates the role and organization of the Planning Commission which states how they look after the various development programmes and policies. It emphasized the planning in the administration and development of the rural areas. This book indicates the procedures, principles, and choices in the management of rural development and also indicates the policy and its implementation in rural development. The different impacts of policy and how the policy affects the rural areas are highlighted and also elaborated the inter-governmental relations in the process of rural development and rural policy. It states the role of the Panchayati Raj System in the implementation of rural development programmes, at the same time, it indicates the importance of people participating in

⁷Vasant Desai (2005). *Rural Development in India – Past, Present and Future: A challenge in the crisis*. Arunachal Pradesh: Himalayan Books.

the implementation of rural development programmes. It emphasised rural planning in the process of rural development and suggested some points for improvement and progression of rural development.⁸

R. Venkata Ravi, P. Siva Ram, and D. Sunder Raj (2006) have published a book '*Empowering Rural India – Experiments and Experiences*'. This book is a collection of articles consisting of thirty-one articles. This book is broadly divided into five parts. The first part consists of eight articles that focus on natural resources and rural communities. The second part consists of five articles that deal with empowerment for participation. The third part has three articles that talk about women and their empowerment. The fourth part has five chapters dealing with rural non-farm sector development. The final part emphasised the importance of technology for rural development.⁹

S.B. Verma, R. D. Singha, and S.K. Jiloka (2006) have edited the book *Rural Poverty Alleviation and Employment* which is a collection of sixteen articles. This book analyses rural poverty alleviation which includes concepts of poverty, poverty alleviating challenges and responses, strategies for the eradication of poverty in rural India. It also indicates different projects and programmes for the alleviation of rural poverty. It deals with employment problems and solutions and also indicates the status of poverty and unemployment problems in India. Several programmes and schemes for the generation of employment for rural people, strategies for rural employment, and people's participation are highlighted.¹⁰

Shakuntala Devi's (2006) book *Environment and Rural Development* starts with the concept and practices of rural development and the main focus is on the national park, environment, and rural development and the connection between the environment and rural development. It emphasizes the importance of the preservation of the environment in the process of rural development. It states that the

⁸Rahul Mudgal. (2006) *Rural Development: Policies and Management*. New Delhi: Sage Books.

⁹R. Venkata Ravi, P. Siva Ram and D. Sunder Raj. (2006) *Empowering Rural India – Experiments and Experiences*. Delhi: Kaniska Publishers.

¹⁰S.B. Verma, R. D. Singha and S.K. Jiloka. (2006) *Rural Poverty Alleviation and Employment*. Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications.

factor like desertification, deforestation, soil erosion and global warming are all affecting the strategies and methods of rural development to a great extent. The mining operations in some areas have affected the lives of rural people very adversely. It indicates that the economic, political, and social development policies and strategies of rural development are closely linked to the environment. The book emphasised the importance of preservation of the environment and it indicates that the rural economy and its social development depends on the environment. It says that human activities destroy and damage our environment and which causes poverty in several manners including lack of water, fertile soil, etc. The book mentioned the importance of government interference in the preservation and protection of our environment also indicates different actions and challenges. This book also covers the importance of policymaking for the preservation of the environment and the deep relationship between the environment and rural development. It emphasised the administration of National Park and the functions of National Park in rural development. It indicates the practices of US National Park which makes the importance of cross-cultural studies to impart better practices. It talks about the importance of the national park and indicates the increasing rate of visitors to the national park which is very important for economic activity and generation of revenue.¹¹

Sulbha Khanna's (2006) book *Participatory approach to development: Policies, Process, and Performance* try to highlight the facts that how participatory policies are relevant to India's overall development strategy of reducing poverty, protecting the environment, developing human resources, and fostering farm sector growth. This book deals with the participatory issues in three major natural resources development programmes of the government of India namely: Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT), Joint Forest Management (JFM), and Integrated Watershed Development (IWD). It tries to raise an issue on the urgent need for genuine participation of people and the stakeholders for the sustainable natural resource management system. The chapter on IMT looks into the reasons for participatory irrigation systems, the scope of their work, reasons for success and

¹¹Shakuntala Devi (2006). *Environment and Rural Development*. Delhi: Sarup Book Publishers.

failure of different irrigation societies, and their impact on local agriculture. The chapter on JFM highlights the existing pattern of people's participation in forest resource development. The study investigates various systems developed for protection, plantation, and sharing of benefits in JFM villages. It indicates that people's participation is the reason for the successful working of the JFM in some villages. The chapter on IWD assesses the impact of watershed programmes on natural and human resources. Under natural resource development comprises aspects of improvement in groundwater level, increase in soil depth, improvement in the cropping pattern and crop yield, and increase in the availability of fodder and fuel. It talks about the human resource development that deals with improvement in economic conditions, health and nutrition, decrease in the drudgery of women, and institutional building. This book tries to suggest how to bring people, government officials, and NGOs together to make participation more meaningful and useful for the management and conservation of natural resources for present and future generations. This book is based on the actual field experience and has adopted a multi-disciplinary approach to cater to the needs of planners, implementing agencies (GOs, NGOs, and funding agencies), agriculture and rural development professionals.¹²

Ravinder Kaur's (2007) book of *'Urban-Rural Relations and Regional Development'* is based on the doctoral dissertation of the author. This book is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter starts with the concept of Urban-Rural relations. It also covers the objectives of the study, research questions, hypotheses, and research methodology. The second chapter is named Regional setting and which deals with the area of the study from several aspects like physical setting, cultural setting, economic structure, etc. Chapter three indicates a historical overview of the urban-rural relations in India and also examines the latest regional patterns of urban-rural relations in India. Chapter four is named urban-rural relations: An Evolutionary Perspective. This chapter traces the evolution of urban-rural relations in the region before and after the emergence of Chandigarh. Chapter five attempts to capture the

¹²Sulbha Khanna (2006). *Participatory approach to development: Policies, Process and Performance*. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing Group

contemporary scenario, that is post-1966, of urban-rural relations in the ISCR. This chapter is broadly divided into two parts – change in urban-rural relation – (till 1971) and change in urban-rural relations (1971-1991). Chapter six made attempts to capture changes taking place during 1991-2002 in urban-rural relations in ISCR. This chapter emphasizes the development and maintenance of good quality infrastructure especially in the field of transportation, communication, and information technology. Chapter seven aims to find out the association between the independent (urban-rural interaction) and dependent variables (population size, road accessibility, etc.) The final chapter is dealing with a summary of the study and indicates the findings¹³

Katar Singh's (2009) book *Rural Development - Principles, Policies, and Management* focuses on rural development and emphasised the policies and management of rural development. This book is divided into 12 chapters which consist of 95 sub-titles. The first chapter is introductory and starts with the concept and connotations of rural development. It also indicates the basic elements of rural development and makes a comparison between growth and development. It highlights the development and change which makes progression and improvement in the livelihood of the rural people. It emphasised human beings as one of the most factors for the cause and consequence of development. This book also discusses the measurement of rural development and it also highlights some important measures of rural development including Per Capita Real Gross National Product, Per Capita Consumption Expenditure, Physical Quality of Life Index and indicates some paradigms of rural development. It mentions the agriculture sector and writes about how it works for the development of the livelihood of the rural people. It also discusses the non-agriculture sectors and highlights the role played in the rural areas. It also states the opportunities and challenges faced in rural areas. This book elaborates the measures of the level of rural development and measures of the income distribution. This book covers some paradigms of rural development and discusses several theories which aim to highlight which theory is relevant for today's

¹³Ravinder Kaur (2007). *Urban-Rural Relations and Regional Development*. Kerala: Regal Publications.

world. It talks about several systems and resources which is necessary for rural development including change in outputs, natural resources, human resources, capital, technology, organisational and institutional frameworks, etc. It also discusses the policy which covers the needs, goals, hierarchy, and implementation of public policy. The book mentioned the strategy for sustainable development for future generations. One chapter of this book focuses on the eradication of poverty and unemployment problem suggests remedial measures to tackle those problems. The book emphasised the planning of rural development, organization and institution which relates the rural development, Financing of rural development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of rural development projects and programmes.¹⁴

S. R. Maheshwari's (2011) *Local Government in India* discusses both the rural and the urban arms of local government in India. This book tracing about the history of local government and it also explains the structure, personnel, finance, and functions of rural as well as urban local government. The book indicates the administration and practices of urban and rural governments from different corners. The book highlights the seventy-third and seventy-fourth constitutional amendments and emphasized the importance of local government. This book is also concerned with the administrative bodies of urban and rural government and also indicates the committees and reports which relate to the administration of local government.¹⁵

B. Suguna's (2011) book of *Empowerment of Rural Women Through Self Help Groups* is an in-depth case study of the functioning of Self-Help Groups in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. This book emphasized the empowerment of women as one of the major strategies to tackle socio-economic poverty. The main focus of this book is Self Help Group and which explains the concept, objective, characteristics, benefits, and functions of SHG. The empowerment of women through SHG would lead to benefit not only to the individual women and women group but also for the families and community as a whole through collective action

¹⁴Katar Singh (2009). *Rural Development - Principles, Policies and Management*. New Delhi: Sage Publications

¹⁵S. R. Maheshwari's (2011) *Local Government in India*. Delhi: Lakshmi Narain Agarwal.

for development. These groups have a common perception of need and impulse towards collective action. Empowering women is not just for meeting their economic needs, but also through more holistic social development. It also emphasizes the importance and the best practices of SHG. This book states that SHG is a very important training ground of leadership, maintaining family accounts, managing family, and many other benefits for individuals, families, and society. This book highlights some of the important objectives of SHG including – (i) to inculcate the habit of saving and banking habit among the rural women, (ii) to build up trust and confidence between rural women and banker, (iii) to develop group activity so that various welfare and developmental programmes can be implemented in a better way with the participation of those women groups, (iv) to achieve women and child welfare programmes goals by actively involving these women groups in Universal Immunization Programme, small family norm Universal Elementary Education, etc. The review of literature, methods of study, results, and summary of the study are indicated in this book. The major findings of the study, the impact of SHG on empowerment of women, problems, strategies for the sustainability of SHGs, and suggestions for the improvement of SHGs are also explained in this book.¹⁶

Meenu Jain's (2011) book of '*Rural Development Programmes in India*' is divided into six chapters. Chapter one deals with the definition and objectives of rural development. It indicates the need for rural development in India and earlier attempts made in this direction. Chapter two elaborates the rural development as the main objectives of all five-year plans. It also gives the various programmes launched by the government of India from time to time. This chapter also states the objective strategies and deficiencies of these rural development programmes. Chapter three reviews the existing literature related to rural development and programmes. It also deals with a hypothesis, objectives, sample design, the methodology, and limitations of the study conducted in the Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana. Chapter four discusses the profile of Haryana and Yamuna Nagar district. A brief introduction of the ongoing schemes in the area of study is also given. This chapter also deals with the analysis of the physical and financial progress of the rural development

¹⁶B. Suguna (2011). *Empowerment of Rural Women Through Self Help Groups*. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House.

expenditure in the area of the study. Chapter five deals with the details of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana. It indicates the status of the people and beneficiaries. It also examines the socio-economic characteristics and scheme-wise distribution of the beneficiaries. Chapter six is the concluding chapter which deals with the major findings and gives suggestions for the effective implementation of the programme.¹⁷

Ram Shankar Singh's (2012) book of *Rural Development Through Community* is broadly divided into eight chapters. The first chapter deals with decentralized rural development and the role of self-help organizations. This chapter highlights the practices of several countries about decentralization and self-help organizations. The second chapter is named Training of Trainers on Participatory Local Development. This chapter deals with participatory training methods, training needs assessment, a training module on participatory planning and management, etc. It emphasized the importance and needs for training. Chapter three discusses the decentralization for the empowerment of rural poor covering the importance of decentralization. It also talks about decentralization policies and legislation in India. It indicates the importance of the Panchayati Raj Institution for decentralization in India. Chapter four discusses in detail voluntarism in rural development in India. It states the concept, process, and importance of voluntarism in rural development. Chapter five deals with the employment, manpower planning, and labor policy. It also indicates the DRDA in the development of the rural area. Chapter six discusses poverty alleviation through community participation. Chapter seven emphasizes entrepreneurship as an economic force in rural development. It encourages the rural people in the promotion of entrepreneurship. The last chapter states about Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, which covers the problem, consequences, and strategy.¹⁸

M.K Singh's (2014) book of *Rural Development Administration* is broadly divided into seven chapters. Chapter one starts with the Aga Khan Rural Support

¹⁷Meenu Jain (2011). *Rural Development Programmes in India*. Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications.

¹⁸Ram Shankar Singh (2012). *Rural Development Through Community*. Delhi: Globus Press.

Programme (AKRSP) which was implemented in Gujarat. Water conservation and sustainable natural resources management are the heart of AKRSP's work. This chapter highlights the challenges faced by rural India and its opportunity. The second chapter is named Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Development which stated about the 73rd Amendment Act 1992 and also covers the financial power of the Panchayati Raj Institution and the constitution of the State Finance Commission. It talks about the people's participation in village-level government which covers the importance of participation, who is participating, and why. This chapter also discusses some government programmes for the development of rural India. Chapter three discusses the Ministry of Rural Development which deals with the history, organizational structure, and functions of the Ministry. It emphasizes the role of the Ministry in the development and improvement of rural India. Chapter three is about the role and functions of the District Rural Development Agency. It discusses the importance of coordination between the agency and Panchayati Raj Institutions. It focuses on the administration of the DRDA like organizational structure, administrative costs, personnel policies, financial procedures, etc. It also highlights the District Urban Development Agency. Chapter five dealing with the importance and necessity of e-governance in the administration of rural development. It emphasizes capacity building through e-governance, service delivery, promotion of science and technology, human development, and democratic governance, etc. Chapter six is concerning employment in rural India. It talks about female participation, wage rates, trends in rural employment, etc. It highlights the current situations, challenges, and potential for rural employment in India. The last chapter deals with rural development planning management. It discusses the development of the personnel and the H.R functions in India. It also stated about the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) which covers several schemes and programmes for the upliftment and development of rural India.¹⁹

K.Mahadevan, M.Lalitha and N.V. Narayana (2002) jointly writes the article 'Rural Participatory and Sustainable Development in the book of *Participatory Experiment in Holistic Rapid Development* which starts with the

¹⁹M.K Singh (2014). *Rural Development Administration*. Delhi: Anmol Publication.

definition of rural development as ‘improving living standards of the mass of low-income population residing at the rural areas and making the process of their development self-sustaining.’ This article discusses the several rural development schemes adopted in the state of Andhra Pradesh like Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojan (SGSY), Women’s Self-Help Groups, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Special Project under SGSY, Watershed Development Programme, Neero-Meeru Programme, Janmabhoomi – A people’s Movement, Chief Minister’s Employment of Youth (CMEY), Yuva Shakti Scheme, etc. This article highlights the strategies for rural development. The application, implementation, and achievement of those programmes are indicated in this article.²⁰

A.K. Agarwal (2004) in his article ‘Rural Development: Need for Agricultural and Small-Scale Industrial Development in North-east India’ in the book *Dimensions of Rural Development in North-East India* starts with the problem of unemployment opportunities and says that which is one of the characteristics of underdeveloped countries. This article emphasizes that agriculture is playing a unique role for the rural development and gives some suggestions for improvement of agriculture system in rural North-East India. This article also explains the need for the development of small-scale industry in North-east India and also emphasizes people participation in the process of rural development.²¹

R. Ahila Rajam’s (2006) article ‘Poverty Alleviating Challenges and Responses’ published in the book *Rural Poverty Alleviation and Employment* highlights the concepts of poverty and which is followed by different actions taken in the five-year plan within the fourth plan to the tenth plan. This article also indicates several suggestions for eradication of poverty including industrialization of rural area, investment in animal husbandry, poultry farming, fisheries, etc., strengthening poverty alleviation programmes, government

²⁰K.Mahadevan, M.Lalitha, N.V. Narayana. (2002). ‘Rural Participatory and Sustainable Development’ in *Participatory Experiment in Holistic Rapid Development*. New Delhi: B.R. Publishing Corporation.

²¹A.K. Agarwal (2004). ‘Rural Development: Need for Agricultural and Small-Scale Industrial Development in North-east India’ in *Dimensions of Rural Development in North-East India*. New Delhi: Akansha Publishers.

interference in the redistribution of land, establishing opportunities of self-employment and inducing producer to produce mass consumption goods. This article looks very relevant and useful for the eradication of poverty.²²

S. Vijaya Kumar and Venkataramana (2006) in their article 'Role of Non-Government Organisations in Rural Development' in the book *Empowering Rural India- Experiments and experiences* focus on the NGO. It highlights the voluntary movement in India which covers the concept and establishment of NGO. This article discusses the NGO's movement, different forms of NGOs and their activities, NGOs in India, etc. It focuses on the role of NGOs in rural development in the context of the five-year plan. It highlights the collective participation, importance of social service, welfare activities, development of renewable resources, social development, and other important roles played by the NGOs. This article also highlights some challenges faced by NGOs like lack of dedicated leadership, lack of finance, lack of skillful grass-root level professionals, etc. This article also presents some opportunities for strengthening the role and status of NGOs like exposing their activities, exploring multiple donors for different activities, etc. The article ends with a concluding part which says that NGOs have steadily improved their stands in the development and welfare activities in India. This article suggested that development professionals in NGOs should have belief and also should practice the three fundamental principles of Gandhi- Swaraj, Antyodaya, and Sarvodaya.²³

G.P. Prasain and E. Nixon Singh (2008) in their article 'Globalization and FDI in North East India' in the book of *Globalization and North East India* deal with the concept, process, and technique of globalization. The article indicates the status of FDI in India. It also highlights the benefits of FDI in the globalized economy of India. Beyond these, this article also indicates the socio-economic profile of the

²²R. Ahila Rajam's (2006). 'Poverty Alleviating Challenges and Responses' in *Rural Poverty Alleviation and Employment*. Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications

²³S. Vijaya Kumar, Venkataramana. (2006). 'Role of Non-Government Organisations in Rural Development' in *Empowering Rural India- Experiments and experiences*. Delhi: Kaniska Publishers Distributors.

north-east region and says that the region, at present, has low absorption capacity of FDI and it also suggests a necessity for a vibrant FDI policy for the region.²⁴

Nagesh Singh's (2008) article 'Rural Development: Thrust Areas' in the book *Better Quality of Rural Life* is concerned with the concept of poverty and says that poverty is a multi-dimensional problem within and outside the government. It emphasizes the need for rural development for the eradication of poverty as a whole country. It also indicates the government policies and flagship programmes for the growth and development of rural areas. It indicates the administrative setup of the Ministry of Rural Development and their roles and functions for the development of rural areas. It highlights that the major schemes of MoRD could be grouped into three major heads including generation of wage employment, rural infrastructure development, and area development programmes. Among those schemes, the author emphasizes that NERGS is a good strategy for the eradication of poverty and rural development. He hopes that a combined impact of those programs will bring a quality change in the lives of the people in rural areas.²⁵

Manoj Kumar Singh (2010), in his article 'People's Participation in Rural Development: Some issues' published in the book of *Rural Development in North East India* focuses on people participation in rural development. It starts with the definition of rural development and defines it as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of people in a rural settlement and, in particular, it focuses on the rural poor comprising the small-scale farmers, tenants, and the landless. This article is about people's participation and highlights the concept and objectives of people participation. This article indicates that the purpose and process of people's participation is the involvement of human resource development (HRD) in executing any activity. This article also highlights the needs and importance of people participation in rural development which says that people participation is required for maintaining democracy through decentralization of power. This article indicates the several problems associated with people participation like the absence of a strong

²⁴G.P. Prasain, E. Nixon Singh. (2008). 'Globalization and FDI in North East India' in *Globalization and North East India*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Co.

²⁵Nagesh Singh(2008). 'Rural Development: Thrust Areas'in *Better Quality of Rural Life*. New Delhi: Sarup & Sons.

commitment on the part of the government, the unhelpful attitude of civil service, etc. It also highlights the role of the development agency and indicates the importance of a field-level personnel plan for the involvement of the people in development activity. This article concludes with the relevance and requirements of people's participation in rural development.²⁶

B. Narayan (2011), in his article 'Some aspects of Management of Rural Development Programmes' published in the book *Dynamics of Rural Development: Potential and Constraints – I* start with highlighting the several programs launched for rural development and indicates the failure factors. It says that the meaning of rural development is not just to provide some physical infrastructure like school, health services, providing fertilizers, etc. but, the management of rural development must focus on understanding rural reality and local needs, mobilization and utilization of resources, planning and coordination, developing appropriate organization and institutional structure, monitoring, and evaluation. This article concludes that for proper management and implementation of rural development programs, it is essential to reorient the existing organizational structure and establish new ones with appropriate vertical and horizontal linkages keeping in view the short term and long-term effect of each program to ensure proper development from each program.²⁷

Meenu Agrawal and Prabha Singh (2011) in their article 'Urbanisation of Rural Areas and Poverty Eradication through Innovations' in the book *Poverty Eradication and Development through Innovations* start with the introduction of enabling rural innovations. This article discusses the governmental efforts for transforming rural areas and also indicates a comparison with China in the process of urbanization. This article highlights the status of urbanization in India. This article focuses on the basic needs in development for rural areas in India including education, energy, productive agriculture, transportation, digital infrastructure, and

²⁶Manoj Kumar Singh (2010). 'People's Participation in Rural Development: Some issues' in *Rural Development in North East India*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing.

²⁷B. Narayan (2011). 'Some aspects of Management of Rural Development Programmes' in *Dynamics of Rural Development: Potential and Constraints – I*. New Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications.

good governance. One of the important suggestions of this article is to eradicate poverty by introducing a credit, debit, or smart card system to replace the existing Public Distribution System and it says that such a mechanism will dramatically reduce leakages and administrative costs.²⁸

Samir Ghosh (2013), in his article ‘Women Empowerment and Role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Micro-Finance’ published in the book *Micro-Enterprise and Rural Development in India* starts with the status of women and calls them the most deprived sections in the society, but they can mobilize borrowed money more actively than their male family members. It says that more concentration should be given to women’s development. This article stated that one of the powerful approaches to women empowerment and rural entrepreneurship is the formation of the Self-Help Group. This article suggests that Micro-Finance Institution (MFI) set up by an NGO or Non-Banking Financial Companies is one of the best ways to support Self-Help Group. This article concludes with the importance of MFIs and mentions the points for the improvement of their functions.²⁹

After going through the above-mentioned books and articles, we have found that very few books and articles are available on the livelihood projects in general and the NERLP in particular, and that about the state of Mizoram. So, the study is undertaken to look into all the necessary aspects to arrive at logical conclusions and constructive suggestions.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The development of the country depends on the status of the rural areas. Rural development is the dynamic process of improvement of rural livelihood by improving the economic, social, and political status of the rural people. Several programmes and schemes have been imparted for the growth and development of the

²⁸Meenu Agrawal, Prabha Singh. (2011) ‘Urbanisation of Rural Areas and Poverty Eradication through Innovations’ in *Poverty Eradication and Development through Innovations*. New Delhi: New Century Publications.

²⁹Samir Ghosh (2013). ‘Women Empowerment and Role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Micro-Finance’ in *Micro Enterprise and Rural Development in India*. New Delhi: Serials Publications.

rural areas. But still, there are major challenges and gaps in the field of poverty and livelihood sectors. Some of the programs and projects could not achieve their goals and objectives. Due to this, it is required to study how the rural development programmes and projects have been implemented and looked after. It is also needed to study how to utilize the resources (including human resources) in the best possible manner and more productive ways.

Northeast India is geographically separated and considered to be a backward region in a progressing economy. It is one of the most challenging regions of the country. Due to its disadvantageous geographical location, it faces many problems in the field of transportation, communication, infrastructure, economic activity development, etc. The main issue which hampers the developmental process of the northeast region is the multidimensional and complex nature of poverty involving the inability to satisfy basic needs, lack of control over resources, lack of education and skills, poor access to water and sanitation, etc. This region has better than average Human Development Indices but poverty and unemployment are widespread in rural and urban areas leading to many social issues and according to some feeding insurgency. NERLP is a world bank-funded project and implemented under the supervision of the Ministry of DONER. This project was designed to eradicate poverty in four states of northeast India. There is a need to study the administrative aspects like structure, working, role, etc. which will be helpful for future actions and plans for alleviation of poverty.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study started with the introductory chapter consisting of the concept of poverty which covers the concept, importance, and features of rural development. It also indicates the necessity of rural development for the whole development of the country. The study also indicates how the government takes steps for the development of rural areas since independence. It also highlights several rural development programmes and studies whether these have been successful or not. The policies created for the welfare and development of the rural areas are also

highlighted. This study also discusses the status of North East India from a different angle and indicates how this region needs the development and empowerment than other parts of the country.

The main focus of the study is the administration of the North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP). This study covers the organisational setup, role, and functions, working, policy, etc. of the project. The actions and steps taken by NERLP are the important focus of the study. This project has implemented several programmes and activities for the welfare of the youth of the village and the weaker sections of the society and even for the satisfaction of the community. Some of the actions taken are Self-Help Group for women, Skill Development for youth, Community Development Project for the satisfaction of the needs of the whole community, organizing training for the awareness, and for gaining knowledge in several ways.

The main thrust of the study is whether the project has achieved the organisational objectives and goals. The results and impact of the project are studied about the eradication of poverty and improvement of livelihood.

NERLP is operational in four states of North East India and Mizoram is one of the states. In Mizoram, it covers two districts of Aizawl and Lunglei. In each district, the administration of the project has been looked after by District Project Management Unit (DPMU) with the help of their subordinates. Among the two districts, Aizawl district is bigger and the study focuses on Aizawl district. In Aizawl District, the project covers five rural development blocks and is used for assessment of the project through questionnaires and observation.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the administration of NERLP including its organisational structure, functions, importance, etc. in the context of rural development programmes.

2. To study the working of NERLP including programmes and actions for rural development in Mizoram.
3. To study how effective is the working of NERLP in rural development and eradication of poverty.
4. To find out problems and challenges along with their remedial measures.

1.6 Research Questions

The following research questions are prepared for the study:

1. What are the major functions of the North East Rural Livelihood Project for the eradication of poverty and development of rural areas?
2. Is the working of the North East Rural Livelihood Project effective enough for the development of rural areas in Mizoram?
3. What are the problems and hindrances faced by North East Rural Livelihood Project in Aizawl District in its implementation?
4. What are the remedial measures and solutions for improving the working and functioning of the North East Rural Livelihood Project?

1.7 Methodology

The study is based on the Primary and Secondary sources of data collection. Primary data is collected from the officials of the District Project Management Unit (DPMU), the Project Facilitation Team (PFT), and from the beneficiaries of the project through questionnaires as well as observation. The Secondary data is collected from books, articles, journals, documents, internet sources, reports, and handbooks that relate to the proposed study. The annual plans, publications, and records of NERLP are used for the collection of data.

In this study, multi-stage sampling method is used in order to make primary data collection more manageable. The study is concentrated from four states of NE India to Mizoram. From Mizoram, it focuses to Aizawl District which consists of

five blocks. From five blocks 25 villages are selected and Questionnaires has been administered to 250 sample respondents and out of which 240 were received and were final respondents. In this study, informal interviews and observations are playing important role during the collection of the data.

1.8 Chapterisation

The present study is divided in seven chapters to highlights the study as follows:

Chapter - I : Introduction

The first chapter starts with the concept of poverty and rural development. It highlights the requirement of development in rural areas. The study indicates the status of North East India covering the problems faced by this region other than other parts of the country. The first chapter highlights the North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) indicating the coverage area and how this project is going on. The introductory chapter also consists of a Review of Literature, Statement of the problems, Objectives of the study, Research Questions, Chapterisation, and Methodology used for the study.

Chapter - II : Rural Development and Livelihood: A conceptual study

The second chapter is named as a conceptual study of rural development and livelihood. This chapter starts with the concept of rural development which indicates its requirement for the upliftment of the status of the people of rural areas. It discusses the concept of livelihood and covering the several problems faced by rural livelihood. This chapter highlights the programmes and steps taken by the government of India for the growth and development of rural areas. This chapter emphasized the requirement of rural development for the overall development of the country.

Chapter - III : Area Under Study

The third chapter covers the area under study. This chapter broadly highlights the four northeastern states in which the project is implemented such as Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. Among these four states, two districts each are selected for the implementation of the project. This chapter focuses on Mizoram and studies in detail the district of Aizawl which consists of five blocks.

Chapter - IV : Organisational Structure of North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP)

The fourth chapter studies the organisational structure of the North East Rural Livelihood Project. This chapter covers the origin, structure, personnel, rules and procedures, philosophy, and process of working in the implementation of the project. This chapter also states the administrative linkages with the Central Government and the State Government, District Officials, Block, and Villages, etc. This chapter in detail highlights the implementation arrangement including the Ministry of DONER, North East Livelihood Promotion Society (NELPS), Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), State Coordination Unit, District Project Management Units (DPMU), and Project Facilitation Team (PFT).

Chapter - V : Functions and Role of North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP)

The fifth chapter focuses on the functions and role of the North East Rural Livelihood Project. This chapter indicates for the NERLP takes steps for the uplift and development of the rural area. It highlights the functions, working, programmes, schemes of the project. It also indicates how they spend the fund on the development of the rural area. One of the most important parts is the beneficiary and this chapter indicates how useful is this project for the unemployed youth, women and the most disadvantaged group of the society.

Chapter - VI : Results and Discussion

The sixth chapter indicates the results and discussion of the study including the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries analyzed with tables as given according to the data and information collected through questionnaire and interprets about the results. This chapter indicates the status of the beneficiaries and indicates the working conditions of the NERLP through livelihood-related questions and answers. The impact of this livelihood project is also indicated in this chapter. The issues, problems, and comments are also indicated in this chapter, the information is collected from questionnaires and informal interviews conducted with the beneficiaries and project implementing units.

Chapter - VII : Conclusion

The final chapter is divided into two parts. The first part covers a summary of the study. It highlights all the previous chapters including the concept of poverty, rural development, and status of North East India. The actions taken by NERLP for the development of rural areas are indicated in this chapter. The second part starts with answering the research question one by one. This chapter covers the general issues, problems, and challenges of the project. This chapter deals with the solution ideas originally from the study regarding the project implementation.

CHAPTER – II

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LIVELIHOOD: A CONCEPTUAL STUDY

The previous chapter is introductory and started with the concept of poverty covering the status of India, needs of rural development, and concept of rural development. It highlights the government actions against poverty and the solution to the problems of the rural people. It highlights the objectives of the Ministry of Rural Development under the Government of India like eradication of poverty and hunger, improvement of the livelihood of the people. It also indicates that the government has implemented many programmes and policies for the eradication of poverty. The previous chapter also covers the status of North East India and the problems faced by them because of their geographical location and geo-political reasons. It was indicated that the economic backwardness of this region and the need for upliftment and development rather than other parts of the country. The previous chapter highlights the importance of the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (DONER) in several ways.

The previous chapter indicates the concept of NERLP with covering the project objective like upliftment of women, unemployed youth, and the weaker sections of the society, etc. The previous chapter also covers the review of literature like book and articles, statement of the problems which indicates the needs of doing research, the scope of the study dealing with the coverage area of the research, the research questions with asking four questions, the methodology used for the fulfillment of the research and lastly, the chapterization of the whole research.

2.1 Concept of Rural Development and Livelihood

A Livelihood can be defined as the activities, the assets, and the access that jointly determine the living gained by an individual or household. When it comes to an individual, a livelihood is the ability of that individual to obtain the necessities in

life, which are food, water, shelter, and clothing. Therefore, all activities involved in finding food, searching for water, shelter, clothing, and all necessities required for human survival at the individual and household level are referred to as a livelihood. Approximately 90 % of rural households are involved in farming activities. In these rural populations small-scale farming, raising livestock and non-farm activities are some of the common livelihoods that these populations survive on as a source of income. Rural livelihood is a complex structure comprising mostly agriculture, with part of the population diversifying into non-farm activities to attain a sustainable livelihood to get a better income for their households. Due to variations inability to access the necessities, some people are rich, able to acquire all their necessities without difficulty, and those that are poor and lack one or more of their necessities. The livelihood of the poor is grueling as they find themselves in a state of poverty and lack necessities.³⁰

In a developing country like India, the livelihood of the rural people has become difficult day by day. Almost all the people in rural areas are depending upon agriculture and allied activities. Most of the people are suffering a lot of problems and they cannot satisfy their needs on their own. Especially in the remote area of the rural, they are facing more problems than other parts of the country including lack of food and nutrition, lack of health facility, lack of quality education, lack of good transport and communication, lack of power supply, etc. The poorest people in the country are located in a rural area and facing a lot of problems like widespread poverty, the rapid growth of population, growing and increasing unemployment problems, problems faced by women and child, low status of the weaker section of the society, etc. So, rural development is not just required, but a must for the growth and development of the whole country.

The development of rural areas has been one of the most important planning processes in the country. Rural development is a broad and vast term, which aims to eradicate poverty and aims to achieve the socio-economic development of rural

³⁰ https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-10-0428-5_2#:~:text=Rural%20livelihoods%20as%20a%20source,better%20income%20for%20their%20households

areas. Upliftment of the weaker section of the society one of the most important themes of rural development. The important goals of the rural development may include alleviation of poverty through making basic social and economic infrastructure, reduction of unemployment problem through imparting training several trades to unemployed youth, uplifting the weaker sections of the society like women through effectively organizing women support group, upliftment of the community status through organizing community development activities and practices, making good coordination of policy implementing agency and the people of the society. Rural development also includes strengthening the democratic structure of society through local-level organizations or institutions.

Rural development is a broad and vast phenomenon and some of the definition of rural development are indicated as follows:

According to World Bank (1975),” Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people-the rural poor. It involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural area. It is implying the improvement in the living standard of masses of the low-income population residing in rural areas and making the process of development self-sustaining...”

According to the Asian Centre for Development Administration (ACDA, 2004) “a process which leads to a continuous rise in the capacity of rural people to control their environment accompanied by a wider distribution of benefits resulting from such control is rural development”

According to Christopher L. Atkinson, “Rural development involves efforts that are economic and social in nature intended to encourage concepts of retention, growth, and expansion in areas outside cities, including improving quality of life for rural residents through such activity.”

Uma Lele, a Sociologist defined rural development as, “ a concept of improving the living standard of the masses of the low-income population residing in rural areas and making the process of rural development self-sustaining.”

Rural development is a dynamic process that is mainly concerned with rural areas. These include agricultural growth, putting up of economic and social infrastructure, fair wages as also housing and house sites for the landless, village planning, public health, education, and functional literacy, communication, etc.³¹

Inclusive rural development is about improving the quality of life of all rural people. More specifically in an inclusive rural development, it covers three different but interrelated dimensions: Economic dimension, Social dimension and Political dimension.

- The economic dimension encompasses providing both capacity and opportunities for the poor and low-income households, in particular, to benefit from the economic growth.
- The social dimension supports the social development of poor and low-income households, promotes gender equality and women’s empowerment, and provides social safety nets for vulnerable groups.
- The political dimension improves the opportunities for the poor and low-income people in rural areas to effectively and equally participate in the political processes at the village level.³²

Some of the important objectives of rural development are as follow:

- Improving the living standards of the rural people by providing food, shelter, clothing, employment, and education.
- Increasing the productivity in rural areas and reducing poverty

³¹ <http://www.eagri.org/eagri50/AEXT191/lec03.pdf>

³² https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328289155_RURAL_DEVELOPMENT_IN_INDIA-A_WAY_FORWARD

- Involving the rural people in planning and development through their participation in decision making and decentralization of administration
- Ensuring the distribution of justice and equalization of opportunities in the rural society
- Providing road, uninterrupted electricity supply, good drainage system and safe drinking water to every house and Primary Health Centre to every village is essential.
- Developing broad-based community participation in the process of development
- To bring about greater socio-economic equity,
- To bring about improvement in the ecological environment

In the process of rural development, the Central Government as well as the State Government plays a very important role in formulating and implementing an enabling policy for the alleviation of poverty. We will discuss the importance of the government and actions taken for rural development in this chapter.

2.2 Rural Development in India

Rural development is one of the most important factors for the growth and development of the Indian economy. The socio-economic status of the country depends upon the growth and development of rural and remote areas. So, rural development in India is one of the most important tasks to fulfill for the socio-economic development of the whole country. Rural population in India was reported at 65.523% in 2019, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognised sources.³³ The rural population in India decreases year by year which means a lot of people from rural areas migrated from rural to the urban area for a better standard of living, for better health facility, for better education, for the betterment of the economy, etc. which will cause

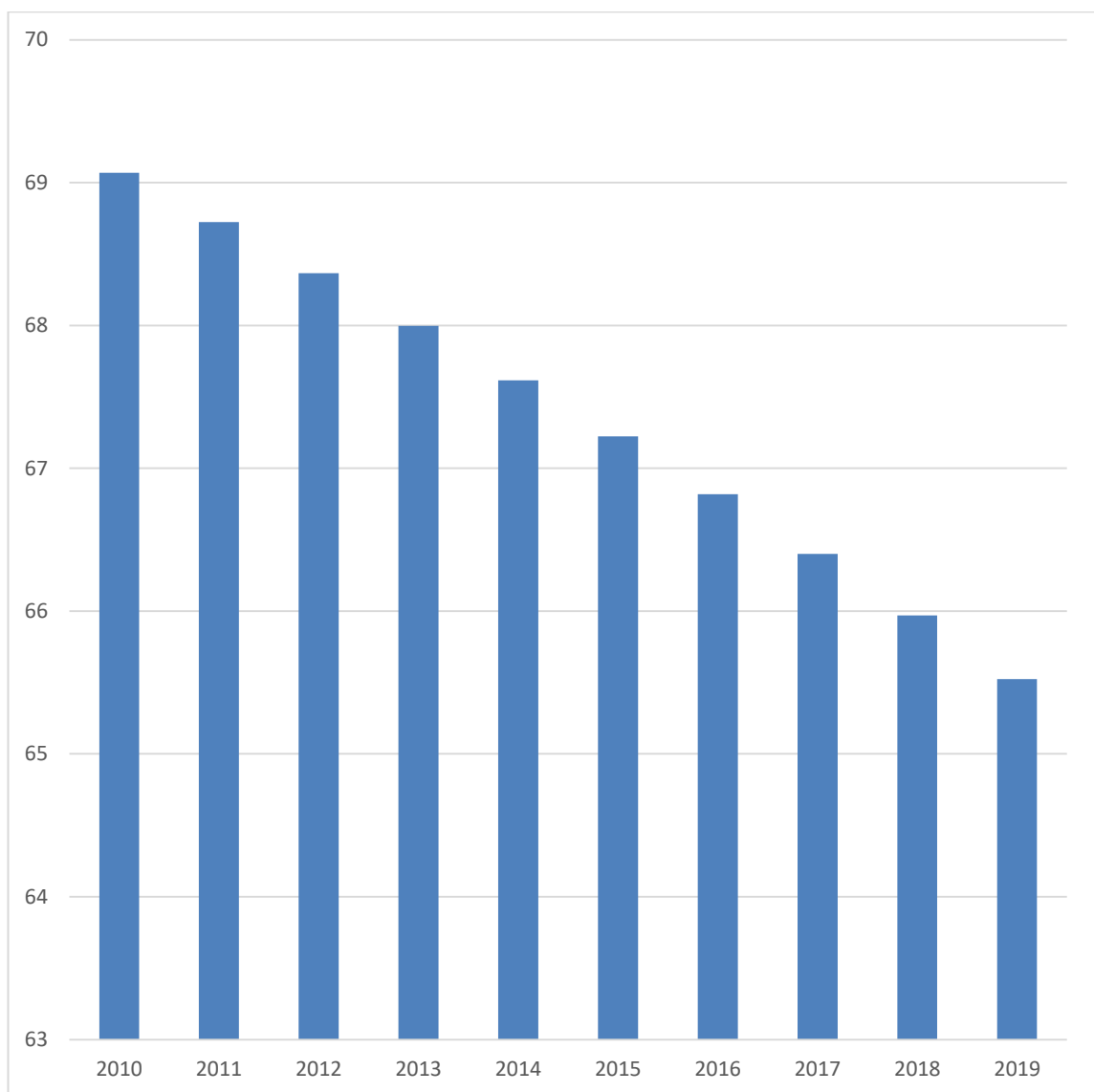
33

https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS?end=2019&locations=IN&name_desc=true&start=2010

overpopulation and many other problems like unemployment problem, an environment problem, etc in several ways in an urban area. So, rural development in India is very important not only for the rural people but for the socio-economic development of rural and urban areas. The rural population decreasing rate indicated below will show how important is the growth and development of rural India as follow

Chart No. II: 1

Percentage of Rural Population of India (2010 to 2019)



Source : <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS>

India is primarily an agriculture-based country. Approximately 60-70% of the total population of the country depends (directly or indirectly) on agriculture and allied sector and currently, it contributes around 16-17 % of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).³⁴ Agriculture contributes nearly one-fifth of the GDP of India. But, this contribution is not much enough as compared with a big involvement rate of population. So, the Government of India has formulated many policies and plans, has planned several programmes in the way of increasing the growth in agriculture, promoting industries, and other activities for the development of rural areas. The Ministry of Rural Development in India is the apex body and responsible organization for formulating policies, regulations, and plans about the development of the rural sector.

Rural development in India has faced several changes and progression over the years in the way of making programmes and policies, projects, and plans which helps in the growth of remote areas and rural areas. People's participation and human resource involvement create a lot of progression at all levels from the lowest to the top level. We will discuss the plans (five-year plans), programmes, and the contribution of the Ministry of Rural Development for the rural development of the country in this chapter.

2.3 Rural Development and Five-Year Plans

In Indian administration, the concept of Planning plays a very important role. The economic growth and rural development depend deeply on the Plan. In India, the government has started a five-year plan from the year of 1951 to 2017. During this period, the five-year plan could not take off in some period, during those periods, the government follows the annual plan. The present NDA government has stopped the formation of the five-year plan. So, 12th five-year plan would be called the last five-year plan of India. Now, the Planning Commission was replaced by Niti Aayog which follows a three-year action plan from 1st April

³⁴ <https://www.quora.com/What-percentage-of-the-Indian-population-depends-on-agriculture-and-what-is-the-agriculture-sectors-contribution-to-Indias-GDP>

2017 onwards. The five-year plan plays a very important role in the growth and development of rural areas, for improvement and upliftment of rural livelihood, for alleviation of rural poverty and solution of problems, etc. Some of the important policies indicated in five-year plans for rural development are as follows:

Table No. II:1

Rural Development and Five-Year Plan

Plan	Year	Policy on Rural Development
I	1951-1956	Putting together programmes, targets and layout of rural development. Introducing community development as a method of rural development and national extension service as the agency.
II	1956- 1961	Cooperative farming with emphasising local participation. Strong emphasised on Industry. This strategy aims to relieve the excess population in India. This also aims to generate more employment opportunity in heavy Industry and the capital goods sector which may reduce the heavy load on agricultural sector.
III	1961 - 1966	Introducing three tier model of democratic decentralisation in Panchayati Raj Institution. Making objective to secure an increase in the national income over 5% p.a Aims to achieve self-sufficiency and to increase the product of agriculture to meet the needs and satisfying industrial needs. To expand the industries in the way of producing

		steel, machinery, fuel and chemicals.
IV	1966 - 1974	<p>Implementing programme based on the area.</p> <p>Aims to maintain self-reliance and sovereignty.</p> <p>Introducing Green Revolution with providing High Yielding Variety (HYV) of seeds, use of fertilizers, imparting new agriculture method, providing irrigation facilities.</p>
V	1974 - 1979	<p>Introducing the concept of Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) by improving the social consumption with increased incomes of the poor on the one hand, and improving the availability and the quality of social services to the people at affordable costs on the other.</p> <p>This Plan was formulated against the backdrop of severe inflationary pressures.</p> <p>It aims to achieve self-reliance and adopt measures for raising the consumption standard of people living below poverty line.</p> <p>Introducing The Command Area Development Programme (CADP) to include 47 irrigation projects under 37 command area development authorities in 102 districts of the 12 states.</p> <p>Introducing Special Livestock Production Programme to provide employment opportunities to the rural poor and also to supplement their income.</p>
VI	1980 - 1985	<p>Making poverty eradication as the primary aim and alleviating the disparities for the rural development.</p> <p>Emphasising the strengthening of the socio-economic infrastructure in rural areas.</p> <p>Imparting and strongly emphasising the schemes</p>

		like NREP, RLEGP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, IRDP etc. for the promotion of both agriculture and industries.
VII	1985 - 1990	<p>Poverty alleviation is a central concern in this plan.</p> <p>Aims of generating new employment opportunities for youth and unemployed people, and making special programmes for income generation.</p> <p>Emphasising people participation at the grassroots level for the improvement of agriculture and rural development administration.</p>
VIII	1992 - 1997	<p>Emphasising the infrastructure development like construction of rural road, minor irrigation, social forestry and others especially in tribal areas, hilly areas and desert areas.</p> <p>People participation in the rural development is one important strategy applied in this plan.</p> <p>Aims of making faster growth of manufacturing sector and agriculture and allied sector.</p> <p>Promoting export and import trade in the rural areas.</p>
IX	1997-2002	<p>Giving priority to agriculture and rural development for generating employment opportunities and eradication of poverty</p> <p>Women empowerment.</p> <p>Weaker section rural housing.</p> <p>Emphasising watershed management.</p> <p>Containing the growth rate of population.</p> <p>Making available of primary health service facilities.</p> <p>Universalisation of primary education.</p>

		Providing safe drinking water and nutrition support to children.
X	2002 - 2007	<p>Aims of creating 50 million job opportunities.</p> <p>Promotion of Small Scale Industries</p> <p>Improving the effectiveness of Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan (SSA).</p> <p>Promoting health condition of the people by organising National Rural Health Mission.</p> <p>Promoting National E-Governance Plan.</p> <p>Promoting investment in irrigation and water management.</p>
XI	2007 - 2012	<p>Aims to achieve the growth rate of 8%.</p> <p>To gender and social gab in school enrolment.</p> <p>To reduce malnutrition among children aged between 0-3 years.</p> <p>To provide electricity to all villages.</p> <p>To increase green cover by 1 million hectare every year</p> <p>To provide access to banking services to 90% of household.</p> <p>To create 50 million new employment opportunities in the non-farm sector.</p>
XII	2012 - 2017	<p>Creation of Employment programme – MGNREGA continuum – NRLM Housing, with Basic amenities through sustainable agriculture & convergence Rural connectivity, IAY Sustainable Rural – IWMP including synergy with MGNREGA, TSC Development, MKSP, NRDWP, PMGSY, Social Protection Programme,</p>

		<p>NSAP.</p> <p>Focus on ‘horizontal’ issues through ‘vertical’ programs that cut across sectors Employment Women Empowerment Social Security (Old Age, Disabled & Widows Pension and Family Benefit) Sustainable Agriculture Skill Development for Rural Youth Financial Inclusion Public Private Partnership (PPP) Rural Transformation Infrastructure Development Effective Delivery Mechanism Training & capacity building Entrepreneurship Development Use of IT and Institution Watershed Development Institutions of Poor Rural Connectivity Building Skill Development Houses for Poor Drinking water Asset Creation Sanitation Sectoral Group</p>
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Source: <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/rural-development/rural-development-planning-of-India-five-year-plans/66722>

The five-year plans play a crucial for making policy and schemes for the development of rural area. During this five-year plan (between 1951 – 2017) there is a lot of improvement in the status and livelihood of the rural people. At the time of this, the Ministry of Rural Development is the apex institution and implementing agency who is responsible to fulfil the rural development task with the help of subordinates. Indicating the role and importance of the Ministry is a must. So, in this chapter, we will discuss about the Ministry of Rural Development as follows:

2.4 Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal ministry for the growth and development of the rural areas, plays a crucial role in the overall development of the

country. The aim and objective of the Ministry is sustainable and inclusive growth and development through several programmes and project strategy for eradication of poverty by generating employment opportunities for the rural youth, upliftment of the weaker sections of the society, providing training and skill development programmes for the welfare of the human resources, providing a social safety net and developing infrastructure for effective growth and development of the rural areas. It is expected that those activities will improve the quality of life in rural India and correct the developmental imbalances, uplifting the weaker sections and the most disadvantaged sections of the society.

2.4.1 The main aims and objectives of the Ministry of Rural Development

- Providing livelihood opportunities to those in need, including women and other vulnerable sections with a focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- Providing for the enhancement of livelihood security of households in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household demanding it.
- Provision of all-weather rural connectivity to unconnected rural habitations and up-gradation of existing roads to provide market access.
- Providing basic housing and homestead to BPL households in rural areas.
- Providing social assistance to the elderly, widow, and disabled persons.
- Providing urban amenities in rural areas for improvement of quality of rural life.
- Capacity development and training of rural development functionaries. Promoting the involvement of voluntary agencies and individuals for rural development.
- Restoring lost or depleted productivity of the land. This is done through watershed development programmes and initiating effective land reform measures for providing land to the landless rural poor.

2.4.2 The background and evolution of the Ministry of Rural Development

Initially, the main thrust for development was laid on agriculture, industry, communication, education, health, and allied sectors. Later on, realizing that accelerated development can be provided only if governmental efforts are adequately supplemented by direct and indirect involvement of people at the grass-root level, the thrust shifted.

Accordingly, on 31st March 1952, an organization known as Community Projects Administration was set up under the Planning Commission to administer the programs relating to community development. The community development programme, inaugurated on October 2, 1952, was an important landmark in the history of rural development. This program underwent many changes and was handled by different Ministries.

In October 1974, the Department of Rural Development came into existence as a part of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. On 18th August 1979, the Department of Rural Development was elevated to the status of a new Ministry of Rural Reconstruction. It was renamed as Ministry of Rural Development on 23rd January 1982. In January 1985, the Ministry of Rural Development was again converted into a Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which was later rechristened as Ministry of Agriculture in September 1985. On July 5, 1991, the Department was upgraded to the Ministry of Rural Development. Another Department viz. Department of Wasteland Development was created under this Ministry on 2nd July 1992. In March 1995, the Ministry was renamed the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment with three departments namely the Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development, and Wasteland Development.

Again, in 1999 Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment was renamed as Ministry of Rural Development. This Ministry has been acting as a catalyst affecting the change in rural areas through the implementation of a wide spectrum of programs that are aimed at poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development, and social security. Over the years, with the experience gained, in the implementation of the programmes and response to the felt needs of the poor, several

programmes have been modified and new programmes have been introduced. The Ministry's main objective is to alleviate rural poverty and ensure improved quality of life for the rural population especially those below the poverty line. These objectives are achieved through the formulation, development, and implementation of programmes relating to various spheres of rural life and activities, from income generation to environmental replenishment.

To ensure that the fruits of economic reform are shared by all sections of societies five elements of social and economic infrastructure, critical to the quality of life in rural areas, were identified. These are health, education, drinking water, housing, and roads. To impart greater momentum to the efforts in these sectors the Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Gramdoya Yojana (PMGY) and the Ministry of Rural Development was entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the drinking water, housing, and rural roads component of PMGY.

During the Ninth Plan period, several anti-poverty Programmes have been restructured to enhance the efficiency of the Programmes for providing increased benefits to the rural poor. Self-Employment Programmes were revamped by merging the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), the Supply of Improved Tool-Kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), the Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), the Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and the Million Wells Scheme (MWS) into a holistic self-employment scheme called Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

Keeping in view the needs and aspirations of the local people, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been involved in the program implementation and these institutions constitute the core of decentralized development of planning and its implementation. The Ministry vigorously pursue with the State Governments for expeditious devolution of requisite administrative and financial powers to PRIs as envisaged under the 73rd Amendment Act of the Constitution of India. On 25th December 2002, under Drinking Water Sector, a new initiative 'Swajal Dhara' empowering the Panchayats to formulate, implement, operate and maintain drinking water Projects was launched. To further involve PRIs in the development process, a new initiative 'Hariyali' was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 27th January

2003. Hariyali was launched to strengthen and involve Panchayati Raj Institutions in the implementation of watershed development programmes namely IWDP, DPAP, and DDP.

Realizing that empowerment of rural women is crucial for the development of rural India, a women's component is introduced in the programmes for poverty alleviation to ensure the flow of adequate funds to this section. The Constitutional Amendment (73rd), Act 1992 provides for reservation of selective posts for women. The Constitution has placed enormous responsibility on the Panchayats to formulate and execute various programs of economic development and social justice, and several Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented through Panchayats. Thus, women Members and Chairpersons of Panchayats, who are new entrants in Panchayats, have to acquire the required skill and be given appropriate orientation to assume their rightful roles as leaders and decision-makers. Imparting training to elected representatives of PRIs is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Rural Development also extends some financial assistance to the States/UTs intending to improve the quality of training programs and to catalyze capacity-building initiatives for the elected members and functionaries of PRIs.

The Eleventh Plan saw an injection of huge resources from the Union Budget to the rural and farm sector. This thrust formed the substance of the Bharat Nirman Programme. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has provided major foundational support.

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has been separated from the Ministry of Rural Development from 13th July 2011 and renamed as Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

2.4.3 Departments under the Ministry of Rural Development

2.4.3 (i) Department of Rural Development

The Department of Rural Development is implementing a number of programmes in rural areas through the state Governments for poverty reduction, employment generation, rural infrastructure habitation development, provision of basic minimum services etc. The important programmes presently being implemented by the Department are:

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- Rural Housing (Indira Awaas Yojana)
- DRDA Administration
- Training Schemes
- Promotion of Voluntary Schemes and Social Action Programme, organization of beneficiaries, advancement and dissemination of rural technology through CAPART.
- Monitoring mechanism.

2.4.3 (ii) Department of Land Resources

The department works in arresting land degradation, land ownership reform, and maintaining ecological balances. The major programmes implemented by the department are as follows.

- Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (Watershed Development Component)
- Digital India Land Record Modernization Programme
- Neeranchal - World Bank assisted Watershed Management Programme
- Technology Development, Extension & Training
- Bio-diesel Mission³⁵

³⁵<https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/rural-poverty-alleviation-1/ministry-of-rural-development>

2.4.4 Programmes and Schemes implemented by Ministry of Rural Development

Ministry of Rural Development plays very important role for eradication of poverty and upliftment of rural areas. For this, several programmes have been implemented from time to time. A lot of actions have been taken for promotion of livelihood, for generation of employment, for upliftment of the weaker sections and disadvantaged sections of the society. Some of the important programmes and schemes implemented by the Ministry including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Shyama Prasad Mukherjee National RuRBAN Mission and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)³⁶ will be discussed in brief as follows:

2.4.4(i) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was passed in September 2005 and implemented and came into force on February , 2006. It aims to guarantee the right to work. The primary objective is to increase livelihood security and social security in rural areas by generating not less than 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household which is to be done by adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual works. It is to be implemented mainly by gram panchayats. It covers the entire country of India with the exception of districts that have a 100% urban population. Some of the features of MGNREGS are as follows:

³⁶ [https://rural.nic.in/press-release/status-rural-development-schemes-2#:~:text=The%20Ministry%20of%20Rural%20Development,\(PMAY%2DG\)%2C%20Pradhan](https://rural.nic.in/press-release/status-rural-development-schemes-2#:~:text=The%20Ministry%20of%20Rural%20Development,(PMAY%2DG)%2C%20Pradhan)

- The MGNREGS is the largest employment programme for rural people and it is bottom-up, people centred scheme, right based design works for the promotion of rural livelihood.
- It provides a legal guarantee for wage employment.
- The Act incentivises States to provide employment, as 100% of the unskilled labour cost and 75% of the material cost of the programme is borne by the centre.
- MGNREGS is a demand driven and resources transfer from Centre to the State.
- Gram Panchayats are responsible to implement at least 50% of the works in terms of cost.
- Social audit is one of the most important features of the MGNREGS.

2.4.4(ii) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM):

It is a government scheme implemented for Ministry of Rural Development for helping the poor by providing skill training. Government of India has provisioned rupees 500 crore for the scheme. Some of the important features of the scheme are as follows:

- This programme is supported partially by the World Bank.
- This scheme aims to increase capabilities of the poor and equip them with capacities such as knowledge, information, tools, finance, skills to take part in the economy.
- It aims at creating effective and efficient institutional platforms to enable the rural poor to increase their household income by means of sustainable livelihood enhancements and better access to financial services.
- The scheme started with an agenda to cover 7 Crore rural poor households via Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions and support them for livelihoods collectives in 8-10 years.
- The main aim of the scheme is to develop the skills of both rural and urban people for the upliftment of their status.

2.4.4(iii) Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

DDU-GKY was established on 25th September 2014 through the implementation of Ministry of Rural Development. The vision of this scheme is to ‘transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce’. Some of the important features of DDU-GKY are as follows:

- It is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.
- It focuses on the rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.
- Gram Panchayat plays a crucial role for generation of awareness about the programme, facilitating mobilisation of candidates and assist in tracking candidate placements etc.
- It focuses on the most disadvantaged and weaker sections of the society (ST/SC 50%, Minority 15% and Women 33%).
- This scheme guaranteed placement of at least 75% trained candidates.

2.4.4(iv) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)

PMAY-G is a scheme launched by government of India for providing affordable housing for all by 2022 replacing Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). It was launched in the year of 2016. This scheme offers financial assistance to the beneficiaries for building pucca house with the basic amenities such as drinking water, sanitation and power supply. Some of the important points of this scheme are as follows:

- The unit cost will be shared between the Central and State governments, with the Central Government contributing 60% and the State Government financing the remaining 40% for plain regions. For rural areas situated in the North Eastern and three Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand,

and Jammu and Kashmir, the Central Government will finance 90% of the cost, with the State Government bearing 10%.

- In the plain regions, the amount of monetary assistance offered per unit is Rs.1.20 lakh. However, for units constructed in hilly states, difficult areas, zones in the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for Selected Tribal and Backward Districts, the amount monetary assistance offered is Rs.1.30 lakh.
- The Central Government will finance 100% of the houses constructed under the PMAYG scheme in Union Territories, including the newly-formed UT of Ladakh.
- All payments will be electronically transferred to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-linked bank or post office account.
- Any beneficiary who desires to obtain a loan will be facilitated to get assistance of up to Rs.70,000 from a lending institution.
- Beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana Gramin will be finalised considering data from the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011.³⁷

2.4.4(v) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Rural Road Connectivity is not only a key component of Rural Development by promoting access to economic and social services and thereby generating increased agricultural incomes and productive employment opportunities in India, it is also as a result, a key ingredient in ensuring sustainable poverty reduction. Notwithstanding the efforts made, over the years, at the State and Central levels, through different Programmes, many Habitations in the country are still not connected by All-weather roads. It is well known that even where connectivity has been provided, the roads constructed are of such quality (due to poor construction or maintenance) that they cannot always be categorised as All-weather roads.

With a view to redressing the situation, Government had launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on 25th December, 2000 to provide all-weather

³⁷<https://www.bajajfinserv.in/insights/pradhan-mantri-awas-yojana-gramin>

access to eligible unconnected habitations. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. 0.75/ litre out of the Cess on High Speed Diesel (HSD) is earmarked for this Programme.

The primary objective of the PMGSY is to provide connectivity by way of an all-weather road (with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures which is operable throughout the year) to the eligible unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of 500 persons and above (2001 census) in plain areas. In respect of special category States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand), the Desert Areas (as identified in the Desert Development Programme), the Tribal Areas (Schedule V of the Constitution), and selected Tribal and Backward Areas (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Planning Commission), the objective would be to connect eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 250 persons and above (2001 census). For most intensive IAP (Integrated Action Plan) blocks (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs), the unconnected habitations with population of 100 and above (2001 census) are eligible to be covered under the scheme.

The PMGSY will permit the upgradation (to prescribed standards) of the existing roads in those districts where all the eligible habitations of the designated population size (detailed above) have been provided all-weather road connectivity. However, it must be noted that upgradation is not central to the programme. In upgradation works, priority should be given to Through Routes of the Rural Core Network, which carry more traffic.³⁸

2.4.4(vi) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee RuRBAN Mission (SPMRM)

With the ambition to transform the rural areas to economically, socially and physically maintainable spaces, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the

³⁸<http://www.and.nic.in/archives/rdpri/Pages/PMGSY.php>

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) with an expenditure of 5,142.08 crores on the 16th of September 2015.

The mission aims to develop an approximate of 300 rural growth clusters called 'Rurban Clusters' which would have the latent potential for growth, in practically all States and Union Territories, this would trigger and overall development in the region. These clusters would be developed by provisioning the economic activities, developing skills & local entrepreneurship and providing infrastructure amenities.

A Rurban Cluster is a cluster of geographically contiguous villages with a population of about 2, 5000 to 50000 in plain and coastal areas and a population of 5000 to 15000 in deserts and hilly or tribal areas.

The clusters of villages would have to follow an administrative convergence unit of the Gram Panchayats and shall be given within a single block/ tehsil for administrative conveniences.

Under the National Rurban Mission (NRuM), the State Government shall identify existing Centrally Sponsored, Central Sector or State Government schemes relevant for the development of the cluster and converge their implementation in an integrated and time bound manner.

There are 14 components that have been suggested as desirable for the inclusion in the Rurban development cluster:

- Skill development training linked to economic activities
- Agro-processing, Agri-services and storage and warehousing
- Fully equipped mobile health unit
- Upgrading schools and higher educational facilities

- Sanitation
- Provision of piped water supply
- Solid and liquid waste management
- Village streets and drains
- Street lights
- Inter-village road connectivity
- Public transport
- LPG gas connections
- Digital literacy
- Citizen Services Centres- electronic delivery of citizen centric services/ e-grams connectivity³⁹

2.4.4 (vii) National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a welfare programme being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development. This programme is being implemented in rural areas as well as urban areas. NSAP represents a significant step towards the fulfilment of the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of India which enjoin upon the State to undertake within its means a number of welfare measures. These are intended to secure for the citizens adequate means of livelihood, raise the standard of living, improve public health, provide free and compulsory education for children etc. In

³⁹<https://medium.com/@virilesarkariniti/shyama-prasad-mukherji-rurban-mission-spmrm-all-about-rurban-mission-cf3c9b131d5>

particular, Article 41 of the Constitution of India directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development. It is in accordance with these noble principles that the Government of India on 15th August 1995 included the National Social Assistance Programme in the Central Budget for 1995- 96. The Prime Minister in his broadcast to the Nation on 28th July 1995 announced that the programme will come into effect from 15th August 1995. Accordingly the Govt. of India launched NSAP as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme w.e.f 15th August 1995 towards fulfilment of these principles.

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) then comprised of National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS). These programmes were meant for providing social assistance benefit to the aged, the BPL households in the case of death of the primary breadwinner and for maternity. These programmes were aimed to ensure minimum national standards in addition to the benefits that the States were then providing or would provide in future.

The scale of benefit and eligibility for various schemes of NSAP when first started were as follows:

- National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS): Rs 75 per month is provided per beneficiary for destitute above 65 years. The scheme covered destitute having little or no regular means of subsistence from his / her own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources. In order to determine destitution, the criteria, if any, currently in force in the State / UT Governments were adapted. The Government of India reserved the right to review these criteria and suggest appropriate revised criteria.
- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): A grant of Rs 5000 in case of death due to natural causes and Rs 10,000 in case of accidental death of the “primary breadwinner” is provided to the bereaved household under this scheme. The primary breadwinner as specified in the scheme, whether male or female, had to be a member of the household whose earning contributed

substantially to the total household income. The death of such a primary breadwinner occurring whilst he or she is in the age group of 18 to 64 years i.e., more than 18 years of age and less than 65 years of age, makes the family eligible to receive grants under the scheme.

- National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS): Under the scheme, Rs 300 per pregnancy up to the first two live births is provided. The beneficiary should belong to a household Below the Poverty Line (BPL) according to the criteria prescribed by Government of India.⁴⁰

This chapter is named as a conceptual study of rural development and livelihood. This chapter starts with the concept of rural development which indicates its requirement for the upliftment of the status of the people of rural areas. It discusses the concept of livelihood and covering the several problems faced by rural livelihood. This chapter highlights the programmes and steps taken by the government of India for the growth and development of rural areas. This chapter emphasized the requirement of rural development for the overall development of the country.

⁴⁰<https://nsap.nic.in/nsap/aboutus.pdf>

CHAPTER - III

AREA UNDER STUDY

The previous chapter is a conceptual study of rural development and livelihood. It starts with the concept of livelihood which defined livelihood as the activities, assets, and access that jointly determine the living gained by an individual or household. It also discusses rural livelihood and its features. It indicates that almost 90% of the rural households are involved in farming activities directly or indirectly. It also stated that the livelihood of the rural people becomes difficult day by day. So, rural development is required for the growth and development of the whole country. The previous chapter talks about the concept and definition of rural development and its importance for the economic upliftment of the country. It indicates that improving the living standard of the rural people by providing food, shelter, clothing, employment, health facilities, education, etc. is the most important objective of rural development. It also emphasized infrastructure development and economic improvement.

The previous chapter discusses the rural development in India by indicating the status of the rural population, rural population in India was reported as 65.523% in 2019 and which is the majority of the whole population. It also indicates the rural population from 2010-2019 through a chart. It also indicates the main occupation and contribution to the GDP of rural areas. Several changes taken place in India are also indicated.

The previous chapter highlights the actions taken by the Government of India in several ways. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal agency for the implementation of rural development policies and programmes. The previous chapter also indicates the policy and five-year plans of India in detail and also indicates the growth and improvement of the rural status.

The previous chapter also elaborates on the various schemes and policies implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for the uplift and improvement of the rural areas.

3.1 Area Under Study

This chapter focuses on the area in which this programme is implemented. North East Rural Livelihood Project is for 5 years and implemented in four states of North East India.

North East India comprises eight states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. It is a large geographical area and is surrounded by Bhutan and China in the North, Myanmar in the East, and Bangladesh on the Southern side. North East India is a mostly hilly area and it has plain on both sides of the Brahmaputra river and the Himalayan around it. It covers 7.9% of the total land space of the country. About 70% of the region is hilly, and the topography differs from one state to another state. Mountains and hills cover most of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Sikkim, and half of Tripura, one-fifth of Assam, and nine-tenth of Manipur. The plains of the region are mainly made up of separate landmasses – the Brahmaputra Valley and the Barak Valley in Assam and the Tripura plains in the South. In Manipur, the valley is small, comprising only about 10% of the total area of the state. The Brahmaputra valley stretches longitudinally for about 730 km, from North Lakhimpur to Dhubri district in Assam. The Barak valley, formed by the river Barak and its tributaries covers the districts of Cachar, Karimgnj, and Hailakandi of South Assam. The Tripura plain is an extension of the Ganga-Brahmaputra plain. The topography of the hills is generally rugged and vast areas are inaccessible.⁴¹

As per the 2011 Census, North East India is an isolated area from other parts of the country and suffers a lot of problems because of the geographical factor.

⁴¹<https://databank.nedfi.com/content/north-east-india> accessed on 4th March 2021

Due to several problems and poor living standards, the people are backward than those residing in other parts of the country. So, it needs to uplift and empower. NERLP is implemented in four states including Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. It is implemented in selected districts, the project adopted a saturation approach and identifies villages and communities based on poverty data including below poverty line figures. The following districts are selected for the implementation of the project:

Mizoram	-	Aizawl and Lunglei
Nagaland	-	Peren and Tuensang
Sikkim	-	South, West and 15 Panchayat wards of East District
Tripura	-	West and North Districts

3.2 Profile of Four States of NE India where NERLP is implemented

This project focuses on the weaker states of North East India, some status and conditions these four states are highlighted as follows:

3.2.1 Mizoram

Mizoram covers a geographical area of 21,087 sq. kilometers and it has the most difficult terrain. Over 80% of the total geographical area of the state is covered with steep hills. More than 50% of the total population is from a rural area and more than 70% of the total population are directly and indirectly dependent on agriculture. The living standard of the rural area is bad as compared with the urban area. Broadly, the persistence of rural poverty is a result of inadequate use of technology, deficit infrastructure, unemployment and underemployment, the inability of rural people engaged in traditional occupational crafts to upgrade their skill, inaccessibility to basic social infrastructure and physical infrastructure, access to

agricultural land by rural poor, limited livelihood opportunities and the lack of active participation of rural poor in the development process.

While 60.60% of the population comprises cultivators, agriculture & allied sectors contribute only 16.7% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). This share is declining over the years. Though agriculture is the mainstay of the state, only 5% of the total area is under cultivation, of which only 11% is irrigated. The high dependence for livelihood on this sector, with limited irrigation potential resulting only in a single crop in major portions of the land, suggests the need to explore options for income earning potential from this sector.

The economy of Mizoram is very much dominated by the cultivation practice of Jhum, which constitutes 63% of the total cultivable land in the state. The virtual absence of credit facilities in the rural areas, lack of capacity building and training due to inadequate institutional infrastructure, entry-level barriers, high costs and distant locations, absence of risk coverage for the beneficiaries, etc. are the key livelihood issues in Mizoram.

3.2.2 Nagaland

Nagaland is a hilly state covering a geographical area of 16, 579 Square Kilometers. One of the major reasons for rural poverty in Nagaland is related to the difficult terrain of the state with inadequate development and poor infrastructure. Almost every sector – agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, rural development, health, education, social welfare, etc. has been handicapped by the lack of infrastructural support.

Most of the rural population is dependent on subsistence agriculture where the state governments' extension types of machinery have been challenged to intervene. Jhum cultivation practice is a matter of concern for the state. The land use management system is palpable and the land development for agricultural use is meager with inadequate irrigation facility. This is further amplified by the prolonged dry spells during the winter.

The poor level of infrastructure has also limited the opportunities for rural enterprises, employment, and income generation. The food (grain) security provided by the jhum cultivation practices is hardly for four to five months a year. The state is also confronted with one of the most critical problems related to youth and unemployment and unhealthy lifestyles, both in rural and urban areas. The problem of youth is a matter of social concern. Added to this is the insurgency problem and violence which has affected the state and its population in general and the youth in particular.

Nagaland Government had implemented several rural development programs, namely, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), and Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), etc. with the active participation of communities.

3.2.3 Sikkim

This thumb-shaped state is characterized by wholly mountainous terrain. Almost the entire state is hilly, with an elevation ranging from 280 meters (920 ft) to 8,585 meters (28,000 ft). Ninety percent of the State population is rural and agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for the villagers. However, the contribution of agriculture to the state GSDP has been showing a declining trend, indicating a stagnation and reduction in income due to reduction in productivity and production of the major cash crops, namely, ginger, large cardamom, and orange which are also facing pathological problems leading to low-income levels in the villages.

The sectoral contribution of agriculture to the GSDP has declined from 52% (1980-81) to 21% (2004-09). Dairy activities, contract works, construction, hydel-power development, and tourism are the other main sources of income in the villages. One of the major constraints in the development of the state is the average size of landholding of 1.3 hectares coupled with the irrigation problem. Limited irrigation coverage, mostly rain-fed farming, a high percentage of wasteland,

coupled with a reduction in production and productivity of horticulture crops has resulted in stagnation in farm income which further leads to the decline in the contribution of agriculture to GSDP. The poverty belt of Sikkim is essentially the rain shadow area in the south.

The government of Sikkim had implemented various developmental programs, namely, MGNREGA, Swarna Jayanta Gram Swarojghar Yozana, Integrated Rural Energy Programme, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Sampurna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Community Development and Panchayat Scheme, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Scheme, Rural Roads and Bridges Scheme and Rural Housing Scheme, etc. for the combat of the poverty.

3.2.4 Tripura

Tripura has a total area of 10.492 Square Kilometres. The main reasons for poverty in the state are the high percentage of educated unemployed youth, surplus agricultural and jhumia labourers, the inadequate scope for non-farming / non-agriculture-based livelihoods, and lack of primary and secondary employment opportunities. The crucial challenges are the weak infrastructure and lack of skills on the part of poverty-ridden people. Whereas the maximum numbers of people are engaged in the agriculture sector, due to sparse irrigation coverage, a good part of cultivable land gives only a single crop. Hence engagement of agriculture laborers around the year is uncertain. Besides, workers in small workshops, general shops, peddlers, vendors, etc. are living with acute financial hardships as there is no certainty of service and regular earning in the unorganized sector.

The issue of marginal farmers is another factor that has adversely affected the development process. Maximum poor farmers are having plots of the size of only 0.20 to 0.50 acres, the production from which rarely meets the annual food requirement of the household, thus resulting in overall food insecurity. Another vulnerable sector is the practice of jhum cultivation. The cultivators have not adopted the scientific jhum cultivation methods. Moreover, due to the scarcity of

dense forests, coupled with a reduction in jhum cycle, agricultural production has come down drastically. Most of the jhum cultivators are tribal with a semi-nomadic lifestyle.

Apart from the centrally sponsored schemes like MGNREGS, SGRY, IAY, etc, the Government of Tripura has taken a new initiative called Peoples plan of Tripura to give a clear direction to policy formulation and planning process for all-round development. Among other initiatives, the State Government is emphasizing the tribal welfare plans having packages for education, economic infrastructure, socio-cultural development, and health services. The three-tier Panchayati raj systems are very strong in Tripura and many development schemes specially MGNREGS is implemented by it. Tripura is first among the states of India in the utilization of the MGNREGS scheme essentially because of the good functioning of panchayats. Within Tripura, the less accessible tribal villages have higher relative poverty.⁴²

These four states commonly depend on agriculture but with difficult terrain of the geographical area and poor infrastructure. Agriculture plays a key role in determining poverty level. In most of India's rapidly growing states, the agricultural sector is in relative decline, with growth in the service and manufacturing sectors accelerating. However, in the Northeast, there is little evidence of economic diversification. Agriculture remains the backbone of the economy and is dominated in the hill states by jhumming or shifting cultivation. So, implementation of this project is very required for the improvement of the status of the people.

⁴² <http://nerlp.gov.in/notice/PIP-%20June,%202012.pdf>

Table No. III: 1

Project Area

State	District		Blocks
Mizoram	Aizawl	5	Phullen, Aibawk, Darlawn, Thingsulthliah, Tlangnuam
	Lunglei	4	Lungsen, Bunglei, Lunglei, Hnahthial
Nagaland	Peren	3	Tenning, Peren, Jalukie
	Tuensang	8	Longkhim, Chare, Noksen, Sangsangyu, Shamator, Chessore, Noklak, Thonoknyu
Sikkim	South	8	Namchi, Jorethang, Namthang, Ravongla, Yangang, Temi-Tarku
	West and 15 poorest Panchayat wards of East District	6	Gyalshing, Soreng, Yuksom, Dentam, Kaluk, Daramdin Ben, Thasa, Upper Lingtam, Dhanbari, Lower, Samlik, Mamring (Amba Mamring Gumpa), Premlakha, Singaneybas, Lower Tarpin, Dokchin, East Machong, Regional Project Implementation Plan Page 23 East district Namrang (Tumin Karma Choling Gumpa), Simik (Simik Daduling Gumpa), Kutitar, Namin

Tripura	West	16	Khatalia, Melaghar, Boxanagar, Bishalgarh, Jampuijala, Dukli, Hezamara, Mohanpur, Jirania, Mandwai, Mungiakami, Teliamura, Kalyanpur, Khowai, Tulashikhar, Padmabill
	North	8	Kumarghat, Gauragar, Kadamtala, Panisagar, Dhamchhara, Pecharthal, Dasda, Jampuihill

Source: COM-NERLP, Ministry of DoNER

The details of the block selected are given in the above table. In case of Sikkim, West and other 15 poor panchayat wards of East District are indicated as one district.

3.3 Details About Mizoram

From these four states, we have to focus on Mizoram State and will discuss about the details and status of the state as follows:

Mizoram became the 23rd State of the Indian Union on February 20, 1987. It was one of the districts of Assam till becoming Union Territory in the year 1972. It covers an area of 21,087 sq km with a population of 10, 91,014 as per the Census of India, 2011.⁴³ It has a total of 722 Km. boundary with Myanmar and Bangladesh. Mizoram has an extensive highway network of 927 km with a road density of 43.97

⁴³ Bahrul Islam Laskar, *Industrialisation in Mizoram – Problems and Prospects*, Kolkata: New Central Book Agency (P) Ltd., 2010, p.20

km.⁴⁴ The literacy rate of India stands at 74.04% in 2011 and Mizoram is in the third position of literacy rate in India with 91.58%.⁴⁵

Mizoram (previously known as Lushai Hills), the land of highlanders, an extension of the Himalayas consisted of unformed young rocks with steep, rugged hills with an average height of about 900 meters, very little flat lands and plateaus. The highest peak in Mizoram is the Blue Mountain (Phawngpui) with a height of 2210 meters. It is a mountainous region situated in the southern part of North-East India and is sandwiched between the Chin Hills of Myanmar on the east and south, Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh and Tripura on the West, with its northern frontier touching Cachar (Assam) and Manipur.⁴⁶

Mizoram has a moderate climate. It is generally not very hot in summer and not very cold in winter. During winter, the temperature varies from 11°C to 21°C and in summer it varies between 20°C to 30°C. The entire area is under the direct influence of the monsoon. It rains heavily from May to September and the average rainfall is 254 cm/annum.⁴⁷ Winter in Mizoram is rain-free and is very pleasant. Mizoram has a great natural beauty and endless variety of landscape and is also very rich in flora and fauna. As compared with other parts of India, there are a lot of bamboos in Mizoram. Almost all kinds of tropical trees and plants succeed in Mizoram.

The people living in Mizoram are called 'Mizo'. The Mizo were a distinct community and the social unit was the village. Mizo villages were usually set on top of a hill with the chief's house at the centre and the bachelors' dormitory called 'Zawlbuk' prominently located in the central place. *Zawlbuk* was the training ground, and indeed, the cradle wherein the Mizo youths were shaped into a responsible adult member of the society. The administration of villages was in the hands of the 'Lal' (Chief) with the help of his 'Khawnbawl Upa' (Village Elders). The institution of chieftainship was strongly embedded in the early history of the Mizo people. The

⁴⁴ http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/list_of_state_highways_in_Mizoram (as on 09/10/2014)

⁴⁵ <http://www.indiaonlinpages.com/population/literacy-rate-in-india.html> (as on 09/10/2014)

⁴⁶ K.C. Kabra, *Economic Growth of Mizoram – Role of Business and Industry*, New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company, 2008, p.3

⁴⁷ <http://aizawl.nic.in/mizoram.htm> (as on 09/10/2014)

position of the Chief was an unenviable one. He was the guardian of his people, leader and defender in times of attack by the enemy and above all, giver of food in time of scarcity.⁴⁸ The first Chief of Mizo was Zahmuaka. All the bachelors were the members of a defence party of the village. The Mizo in the past were called 'headhunter'. But, after the advent of the Christianity in Mizoram in 1894, which changed the life style of Mizo in which they believed in 'Pathian' (God). The Christian Missionaries introduced the Roman script for the Mizo language and formal education among the Mizo. The fabric of social life in the Mizo society has undergone tremendous change over the year.

When Mizoram became a Union Territory, Mizoram was divided into three district including Aizawl District, Lunglei District and Chhimituipui District. Later, five more districts were carved out of the already existing three districts. Now, there are eight districts including Aizawl District, Kolasib District, Lawngtlai District, Lunglei District, Mamit District, Saiha District, Champhai District and Serchhip District. A district of Mizoram is headed by Deputy Commissioner who is overall in charge of the administration in the district. He is also known as District Commissioner, District Collector, District Magistrate etc. Aizawl city is also the capital of Mizoram.

In Mizoram, the main occupation is agriculture through Jhum Cultivation till date. More than 70% of its total population is directly or indirectly depend upon agriculture.⁴⁹ But, adequate food grains succession cannot be produced through jhuming. This also causes environmental degradation. Government also imparted different programmes and schemes for economic improvement and eradication of jhum cultivation. Different technologies and machineries are also imparted. But, it still needs to uplift from the current status and needs to eradicate poverty. NERLP is one the important tools for upliftment of the status of the people through human resource development and community development. This helps in the improvement of the livelihood of the rural area.

⁴⁸ Lianzela, *Economic Development of Mizoram*, Guwahati-Delhi: Spectrum Publications, 1994, p.12

⁴⁹ Baharul Islam Laskar, *Op. Cit.*, 2010, p.37

Table No. III: 2
Mizoram at a glance

Sl.No.	Particulars	Unit	Statistic
1.	Geographical Area	Sq.Km	21,081
	Geographical Location		
2.	Longitude	Degree	92 ^o .15' E to 93 ^o 29' E
	Latitude	Degree	21 ^o .58' N to 24 ^o .35' N
3	Length		
	North to South	Kms	277
	East to West	Kms	121
4	International Borders		
	With Myanmar	Kms	404
	With Bangladesh	Kms	318
5	Inter-State Borders		
	With Assam	Kms	123
	With Tripura	Kms	66
	With Manipur	Kms	95
6	Administrative Set Up		
	1. No. of District	No.	11
	2. No. of Autonomous District Council	No.	3

	3. No. of Sub-Division	No.	23
	4. No. of R.D. Block	No.	26
	5. No. of Municipal Corporation	No.	1
	6. No. of villages (2011 census)	No.	830
7	Total Population (2011 Census)		
	Persons	No.	10,97,206
	Males	No.	5,55,339
	Females	No.	5,41,867
8	Decadal Population Growth (2001- 11)		
	Absolute	No.	2,08,633
	Percentage	No.	23.48%
9	Population Density	Per Sq. Km	52
10	Literacy (2011 Census)		
	Persons	No.	8,48,175
	Male	No.	4,38,529
	Female	No.	4,09,646
	Rate	%	91.33%

Source: Economic Survey Mizoram 2019-20

Mizoram is not a big state which covers an area of 21,087 sq km with a population of 10, 91,014 as per the Census of India, 2011. It has 52 density of

population. For the administration of the government, Mizoram has 11 administrative Districts, 3 Autonomous District Councils, and 26 R.D Blocks. NERLP was officially launched in Mizoram on 27th September 2013 by the Chief Minister of Mizoram. This study focuses on Aizawl District and which will be discussed as follows.

3.4 Details About Aizawl District

Aizawl is the largest city as well as the capital of the state of Mizoram in India. The City is located north of the Tropic of Cancer in the northern part of Mizoram and is situated on a ridge 1132 meters (3715 ft) above sea level, with the Tlawng river valley to its west and the Tuirial river valley to its east. In the summer the temperature ranges from 20-30 degrees Celsius, and in the winter 11-21 degrees Celsius.⁵⁰

Table No. III: 3

Aizawl at a glance

Sl.No	Particular	Statistics
1	Area	3,576 Sq. Km
2	Populations	400,309
3	Villages	96
4	No. of Males	199,270
5	No. of Females	201,039

⁵⁰<https://aizawl.nic.in/> access on 20/03/2021

6	No. of Towns	7
7	No. of Assembly Constituencies	14
8	No. R.D Block	5
9	Population Density	112 Sq.Km
10	Literates	340,595
11	Literacy Rate	97.89%

Source :<https://aizawl.nic.in/demography/>

Aizawl district is the largest district in Mizoram covering 3,576 Sq. Km with the population of 400,309. There are 96 villages and among those, the project covers 88 villages. It has 14 Assembly Constituencies and it has 5 R.D Blocks. The population density of the district is 112 sq./km and it has 97.89% of the literacy rate.

3.4 Details about 5 (Five Blocks)

This study covers 5 (five) blocks of Aizawl District such as Tlangnuam Block, Thingsulthliah Block, Phullen Block, Darlawn Block and Aibawk Block.

Table No. III: 4

Five Blocks in Aizawl District

Sl.No.	Block	No. of Villages
1	TLANGNUAM	9
2	THINGSULTHLIAH	20
3	PHULLEN	12

4	DARLAWN	27
5	AIBAWK	20
TOTAL		88

Source: Field Study

The above table indicates the villages within the five blocks, NERLP covers 88 villages in the implementation of the project.

3.4.1 Tlangnuam Block

List of villages in Tlangnuam:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Bung IB | 2. Lungleng |
| 3. Muthi | 4. N.Lungleng |
| 5. Nausel | 6. Neihbawih |
| 7. Puansen | 8. Sairum |
| 9. Samtlang | 10. Sihphir |
| 11. Tuirial | 12. Tuirial Jail |

Table No. III: 5

Population of Tlangnuam Block

Population Type	Male Population	Female Population	Total Population
Rural	6,365	6,000	12,365
Urban	1,47,905	1,51,461	2,99,366
Total	1,54,270	1,57,461	3,11,731

Source : <https://villageinfo.in/mizoram/aizawl/tlangnuam.html>

Table No. III: 6

Households in Tlangnuam Block

Rural Households	Urban Households	Total Households
2,552	61,943	64,495

Source : <https://villageinfo.in/mizoram/aizawl/tlangnuam.html>

The above two tables indicate the status of Tlangnuam R.D Block. Tlangnuam is one of the important blocks in the Aizawl District of Mizoram. According to Census 2011 information, it has a population of 3,11,731 peoples. Total area of Tlangnuam is 533 km² including 381.67 km² rural area and 151.00 km² urban area. There are 64,495 houses in the sub-district. There are about 12 villages in Tlangnuam block.

3.4.2 Thingsulthliah

List of Villages in Thingsulthliah:

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Aichalkawn | 2. Buhban | 3. CTI Sesawng |
| 4. Darlawng | 5. Dilkhan | 6. Edenthar |
| 7. Lenchim | 8. Maite | 9. Mualmam |
| 10. Mualpheng | 11. N.Lungher | 12. Phaibawk |
| 13. Phulmawi | 14. Saisih Vety Farm | 15. Seling |
| 16. Sesawng | 17. Sihfa | 18. Tawizo |
| 19. Thingsul Tlangnuam | 20. Thingsulthliah | 21. Tlungvel |
| 22. Tualbung | 23. Tuikhurhlu | |

Table No. III: 7

Population of Thingsulthliah

Population Type	Male Population	Female Population	Total Population
Rural	10,371	10,109	20,480
Urban	5,727	5,892	11,619
Total	1,54,270	1,57,461	3,11,731

Source : <https://villageinfo.in/mizoram/aizawl/thingsulthliah.html>

Table No. III: 8

Households in Thingsulthliah Block

Rural Households	Urban Households	Total Households
4318	2,457	6,775

Source : <https://villageinfo.in/mizoram/aizawl/thingsulthliah.html>

The population and household status of Thingsulthliah are indicated in the above tables. It is one of the blocks in the Aizawl District of Mizoram. According to Census 2011 information, it has a population of 32,099 peoples. The total area of Thingsulthliah is 874 km² including 865.13 km² rural area and 9.00 km² urban area. There are 6,775 houses in the sub-district. There are about 23 villages in the Thingsulthliah block.

3.4.3 Phullen

List of Villages in Phullen:

1. Daido
2. Khawlian
3. Lamherh
4. Luangpawm
5. NE Tlangnuam
6. N.Khawlek
7. Phuaibuang

3.4.4 Darlawn

List of Villages in Darlawn:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chhanchhuahna Khawpui | 2. E.Phaileng | 3. Hmunnghak |
| 4. Kani | 5.Kepran | 6.Khanpui |
| 7.Khawkawi | 8.Khawpuar | 9. Khawruhlian |
| 10. Lailak | 11. Lower Sakawrdai | 12. Luakchhuah |
| 13. Lungsum | 14. N.Khawdungsei | 15. N.Serzawl |
| 16. N.Tingmun | 17. New Vervek | 18. Old Tengtawng |
| 19. Old Vervek | 20. Palsang | 21. Pehlawn |
| 22. Ratu | 23. Sailutar | 24. Sawleng |
| 25. Sunhluchhip | 26. Thingsat | 27. Tuirinikai |
| 28. | UpperSakawrdai | 29. Vaitin |
| 30. Vervek | 31. Zohmun | |
| 32. Zokhawthiang | | |

Table No. III: 11

Population of Darlawn Block

Population Type	Male Population	Female Population	Total Population
Rural	11,519	10,760	22,279
Urban	1,858	1,911	3,769
Total	13,377	12,671	126,048

Source : <https://villageinfo.in/mizoram/aizawl/darlawn.html>

Table No. III: 12

Households in Darlawn Block

Rural Households	Urban Households	Total Households
4,437	796	5,233

Source : <https://villageinfo.in/mizoram/aizawl/darlawn.html>

Table No. III: 11 and 12 indicate the status of Darlawn block and it is one of the blocks of Aizawl District of Mizoram. The coverage area of this block is 1,037 km² including 1,021.48 km² rural area and 16.00 km² urban area. According to Census 2011 information the sub-district code of Darlawn block is 01902. Darlawn has a population of 26,048 peoples. There are 5,233 houses in the sub-district. There are 32 villages in Darlawn block such as:

3.4.5 Aibawk

List of Villages in Aibawk

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Aibawk | 2. Chamring | 3. Changpui AgriFarm |
| 4. Changtekai | 5. Chawilung | 6. Falkawn |
| 7. Hmuifang | 8. Hualngphmun | 9. Kelsih |
| 10. Khawhminglokawn | 11. Lamchhip | 12. Lungsei |
| 13. Muallungthu | 14. N. Lungsai | 15. Paikhai |
| 16. Phulpui | 17. S. Maubuang | 18. Sailam |
| 19. Samlukhai | 20. Sateek | 21. Sialsuk |
| 22. Sumsuih | 23. Tachhip | 24. Thiak |
| 25. Thingdawl | | |

Table No. III: 13

Population of Aibawk Block

Population Type	Male Population	Female Population	Total Population
Rural	8,758	8,370	17,128
Urban	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	8,758	8,370	17,128

Source : <https://villageinfo.in/mizoram/aizawl/aibawk.html>

Table No. III: 14

Households in Aibawk Block

Rural Households	Urban Households	Total Households
3,507	N/A	3,507

Source : <https://villageinfo.in/mizoram/aizawl/aibawk.html>

Aibawk is a Tehsil / Block (CD) in the Aizawl District of Mizoram. According to Census 2011 information the sub-district code of Aibawk block is 01904. Total area of Aibawk is 617 km². The above two tables indicate the population and household of Aibawl block and it has a population of 17,128 peoples. There are 3,507 houses in the sub-district. There are 25 villages in Aibawk block.

This chapter covers the area under study. This chapter broadly highlights the four northeastern states in which the project is implemented such as Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. Among these four states, two districts each are selected for the implementation of the project. This chapter focuses on Mizoram and studies in detail the district of Aizawl which consists of five blocks. The details of the five blocks like population and household status are indicated by using tables.

CHAPTER – IV

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROJECT (NERLP)

The previous chapter covers the area under study. North East India comprises eight states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. Among those, NERLP is implemented in four states including Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim. The previous chapter focuses on Mizoram which indicates the details about the Mizoram.

The previous chapter focuses again on the Aizawl District which comprises 5 (five) blocks. Several steps have been taken for the socio-economic improvement of the people. North East Rural Livelihood Project is a World Bank-funded project and operated in the four states of North East India such as Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. The core objective of this project is to uplift poor people and disadvantaged groups of society like women empowerment, youth empowerment, and other community development activities for the betterment of livelihood.

For formation of NERLP, negotiations with the World Bank by the Ministry of Finance and M/o DoNER took place on 29th & 30th September 2011. These negotiations resulted in the signing of the Legal Documents like Project Agreement and Financing Agreement between the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of DoNER, the Project, and World Bank on the 20th January 2012. The Board of the World Bank in its meeting approved the North East Rural Livelihoods Project on 20-12-2011.⁵¹

⁵¹ [http://nerlp.gov.in/notice/Bi%20Annual%20Report%20of%20NERLP%20\(Apr-Sep%2012\).pdf](http://nerlp.gov.in/notice/Bi%20Annual%20Report%20of%20NERLP%20(Apr-Sep%2012).pdf)

Table No. IV: 1

Key Dates of NERLP

Approval	Effectiveness	MTR Review	Original Closing	Actual Closing
20-Dec-2011	12-Mar-2012	15-May-2014	31-Mar-2017	30-Sep-2019

Source :

<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/332381586198778661/pdf/India-North-East-Rural-Livelihoods-Project.pdf>

As indicated in the above table, NERLP was approved on 20th December, 2011, and came into effect on 12th March 2012. It has a Mid-Term Review in the year 2014. The project has original closing on 31st March 2017, but it was actually closed on 30th September 2019.⁵²

For the implementation of the project, it needs to make a well-arranged organizational structure from the community level (grassroots level) to the top level. So, at every level, several institutions are involved to achieve the objectives of the project. The importance of the World Bank cannot be over-emphasized in the achievement of the project objective and indicated about World Bank as follows:

4.1 World Bank

The World Bank is an international organization set up to provide financing, advice, and research to developing nations to help their economic growth and advancement. The bank acts as an organization that attempts to fight poverty by offering developmental assistance to middle- and low-income countries. The World Bank is among the world's leading development institutions with a mission to fight poverty and improve living standards for people in the developing world by

⁵²<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/332381586198778661/pdf/India-North-East-Rural-Livelihoods-Project.pdf>

promoting sustainable development through loans, guarantees, risk management products, and (non-lending) analytic and advisory services. The World Bank is one of the United Nations' specialized agencies which member countries are jointly responsible for how the institution is financed and how its money is spent. The World Bank Group consists of five international organizations, the collective name given to the first two listed organizations, the IBRD and the IDA:

The International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

IBRD was established in 1944 and has 189 members at present. IBRD aims to reduce poverty in middle-income countries and credit-worthy poorer countries by promoting sustainable development, through loans, guarantees, and non-lending services, which include analytical and advisory services. The IBRD is owned by the member countries whose voting power is linked to its capital subscription based on the country's relative economic strength.

The International Development Association (IDA)

IDA was established in 1960 and currently has 173 members. IDA is the concessional arm of the World Bank and plays a key role in supporting the Bank's poverty reduction mission. IDA assistance is focused on the world's 79 poorest countries, to which it provides interest-free loans (known as 'credits') and other non-lending services.

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Established in 1956, IFC is owned by 185-member countries, a group that collectively determines the policies. It works in more than 100 developing countries allowing companies and financial institutions in emerging markets to create jobs, generate tax revenues, improve corporate governance and environmental performance, and contribute to their local communities.

Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

On April 12, 1988, an international convention established MIGA as the newest member of the World Bank Group. The agency opened for business as a

legally separate and financially independent entity and has 181 countries in membership. MIGA was created to complement public and private sources of investment insurance against non-commercial risks in developing countries. MIGA's multilateral character and joint sponsorship by developed and developing countries were seen as significantly enhancing confidence among cross-border investors. The mission is to promote foreign direct investment (FDI) into developing countries to help support economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve people's lives.

International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

ICSID is an autonomous international institution established under the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (the ICSID or the Washington Convention) with over one hundred-and forty-member States. The Convention sets forth ICSID's mandate, organization, and core functions. The primary purpose of ICSID is to provide facilities for conciliation and arbitration of international investment disputes.

Role of World Bank for NERLP

World Bank plays a very important role in the implementation of the project. NERLP is a World Bank-aided, multi-state livelihood Rs.683 crore (USD 144.4 million) project under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), launched in 2012. The project has been implemented in 11 districts of Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim. The project aims "to improve rural livelihoods especially that of women, unemployed youth and the most disadvantaged, in four North Eastern States". The project also works in partnerships with expert organizations to focus on cluster development through value chains.⁵³

⁵³[https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1583501#:~:text=NERLP%20is%20World%20Bank%20aided,DoNER\)%2C%20launched%20in%202012.&text=The%20project%20impacted%20the%20lives,assets%20worth%20around%20total%20Rs.](https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1583501#:~:text=NERLP%20is%20World%20Bank%20aided,DoNER)%2C%20launched%20in%202012.&text=The%20project%20impacted%20the%20lives,assets%20worth%20around%20total%20Rs.)

4.2 Organisational structure of NERLP

Well-arranged institutions at the different levels are created to plan, implement and monitor the project from the grassroots level to the top level which includes the Ministry of DONER at the government of India level.

Chart No. IV:1



Source: Field Study

The project has four levels of organizations including the Ministry of DONER, Regional level covering four project states, District level covering the

individual project districts, and Block level covering individual blocks. Additionally, there is a State level project support unit for convergence with the corresponding government development programmes.

4.2.1 Ministry of DONER

The Ministry of Development of North East Region (DoNER) was established in the year 2001 and accorded the status of a full-fledged ministry in 2004. The Ministry functions for the socio-economic growth and development of the eight states of North East India. NERLP was implemented under the governance and administration of the Ministry of DoNER. The Ministry is the responsible institution for the success of the project.

Table No. IV: 2

Project Authority (DoNER & NERLPS)

Sl.No	Name	Designation with address	Phone	Fax
1.	Smt. J Chandra, IAS	Secretary Ministry of DoNER Govt. of India, New Delhi	011-23022020	011- 23022024
2.	Sri U. K. Sangma, IAS	Secretary North East Council & Chairman North East Livelihood Promotion Society	0364-2522644	0364- 2522643

3.	Smt. J. Mukherjee, IAS	Joint Secretary Govt. of India Ministry of DoNER, New Delhi	011-23794694	011- 23022013
4.	Sri Brajesh Mishra	Director Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India, New Delhi	011-23022092	-
5.	Sri A. K. Srivastava, IAS	Project Director North East Livelihood Promotion Society, House No. – II, Six Mile, Near Nayantara Super Market, G. S. Road Guwahati - 781022	0361-2331233	0361- 2331233
6.	Smt. Sanchayeeta Gohain	Project Manager (SG & CM) NERLPS – Guwahati (Assam)	0361-2331233	0361- 2331233
7.	Sri Ajit Sharma	Project Manager (L& RM) NERLPS – Guwahati (Assam)	0361-2331233	0361- 2331233

8.	Sri Ajit Narzary	Project Manager (F & A/c) NERLPS – Guwahati (Assam)	0361-2331233	0361-2331233
9.	Smt. Pallabi Bora	Assist. Project Manager (HR) NERLPS – Guwahati (Assam)	0361-2331233	0361-2331233
10.	Smt. Mrinalinee Khanikar	Assist. Project Manager (T & P) NERLPS – Guwahati (Assam)	0361-2331233	0361-2331233
11.	Sri Kisholay Das	Assist. Project Manager (SG & CM) NERLPS – Guwahati (Assam)	0361-2331233	0361-2331233
12.	Sri Amit Kumar Kar	Assistant Project Officer (APO) NERLPS – Guwahati (Assam)	0361-2331233	0361-2331233

13.	Sri N. N. Barman	Office Assistant NERLPS – Guwahati (Assam)	0361-2331233	0361- 2331233
14.	Smt. I. D. Borthakur	Accounts Clerk NERLPS – Guwahati (Assam)	0361-2331233	0361- 2331233

Source : <http://nerlp.gov.in/notice/Consolidated%20EMF-06-05-20115289162885.pdf>

The Ministry of DoNER constitutes a Project Governance Committee and which meets twice a year to review the project and take up policy issues affecting the project. It also advises the convergence of various government schemes at the level of community. The above table indicates the status of the project authority (Ministry of DoNER and NERLP)

4.2.2 Regional Society

The project is implemented by the autonomous regional level Society registered and established by the Ministry of DONER, under the name North East Livelihood Promotion Society (NELPS). It is chaired by the Secretary, NEC, and represented in the general body by all participating state governments as well as important institutions working in the region.

The Executive Committee of NELPS consists of 7 members of which the Secretary, NEC is the Chairman, the Joint Secretary, DONER is the Vice-Chairperson, the Project Director, NERLP is the Member Secretary and Nodal officers of the four project states are the members. From Tripura, Commissioner,

Rural Development, from Nagaland Commissioner & Secretary Planning and Coordination, from Mizoram, Director, Rural Development and Sikkim, Project Director, Sikkim Rural Development Agency are the members. The structure for implementation is visualized as a long-term investment in promoting rural livelihoods in the region, beyond just the scope of the NERLP project. The NELPS is headquartered in Guwahati. The World Bank-supported NERLP is implemented by a separate Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) headed by a Project Director.

The RPMU implemented the project through the establishment of eight District Project Management Units (DPMUs) and district teams that will manage the field level implementation through the Project Facilitation Teams (PFTs) set up covering a cluster of villages. The project implementation in each of the four states is supported by a small State Project Support Unit (SPSU), housed within the respective state governments.⁵⁴

4.2.3 Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU)

RPMU has the overall responsibility for the management and implementation of the project. It is headed by the Project Director. He is operational and managerial in charge of the project and heads the organizational structure established at the district and lower levels for implementing the program. The Project Director is supported by a team of Managers, Assistant Managers, and support staffs for different functions for managing and implementing the Project. RPMU consists of following key personnel to support the Project Director:

- (i) Project Manager (Livelihoods and Rural Marketing)
 - Assistant Project Manager (Livelihoods and Rural Marketing)
 - Assistant Project Manager (Skill Development and Placement)
- (ii) Project Manager (Social, Gender and Community mobilization).

⁵⁴NERLP-Ministry of DoNER (2012) *Project Implementation Plan* p-66

- Assistant Project Manager (Social, Gender and Community Mobilization)
- (iii) Project Manager (NRM and Environment)
- Assistant Project Manager(NRM and Environment)
- (iv) Project Manager (Microfinance)
- (v) Assistant Project Manager (Micro Finance).
- (vi) Project Manager (Monitoring & Evaluation)
- (vii) Project Manager (Administration)
- (viii) Assistant Project Manager (Human Resource)
- (ix) Project Manager (Procurement)
- (x) Project Manager - Finance and Accounts
- (xi) Assistant Project Manager - Finance & Accounts x. Assistant Project Manager (Communications)

Support Staff

- (i) M&E Assistant (1)
- (ii) Accounts Clerk (2)
- (iii) Office Assistant (2)
- (iv) Office Attendant (2)
- (v) Driver(1)

There is a phasing of staff recruitment with assistant staff hired as the project grows and expands its operations. The MIS design, uploading, maintenance, and updating are outsourced. Besides, RPMU hired the services of subject matter specialists, viz. in NRM, agriculture, dairy, etc. as and when found necessary to increase the effectiveness of the project.⁵⁵

⁵⁵ NE2RLP-Ministry of DoNER (2012) *Project Implementation Plan* p-67

Table No. IV: 3

Project Authority at Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU)

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Email
1.	Shri H K Hajong	Project Director	
2.	Shri Paul Lokho	Chief Operating Officer	nerlp.coo@gmail.com
3.	Ms.Roushan Rahman	Project Manager, Finance & Accounts	pm.fa.nerlp@gmail.com
4.	Shri Adahe Sibochachei	Project Manager, Procurement	pm.procurement.nerlp@gmail.com
5.	Shri Sisir Kumar Swain	Project Manager, Administration	pm.pa.nerlp@gmail.com
6.	Mrs.Jusmita Borah	Project Manager, Natural Resource Management & Environment	pm.nrm.nerlp@gmail.com
7.	Shri Damodar Mishra	Project Manager, Micro Finance	pmmf.nerlp@gmail.com

8.	Shri S.L Peter	Project Manager, Social Gender & Community Mobilization	pm.sgcm.nerlp@gmail.com
9.	Shri Puberun Dekaphukan	Project Manager,(Livelihood & Rural Marketing)	pm.lrm.nerlp@gmail.com
10.	Shri Awaneesh Kumar Tiwari	Project Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation	pm.mnev.nerlp@gmail.com
11.	Dr.L.Jitendro Singh	Assistant Project Manager(NRM&E)	apm.nrm.nerlp@gmail.com
12.	Shri Toishab Jyoti Gohain	Assistant Project Manager(Human Resource)	apm.hrm.nerlp@gmail.com
13.	Shri Shubhram Goswami	Assistant Project Manager(L&RM)	apm.lrm.nerlp@gmail.com
14.	Shri Joseph Amo Jojo	Assistant Project Manager(SG&CM)	apm.sgcm.nerlp@gmail.com
15.	Shri Manoj Pathak	Assistant Project Manager(Micro Finance)	apm.mf.nerlp@gmail.com
16.	Shri Manjit Das	Assistant Project Manager(Finance)	apm.f.nerlp@gmail.com

17.	Shri Rajneesh Borkotoky	Personal Assistant to Project Director	pa.pd.nerlp@gmail.com
18.	Shri Simanta Hazarika	Office Assistant	oa2.nerlp@gmail.com

Source : Project Implementation Plan, NERLP

The above table is about the project authority at the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) which indicates their designations.

4.2.4 State Coordination Unit

In each Project states there is a State Coordination Unit (SCU) headed by State Nodal Officer. The concerned State Nodal Department appointed State Project Coordinator purely on contractual/temporary basis to assist the State Nodal Officer. SCU ensures full involvement in project preparation and extends help to RPMU in the design of the Project. The major role of the State Coordination Unit is in achieving convergence with various government schemes. The SC maintains close liaison & effective communication between relevant departments of the State Government, Commercial banks, RRBs, Development Agencies & Project Office.

4.2.5 District Project Management Units (DPMU)

District Project Management Units (DPMU) are set up in the district headquarters of the selected districts in the four States. There is District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) established jointly by the NELPS and the state government for oversight, monitoring, and convergence with other programs at the district level. DPAC is chaired by the Deputy Commissioner and would have other district officers from line departments and banks, etc. As stated in Project

Implementation Plan, DPAC in Aizawl District was set up on 5th June 2015 vide letter No. K.11011/1/2013/-RD (NERLP) dated 11th September 2014.

DPAC, NERLP Aizawl District

1. Deputy Commissioner	Chairman
2. District Project Manager	Member Secretary
3. Lead District Manager, SBI	Member
4. Project Director, DRDA	Member
5. State Coordinator	Co-convener
6. APO (WD) DRDA	Member

The first DPAC meeting was held on 10th March 2016 under the Chairmanship of Shri. Kannan Gopinathan (IAS), DC of Aizawl District. The Second DPAC meeting was held on 25th July 2016. The Committee during the second meeting had discussed various issues of convergence with another line department especially that of DRDA, mobilization of microcredit bank loan for SHG members, and entrepreneurship training for unemployed youth in the rural areas.

In Aizawl District, the important functions of the project are implemented by District Project Management Unit (DPMU). As mentioned in the Project Implementation Plan, The DPMU is headed by the District Project Manager and would have the following officers & support staff:

- Coordinator Social, Gender and Community mobilization
- Coordinator Microfinance
- Coordinator Livelihoods and Marketing
- Coordinator NRM and Environment
- Coordinator M& E
- Accounts Officer

Support Staffs:

- Accountant
- MIS operator
- Office Assistant
- Office Attendant
- Driver

Besides, DPMU would also hire technical experts in sectors for which expertise is not available locally, e.g. horticulture, agriculture, animal husbandry, etc.

Table No. IV: 4

Staff Distribution in District Project Management Unit, Aizawl District

Sl.No.	Staff distributions	Numbers
1	District Project Management Unit	13
2	Project Facilitation Team	35
3	SHG Facilitator	104
4	Bank Facilitator	18
5	Livestock Health Worker/ Para veterinary	18
	Total	188

Source: Field Study

The above table indicates the staff distribution in District Project Management Unit with the numbers.

Table No. IV: 5

DPMU Staff engagement, Aizawl District

Sl No	Name	Designation	Address	Contact No
1	Reuben Ranglong	District Project Manager	Thuampui	9402399226
2	Lalrinmawia	Accounts Officer	Zemabawk	9436147634
3	Emily Zoremsangi	Accountant	Electric Veng	9774782778
4	H Lalchamreia	Coordinator (Natural Resource Management & Environment)	Ramhlun South	9612465066
5	Betsie Vanlalpeki	Coordinator (Livelihood & Rural Marketing)	Chaltlang	9774582311
6	R Vanlalruati	Coordinator (Social Gender & Community Mobilisation)	Zemabawk	9862139600
7	Lalthanpuia	Coordinator (Micro Finance)	Kulikawn	9774611792
8	J Lalbiakthanga	Coordinator (Monitoring & Evaluation)	Vaivakawn	8729867854
9	H Lalrinzuala	Management Information System Operator	Ramhlun North	9402323302

10	Lalmuanpuii	Office Assistant	Khatla	9612082002
11	PC Lalremruata	Office Attendant	Ramhlun South	9862815539
12	Lalthlamuana	Driver	Dawrpui Vengthar	9862670068
13	Zoramchhana	Engineer (Technical Consultant)	Bawngkawn	9862989154
14	H Lalruatfela	Doctor (Technical Consultant)	Mission Veng	8974964047
15	Lalrinpari	Cleaner	Bawngkawn	8415966439

Source: Field Study

The detail staff engagement in the District Project Management Unit, Aizawl is indicated in the above table with their designation, address and contact number.

4.2.6 Project Facilitation Team (PFT)

Project Facilitation Teams (PFT) are working at the cutting edge at the interface of the project and the community. PFT is one of the most important units in project implementation. All other institutional arrangements would help the PFT to work effectively and achieve the desired outcomes of the project. The PFTs are directly recruited by the project or the services of NGOs would be taken for them to set up the PFTs. The selection of NGOs would be based on detailed criteria as spelled out in the Community Operations Manual. The PFTs operate at the block level. The block will be sub-divided into an area that consists of several villages. The PFTs will be headed by a Block Project Coordinator (BPC) who will be responsible

for all the project villages of the block. Below the BPC there are Area Coordinators (ACs), Accountant, MIS, and Office Assistant.

Structure of PFT

- Block Project Coordinator
- Area Coordinators
- Accountant

Support Staff

- MIS Assistant
- Office Assistant

Table No. IV: 6

Project Facilitation Team Staffs, AIZAWL DISTRICT

Sl. no	Name	Designation	Contact No.	Email ID
THINGSULTHLIAH BLOCK				
1	Billy Lalmuanpuia	BPC	9862363570	thingsulthliahbpc@gmail.com
2	B Laltanpuia	AC	9612887684	
3	C Lalrawngbawli	AC	8258885954	
4	Irene Hmangaihtluangi	AC	9862385707	

5	Esther Laldinmawii	AC	8575522680	
6	Lalhlimpuii	AC	9089591190	
7	Zothannguri	CFC	8413899296	
8	Lalremtuanga Hnamte	MIS	8014624772	
DARLAWN BLOCK				
1	G Lalbiaka	BPC	8413828812	darlawnbpc@gmail.com
2	K Rambuatsaiha	AC	9615488295	
3	Lalremruata	AC	9856653564	
4	Vanthawmliana	AC	8414095667	
5	Lalrinsangi	AC	9862975363	
6	Lalduhsangi	AC	8794198817	
7	Jacob Vanlalruata	CFC	9615881610	
8	Esther Zomuanpuii	MIS	8730978330	
PHULLEN BLOCK				
1	Biaksangzuali	BPC	8974742063	phullenbpc@gmail.com
2	F Lalrinenga	AC	9612113389	
3	K Ramdinmawii	AC	8794673233	
4	H Roluahpuii	AC	8575494607	
5	Lalmuanpuii	CFC	8257802662	

6	J Lalhmingliana	MIS	8732070339	
AIBAWK BLOCK				
1	Rebecca Zohmingsangi	BPC	9615061218	Aibawkbpc@gmail.com
2	PC Lalremruata	AC	9862815539	
3	Saizampuii Sailo	AC	8730978316	
4	V Lalrintluanga	AC	8730975101	
5	Lalrinkima	AC	9856725719	
6	R Lalchhanhimi	CFC	9862335579	
7	B Lalhlankima	MIS	9856729432	
TLANGNUAM BLOCK				
1	Stefen Lalzungliana	BPC	8730927645	Tlangnuamblockbpc@gmail.com
2	Lalbiakmary	AC	9774176193	
3	Vanlalawmawia	AC	8794374974	
4	Mary Lalrinpuii	AC	9862390564	
5	Lalmuanpuii	CFC	9612669492	
6	Remsangzuali	MIS	9862140557	

Source: Field Study

The above table indicates the details of the Project Facilitation Team in Aizawl District which covers their name, designation and contact number.

4.2.7 Community Service Provider

The Project Facilitation Team (PFT) forms the community organizations like CDGs, SHGs, SHG village Federations, and Producer Organizations in the respective blocks. For the better implementation of the project, the PFTs appointed the staff under them in their blocks, which is very important and required in the day-to-day functions of the PFTs, and named as Community Service Provider. There are three types of Community Service Providers as Bank Facilitator, Para-Professional, and Self-Help Group Facilitator. Bank Facilitator is appointed to help SHG in dealing with the banks. Para-Professional is to help villagers to solve the problems in livestock and trained to give medical treatment within the area. SHG Facilitator is appointed to help SHGs in their functions such as keeping book records, keeping financial accounts, and give training to the SHGs. The details of the Community Service Providers are indicated in the following tables.

Table No. IV: 7

Details of the Bank Facilitators, Aizawl District

Sl. No.	Name and Address	Block	Cluster Villages	Contact Details (Phone No. & e-mail)
1	Laldanglovi D/o Chhuanvawra Sihphir	Tlangnuam	1.Sihphir 2.Sihphir Venghlun 3.Muthi 4.Tuirial 5.Tuirial Airfield	9612027438

2	Lalmuankimi D/o K. Vanlalsiama Lungleng	Tlangnuam	1.Lungleng I 2.Lunhleng N 3.Samtlang 4.Sihhmui	8414091722
3	Lalengmawia S/o Ral hatchhunga Rulchawm	Thingsulthliah	1. Seling 2. Sesawng 3. Keifang 4. Saitual 5. Rulchawm	9862896783
4	Zothanpuia S/o Batula Tlungvel	Thingsulthliah	1. Tlangnuam 2. Thingsulthliah 3. Darlong 4. Tlungvel 5. Phulmawi	9612874113
5	Lalsangliana Hnamte s/o H. Siamhnuna Sihfa	Thingsulthliah	1. Dilkhan 2. Sihfa 3. Tualbung 4. N.Lungpher 5. Buhban	9862075405
6	Lalmukima Khangte S/o Laltlanliana Khangte Tawizo	Thingsulthliah	1. Ruallung 2. Mualpheng 3. Lenchim 4. Tawizo 5. Maite	9856435329
7	J. Lalbiakmawia Khawlian	Phullen	1. Phuaibuang 2. Khawlian 3. NE Tlangnuam 4. Daido	9862374625

8	Jonathan Vanromawia Suangpuilawn	Phullen	1. Suangpuilawn 2. Lamherh 3. Vanbawng 4. Khawlek	6912521569
9	H. Laltanpuia Zawngin	Phullen	1. Thanglailung 2. Phullen 3. Luangpawng 4. Zawngin	9612861179
10	Lalremsiami Melriat	Aibawk	1. Huangngohmun 2. Melriat 3. Kelsih 4. Falkawn 5. Muallungthu	9612200521
11	R. C. Vanlalrawna Phulpui	Aibawk	1. Tachhip 2. Aibawk 3. Sateek 4. Phulpui 5. Maubuang	9856722640
12	Zosangpuii Hmuifang	Aibawk	1. Thiak 2. Sumsuih 3. Hmuifang 4. Lamchhip 5. Chawilung	8974715351 8731069085
13	Lalmuansanga Sialsuk	Aibawk	1. Chamring 2. Sialsuk 3. Sailam 4. Samlukhai 5. Lunglei	9612700679

14	Lalzoliana Zohmun	Darlawn	1. Mauchar 2. Palsang 3. Zokhawthiang 4. Zohmun 5. Tinghmun	8014364526
15	Thanglianmawia Sakawrdai	Darlawn	1. N. Khawdungsei 2. U. Sakawrdai 3. Khawpuar 4. Vaitin 5. Sakawrdai 6. Thingsat	8730974092
16	H.B. Zothansanga N. Vervek	Darlawn	1. New Vervek 2. Damdai 3. Lungsum 4. Ratu 5. Sailutar	8729916299
17	Sakhawliana Ralte N. Serzawl	Darlawn	1. Sunhluchhip 2. N. Serzawl 3. CC Khawpui 4. Sawleng 5. Kepran	9863643638
18	Vanlalhrila Khawruhlian	Darlawn	1. E. Phaileng 2. Pehlawn 3. Khanpui 4. Lailak 5. Hmunghak 6. Khawruhlian	9612705185

Source: Field Study

The above table is about the details of Bank Facilitators in Aizawl District. Bank Facilitators play very important role and help Self-Help Groups in dealing with banks.

Table No. IV: 8

Details of Para Professional, Aizawl District

Sl.No.	Name of Para Vet	Contact No.	Name of Block	Name of villages	
1	Mr. V Lalhruaitluanga	8415066393	Aibawk	1	Aibawk
				2	Tachhip
				3	Phulpui
				4	Sateek
				5	Maubuang
2	Mr. Zothanpuia	9615951426	Aibawk	1	Muallungthu
				2	Falkawn
				3	Kelsih
				4	Melriat
				5	Hualngohmun
3	Mr. Zirsangzuala	9856119816	Aibawk	1	Chawilung
				2	Lamchhip
				3	Hmuifang

				4	Sumsuih
				5	Thiak
4	Mr. Laldusaka	8974749346	Tlangnuam	1	Lungleng-I
				2	N Lungleng
				3	Samtlang
				4	Turial Airfield
				5	Tuirial
5	Mr. J Vanneihchhunga	8414901888	Tlangnuam	1	Sihhmui
				2	Muthi
				3	Sihphir
				4	Sihphir Venghlun
6	Mr. B Lalhualvela	9863145883	Thingsulthliah	1	Sesawng
				2	Thingsulthliah
				3	Darlawng
				4	Tlungvel
				5	Phulmawi
7	Mr. Lalhruaitluanga	8014744170	Thingsulthliah	1	Tualbung
				2	Dilkhan
				3	Sihfa
				4	N Lungpher

				5	Buhban
8	Mr. K Laltanpuia	8014244498	Thingsulthliah	1	Keifang
				2	Saitual
				3	Rulchawm
				4	Seling
				5	Tlangnuam
9	Mr. Lalrinnggheta	9612840205	Thingsulthliah	1	Maite
				2	Tawizo
				3	Lenchim
				4	Mualpheng
				5	Ruallung
10	Mr. Lalmuanpuia Kawlni	8014974308	Darlawn	1	Khawruhlian
				2	Hmunnghak
				3	Khanpui
				4	Lailak
				5	Pehlawn
				6	E Phaileng
11	Mr. Lalhmunhlua	89719168765	Darlawn	1	N Serzawl
				2	Chhanchuahna
				3	Sunhluchhip
				4	Sawleng

				5	Kepran
12	Mr. Lalvarsanga	9856520351	Darlawn	1	Vaitin
				2	Khawpuar
				3	Sakawrdai
				4	U Sakawrdai
				5	Thingsat
				6	N Khawdungsei
13	Mr. Andrew Lalramnghaka	8794886303	Darlawn	1	New Vervek
				2	Damdiai
				3	Lungsum
				4	Ratu
				5	Sailutar
14	Mr. R Khawllianzuala	8575383612	Darlawn	1	Zohmun
				2	Palsang
				3	Mauchar
				4	N Tingmun
				5	Zokhawthiang
15	Mr. Lalhmachhuana	8257913167	Phullen	1	Khawlian
				2	Phuaibuang
				3	NE

					Tlangnuam
				4	Daido
16	Mr. Lalsangzela	9856057528	Phullen	1	Phullen
				2	Thanglailung
				3	Zawngin
				4	Luangpawn
17	Mr. Ramthangvela	8794508193	Phullen	1	Suangpuilawn
				2	Lamherh
				3	Vanbawng
				4	N Khawlek

Source: Field Study

The above table indicates the details of Para Professionals in Aizawl District. They assist the villagers and facilitate the livestock and cover their own areas. They are attending training to look after the livestock of the villagers such as piggery, goatary etc. and give medical treatment.

Table No. IV: 9

Details of the Self-Help Group Facilitators, Aizawl District

Sl. No	Name	Permanent Address	Block	Village allocated	Contact No.
1	Lalthamawii	Aibawk	Aibawk	Aibawk	9862809525
2	Lalramthari Colney	Sialsuk	Aibawk	Sialsuk	8731915627
3	Chalkhuma	Sateek	Aibawk	Sateek	8014595492
4	V. Lalliansanga	Samlukhai	Aibawk	Samlukhai	8415061803
5	Lalliannguri	Melriat	Aibawk	Melriat	9436159909
6	Lallianmawii	Sailam	Aibawk	Sailam	9874589032
7	Zothanmawii	Falkawn	Aibawk	Falkawn	8014686096
8	Lalramhmuaki	Lamchhip	Aibawk	Lamchhip	9862326565
9	Lalramnghaki	Chamring	Aibawk	Chamring	7308233664
10	Hualkungi	Sumsuih	Aibawk	Sumsuih	9612181154
11	Zothanpari	Hualngohmun	Aibawk	Hualngohmun	9436194734
12	R. Lalrohlua	Maubuang	Aibawk	Maubuang	8974421621
13	Lalbiakduhawmi	Phulpui	Aibawk	Phulpui	8732857340
14	Vanlalruati	Muallungthu	Aibawk	Muallungthu	9615431632
15	Ramnghingliani	Lungsei	Aibawk	Lungsei	8974963384
16	Lalruatkima	Thiak	Aibawk	Thiak	9862379084

17	Lalnunzira	Hmuifang	Aibawk	Hmuifang	9436963004
18	Zokhumi	Chawilung	Aibawk	Chawilung	8862290280
19	Zorempuii	Kelsih	Aibawk	Kelsih	9612674186
20	Lalrinawmi	Tachhip	Aibawk	Tachhip	
21	Lallawmtluangi	Sialsuk	Aibawk	Sialsuk	9862054114
22	Zothanpari	Rulchawm	Thingsulthliah	Rulchawm	9612674186
23	Lalbiakkimi	Keifang	Thingsulthliah	Keifang	9615455560
24	Laltlanthangi	Phulmawi	Thingsulthliah	Phulmawi	8974758849
25	PC Lalrosangi	Seling	Thingsulthliah	Seling	9862343902
26	R. Lalzauvi	Tlungvel	Thingsulthliah	Tlungvel	8575461146
27	Sailothangi	Darlawng	Thingsulthliah	Darlawng	8014336470
28	Zarzoliani	N. Lungpher	Thingsulthliah	N. Lungpher	8014128455
29	Zohmingi	Thingsulthliah	Thingsulthliah	Thingsulthliah	9856271855
30	Lalhruaitluangi	Tawizo	Thingsulthliah	Tawizo	8575879880
31	Tanpuii	Mualpheng	Thingsulthliah	Mualpheng	8575276896
32	Lalmalsawmi	Dilkhan	Thingsulthliah	Dilkhan	8974196438
33	Thanthuami	Tlangnuam	Thingsulthliah	Tlangnuam	9862221356
34	Lungrunpuii	Sihfa	Thingsulthliah	Sihfa	9856151921
35	PC Lalhruaitluanga	Buhban	Thingsulthliah	Buhban	8014162098
36	Lalthaengi	Ruallung	Thingsulthliah	Ruallung	8014163204

37	Zothanmawia	Tualbung	Thingsulthliah	Tualbung	9862363614
38	Lalhruaitluangi	Saitual	Thingsulthliah	Saitual	9612219569
39	Sentei	Lenchim	Thingsulthliah	Lenchim	8575460738
40	Lalbiakremi	Maite	Thingsulthliah	Maite	9862379752
41	Zonunmawii	Keifang	Thingsulthliah	Keifang	8974130636
42	Hmingduhawmi	Saitual	Thingsulthliah	Saitual	9612610015
43	Lalrokimi	Saitual	Thingsulthliah	Saitual	8575216526
44	Laltlansai	Saitual	Thingsulthliah	Saitual	8974838258
45	Darlawmi	Sesawng	Thingsulthliah	Sesawng	8974223162
46	Laltlankimi	CTI Sesawng	Thingsulthliah	Sesawng	8729858088
47	Lungtiawii	Sesawng	Thingsulthliah	Sesawng	9612770198
48	K. Lalthangliani	Tlungvel	Thingsulthliah	Tlungvel	8575698190
49	Lalsawmliani	Thingsulthliah	Thingsulthliah	Thingsulthliah	9615801131
50	Lalramhluni	Sihphir	Tlangnuam	Sihphir	8731008827
51	Lalramhmuaki	Sihhmui	Tlangnuam	Sihhmui	9612393027
52	Lalchhuanmawii	Sihphir Venghlun	Tlangnuam	Sihphir Venghlun	9612122790
53	Lalrinkimi	Tuirial Airfield	Tlangnuam	Tuirial Airfield	9862880034
54	Lalmalsawmi	Muthi	Tlangnuam	Muthi	9612042867
55	Lalmuanpuui	Tuirial	Tlangnuam	Tuirial	9862208534
56	Lalawitluangi	Lungleng I	Tlangnuam	Lungleng I	9612694507

57	Catherine Lalthansiami	Samtlang	Tlangnuam	Samtlang	9862271161
58	Lalrinfeli	Lungleng N	Tlangnuam	Lungleng N	7085266029
59	HS. Lalparmawii	Sihphir	Tlangnuam	Sihphir	9862935726
60	Lalchuanzeli	Suangpuilawn	Phullen	Suangpuilawn	8416046290
61	Lalsiamthari	Lamherh	Phullen	Lamherh	9863643891
62	Vanlalzeli	Vanbawng	Phullen	Vanbawng	9436191509
63	Lalremsiami	N. Khawlek	Phullen	N. Khawlek	9862970492
64	Lalrochhungi	Phullen	Phullen	Phullen	8257039867
65	Remruatsangi	Thanglailung	Phullen	Thanglailung	8575798186
66	Vanlalchhuangi	Luangpawng	Phullen	Luangpawng	8014009677
67	Vanlalsawmi	Zawngin	Phullen	Zawngin	
68	Lalrochhungi	Phuaibuang	Phullen	Phuaibuang	9862814429
69	Lalramhmuaki	Khawlian	Phullen	Khawlian	8414911558
70	Zaithangpuii	N. E. Tlangnuam	Phullen	N. E. Tlangnuam	9863712418
71	Lalthlenghluni	Daido	Phullen	Daido	9863695615
72	Thansangzeli	Phullen	Phullen	Phullen	
73	H. Lalthlanchhuahi	Suangpuilawn	Phullen	Suangpuilawn	
74	C. Lalrammawii	Ratu	Darlawn	Ratu	9863695043
75	Zarzokimi	Lailak	Darlawn	Lailak	8575776518

76	Zothanmawii	Khawruhlian	Darlawn	Khawruhlian	9862651407
77	Khawpuimawii	Damdiai	Darlawn	Damdiai	9863661718
78	Lalawmpuii	Pehlawn	Darlawn	Pehlawn	8794295767
79	Lalnunthari	Zohmun	Darlawn	Zohmun	9774409769
80	Lalruatkimi	Khanpui	Darlawn	Khanpui	9862360270
81	Lalbiakliani	E. Phaileng	Darlawn	E. Phaileng	9862842419
82	Lalmuanchhani	N. Serzawl	Darlawn	N. Serzawl	9863502707
83	Lalpianmawii	Khawpuar	Darlawn	Khawpuar	8415091503
84	Sapthanpari	Vaitin	Darlawn	Vaitin	8414879858
85	Lalneihkimi	Sakawrdai	Darlawn	Sakawrdai	9612041050
86	Vanlalpari	Sawleng	Darlawn	Sawleng	8415851029
87	Chanchinmawii	Kepran	Darlawn	Kepran	8414962847
88	Lalramnghaki	Lungsum	Darlawn	Lungsum	7308347299
89	Lalrinmawii	Hmunnghak	Darlawn	Hmunnghak	9615464405
90	Jenet Laldintluangi	N.Vervek	Darlawn	N.Vervek	9862056145
91	Zothansiami	Thingsat	Darlawn	Thingsat	
92	Chhingpuii	Chhanchhuahn a	Darlawn	Chhanchhuahna	7308970836
93	Varsuakzovi	Sunhluchhip	Darlawn	Sunhluchhip	7308285434
94	Lalchhanchhuahi	Sailutar	Darlawn	Sailutar	7308784484

95	Sumropiangi	Zokhawthiang	Darlawn	Zokhawthiang	8730803250
96	Vanlalvuani	N.E.Khawdun gsei	Darlawn	N.E.Khawdungs ei	8415847217
97	Zarzoliani	N. Tinghmun	Darlawn	N. Tinghmun	8575872821
98	Darhmingthangi	Mauchar	Darlawn	Mauchar	9863814934
99	Lalrimawii	Palsang	Darlawn	Palsang	8575285446
100	Biakkimi	Upper Sakawrdai	Darlawn	Upper Sakawrdai	8258091688
101	Vanlalruati	Ratu	Darlawn	Ratu	
102	Lalhruaitluangi	Khawruhlian	Darlawn	Khawruhlian	
103	Elizabeth Lalrengpuii	Sakawrdai	Darlawn	Sakawrdai	
104	Lalchhuanthangi	Khanpui	Darlawn	Khanpui	

Source: Field Study

The above table indicates the details of Self-Help Group Facilitators within the Aizawl District. SHG Facilitators play a very important role in facilitating and assisting Self- Help Groups in their areas. They are helping SHGs in maintaining records, maintaining accounts, and many other activities. The importance of the SHG Facilitator cannot be over-emphasized in NERLP.

This chapter is about the organisational structure of the North East Rural Livelihood Project. This chapter covers the origin, structure, personnel, procedures, etc. in the implementation of the project. This chapter also states the administrative linkages with the Central Government and the State Government, District Officials, Block, and Villages, etc. This chapter in detail highlights the implementation arrangement including the Ministry of DONER, North East Livelihood Promotion

Society (NELPS), Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), State Coordination Unit, District Project Management Units (DPMU), and Project Facilitation Team (PFT). The details about the Community Service Providers (CSPs) are also indicated in this chapter.

CHAPTER – V

FUNCTIONS AND ROLE OF NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROJECT (NERLP)

The previous chapter starts with the importance of the World Bank for the fulfillment of the project and writes about the organizational structure, major functions, and its contribution to the implementation of the NERLP. The importance of the Ministry of Development of the North East Region (DoNER) is indicated in the previous chapter. It is highlighted that NERLP has functioned under the governance and administration of the Ministry of DoNER. It indicates the project authority of the NERLP and highlights the features of the North East Livelihood Promotion Society (NELPS) which says that NELPS is a regional level society registered and established by the Ministry of DoNER. The previous chapter states that the overall responsibility for management and implementation of the project is in the hand of the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) and highlights the organizational structure and personnel arrangement of the RPMU. The previous chapter highlights the role played by the State Coordination Unit in the implementation of the project. It also indicates in detail the organizational structure and personnel of the DPMU which also mentioned the District Project Advisory Committee.

The previous chapter mainly focuses on the structure and personnel arrangement of the Project Facilitation Team (PFT) and their subordinates. The PFT and their subordinates are the key role player in the implementation of the project of NERLP. Some of the important details of the Community Organizations like Community Development Group, Self-Help Group, SHG Federation, etc. are indicated in the previous chapter. The PFT also makes important appointments like Bank Facilitator, Para-Professional, and Self-Help Group Facilitator in their respective area.

NERLP plays a crucial role in the development of rural areas. It takes many actions in the implementation of the project. The important points such as flow of financial sources, project objectives, project guiding principles, project approach, role and responsibilities, and process of working are indicated in this chapter.

5.1 Financial Source of NERLP

NERLP is a World Bank funded project and implemented in four States of North East India. The financial sources of NERLP is indicated as follows:

Table No. V:1

Financial Source of NERLP

Particular	Original Amount (US \$)	Revised Amount (US \$)	Actual Disbursed (US \$)
World Bank Financing IDA-50350	130,000,000	115,975,808	98,884,415
Total	130,000,000	115,975,808	98,884,415
Non-World Bank Financing Borrower/ Recipient	14,400,000	12,544,706	11,957,546
Total	14,400,000	12,544,706	11,957,546
Total Project Cost	144,400,000	128,520,514	110,841,961

Source :<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/332381586198778661/pdf/India-North-East-Rural-Livelihoods-Project.pdf>

The above table indicates the financial source of NERLP. The actual amount of the project is US\$ 110,841,961 and from which US\$ 98,884,415 was financed by World Bank. The borrower/ recipient financed the actual disbursed of US\$11,957,546. Through this, the project was implemented in the four States of North East India.

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS (Exchange Rate Effective {Sept 30, 2019})

INR 70.64 = US\$ 1

5.2 Project Objectives

The Project Development Objective is “To improve rural livelihoods especially that of women, unemployed youth and the most disadvantaged, in four North Eastern States”.

Following from the above, the specific project objectives are to:

- Create sustainable community institutions around women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), youth groups of men and women (YG) and Community Development Groups (CDG).
- Build capacity of community institutions for self-governance, bottom up planning, democratic functioning with transparency and accountability.
- Increase economic and livelihood opportunities by
 - Managing natural resources and improving agriculture for food security and income enhancement from farming and allied activities
 - Skill development of youth for employability and establishment of self or group managed enterprises
 - Establishing backward and forward linkages for economic enterprises
 - Creating access to finance through linkages with banks and other financial institutions

- Creating critical infrastructures
- Develop partnership of community institutions for natural resource management, microfinance, market linkages, and sectoral economic services.

5.3 Project Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of the project is adopted which communicated and reinforced across the organization. Project has monitoring mechanism to see if these are being institutionalized across the project including in the community structures. These guiding principles are discussed below.

- Most disadvantaged people first approach and empathy with community – providing livelihood opportunities for the most disadvantaged is the priority. The most disadvantaged people include women led households, physically handicapped, tribal community, poorest of the poor, etc. The project staff and other stakeholders would be sensitive to community’s needs, wants, customs and traditions.
- Democratic, participatory and bottom up approach and decision making – At the community level the decision would be taken up by discussing the same in a participatory approach. The people at the grassroots would decide what is best for them. The participatory processes would delay the decision making initially but once the decisions are taken, these would be implemented with a sense of urgency and in a time bound manner.
- Time bound performance with sense of urgency – The decisions once taken by the community would then be implemented forthright.
- Transparency and accountability at all levels –The project would promote transparency by putting maximum information about various projects and investments on the web-site of RPMU and would follow all disclosure norms as prescribed by Right to Information Act (RTI). At the community level also transparency and accountability will be ensured.

- Recognition for outstanding performance – The project would develop a culture and core value of high performance. The performance parameters would be clearly laid out for people, teams and institutions at different levels.
- Learning orientation –The project would encourage new things and innovation in the process of doing things, in activities and products etc. and create avenues and forums for sharing and learning from each other.
- Holistic Development – The project would aim at holistic development of the community for ensuring attainment of well-being. It would encourage the empowered communities to access other government supports in health, education etc.

5.4 Project Approach

Though there are several rural development programs underway in the region, still there are major challenges and gaps in the poverty and livelihood sector. The project would have three-pronged approach to livelihood strengthening in view of the above guiding principles and experiences of achieving sustainable development. These are:

- Social empowerment
- Economic empowerment
- Partnership and linkages

Under each of these approaches the project would seek to achieve the following.

5.4.1 Social Empowerment

- Empower the most disadvantaged people in the community – women and the youth in particular – through building coalitions and their institutions to participate more effectively in the developmental process supported by the project and to increase their access and control over assets and services,
- Enable the target group to take full advantage of the poverty reduction programme of government and other agencies through effective convergent action with local government, line departments and technical agencies,
- Achieve increased participation of women in local institutions and in the decision- making process,
- Promote bottom-up participatory planning approach at all levels.
- Enhance saving capacity of the SHGs and increase their access to sources of credit through linkages with banks and other financial institutions,
- Involve the youth to participate in social developmental activities and
- Scale up the innovative approaches for poverty reduction and increased food security as successfully demonstrated in the NERCORM Project.
- Ensure social, economic, environmental and gender equity by developing effective institutional mechanism.

5.4.2 Economic Empowerment

- Enhance capacities of the communities in terms of knowledge, skill and input involved in implementing the economic development programmes,
- Increase productivity and profitability of disadvantaged farming households and generation of multiple livelihood opportunities through diversification and integration of production system with agriculture including crop, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry, agro-forestry and agri-business by making

appropriate value chain analysis and have synchronization among production-processing-marketing.

- Provide linkage to the communities for credit, extension, insurance, market with financial institution, government organization, line department and private bodies.
- Provide opportunity to improve food security through interventions in farm activities by disseminating ecologically benign technology based on effective natural resource management along with generation of skilled and market driven non-farm employment opportunities.
- Promote business with ecologically sound and sustainable farming practices and making production system economically rewarding by bringing productivity revolution, income and livelihood generation and market evolution through economies of scale,
- Provide skill development programmes/vocational trainings to village youth (men and women) for gainful employment,
- Develop value chain relationship. Assess value addition needs and facilitate the same. at community level for ensuring more profit.
- Create micro and small scale businesses around value addition activities and establish effective market linkages for better price realization,
- Develop enterprise around market demands, especially with youth groups
- Asset enhancement strategies built around SHGs and Producer Groups.

5.4.3 Partnership Development

- Develop linkage with banks and financial institutions (government and/or privately owned) for credit access to members of groups and their economic organizations,
- Build synergy and develop linkage with government departments for accessing and co-implementing various schemes and programmes of the government,

- Facilitate market based interventions for improving agricultural productivity and profitability through production of critical mass,
- Strengthen such tie ups into sustainable business partnerships,
- Work with service providers to access various professional services related to accounts and finance, legal rights, technology, markets, etc.
- Develop linkages with research institutions and technology providers,
- Develop partnerships with input suppliers and other value chain participants including value chain stakeholders and
- Assess capabilities & infrastructural gaps and look for point of convergence at local levels to avoid crowded playing field

5.5 Role and Responsibilities of Project Units

Several role and responsibilities are created and allocated among the project implementing unit at the different stages. The important role and responsibilities indicated in the Project Implementation Plan are as follows:

Table No. V: 2

Role and responsibilities of Project Units

Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the programme as per PIP and COM • Recruit, orient and train the project staff • Hire technical assistance and other people/agencies for specific purpose, tasks, activities, etc. • Guide the Districts to work in accordance with the spirit and principles of NERLP
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure speedy arrangement and disbursement of funds. • Monitor the work being done in the field • Establish norms for partnership with NGOs and other agencies. • Ensure timely release of funds for project activities and to various institutions • Ensure timely reporting of state level activities • Coordinate with WB, GOI and States for smooth functioning of the Project • Redressal of grievances. • Establish a platform for information exchange within the project • Work with the state government for convergence with government schemes
State Project Co-ordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing strategic support to DPMU. • Identify the gaps and facilitating the process to plug the gaps. • Ensure convergence with various government schemes. • Coordinate with heads of line departments, district administration for necessary areas with District Project Management Unit.
District Project Management Unit (DPMU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Annual District Plan • Coordination with District Administration, Concerned line departments, local government and banks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative and guidance to the PFTs. • Support to PFTs in the relevant subjects/sectors like land development and NRM, agriculture development, livestock development, business development for higher level linkages. • Monitor the work being done in the field. • Maintenance of records and MIS • Ensure speedy disbursement of funds, both for village level implementation, as well as for administrative purposes • Ensure need based training to Community Institutions, Community Service Providers and Project staff. • Ensure timely reporting of district level activities to RPMU • Redressal of grievances.
<p>Project Facilitation Teams (PFTs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviving and training of dormant SHGs • Formation of Youth Groups (YGs) • Support to CDG for developing annual Community Development Plan and budget • Strengthening of SHGs and CDGs. • Facilitation and support to CDGs and SHGs for implementation of activities. • Identification and selection of Community Service Providers • Facilitation and support for skill mapping of job seekers. • Maintaining databank of youth seeking training and their placement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranging training of youth – linking with DPMU for the purpose • Sensitization of Primary Producers for federating in a Producer/Service Organizations/Associations • Support of formation of Producer/Service Organizations/Associations • Ensure timely reporting of PFT level activities. • Coordinating with local authorities and banks. • Marketing and linkage support to the community. • Maintenance of records and MIS. • Redressal of grievances.
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Source: Project Implementation Plan, NERLP

The above table indicates the several role and responsibilities given to the implementing agency at several levels from the top to the bottom level for the efficient implementation of the project.

5.6 Process of Working

In Aizawl District, the project covers 88 villages divided from 5 Blocks. The target population is determined on the basis of participatory wealth ranking, using participatory rural appraisal (PRA) techniques. The project adopts a saturation approach at the village level. Under saturation approach project Endeavour to reach to 70% of the poorer households in the village.

Table No. V: 3

Block wise distribution of Villages

SL.NO.	BLOCK	NO. OF VILLAGES
1	TLANGNUAM	9
2	THINGSULTHLIAH	20
3	PHULLEN	12
4	DARLAWN	27
5	AIBAWK	20
TOTAL		88

Source: Field Study

This table is about the block-wise distribution of villages in the project. In Aizawl District, NERLP takes steps in 5 (five) R.D Blocks which covers 88 (eighty-eight) villages.

In Aizawl District, several actions have been taken in each village and block to fulfill the objectives of the project. The success of the actions depends deeply on the support and will of the people. The Project Facilitation Teams (PFT) play a crucial role at the grassroots level to achieve the targets of the project. Some of the actions taken are discussed in detail as follows:

5.6.1 Village Awareness Meeting

The first step taken by the PFT is to give awareness about the project and its objective. The village authority calls public gathering which is attended by one to represent from each household. The PFT pitches about the project among the people of the villages. This project emphasized people's participation from the beginning.

Table No. V: 4

Village Awareness Status

No. Villages covered by NERLP	No. of villages completed Awareness	No. of villages not completed Awareness
88	88	0

Source: Field Study.

In Aizawl District, the project covers 88 villages and a village awareness meeting was done in every village.

5.6.2 Entry Point Activity

The organization of the village awareness program marks the formal entry of the project into a particular village. During the village awareness meeting about the project, while making the villagers aware of the project, Entry Point Activity is also decided by the villagers as the priority work to be undertaken. The project has the provision of 50,000 INR. for each EPA which is provided for the community asset creation. EPA is the first activity that helps to build the trust and confidence of the villagers. Entry Point Activity (EPA) is to be taken up for confidence building since the village people often treat outsiders with some suspicion and disbelief since promises made by outsiders remain unfulfilled. There is no reason for them to believe the project personnel till they have a positive experience. To demonstrate and

win over the confidence of people an EPA is carried out. The EPA is a common activity that benefits most of the community members. It should address some problems that they face in general. The maximum budget for the activity is 50,000 INR. It is carried out by PFTs directly. More than one activity can be taken up under EPA subject to the ceiling amount. All 88 EPA have been completed in Aizawl District.

Table No. V: 5

Entry Point Activity Status, Aizawl District

EPA UC status, Aizawl				
Sl. No	Block	Name of Village	Name of EPA	UC amount (in INR.)
1	Aibawk	Chawilung	Construction of Market Cum Committee Room/Building	50000
2	Aibawk	Kelsih	Construction of MUP Building	50000
3	Aibawk	Lamchhip	Construction of IVSS	50000
4	Aibawk	Muallungthu	Construction of Side Drain	50000
5	Aibawk	Tachhip	Construction of Extension Of Bazar shed	50000
6	Aibawk	Samlukhai	Construction of Line Side Drain	50000
7	Aibawk	Aibawk	Construction of Masonry Step	50000
8	Aibawk	Chamring	Construction of Bazar Shed	50000

9	Aibawk	Melriat	Construction of Market shed	50000
10	Aibawk	Falkawn	Construction of Masonry Step	50000
11	Aibawk	Hualngohmun	Construction Side Drain	50000
12	Aibawk	Sialsuk	Construction of Pukka Side Drain at Playground	50000
13	Aibawk	Sumsuih	Construction of Bazarshed Store Room	50000
14	Aibawk	Thiak	Construction of village Approach Road	50000
15	Aibawk	Lungsei	Construction of Foot path at Silai Zawn	50000
16	Aibawk	Hmuifang	Construction of Slab Culvert	50000
17	Aibawk	Muabuang	Construction of Side Drain	50000
18	Aibawk	Sateek	Construction of Bazarshed at Stall Veng	50000
19	Aibawk	Phulpui	Construction of Side Drain	50000
20	Aibawk	Sailam	Construction of RCC water point	50000
21	Thingsulthliah	Tawizo	Construction of Public Urinal Shed	50000
22	Thingsulthliah	Mualpheng	Construction of RCC Water Tank	50000
23	Thingsulthliah	Keifang	Construction of Waiting Shed	50000

24	Thingsulthliah	Thingsul	Construction Of Side Drain	50000
25	Thingsulthliah	Seling	Construction of Bazar Shed Extension	50000
26	Thingsulthliah	Darlawng	Purchase of Information Sound System	50000
27	Thingsulthliah	Tlungvel	Construction of Cement Concrete of Tlungvel HSS	50000
28	Thingsulthliah	Phulmawi	Construction Of Side Drain	50000
29	Thingsulthliah	Rulchawm	Construction of Waiting Shed At Zuang point	50000
30	Thingsulthliah	Ruallung	Construction of H/S Kawng Side Drain	50000
31	Thingsulthliah	N.Lungpher	Construction Of Side Drain	50000
32	Thingsulthliah	Sesawng	Renovation of Community Hall at Sesawng Under Nerlp	50000
33	Thingsulthliah	Tualbung	Construction Of Side Drain	50000
34	Thingsulthliah	Sihfa	Construction of Creche Centre	50000
35	Thingsulthliah	Dilkhan	Construction of Road Within the Village	50000
36	Thingsulthliah	Saitual	Construction of Road from middle School to PWD(fourth Road)	50000
37	Thingsulthliah	Maite	Construction of Bazarshed Extension	50000

38	Thingsulthliah	Buhban	Construction of Water Point	50000
39	Thingsulthliah	Thingsul Tlangnuam	Construction of Leitan to Thlanmual Side Drain	50000
40	Thingsulthliah	Lenchim	Construction of side Drain	50000
41	Tlangnuam	Tuirial	Construction of Public Urinal	50000
42	Tlangnuam	Tuirial Airflied	Construction of Thlanmual In	50000
43	Tlangnuam	Sihphir	Construction of V Shaped PCC Side Drain for internal road	50000
44	Tlangnuam	Sihphir Vengthar	Construction Of Repair and renovation of YMA Property Godown	50000
45	Tlangnuam	Muthi	Construction Property House at Cemetery	50000
46	Tlangnuam	Lungleng	Construction of Side Drain	50000
47	Tlangnuam	N. Lungleng	Construction of Bazarshed	50000
48	Tlangnuam	Samtlang	Construction of Property house of Cemetry	50000
49	Tlangnuam	Sihhmui	Contr. Of Retaining Wall	50000
50	Phullen	Vanbawng	Construction of Water Tank	50000
51	Phullen	Lamherh	Construction of Pavillion	50000
52	Phullen	Suangpuilawn	Construction of Public Water Tank	50000

53	Phullen	Zawngin	Construction of Retaining Wall	50000
54	Phullen	Phullen	Construction of Side Drain	50000
55	Phullen	Thanglailung	Construction of Road pavement	50000
56	Phullen	Luangpaw	Construction of Waiting Shed	50000
57	Phullen	phuaibuang	Construction of Public Urinal	50000
58	Phullen	Khawlian	Construction of Side Drain	50000
59	Phullen	NE Tlangnuam	Construction of Waiting shed	50000
60	Phullen	Daido	Construction of Waiting Shed	50000
61	Phullen	Khawlek	Construction of Water Tank	50000
62	Darlawn	Khawruhlian	Construction of Sihpui Water point	50000
63	Darlawn	Hmunghak	Replacement of Gravity main pipe at Hmunghak WSS	50000
64	Darlawn	Khawpuar	Construction of public water point	50000
65	Darlawn	Pehlawn	Extension Of YMA Hall	50000
66	Darlawn	Lailak	Construction of Tanky at Vengpui & Vengthar	50000
67	Darlawn	Vaitin	Construction of Step(for Approach to community Hall)	50000

68	Darlawn	Sawleng	Construction of Dampui water point	50000
69	Darlawn	Ratu	Construction of steps at Bangla Tlang	50000
70	Darlawn	Sakawrdai	Construction of Public Urinal	50000
71	Darlawn	Kepran	Construction of Main Road side drain	50000
72	Darlawn	Lungsum	Construction of water pipeline	50000
73	Darlawn	N.Vervek	Construction of information mike and waitingshed repair	50000
74	Darlawn	Vervek Damdai	Construction of Agri. Link Road	50000
75	Darlawn	Thingsat	Construction of water shed & Repairing	50000
76	Darlawn	Chhanchhuah na	Construction of RCC Water Point	50000
77	Darlawn	E Phaileng	Construction of Field Pavilion	50000
78	Darlawn	Khanpui	Construction of Field Pavilion	50000
79	Darlawn	Sunhluchhip	Construction of internal RD Extension	50000
80	Darlawn	Zohmun	Construction of RCC Water Point Beside Sub Center	50000

81	Darlawn	Sailutar	Community Hall Renovation	50000
82	Darlawn	N Serzawl	Construction of FM Flooming	50000
83	Darlawn	Tinghmun	Construction of Public Water tank	50000
84	Darlawn	Palsang	Construction of Waiting shed	50000
85	Darlawn	Mauchar	Construction of Public Water tank	50000
86	Darlawn	Zokhawthiang	Construction of Side Drain	50000
87	Darlawn	N Khawdungsei	Construction of Public Urinal	50000
88	Darlawn	Darlawn	Construction of Retaining Wall	50000

Source: Field Study

The above table indicates the status and details of Entry Point Activity in the Aizawl District. It covers 88 villages and all the villages completed the works. The cost of EPA is 50,000/- INR for each village.

5.6.3 Participatory Rural Appraisal

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) is carried out by Project Facilitation Team (PFT) in a village. The objective of PRA is to have a better understanding of the village situation, the status of the rural people, problems, and opportunities in terms of development. The main method of PRA is semi-structured interviews, observations, and visual representation. In Aizawl District, PRA is done in 88 villages.

The objective of PRA exercise is to,

- Enhance people participation in development process
- Increase sense of belongingness among target group
- Ensure effective planning & implementation of developmental process
- Provide opportunities to all the people in the village to express their views
- Develop local perspective by becoming more responsive to local people, local situation and the local eco-system
- Mobilize local resources
- Identify and address real needs
- Make effective follow up & monitoring
- Prioritize identified needs
- Have mutual learning.

PRA is conducted through three PRA tools - social mapping, resource mapping and wealth ranking, these methods are used for data collection and social mobilization. Each of the PRA exercise is discussed in brief below.

5.6.3 (i) Social Mapping

A social map gives a clear picture of the physical structure of the village, its infrastructure, demography, socio-cultural characteristics and any other details which can be represented on a map. The objective of social map is to assess and analyse the availability and access of basic amenities existing, public institutions, demography, social and religious groups and their habitats. It helps in understanding the social structure of the village and in planning village activities.

The Social map is prepared in the following way:

- The mapping exercise is done at a public place, particularly at the place where poor, more vulnerable and women can participate with ease. There

should be enough space where people can stand around and participate in the map making.

- The map is usually drawn on the ground in a suitable place, using locally available materials, for example stones, sticks, seeds, color/rangoli powder, etc.
- The process of map making is facilitated and people are encouraged to give data even as one person (preferably from among the community) draws the map on the ground.
- Social map is a pictorial representation of the village. Individual households, with pathways, public amenities like school building, post office, banks etc. are located on the map. The women headed family, migrant family, landless, religious/caste groups, etc. are separately counted and indicated. Road connectivity and distance is indicated. Also given is status of electricity and households electrified, small business units, shops, etc. if any are similarly mapped.
- Various schemes being implemented and households benefitting can be indicated using colours. Also various infrastructure, e.g. road etc. that are coming up or are in pipeline under different schemes is also indicated along with the name of the scheme.
- Various village institutions formal and informal, e.g. SHGs, cooperatives, federation, clubs, etc. are indicated with numbers. The households in these institutions can be indicated in the mapped.
- Once mapping is finished, one person of the village is motivated to transfer the map on the chart paper and it shown it to all participating people for its correctness.
- Some of the information especially figures can be given in tabular form on the chart being prepared or as a separate attachment to the social map.

5.6.3 (ii) Resource Mapping

Resource map enables the study of the land, trees/forests, water and other resources like farm and non-farm outputs from the village, availability of skills, firms, industries, service centres, *haat/bazaars* and regular markets in the vicinity of the village. The objective of resource mapping is to assess and analyse the existence of natural resources- types, extent, utility, availability & accessibility and identification of untapped resources and other resources that can be tapped for development of the village poor.

The resource planning exercise is carried out with villagers in an open meeting.

- Plot wise area of Agriculture land / grazing land / Westland
- Type of agriculture land (Plain/Sloppy)
- Irrigation source and bund at agriculture land
- Type of Soil
- Drainage
- Plantation
- Type of NTFP and distance from the village

By analysing of resources available at present and required additional resource need we can get information as follow: -

- Proposed wells / location of irrigation sources / condition and number.
- Proposed ponds / location of stop dams / condition and number.
- Location of proposed bund / condition and approximate quantity.
- Location of proposed plantation / condition and approximate quantity.
- Proposed region and its area for land development.

The data collected from the resource mapping is useful for Community Development Plan (CDP) of Community Development Group (CDG).

5.6.3 (iii) *Wealth Ranking*

This exercise assists in ascertaining the relative socio-economic status/well-being of individuals and families in a village. It is a process by which all the households, in a participatory way, make a list of families, ranking them in order of their poverty. This ranking is done with at least three different groups of villagers from different economic or social groups. Other techniques can also be used to make such a list, such as distribution of natural resources between families, etc.

The objectives of the process are as follows: -

- To add those eligible families, which are left in to BPL list
- To know the eligible families of the village that can be linked with the project.
- To know economic comparative status of village family.
- To make understanding about village families.

One meeting of the villagers is organized and according to them poorest, poor, medium and rich family will be defined. First the villagers are also asked to define poorest family or ask to set criteria for categorization of income level. For example villagers define poorest families like the families who have less than 1 hac. Non-irrigated land, Mud house, landless family, depends upon labour work, etc.

After wealth ranking, list of all 4 categories' families is prepared. The outcome of the PRA may be placed before the villagers for their kind information and taking their suggestion about how to improve the weak areas.

Table No. V: 6

Participatory Rural Appraisal Exercise Status, Aizawl District

No. Villages covered by NERLP	No. of villages completed PRA exercise	No. of villages not completed PRA exercise
88	88	0

Source: Field Study.

In Aizawl District, PRA Exercise has completed in 88 villages.

5.6.4 Self-Help Group

The self-help group is one of the major focus areas of the project and implemented in the whole area of the district. SHG is a small group of rural poor, who have voluntarily come forward to form a group for improvement of the social and economic status of the members. It can be formal (registered) or informal. Members of SHG agree to save regularly and contribute to a common fund. The members agree to use this common fund and such other funds (like grants from the project and loans from banks in the future), which they may receive as a group, to give small loans to needy members as per the decision of the group. The SHGs are conceived as a self-sustainable microfinance system at the community level.

5.6.4 (i) Membership

NERLP makes guidelines for the membership of the Self-Help Group as follows:

- Woman member of the poorest of the poor or poor household.

- One woman from one family can be a member of SHG [One HH means a family having their own kitchen.]
- Of 18-60 years of age
- Able to save whatever possible regularly and as decided by the members
- Willing to work in a group and follow group norms
- Ready to spare time for the meeting
- Group formed on self-selection basis. Members should select each other and finalize the membership of their group.
- Minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 members would be there in one SHG.

5.6.4 (ii) Formation

Table No. V: 7

Formation Process of Self-Help Group

Stage	The Process	Suggested Tool	Responsible Party	Time Frame	Outcome
Pre-formation stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapport Building with the community e.g. Household level mobilization of targeted poor and Conducting a hamlet/pocket level general meeting. • Understanding the village situation – social , economic, and livelihood 	Casual Visits /Transect walk Community Meeting, Small Group Meeting, Individual Contact Social mapping, resource	Project Facilitation Team (PFT) particularly Area Coordinator & external Community Mobilizer.	One month	Targeted community is sensitized about the need to form a group.

	<p>pattern etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising especially on project indicators • Identifying the target groups • PRA exercise. 	mapping, seasonal calendar			
Dissemination of SHG concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up meeting • SHG concept is explained to community • Identification of members • Assessment of old SHG(gradation, capacity building, receipt of fund from other schemes etc) 	Small Group Meeting, Individual Contact ,& by means of Assessment tool	Project Facilitation Team (PFT) particularly Area Coordinator & external Community Mobilizer.	15 Days	The concept of SHG is understood and adopted by the community
Group initiation stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of the old matured SHG in the project • Rules and regulations in self-help groups are talked about • Familiarize members with Books to be maintained in SHG 	Various Training Programmes Meetings	Project Facilitation Team (PFT) particularly Area Coordinator & external Community Mobilizer. DPSU team	One month	SHG groups are formed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elect Representative and explain responsibilities of Members • Give the group a name 				
Group formation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting of group saving activities, • Internal loaning • Repayment • Opening Bank account • First Grading • Seed capital transferred. 	Meetings, Trainings, Exposure Visits etc.	Project Facilitation Team (PFT) particularly Area Coordinator & external Community Mobilizer.	Six Month	SHG groups formed and begin functioning
Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilization of seed capital • Capacity building • SHG village federation concept 	First Grading Training programmes		One month	SHG are functioning effectively
Livelihood planning stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building, skill trainings • Orientation on Livelihood plans • Livelihood plans prepared and submitted • Second grading 	Trainings	Project Facilitation Team (PFT) particularly Area Coordinator & external Community	Six months	SHG Livelihood plans are prepared

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund transferred – first tranche(after 3 months of seed capital) • 2nd Trench transferred after 3 months of first trench 		Mobilizer. DPSU team		
Graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilization of fund • Formation of SHG Village Federation • Bank linkage • Third grading 	Trainings	Project Facilitation Team (PFT) particularly Area Coordinator & external Community Mobilizer. DPSU Team Experts & trainers	Three Month	SHG qualifies the third grading.

Source: COM-NERLP

The formation process and its detail regulations created for the successful implementation of NERLP are indicated in the above table.

5.6.4 (iii) Role and Responsibilities of the Office Bearers

NERLP adopted SHG for the improvement of the socio-economic improvement of the women. Beyond that, it tries to train women to gain knowledge in maintaining accounts, to become self- sufficient, to impart leadership quality etc.

Each SHG has office bearers and they rotate their office bearer in fix period. The important role and responsibility given by NERLP to the office bearers of SHG are indicated as follows:

Table No. V: 8

Role and Responsibilities of Office Bearers of SHG

Office Bearer	Roles and Responsibility
President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To organize meetings and review sessions • To chair meetings and sum them up at the end • To encourage participation by all members in discussion, decision making and work • To ensure that the group norms and rules are followed and obeyed. • To ensure that the Secretary and Treasurer do their jobs properly. • To ensure that members pay their contributions as decided. • To delegate work and assignments • To ensure that the work plan is followed. • To maintain harmony in the group. • To represent the group at meetings with others. • To facilitate the SHG’s access to the bank s & government offices/programs. • To resolve the conflicts and ensure building of trust among the members. • To inform the financial position of the group to members in the meeting and ensure transparency in money matters. • Ensure appointment of his successor by rotation.

Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To write the agenda and the minutes. • To keep record of attendance at meetings. • To maintain all group records • To read aloud the minutes of meetings. • To deal with letters to and from the group as also within various committees. • To assist the President in day to day affairs. • Secretary will give information about previous expenses and forecast of future expenses
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep the financial records of the group & ensure their safety. • To safeguard and manage the cash. • To report to the members about expenditures and receipts and the balance available in cash or at the bank • To give receipts for money received. • To count the money kept by the group in the presence of the members.
Bank Signatory	<p>President, Secretary and Treasurer will jointly operate the SHG account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To manage the use of the group fund. • For withdrawal of money from bank after getting approval from the members, bank signatories will sign the cheque. • Every year a new member will become bank signatory in addition to President/Secretary so that all members become aware of the banking process

Source: COM- NERLP

The above table indicates the role and responsibilities of the Office Bearers of SHG. Each and every group elected their representatives and named as Office Bearers (OB). There are four positions in the OB such as President, Secretary,

Treasurer and Bank Signatory. They are playing very important role in the administration of the group.

5.6.4 (iv) Status of SHG formation in Aizawl District

Table No. V: 9

SHF formation status, Aizawl District

	Project Target	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
SHG Formation	866	0	497	1013	73	23	13	0	0	1619

Source: Field Study

In Aizawl district, the formation of SHG was started from 2013 -14, it crossed the target with forming 1619 group from five blocks of the District. The details of formation status is given in the above table.

5.6.5 Self-Help Group Federation

The project emphasized the Self-Help Group and it is the main focus of the project. It comprises of the weaker section, disadvantaged people and women, those are organized into a group and having an activity to uplift their socio-economic status. The SHGs in the village are federated into Village SHG Federation.

5.6.5 (i) Formation of SHG Federation

Till the end of the project, 87 Federations is formed in Aizawl District. Formation of Village Federation is under the initiative taken by District Coordinators of (SG&CM) and (Microfinance). The project targets to form 92 SHG Federations, but at the end of the project two federations were not working and they attain 87 federations.

Table No. V: 10

SHG Federation Formation Status, Aizawl District

	Project Target	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
SHG Federation	92	0	0	18	39	31	1	0	-2	87

Source: Field Study

The Federations works as a social service provider, business entity, and valued client of the formal banking system. Such community organizations would also partner with a variety of organizations for providing services to different market institutions, such as correspondents for banks and insurance companies, procurement franchises for private-sector corporations, and delivery mechanisms for a variety of government programs. The federation provides bookkeeping services to the SHGs.

5.6.5 (ii) Role and Responsibilities of SHG Federation

In SHG Federation, there are three important office bearers to strengthen the functions of the federation including President, Secretary and Treasurer. They are playing very crucial role in the functions of the federation.

Table No. V: 11

Role and Responsibilities of Office Bearer of SHG Federation

Name of the office bearer	Role and Responsibility
<p style="text-align: center;">President</p> <p>President is selected or elected for a period of one year from the date of election</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President shall preside over all the Executive Committee and General Body meetings of the SHGVF. In the absence of the President, any member of the meeting may be chosen to preside over that particular meeting. • The President shall represent the SHGVF in other forums/ organizations. • The President would endorse, transfer, negotiate promissory notes, securities and other instruments on behalf of SHGVF. • Be the officer of the SHGVF to sue or be sued on behalf of the SHGVF; The President shall be one of the signatory on all legal documents • Shall recommend the names of community persons to PFT for appointment as CSP. • Shall constitute different committees for the functions of SHGVF. • President will operate the bank account of the SHGVF jointly with the Secretary
<p style="text-align: center;">Secretary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene and participate in the General Body, Executive Committee and arrange for implementation of their resolutions and decisions; • Arrange for maintenance and security of the records and properties of SHG Village Federation; • Manage the funds subject to the control of President/

	<p>Executive Committee and arrange for maintenance of the accounts of the SHGVF;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform all functions assigned by the Executive Committee and the President; • Take corrective or transitory measures when any constitutional or management crisis arises and particularly when the Executive Committee is unable to discharge its functions.
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain cash book of the Federation • To update passbook • To maintain Cheque issue register • Preparation of monthly financial report

Source: COM-NERLP, Ministry of DoNER

SHG Village Federation is endowed with some powers and responsibilities to help the Self-Help Groups in the following aspects:

- To assist in strengthening the performance of member SHGs.
- To review, regulate, supervise the functioning of member SHGs.
- To resolve any conflict that may arise within and across SHG
- To take up various social issues of non-inclusion of the poor, establishing norms for social accountability.
- To facilitate SHG-Bank linkages with commercial banks.
- To manage SHGs' seed grants.
- To monitor the implementation of livelihoods plans.
- Monitoring the activities of Community Service Providers (CSP)
- To facilitate group formation for leftover poor in the village
- To provide technical assistance to members SHGs
- Develop resource base through linkages to implement the livelihood investment plans and thus ensure the economic and social empowerment of the poor households.

- Act as platform to share the experiences and concerns of member SHGs
- Make periodic appraisal and review of financial operations, plan and budget of the SHGVF
- Raise funds for SHGVF and control all financial affairs,
- Fix fees, subscription; contribution, etc. to be paid by Self Help Groups and their members.
- Appoint sub-committee, committees with specific functions, powers, tenure etc., and reconstitute the same or recall any or all the committee members at any time.
- Lend loans to members through Self Help Groups on the basis of their ranking
- Organises agitations at the local and District level, to address issues of injustices, oppression and exploitation.

5.6.6 Community Development Group

The project has a community structure at the village level where Community Development Groups (CDGs) are formed for planning the overall development of the village community. There could be more than one CDG in a village depending on the spread and number of households in the village. The CDG consists of the entire village and in which three members from each house are enrolled for the member of CDG viz. husband, wife, and adult child (preferably female).

5.6.6 (i) Formation of Community Development Group (CDG)

At present, 88 Community Development Groups (CDGs) have been formed in Aizawl district.

Table No. V:12

Formation of Community Development Group, Aizawl District

	Project Target	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
CDG Formation	92	0	100	109	1	-122	0	0	0	88

Source: Field Study

Community Development Group allows all the members of the village including elders and the young, the poor and the rich and women, etc. - to work as one team and facilitate the involvement of people in various issues. It helps interaction among all in the community. There are 88 CDGs in Aizawl District.

5.6.6 (ii) Role and Responsibilities of Community Development Group

- Encouraging non-discriminatory and participative practices within communities.
- Developing practice and policy which protect the environment.
- Encouraging partnership working with outcomes of benefit to communities.
- Ensuring access and choice for all groups and individuals within society, and supporting their independence.
- Influencing policy and programmes from the perspective of communities.
- Prioritizing the issues of concern to people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.
- Promoting social change which is long-term and sustainable
- Assisting people and communities in taking control of their own lives
- Supporting appropriate community-led collective initiatives.

5.6.6 (iii) Power of General Body

- The General Body shall decide amount for monthly savings in Community Development Groups [CDGs].
- It shall have the right to remove or dissolve the Executive Committee and member of Executive Committees at any time during their tenure and elect new ones.
- It shall review and control the work of Executive Committee,
- It shall have the power to change decisions, make modifications, stay or cancel the decisions.
- It shall approve new or modify the rules prepared by Executive Committee
- It shall provide approval to the rules prepared by Executive Committee. It shall evaluate and control the work of Executive Committee.

5.6.6 (iv) Conduct of General Body Meeting

The General Body shall meet at every one month, preferably at a predetermined date or at a date convened by the Secretary in consultation with the President.

- The quorum of General Body Meeting of CDG shall be fulfilled by 60 % representation of total members.
- The representation of women at the general body meeting should be 50%

Executive Committee: CDG would elect an Executive Committee (EC) consisting of nine representatives of which minimum of four would be women. The EC would comprise of Chairperson, Secretary and treasurer. One of them should be a woman. The village Headman will also be a member of a committee

5.6.6 (v) *Functions of Executive Committee*

- To place the proposal of selection on vacant posts, expulsion of any member before the General Body.
- To chalk out village plans for the development of the village with the discussion general body and identify the activities for development
- To ensure monitoring and evaluation of the works carried out by Work Oversight Team and submit the progress report of WOT in the monthly meeting.
- Presentation of Report and Annual Accounts before the General Body.
- The attendance of the Members attending the meeting of the Executive Committee shall be recorded in the prescribed register.
- The Minutes, proceeding and the decisions, of the Executive Committee shall be recorded in the prescribed register and shall be confirmed by the person presiding that meeting.
- All the matters placed before the executive committee shall be decided unanimously.

5.6.6 (vi) *Role and responsibilities of Office Bearers of CDG*

The Office Bearers (OBs) of the group plays very important role in the fulfilment of the group objectives and endowed with powers and responsibilities as indicated as follows:

Table No. V: 13

Role and Responsibilities of Office Bearers of CDG

Name of the office bearer	Role & Responsibility
----------------------------------	----------------------------------

President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President shall preside over all the Executive Committee and General Body meetings of the CDG • The President shall represent the CDG in other forums/ organizations. • The President endorses transfers and negotiates promissory notes, securities and other instruments on behalf of the CDG. • The President shall be one of the signatory on all legal documents
Vice-President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vice President shall perform the functions and exercise the powers of the President during the vacancy in the office of the President. • In the absence of the President, the Vice President and in the absence of both, any member of the meeting may be chosen to preside over that particular meeting.
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene and participate in the General Body, Executive Committee and arrange for implementation of their resolutions and decisions. • To arrange for maintenance and security of the records and properties of Community Development Group, • To manage the funds subject to the control of President/ Executive Committee and arrange for maintenance of the accounts of the Community Development Group • To perform all functions assigned by the Executive Committee and the President
Bank signatories	<p>The bank signatories will be selected for a period of one year from the date of election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive Committee has the right to remove bank signatories at any time during their tenure and elect new

	<p>ones from among the existing committee members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bank signatories operate the accounts of CDG with banks and other institutions, endorses, signs, encashes the cheques.
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Source: COM-NERLP, Ministry of DoNER

The Community Development Group plays very important role for the development of rural areas. The members of Office Bearer (OB) are elected by the people and plays important role for the successful implementation of Community Development Plan.

5.6.6 (vii) *Community Development Plan (CDP)*

Community Development Plan is created and decided by the community for the development activities taken for the uplift of the village. It is required to identify the activities which are necessary for the development of the village and the CDP should be based on that. The CDP planning process includes community needs assessment and prioritization through participatory methods. CDPs focus on the most urgent and tangible livelihood priority of the targeted beneficiaries. The CDP should benefit a significant number of people in the village and make their livelihood activities more viable. CDGs make Community Development Plans (CDP) for the purpose and would be the basis of providing community investments. A major objective of CDP is to convergence with other Government schemes and leverage resources that would help the livelihood activities taken up by women.

Why we need to make CDP is indicated as follows:

- To Enhance the living standards of the community
- To establish unity among the villagers
- To create ownership feeling
- Fulfils basic needs of the community at village level

- Planned and implemented by the community themselves
- Create an opportunity to share experiences
- Value for physical and human resources available at village level
- Operation and maintenance undertaken by the community

5.6.7 Skill Development Training for Youth

Unemployment problem is one of the major problems faced by youth of the nations. Especially for rural youth, it is difficult to find good job which is one of the main backwardness of the rural youth. The main objective of the skill development training is to enable the youth in the project area to find new employment opportunities. The youth would be also encouraged to start their own enterprises based on the skills developed or upgraded to contemporary context and requirement. In Aizawl District till the end of the project, 579 youth were getting training and out of that, 230 were getting job placement.

5.6.7(i) Status of Skill Development Training for Youth

Table No. V: 14

Skill Development Training Status

No. of Youth Registered	No. of Youth Trained	No. of Youth Placed
1040	579	230

Source: Field Study

The above table indicates the status of Youth Skill Development Training and there are 1040 registered youth for skill development, but in actual, 579 youth were trained and out of which, 230 youth got placement.

5.6.7 (ii) Trade Wise Details of Youth Traine

Table No. V: 15

Trade wise details of Youths Trained

Trades	Candidates Trained	Candidates placed/employed
Aviation/Cabin Crew	9	3
Bed side Assistant	25	16
Computerized Accounting	4	44
Cosmetology	26	17
Domestic Electrician	47	16
JCB Operator	15	5
Beauty & Spa	8	6
Graphic design & desktop publishing	6	3
Hospitality	129	40

IT / ITES	27	1
Technician (Laboratory/Dialysis/Physiotherapy/Radiography/Optomety)	56	
Diploma in Pharmacy	2	
Masonry	60	32
Modern Office Management	2	1
Plastic Processing Assistant	12	6
Technician (RACW)	29	8
Motor mechanic	14	6
Security	30	21
Service Engineer	3	1

Tailoring	48	29
Weaving	27	15

Source : Field Study

As indicated in the above table, it is about trade-wise details of youths trained and more than 20 (twenty) trades were offered for the youth. Skill Development for Youth is a very crucial role played by NERLP and makes a lot of employment opportunities for youth.

This chapter focuses on the functions and role of the North East Rural Livelihood Project. This chapter indicates the financial sources of NERLP. It highlights the functions, working, programmes, schemes of the project. It also indicates how they spend the fund on the development of the rural area. One of the most important parts is the beneficiary and this chapter indicates how useful is this project for the unemployed youth, women and the most disadvantaged group of the society.

CHAPTER – VI

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The previous chapter deals with the role and functions of the North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP). NERLP has a lot of functions for promoting the livelihood of the community through Self-Help Group (SHG), Community Development Group (CDG), Skill Development for Youth, Community Service Provider (CSP), and Producers Organisation. It has taken several steps like Village Awareness, Entry Point Activity (EPA), Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), organizing training, and other activities for the better fulfillment of the project. As it has a well-organized structure, the role and responsibilities are allocated among the project implementing units from Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) to Project Facilitation Team (PFT). It plays many crucial role in the uplift of the status of the citizens. It creates many livelihood opportunities especially for the weaker sections of the society and youth of the villages.

The previous chapter also indicates the Project Objectives, Project Guiding Principles, and Project Approach which discusses their system and conditions of works and activities. The previous chapter discusses the process of working and actions taken within the Aizawl District. In Aizawl District, the project is implemented in 5 (five) block which consists of 88 (eighty-eight) villages. The mandate role and responsibilities are indicated in this chapter. The previous chapter indicates the beneficiaries' activities and steps taken for the fulfillment of the project and upliftment of their status. The previous chapter also indicates the programs implemented by NERLP at the village level and it also indicates the funds given to the people through several groups organized by NERLP. Organizing training is one of the important role played by NERLP and which is indicated in the previous chapter.

6.1 Socio-Economic Profile

The socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries was analyzed with tables as given according to the data and information collected through the questionnaire.

Table No. VI: 1

Age group of the respondents (N=240)

Age Group	No. of respondents	Percentage
18-25	22	9.16666667
26-35	49	20.41666667
36-45	88	36.66666667
Above 45	81	33.75

Source: Field Study

From the above table, it is observed that 22(9.16%) of the respondents were from age between 18- 25, 49(20.41%) of the respondents were in the age group of 26-35. The majority of the respondents were from the age group of 36-45 which is 88 (36.66%) and the age group above 45 attains 81(33.75%). This indicates that the middle-aged citizen mostly involved in the livelihood program of NERLP (The reason is Self-Help Group has the highest beneficiaries in this project).

Table No. VI: 2

Gender Analysis of Respondents (N=240)

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	65	27.0833333
Female	175	72.9166667

Source: Field Study

The present study from the above table indicates that the majority of the respondents are female and holds 175 (72.91%). This means that the involvement of the female beneficiaries is more than male involvement in this livelihood project under NERLP.

Table No. VI: 3

Educational Status of Respondents (N= 240)

Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below Matriculation	178	74.166
HSLC	35	14.5833333
HSSLC	15	6.25
Graduate and above	12	5

Source: Field Study

This study observes that more than the average of the beneficiaries (74.166%) holds below matriculation in their educational status. 14.58% of the

respondents are completing HSLC and 6.25% of the respondents are completing HSSLC. The educated people who completed graduation hold 5%. In simple term, the majority of the beneficiaries are under matriculation and which sometimes create problems in paper works and understanding the project.

Table No. VI: 4

Occupation of Respondents (N=240)

Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	150	62.5
Livestock	39	16.25
Business	34	14.1666667
Others	17	7.08333333

Source: Field Study

This study observes that 150 (62.5%) respondents were engaged in agriculture and allied activities, most of them were practicing shifting cultivation and the study observes that this method is difficult to replace till now. 39(16.25%) of the respondents were using livestock rearing as their main occupation, but still some of them were also do other activities to supplement their occupation. 34(14.167%) of the respondents were engaged in business activities like shopkeeper, Handloom, Soap making etc. 17(7.08%) were engaged in other activities like skilled labour, unskilled labour etc.

Table No. VI: 5

Family Income of Respondents (N=240)

	Category (INR)	No. of respondents	Percentage
Family income/Month	Below 1,000	16	6.666666667
	1001-5,000	95	39.583
	5,001-10,000	85	35.41666667
	Above 10,000	44	18.33

Source: Field Study

This table shows that 16 (6.66%) of the respondents were getting less than 1000 INR in a month. They don't have a proper source of income and they are the target group of this project. 95 (39.583%) holds the majority from the respondents and most of them are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. 85 (35.41%) of the respondents were getting between 5,000 – 10,000 INR from their livelihood. 44 (18.33%) of the respondents were getting more than 10,000. INR and most of them were having stable livelihood like shopkeeper, manufacturing unit etc.

6.2 Livelihood Programme

Livelihood related data and information were collected through a questionnaire and indicated in the following tables followed by the interpretation.

Table No. VI: 6

Programme Acknowledgement (N = 240)

Source	No. of respondents	Percentage
Facilitation Team	156	65
Family Member	60	25
Friend(s)	20	8.33
Others	4	1.66666667

Source: Field Study

The present study observed that 156 (65%) of the respondents get information/knowledge on NERLP through the facilitation team, 60 (25%) respondents were from a family member, 20(8.33%) of respondents get information from friends and other 4 (1.66) getting from newspaper and other beneficiaries. This indicates that the Project Facilitation Team (PFT) fulfills their responsibilities and attains 65% for spreading knowledge/ information about the project.

Table No. VI: 7

Programmes Engagement (N = 240)

Programmes	No. Respondents	Percentage
SHG	190	NA
Skill Dev. Training	56	NA
CDG	85	NA

Source: Field Study

NERLP has implemented several programs, three major programs are highly benefited namely, SHG, Skill Development Training for Youth, and Community Development Group. The sample shows that 190 respondents have joined SHG and 56 members of the respondents were engaged in skill development training. There were 85 respondents who were also engaged in CDG. The majority of these members have been engaged in more than one program which resulted in an access number of respondents i.e. 240 respondents.

Table No. VI: 8

Self-Help Group

Self-Help Group			
		No of Respondents	Percentage
Federation Enrolment	Yes	190	100
	No	0	0
Satisfaction on SHG Federation	Yes	120	63.157
	No	70	36.84
Training	Yes	165	86.84
	No	25	13.16
Benefit from Training	Yes	120	72.72
	No	45	27.27
Major Income Activities	Agriculture and allied	140	

	Livestock	50	
	Loan lending	188	
	Others	170	
Increase in Family Income	Yes	132	69.47
	No	58	30.5
Co-ordination within Group	Yes	160	84.21
	No	30	15.78
Fund from NERLP	Yes	190	100
	No	0	0
Receive Fund in right time	Yes	155	81.37
	No	35	18.42

Source: Field Study

In the above table, the number of respondents was lesser as compared with the previous tables and charts, because, this study also covers beneficiaries other than SHG, many beneficiaries are enrolled in more than one program. The above table indicates the observation of the Self-Help Group. This study observes that all the SHGs were enrolled in the Federation in each village. 120 (63.157%) were satisfied with the SHG Federation in the way of look-aftering the SHGs and 70 (36.84%) of the respondents were not satisfied with the SHG Federation. Regarding training conducted for the SHG, 165 (86.84%) of the respondents were attending the pieces of training conducted by the officials and federation, whereas 25(13.16%) of the respondents were not attending the training. This study indicates that training was conducted as per the norms and almost all the beneficiaries are attending the training. The observation indicates that 120 (72.72%) of the respondents were getting benefits like gaining knowledge, leadership, skills, etc. from training, but 45

(27.27%) were not getting benefits from their training. One of the reasons they told is training is a little bit difficult to understand for uneducated people and gives suggestion to simplify the training system. Almost all the groups were acting as a group and the present study observes that 180 respondents were doing agriculture and allied works for earning money. 50 respondents were using livestock as their source of income and at the time of this, the project mandate lending loan within their group as a source of income. So, 188 respondents were lending loans within their group with having the interest, the interest rate of the group loan is fixed by the meeting resolution of the group. The present study observes that the income of 149 (78.42%) respondents were increased after joining the group, whereas 41 (21.57%) of the respondents say that their income was not increased even after joining the SHG. This study indicates that there was good coordination among the members of the group in the majority of the groups. 160 (84.21%) of the respondents agree that there was good coordination among the members within the group, whereas not from 30 (15.78%) of the respondents. All the groups of the SHGs were getting financial assistance from the program and 155 (81.57%) of the respondents were getting those funds. Almost all the groups were getting funds at the right time, but 35 (18.42%) of the respondents were not getting funds at the right time.

Table No. VI: 9

Skill Development Training for Youth (N=56)

Skill Development Training			
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
Selection Transparency	Yes	52	92.8571429
	No	4	7.14285714
Training System	Yes	41	73.2142857

	No	15	26.7857143
Placement Offer	Yes	33	58.9285714
	No	23	41.0714286
Benefit from Training	Yes	47	83.9285714
	No	9	16.0714286

Source: Field Study

This table indicates the Skill Development Training for Youth. As mentioned previously, the respondents were only 56 and those were the beneficiaries of the Skill Development Training. The present study observes that 52 (92.85%) of the respondents say the selection criteria and process for Skill Development Training were fair and transparent, whereas 4 (7.14%) of the respondents were not agreed with this. 41 (73%) of the respondents agreed that the training systems, courses and institutions and trainers were good enough and but not agreed by 15 (26,78%) of the respondents. Some of the beneficiaries were facing minor problems during their training including language problems, lack of expert trainers, etc. The majority of the respondents 58.92% say that there was a placement offer for the trainee after finishing the training course and it depends on the performance during the training. 41.071% of the trainee were not getting placement offer from the institution/ training agency. 83.92% of the trainee were getting benefits from the training programme whereas 16.07% of the trainee were not getting benefits from training programme.

Table No. VI: 10

Community Development Group (CDG) (N=85)

Community Development Group			
		No. of Respondents	Percentage
Awareness about CDG	Yes	72	84.7058824
	No	13	15.2941176
Transparency of Work	Yes	68	80
	No	17	20
Coordination within Group	Yes	74	82.3529412
	No	11	12.9411765
Coordination between PFT and CDG	Yes	78	91.7647059
	No	7	8.23529412

Source: Field Study

In this study, there were 85 respondents from the beneficiaries and were selected through random. Regarding awareness about the Community Development Group (CDG), 72 (84.705%) of the respondents were getting awareness about the organization, functions, and working process of the CDG. 13 (15.29%) of the respondents were not knowing the CDG in details. This shows that the project needs to spread about the project to the beneficiaries as much as possible. Each work is done by the CDG itself. 68 (80%) of the respondents say that the working process of the CDG is fair and transparent, whereas not by 17 (20%) of the respondents. During the implementation of the project and in the administration of the group, 74 (87.05%) of the respondents says that there was good coordination among the members of the group, but not by 11 (12.9%) of the respondents. There was good

coordination between the Project Facilitation Team (PFT) and CDG from the opinion of 78 (91.76%) respondents during the implementation of the project. But, 7 (8.23%) of the respondents say that there were no good relations and coordination between PFT and CDG members.

6.3 Officials and Beneficiaries

This part is about the officials and beneficiaries – their coordination, relation, condition of working, etc. and indicated in the following tables and charts:

Table No. VI: 11

Project Monitoring (N=240)

Monitoring	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Good	164	68.3333333
Satisfy	50	20.8333333
Not Satisfy	26	10.8333333

Source: Field Study

The Project Facilitation Team and other officials of the project were responsible to monitor the works and implementation of the project. During the implementation, 164 (68.33%) of the respondents says that the PFTs were good in monitoring the works, 50 (20.8%) of the respondents were satisfied with PFT in terms of monitoring, but, 26 (10.8%) of the respondents were not satisfied by the PFTs in monitoring the project.

Table No. VI: 12

Coordination between Officials and Beneficiaries (N = 240)

	Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Coordination	Yes	190	79.16
	No	50	20.83

Source: Field Study

The above table indicates that 190 (79.16%) of the respondents say that there was good coordination between the officials and beneficiaries of the project during the implementation. But 50 (20.83 %) of the respondents were thinking that there was some gap and miscommunication between the Officials and the beneficiaries.

6.4 Impact of the Project

The present study measures the impact of the project and indicated as follows:

Table No. VI: 13

Increase in Income (N=240)

Increasing Income	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	140	58.33
No	48	20
I don't know	52	21.66

Source: Field Study

The main objective of this project is to uplift the status of the rural poor people. For this, improvement in the income is very important. The income of 140 (58.33%) respondents was increased after the implementation of this project. It is one of the most important successes of the project. But at the time of this, 48 (20%) of respondents' income was not increased and 52 (21.66%) don't know whether it was improved or not.

Table No. VI: 14

Increase Rate of Income (N=140)

Rate of Increasing	No. of Respondents	Percentage
5-20%	110	78.57
21-40%	26	18.57
41-60%	4	2.85
Above 60%		

Source: Field Study

The above table indicates the growth rate of respondents' income after implementation of the project. 110 (78.57%) of the respondents' income were increased between 5 – 20% and 26 (18.57%) of respondents' income were increased by 21- 40%. 4 (2.85%) of respondents' income were increased by 41-60%. This observation indicates that there is improvement after implementation of the project and which is a very important point that indicates the success of the project.

Table No. VI: 15

Acquiring Assets (N=240)

Acquiring Assets	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	152	63.33
No	88	36.66

Source: Field Study

This table is about acquiring new important assets and goods after the introduction of the project. 152 (63.33) of the respondents bought important household assets and goods like vehicles, utensils, refrigerators, etc. But, 88 (36.66%) of the respondents do not buy important household assets and goods. This indicates that more than average of the beneficiaries were getting improvement after the introduction of the project.

Table No. VI: 16

Improvement for Weaker Sections (N=240)

Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	191	79.58333333
No	33	13.75
I don't know	16	6.66666667

Source: Field Study

This is a very important measurement for the success of the project. The main objective of the project is to make improvements for the weaker sections of society and youth. 191 (79.58%) of the respondents say that there has been an improvement for the weaker sections of the society. 16 (6.66%) of the respondents were not found the improvement for the weaker sections of the society. This study reveals that there is improvement in the socio-economic condition of the society because the positive answer holds 79.58 % and but may not be as ideal.

This chapter is based on the data collected from the questionnaire, unstructured interview and observations conducted to the beneficiaries and official (implementing agency) of the project. The sample size of the study was 250 covering the Aizawl District consisting of 5 (five) blocks. From 5 (five) blocks, 5 (five) villages from each block were selected and from each village, 10 beneficiaries were selected through a random sampling method. But, we received 240 questionnaires out of 250 and the sample size becomes 240. This chapter indicates the results and discussion of the study including the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries analyzed with tables as given according to the data and information collected through questionnaire and interprets about the results. This chapter indicates the status of the beneficiaries and indicates the working conditions of the NERLP through livelihood-related questions and answers. The impact of this livelihood project is also indicated in this chapter. The issues, problems, and comments are also indicated in this chapter, information are collected from questionnaires and unstructured interviews and observations conducted with the beneficiaries and project implementing units.

CHAPTER - VII

CONCLUSION

This chapter is divided into two parts. The first part is about the summary of all the previous chapters. The second part answers the research questions, indicating the major findings like general issues, problems, and challenges of the project and also provides suggestions for improvement of the project in the future.

PART – I

The present study is divided in seven chapters. The first chapter starts with the concept of poverty and rural development. It highlights the requirement of development in rural areas. The study indicates the status of North East India covering the problems faced by this region other than other parts of the country. The first chapter highlights the North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) indicating the coverage area and how this project is going on. The introductory chapter also consists of a Review of Literature, Statement of the problems, Objectives of the study, Research Questions, Chapterisation, and Methodology used for the study.

The second chapter is named as a conceptual study of rural development and livelihood. This chapter starts with the concept of rural development which indicates its requirement for the upliftment of the status of the people of rural areas. It discusses the concept of livelihood and covering the several problems faced by rural livelihood. This chapter highlights the programmes and steps taken by the government of India for the growth and development of rural areas. This chapter emphasized the requirement of rural development for the overall development of the country.

The third chapter covers the area under study. This chapter broadly highlights the four north-eastern states in which the project is implemented such as Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. Among these four states, two districts

each are selected for the implementation of the project. This chapter focuses on Mizoram and studies in detail the district of Aizawl which consists of five blocks.

The fourth chapter studies the organisational structure of the North East Rural Livelihood Project. This chapter covers the origin, structure, personnel, rules and procedures, philosophy, and process of working in the implementation of the project. This chapter also states the administrative linkages with the Central Government and the State Government, District Officials, Block, and Villages, etc. This chapter in detail highlights the implementation arrangement including the Ministry of DONER, North East Livelihood Promotion Society (NELPS), Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), State Coordination Unit, District Project Management Units (DPMU), and Project Facilitation Team (PFT).

The fifth chapter focuses on the functions and role of the North East Rural Livelihood Project. This chapter indicates for the NERLP takes steps for the uplift and development of the rural area. It highlights the functions, working, programmes, schemes of the project. It also indicates how they spend the fund on the development of the rural area. One of the most important parts is the beneficiary and this chapter indicates how useful is this project for the unemployed youth, women and the most disadvantaged group of the society.

The sixth chapter indicates the results and discussion of the study including the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries analyzed with tables as given according to the data and information collected through questionnaire and interprets about the results. This chapter indicates the status of the beneficiaries and indicates the working conditions of the NERLP through livelihood-related questions and answers. The impact of this livelihood project is also indicated in this chapter. The issues, problems, and comments are also indicated in this chapter, the information is collected from questionnaires and informal interviews conducted with the beneficiaries and project implementing units.

PART II

The present study raised four research questions which have been answered with the help of the data collected from the field study including interactions with various stakeholders like implementing officials, beneficiaries and also from the study of literature like books, articles, reports, documents etc.

The first research question is “*What are the major functions of North East Rural Livelihood Project for eradication of poverty and development of rural areas*”. It has been observed that the North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) plays an important role and many actions have been taken for the development of the rural areas. The first step taken by the PFT is to give awareness about the project and its objective. the PFT introduces the Entry Point Activity among the villagers. This meeting is completed in 88 villages of Aizawl District. The organization of the village awareness program marks the formal entry of the project into a particular village. During this awareness meeting, Entry Point Activity is also decided by the villagers as the priority work to be undertaken. EPA is the first activity that helps to build the trust and confidence of the villagers. EPA is completed in 88 villages of the district. Some important works for the community like market-shed, side drain, public urinal-shed, property house of the cemetery, water pipeline, etc. are selected and constructed

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) is carried out by Project Facilitation Team (PFT) in a village. The objective of PRA is to have a better understanding of the village situation, the status of the rural people, problems, and opportunities in terms of development. The main method of PRA is semi-structured interviews, observations, and visual representation. In Aizawl District, PRA is done in 88 villages. PRA is conducted through three PRA tools - social mapping, resource mapping, and wealth ranking. This exercise assists in ascertaining the relative socio-economic status/well-being of individuals and families in a village. It is a process by which all the households, in a participatory way, make a list of families, ranking them to see their poverty. It is done through a household survey. This ranking is done with at least three different groups of villagers from different economic or

social groups. Other techniques can also be used to make such a list, such as the distribution of natural resources between families, etc.

The formation of a self-help group is one of the main activities to uplift the socio-economic status of the villagers. SHG is a small group of rural poor, who have voluntarily come forward to form a group for improvement of the social and economic status of the members. It can be formal (registered) or informal. NERLP gives funds to support their activities based on their performance, funds given to the SHGs are to be used for group loan capital. Till the end of the project, 87 Self-Help Group Federations is formed in Aizawl District. Formation of Village Federation is under the initiative taken by District Coordinators of (SG&CM) and (Microfinance). SHG Village Federation is endowed with some powers and responsibilities to help the Self-Help Groups.

The project has a community structure at the village level where Community Development Groups (CDGs) are formed for planning the overall development of the village community. At present, 88 Community Development Groups (CDGs) have been formed in the Aizawl district. Community Development group creates Community Development Plan for the welfare of the community. The projected amount of CDG is 10,00,000 INR and the sanctioned amount of the group depends on the project of the group

The main objective of the skill development training is to enable the youth in the project area to find new employment opportunities. The youth would be also encouraged to start their enterprises based on the skills developed or upgraded to contemporary context and requirements. In Aizawl District till the end of the project, 579 youth were getting training, and out of that, 230 were getting job placement.

Beyond these, NERLP plays a very crucial role in the implementation of the Project. Decentralization of power is very useful in this project, the PFTs were empowered to make an appointment of Community Service Provider (CSP) including Para Vet, Bank Facilitator, and SHG Facilitator.

One of the most important functions of NERLP is conducting training for the PFT, DPMU, and beneficiaries of the project. The importance of training cannot be over-emphasized. Exposure visits and other programmes were also conducted for the better implementation of the project.

The second research question is “*Is the working of the North East Rural Livelihood Project effective enough for the development of rural areas in Mizoram.*” The study found that North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) has a well-arranged organization and has many activities in the project to uplift the status of the weaker sections of the society and disadvantaged people. It has a good impact in several ways such as promoting economic activities through self-help groups, skill development training, etc., and also helps in increasing the income of the beneficiaries. This project has a lot of positive impact like making self-confidence, making leadership quality, imparting knowledge to maintain family accounts, record keeping, etc. among the beneficiaries especially in members of self-help groups. It makes improvement and progression in the community assets through community development group, but not ideal. Still, there is a need for improvement of the project such as irregular monitoring of the activities in some areas, overlapping in the implementation of the project, the complexity of the paper works to be maintained by the beneficiaries, etc. So, the study found that the working of NERLP is not effective enough.

The third research question of the present study is “*What are the problems and hindrances faced by North East Rural Livelihood Project in Aizawl District in its implementation.*” It is observed that North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP), Aizawl has faced some problems during the implementation of the project. Some of them are, there is high pressure or target in the implementation of the project, which causes inefficient functioning like overlapping of functions especially in self-help groups (SHG federation has to be formed first rather than SHG, but a lot of SHG were formed before forming SHG federations), making fake

group, facing problem in fund flowing and which causes inefficient use of the fund, etc. The other big problem is the insufficient amount of funds. A community development group is formed to do work to satisfy the needs of the community. But, in practice, the beneficiaries were not allowed to choose agriculture link road and drinking water system due to insufficient amount of funds, but almost all the villagers need these two. So that, the project facilitation team cannot give priority to the primary needs of the community. The other problem faced by NERLP, Aizawl is the lack of a bank facility. In the implementation of the project especially in CDG and SHG, the transaction is required to be done through a bank, but a bank is not available in every village, some of the villages are very far from the bank, which makes some problems in the implementation of the project. One of the important problems faced by the NERLP, Aizawl is in paper works. The format for the project, paper works, etc. is complicated and difficult to understand for the beneficiaries (most of them are below matriculation) and which hindrances the effective implementation of the project. The problems indicated in the above are the major problems, beyond these, the NERLP, Aizawl faces many minor problems and which disturbs the efficient and effective functioning of the project.

The last research question is “*What are the remedial measures and solutions for improving the working and functioning of North East Rural Livelihood Project*”. The project is already ended and but, these are the remedial measures and solutions that similar to these projects may need it. The first problem indicated is that pressure from the top, it is suggested that there should be good coordination and relation between the functionaries from the top to the grassroots level. For this, the top-level should understand unforeseen problems faced by their subordinates and visit as much as possible to see those problems. The second problem is that due to an insufficient amount of fund in the projects, the community cannot choose their primary needs of a drinking water system and agriculture link road. For these problems, it is suggested that allocation of more funds for development works should be made rather than high allocation of administrative cost, which will make the project more successful. The other problem is the lack of a bank facility. As we

know, a bank is not available in every village, but this project mandates bank transactions in the implementation of the project. It is suggested that the project should empower their appointed bank facilitator in every village to do efficient works. The other problem is that the format and some of the paper works (e.g. Utilization Certificate) mandates the implementation of the project. Most of the beneficiaries are under matriculation and difficult to handle for them. So, it is suggested that this type of project has to simplify its paper works and formats, it will automatically make improvements in the implementation of the project.

Major Findings

The major findings of the study are based on the data collected from the project implementing agency and the beneficiaries through questionnaires, unstructured interviews, observation, and interaction.

North East Rural Livelihood Project is a World Bank-funded project and operated in the four states of North East India such as Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. The core objective of this project is to uplift poor people and disadvantaged groups of society like women empowerment, youth empowerment, and other community development activities for the betterment of livelihood. NERLP was approved on 20th December, 2011, and came into effect on 12th March 2012. It has a Mid-Term Review (MTR) in the year 2014. The project has original closing on 31st March 2017, but it was actually closed on 30th September 2019.

Well-arranged institutions at the different levels are created to plan, implement and monitor the project from the grassroots level to the top level which includes the Ministry of DONER at the government of India level. The project has four levels of organizations including the Ministry of DONER, Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) at the regional level, District Project Management Unit (RPMU) at the district level, and Project Facilitation Team (PFT) at the block. The Project Facilitation Team makes the important appointment of Community Service Provider (CSP) at the village level such as Self-Help Group Facilitator, Para-

Professional, and Bank Facilitator to assist them for efficient implementation of the project.

NERLP takes several steps and activities in the implementation of the project, from those, it focuses on Self-Help Group (SHG), Community Development Group (CDG), and Skill Development for Youth (Youth Group). Some of the major findings from these three groups are highlighted and consist of issues, problems, and challenges.

Self-Help Group

In Aizawl District, there were 1619 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) consisting of 16057 members, enrolled by the Project Facilitation Team. There were 87 SHG federations within the district of Aizawl.

The present study indicates that the training conducted by the NERLP makes a lot of improvement in several ways including knowledge of bookkeeping, account keeping, loan repayment, etc. It creates self-confidence for the members of the group.

SHG receives funds from the NERLP to utilize for making a profit for the group. Members of the group borrow money from funds as loans and they repay with small interest. The study reveals that this practice makes a profit for the group and helps the member to take economic activities for the improvement of the livelihood. Funds received by the SHGs are as follows: Seed Capital Fund: INR 20,000/-, Livelihood Funds Tranche – I: INR 40,000/-, Livelihood Funds Tranche – II.: INR 40,000/-, Livelihood Funds Tranche – III.: INR 40,000/-

As per the norms, they rotate their leaders and all members of the group become the leader of the group. The study reveals that the rotation of leaders within the group creates a lot of improvement in gaining leadership knowledge and quality among the members of the SHGs.

In the guidelines and norms of the project, the SHG Federation must be formed to look after the SHGs within their area. The Federation has to assist in the formation of SHG, it has to control and uplift the SHGs. But in practice, the study observes that a lot of SHGs were formed before forming the Federation and this overlapping creates a lot of problems in the flow of funds and creates unproductive utilization of funds in many groups. Some of them were not getting awareness about the utilization of the funds and they distribute them to the members of the group.

The study reveals that the Regional Programme Management Unit (RPMU) gives pressure on their subordinate (PFT) in the implementation of the project by making high target which creates problem in the administration of the project including making fake SHG, adding minor in the group, adding male in the self-help group etc.

The present study indicates that all the SHGs were enrolled in the Federation in each village. 63.157% were satisfied with SHG Federation in the way to look-after the SHGs and 36.84% of the respondents were not satisfied with SHG Federation. Regarding training conducted for the SHG, 86.84% of the respondents were attending the pieces of training conducted by the officials and federation, whereas 13.16% of the respondents were not attending the training. This study indicates that training was conducted as per the norms and almost all the beneficiaries are attending the training. The observation indicates that 72.72% of the respondents were getting benefits like gaining knowledge, leadership, skills, etc. from training, but 27.27% were not getting benefits from their training. One of the reasons they told is that training is a little bit difficult to understand for uneducated people and gives suggestion to simplify the training system. Almost all the groups were acting as a group and the present study observes that 140 respondents were doing agriculture and allied works for earning money. 50 respondents were using livestock as their source of income and at the time of this, the project mandate lending loan within their group as a source of income. So, 188 respondents were lending loans within their group with having the interest, the interest rate of the group loan is fixed by the meeting resolution of the group. The present study observes that the income of 69.47% of respondents was increased after joining the

group, whereas 30.5% of the respondents say that their income was not increased even after joining the SHG. This study indicates that there was good coordination among the members of the group in the majority of the groups. 160 (84.21%) of the respondents agree that there was good coordination among the members within the group, whereas not from 30 (15.78 %) of the respondents. All the groups of the SHGs were getting financial assistance from the program. 81.37% of the groups were getting funds at the right time, but 18.42% of the respondents were not getting funds at the right time. Due to the overlapping of administration, some groups distribute the funds among members of the group and faced problems in the repayment of their loans.

The study reveals that there is an increased self-confidence and self-reliance among the respondents after joining the SHG.

Skill Development Training for Youth

In Aizawl District, 579 of the youth were trained for skill development and out of which, 230 were getting placement. This indicates that the placement rate is 39.72% under the project.

The present study observes that there is a gap between the NERLP and Training Institutions, which creates problems for the trainee. The study also reveals that there is a lack of expert trainers, which makes problems during the training.

The present study observes that 92.85% of the respondents say the selection criteria and process for Skill Development Training were fair and transparent, whereas 7.14% of the respondents were not agree with this. 73.21% of the respondents agree that the training systems, courses and institutions and trainers were good enough and but not agreed by 26.78% of the respondents. Some of the beneficiaries were facing minor problems during their training including language problems, lack of expert trainers, etc. The majority of the respondents 58.92% say that there was a placement offer for the trainee after finishing the training course and it depends on the performance during the training. 41.071% of the trainee were not

getting placement offers from the institution/ training agency.83.9 % of the trainee were getting benefits from the training programme whereas 16.07 % of the trainee were not getting benefits from training programme.

Community Development Group

In Aizawl District, 88 Community Development Groups (CDG)s were formed under this project.

The study found that there were 85 respondents from the beneficiaries and were selected through random.Regarding awareness about the Community Development Group (CDG), 72 (84.705%) of the respondents were getting awareness about the organization, functions, and working process of the CDG. 13 (15.29%) of the respondents were not knowing the CDG in details. This shows that the project needs to spread about the project to the beneficiaries as much as possible.Each work is done by the CDG itself. 68 (80%) of the respondents say that the working process of the CDG is fair and transparent, whereas not by 17 (20%) of the respondents.During the implementation of the project and in the administration of the group, 74 (87.06 %) of the respondents says that there was good coordination among the members of the group, but not by 11 (12.9%) of the respondents. There was good coordination between the Project Facilitation Team (PFT) and CDG from the opinion of 78 (91.76%) respondents during the implementation of the project. But, 7 (8.23%) of the respondents say that there were no good relations and coordination between PFT and CDG members.

As per the norms, the CDG must do the work which must be useful for 70% of the households in a village. The study (respondents) reveals that the fund given to the CDG is up to 10 lakh and which is not sufficient enough to do the works effectively.

As per the norms, the people of the village have to select the works to be implemented. The majority of the villages need a drinking water system and agriculture link road. But, in practice, the RPMU did not allow to the selection of

construction of the drinking water system and Agriculture link road. So, some CDGs were selecting their third choice and this study reveals that they were not excited to implement and did not satisfy the needs of the villagers.

As per the norms and guidelines, all the transactions need to be done through a bank. But there is no bank in every village and some villages are far from the bank and faced problems in the implementation of the project.

The study observes that the paper works required to fulfill the norms of the project were complex and difficult to understand for the beneficiaries and faced problems in many villages. E.g. Utilization Certificate (UC)

Some of the important findings from the general project i.e. North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) are as follows:

The present study reveals that the majorities of the respondents are female and holds 72.91%. This means that the involvement of the female beneficiaries is more than male involvement in this livelihood project of NERLP.

This study observes that more than the average of the beneficiaries 74.166% is below matriculation level in their educational status. 14.58% of the respondents are completing HSLC and 6.25% of the respondents are completing HSSLC. Only 5% of the respondents have completed graduation. This indicates that the majority of the beneficiaries are under matriculation and which sometimes makes problems in paper works and makes some difficulties in the implementation of the project.

This study observes that the majority of the beneficiaries i.e. 62.5% of the respondents are engaged in agriculture and allied activities, most of them are practicing shifting cultivation and the study observes that this method is difficult to replace till now. 16.25% of the respondents were using livestock rearing as their main occupation, but still, some of them were also doing other activities to supplement their occupation. 14.167% of the respondents were engaged in business

activities like shopkeeper, Handloom, Soap making, etc. 7.08% were engaged in other activities like skilled labour, unskilled labour, etc.

The present study shows that 6.66% of the respondents were getting less than 1000 INR in a month. They don't have a proper source of income and they are the target group of this project. 39.58% holds the majority from the respondents and getting between 1,001 – 5,000. 35.41% of the respondents were getting between 5,000 – 10,000 INR from their livelihood. 18.33% of the respondents were getting more than 10,000. INR and most of them were having stable livelihoods like shopkeepers, manufacturing units, etc.

The present study observed that 65% of the respondents get information/knowledge on NERLP through the facilitation team, 25% of respondents were from a family member, 8.33% of respondents get information from friends and other 1.66 getting from newspaper and other beneficiaries. This indicates that the Project Facilitation Team (PFT) fulfill their responsibilities and attains 65% for spreading knowledge/ information about the project.

NERLP has implemented several programs, three major programs are highly benefited namely, SHG, Skill Development Training for Youth, and Community Development Group. The study found that 190 respondents have joined SHG and 56 members of the respondents were engaged in skill development training. There were 85 respondents who were also engaged in CDG. The majority of these members have been engaged in more than one program which resulted in an access number of respondents i.e. 240 respondents.

The Project Facilitation Team and other officials of the project were responsible to monitor the works and implementation of the project. The study found that during the implementation, 68.33% of the respondents says that the PFTs were good at monitoring the works, 20.8% of the respondents were satisfied with PFT in terms of monitoring, but, 10.8% of the respondents were not satisfied by the PFTs in monitoring the project.

The present study indicates that 79.16% of the respondents say that there was good coordination between the officials and beneficiaries of the project during the implementation. But 20.83% of respondents were thinking that there was some gap and miscommunication between the Officials and the beneficiaries.

The main objective of this project is to uplift the status of the rural poor people. For this, improvement in the income is very important. The income of 58.33% of respondents was increased after the implementation of this project. It is one of the most important successes of the project. But at the time of this, 20% of respondents' income was not increased and 21.66% don't know whether it was improved or not. The study indicates that the growth rate of respondents' income after implementation of the project. 78.57% of the respondents' income was increased between 5 – 20% and 18.57% of respondents' income was increased by 21- 40%. 2.85% of respondents' income was increased by 41-60%. This observation indicates that there is improvement after implementation of the project and which is a very important point that indicates the success of the project.

The study found that 63.33% of the respondents bought important household assets and goods like vehicles, utensils, refrigerators, etc. after the introduction of NERLP, but, 36.66% of the respondents did not buy important household assets and goods. This indicates that more than average of the beneficiaries were getting improvement after the introduction of the project.

The main objective of the project is to improve the weaker sections of society and youth. 79.58% of the respondents say that there has been an improvement for the weaker sections of the society. 13.75% of the respondents were not found the improvement for the weaker sections of the society. This study reveals that there is improvement in the socio-economic condition of the society because the positive answer holds 79.58 % and but may not be as an ideal.

Suggestions

Some important suggestions for solution of the problems faced by this project will be highlighted as under and those suggestions will be useful for this type of rural development project for further activities.

NERLP was closed on 30th September 2019 and makes a lot of improvements and did a lot of works, but still, there is a need to give suggestions for the further activities of similar projects in the fulfillment of their goals and objectives. Some of the important suggestions to strengthen the similar rural development activities as indicated as follows:

More than average people of the beneficiaries residing in the rural areas are uneducated and are facing some problems in paper works (e.g. in making Utilization Certificate) and other activities. So that, the project/program should simplify their paper works and activities for easily understandable to the people (beneficiaries).

The study found that there is a high pressure within the functionaries (from the top to their subordinates) in the implementation of the project to achieve the target, which makes overlapping of the activities, making fake groups, and other problems within the organization. So that, there should be good coordination from the top to the grassroots level functionaries and a well-arranged action plan for the better implementation of the project.

In every program and project, training is one of the most important activities. Also for NERLP, training is very important for the effective fulfillment of the project. NERLP organized a lot of training programs for the beneficiaries, but in practice, the study found that those pieces of training are not effective enough to gain knowledge because some of their training programs are difficult to understand for uneducated people. It is suggested that training must be simple enough and easily able to understand for each member of the beneficiaries.

Rural economic development and education are dependent on each other. More than average of the beneficiaries are not getting proper education and faced a lot of problems. It is suggested that education should be more emphasized in the

rural areas which will automatically improve the mindset of the rural people and will be one of the most important strategies for rural livelihood development. If formal education is difficult to attend, even distance education will still be effective.

During the implementation of the project, the beneficiaries sometimes facing problems or sometimes need to push in the fulfillment of the task. So, it is suggested that during the implementation of the project, field staff should regularly visit and monitor the beneficiaries to know the problems and find out the status for the better implementation of the project.

In Self-Help Group, disbursement of group loan is very essential for the promotion of the livelihood activities of individual members of the group. In practice, the interest rate is set by the SHG Federation and sometimes it is difficult to repay by the members. So, it is suggested that the interest rate must be set by each group, and the repayment schedule must be suitable for the poorest of the poor, which will increase the value of group loans for the members of the group.

In Community Development Group under the NERLP, the main objective is to fulfill the needs of 70% of the households within the village. The sanctioned amount is up to 10 lakhs and is not sufficient enough to meet the needs of 70% of households in the village. So, it is suggested that the community-based development project should carry a sufficient amount of money to satisfy the real needs of the people.

The study found that during the implementation of the Community Development Project, almost all the villages need a drinking water system and agriculture link road for livelihood improvement. But, the project authority did not allow a selection of these two activities. So that, most of the villages were selecting their third choice and were not excited to do. It is suggested that beneficiaries must have the right to select their primary needs, which will help in the improvement of their livelihood activities and will help to achieve the project objectives.

The role of NGOs and the social animator at the village needs to be strengthened to educate and motivate the villagers to achieve the goals of the project.

In Mizoram, NGOs like YMA, MHIP, and others play a crucial role in the administration of the village and their importance cannot be over-emphasized. It is suggested that the rural development programme/project should work together with the NGOs for the achievement of the objectives of the project and the improvement of the rural areas.

The study found the importance of people participation for the implementation of the project. From the beginning to the end, the project required people's participation in every step. So, it is suggested that the rural development programme/ project should make the importance of the participation of people during the implementation of their programme/ project.

Regarding the skill development programme for youth, several trades were created to choose from, but some of them are not applicable or useable in rural areas. So, it is suggested that a rural industrialization-oriented program should be prepared to utilize agriculture by-product for the development of village handicrafts and cottage industries.

The findings of the present study are also relevant in the case of similar projects to be implemented by the authorities to implement all the welfare-oriented measures for the rural people effectively and efficiently. It has been observed that the beneficiaries in particular and the rural people, in general, can benefit from such livelihood opportunities. All these important segments of rural people including self-help groups, grassroots level officials, government agencies, civil society groups, and individuals should be involved at all stages such as need assessment, project formulation, resource mobilization, program implementation, monitoring, and feedback. So that, such a program will be contributing to not only self-sufficiency but also to overall socio-economic development in rural society.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX – I

QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire has been prepared by me for the purpose of data collection for Ph.D. research work in the Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University on the topic, ‘Administration of North East Rural Livelihood Project in Mizoram: A Study of Aizawl District’, under the supervision of Prof. Srinibas Pathi.

The data collected will be kept strictly confidential and no personal information will be disclosed in any manner. It will be used only for academic and research purposes.

Aizawl

(JACOB V.L. AWMPUIA)

Part – I

1. How did you get information on North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP)?

- (i) Through Facilitating Team ()
- (ii) Through Family Member ()
- (iii) Through Friend ()
- (iv) Other (Please specify ()

2. In which programme are you involved as a beneficiary?

- (i) Self Help Group ()
 - (ii) Skill Training for Youth ()
 - (iii) Community Development Group ()
 - (iv) Other (Please specify) ()
-

3. What is your main occupation?

- (i) Agriculture ()
 - (ii) Livestock ()
 - (iii) Business ()
 - (iv) Other (Please specify) ()
-

4. Has your income increased after the introduction of NERLP?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()
- (iii) I don't know ()

5. If yes, in what percent?

- (i) 5- 20 % ()
- (ii) 21-40 % ()
- (iii) 41- 60% ()
- (iv) More than 60% ()

6. Have you bought important household assets after getting benefits from NERLP?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()

7. Are you aware of the rules and regulations followed by NERLP in their administration?

(i) Yes ()

(ii) No ()

8. Do you think, NERLP monitors the works effectively in your village?

(i) Yes ()

(ii) No ()

(iii) N/a

9. Do you have good coordination with Project Facilitation Team?

(i) Yes ()

(ii) No ()

10. Do you think, NERLP works effectively for the uplift of the weaker sections of the society?

(i) Yes ()

(ii) No ()

ENTRY POINT ACTIVITY(EPA)

11. What is the EPA in your village?

12. (a) Problems:

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

(b) Suggestions:

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____

SELF-HELP GROUP (SHG)

13. Is your group enrolled in SHG Federation?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()

14. Do you think, the work of SHG federation is good enough to look-after Self-Help Group?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()

15. Are you getting training from NERLP?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()

16. If yes, have you benefitted from training?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()

17. What are the major income activities in your group?

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____
- (iv) _____

18. Does your activity increase your family income?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()
- (iii) I do not know ()

19. Did you have good coordination inside your group?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()

20. Is your group getting fund from NERLP?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()

21. If you received fund, are they sanctioned and disbursed in the right time and purpose?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()

22. (a) Problems:

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____

(b) Suggestions:

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____

SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING (SDT):

23. Do you think, the selection process of beneficiary in skill development training is fair enough?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()
- (iii) I don't know ()

24. Do you think, your training system is good enough?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()
- (iii) I don't know ()

25. Is there job placement offer in the training course?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()

26. Do you think, trainees are fit enough to do work after training?

- (i) Yes ()
- (ii) No ()

27. (a) Problems:

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____

(b) Suggestions:

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP (CDG)

28. How many members are enrolled in your group?

29. What are the activities of your group for the improvement of your community?

30. Is there good cooperation among the members of your group?

(i) Yes ()

(ii) No ()

31. (a) Problems:

(iv) _____

(v) _____

(vi) _____

(b) Suggestions:

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

32. (a) General problem faced by the beneficiaries of NERLP

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

(b) Possible solutions of better implementation of the programme based on experience

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iv) _____

Part – II

PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Name (Optional) : _____

2. Gender : M ()

F ()

3. Age Group : Below 18 ()

18 – 25 ()

26 – 35 ()

36– 45 ()

46 – Above ()

4. Level of Education : Below Matriculation ()
HSLC ()
HSSLC / PU ()
Graduate and Above ()

6. Family Income per month

- (in INR) : Below 1000 ()
1001 – 5000 ()
5001 – 10000 ()
10000 and Above ()

(N.B : This Questionnaire is translated into Mizo language for field study and it helps in the collection of data.)

APPENDIX – II

MAP NO. : I

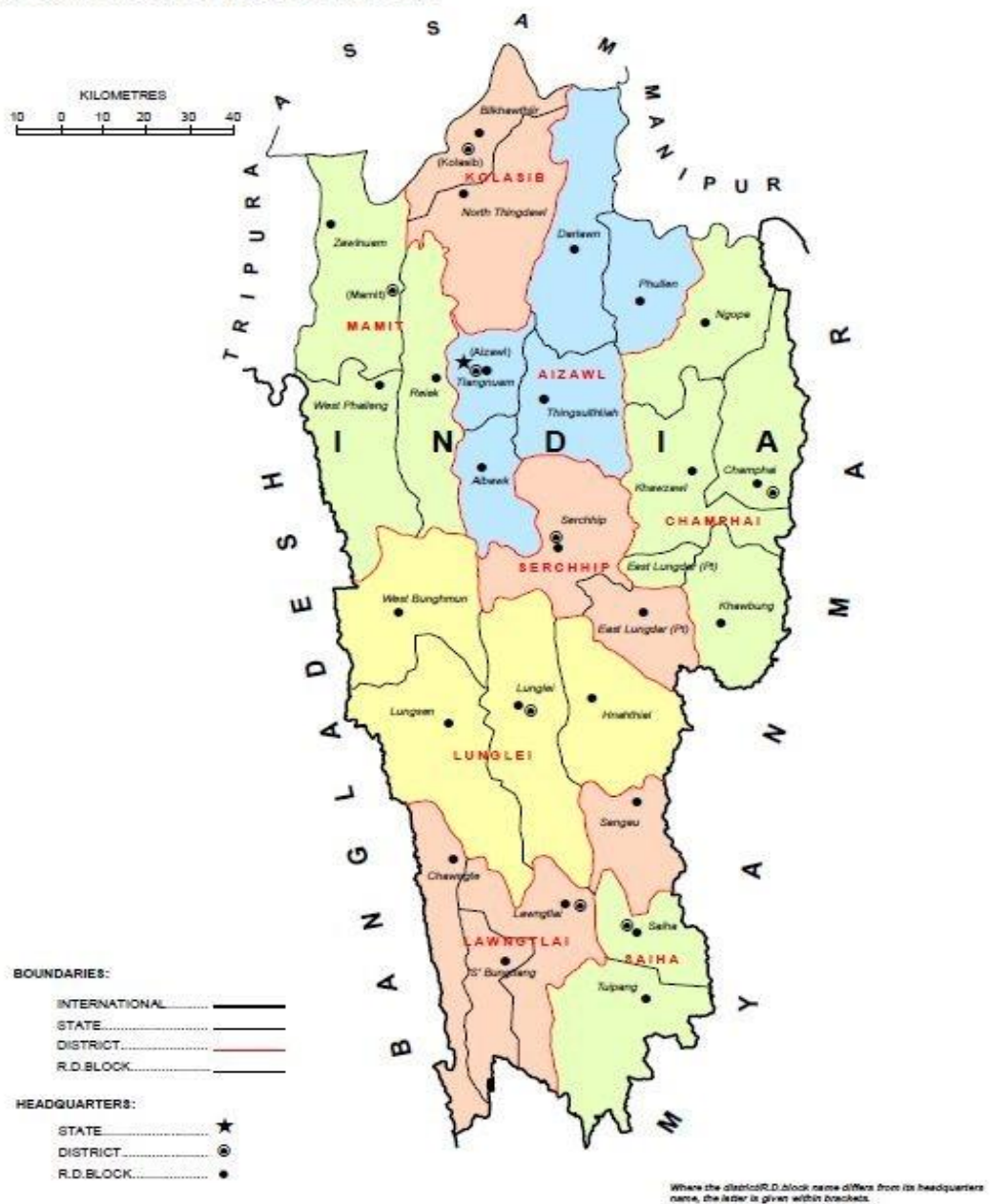
MAP OF NORTH EAST INDIA



Source :<https://mdoner.gov.in/>, 2021

MAP NO. : II
MAP OF MIZORAM

MIZORAM
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS 2011



Source : <https://srlm.mizoram.gov.in/page/farm-livelihoods/overview>

MAP NO. : III

MAP OF AIZAWL DISTRICT

BLOCK-WISE MAP OF AIZAWL DISTRICT



Source: <http://nerlp.gov.in/map/aizawldistrict>, 2019

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DEPARTMENT : Public Administration

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Ph. D. REGSITRATION NO.
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ABSTRACT

**ADMINISTRATION OF NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD
PROJECT IN MIZORAM: A STUDY OF AIZAWL DISTRICT**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY**

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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

APRIL, 2021

**ADMINISTRATION OF NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROJECT
IN MIZORAM: A STUDY OF AIZAWL DISTRICT**

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**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF MIZORAM UNIVERISTY, AIZAWL**

INTRODUCTION

Rural development is the process of improving the living condition and quality of life of rural people. It aims at improving the living standard of rural people to meet their needs and to eradicate hunger and poverty. In practice, all the problems may be difficult to remove, but it aims to make improvements and progression to satisfy the needs. The concept of rural development can be viewed as a process of realizing improvement in health, housing, nutrition, communications, transportation, and command of the rural people over resources in the rural areas. It is fundamentally a process of transformation that involves the whole rural society including its economic, social, political, and physical structures as well as the value system and way of life of the people. World Bank defines rural development as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of the rural poor. It involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas.⁵⁶

The government of India also emphasised rural development and takes a lot of actions in several ways to eradicate poverty and for the upliftment of the rural people. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India is committed to eradicating poverty and hunger from rural India and usher in the all-round development of rural masses. Accordingly, the ministry is implementing several programmes, which aims at bridging the rural-urban divide, guaranteeing wage employment and ensuring food security, provide for economic upliftment by self-employment, creating rural infrastructure, providing dignified living by providing shelter, and restoring lost or depleted productivity of natural resources like land, water, and biomass. MoRD implements various rural development schemes in rural areas of the country through State Governments and Union Territory Administration.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/india/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-sociology/13519>

⁵⁷ https://rural.nic.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines_Evaluation_Impact_Assessment_Research_Studies_Economic_Monitoring_Wing.pdf

The Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region is responsible for the matters relating to the planning, execution, and monitoring of development schemes and projects in the North Eastern Region. Its vision is to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development of the Region, so that it may enjoy growth parity with the rest of the country. It acts as a facilitator between the Central Ministries/Departments and the State Government of North Eastern Region in several ways including rural development, removal of infrastructure bottlenecks, provision of basic minimum services, and other economic activities. For the growth and development of the northeast region and eradication of poverty and hunger, North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) has been initiated. It aims to promote livelihood and to reduce rural poverty.

North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) is a World Bank-funded project and has been implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER), which aims to improve rural livelihoods covering women, unemployed youth, the most disadvantaged citizens, and community groups in the region. It was started from 2012 and is implemented in the states of Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. The main objectives of the project including improvement of rural livelihoods by providing access to economic opportunities and adoption of sustainable agricultural and natural resource management by establishing participatory and accountable community-based institutions. The study looks into the organisational setup and project area of NERLP. It also aims to study the role and functions of NERLP in Mizoram and how the project takes steps for the development of rural areas in the state.

Review of Literature

The topics such as rural development, poverty eradication, and livelihood opportunities in the rural areas have been the focus of several books and articles. Some of these sources are covered here which are reviewed as follows:

S. R. Maheshwari's (2011) *Local Government in India* discusses both the rural and the urban arms of local government in India. This book tracing about the history of local government and it also explains the structure, personnel, finance, and functions of rural as well as urban local government. The book indicates the administration and practices of urban and rural governments from different corners. The book highlights the seventy-third and seventy-fourth constitutional amendments and emphasized the importance of local government. This book is also concerned with the administrative bodies of urban and rural government and also indicates the committees and reports which relate to the administration of local government.⁵⁸

B. Suguna's (2011) book of *Empowerment of Rural Women Through Self Help Groups* is an in-depth case study of the functioning of Self-Help Groups in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. This book emphasized the empowerment of women as one of the major strategies to tackle socio-economic poverty. The main focus of this book is Self Help Group and which explains the concept, objective, characteristics, benefits, and functions of SHG. The empowerment of women through SHG would lead to benefit not only to the individual women and women group but also for the families and community as a whole through collective action for development. These groups have a common perception of need and impulse towards collective action. Empowering women not just for meeting their economic needs, but also through more holistic social development. It also emphasizes the importance and the best practices of SHG. This book states that SHG is a very important training ground of leadership, maintaining family accounts, managing family, and many other benefits for individuals, families, and society. This book highlights some of the important objectives of SHG including – (i) to inculcate the habit of saving and banking habit among the rural women, (ii) to build up trust and confidence between rural women and banker, (iii) to develop group activity so that various welfare and developmental programmes can be implemented in a better way with the participation of those women groups, (iv) to achieve women and child

⁵⁸ S. R. Maheshwari's (2011) *Local Government in India*. Delhi: Lakshmi Narain Agarwal.

welfare programmes goals by actively involving these women groups in Universal Immunization Programme, small family norm Universal Elementary Education, etc. The review of literature, methods of study, results, and summary of the study are indicated in this book. The major findings of the study, the impact of SHG on empowerment of women, problems, strategies for the sustainability of SHGs, and suggestions for the improvement of SHGs are also explained in this book.⁵⁹

Meenu Jain's (2011) book of '*Rural Development Programmes in India*' is divided into six chapters. Chapter one deals with the definition and objectives of rural development. It indicates the need for rural development in India and earlier attempts made in this direction. Chapter two elaborates the rural development as the main objectives of all five-year plans. It also gives the various programmes launched by the government of India from time to time. This chapter also states the objective strategies and deficiencies of these rural development programmes. Chapter three reviews the existing literature related to rural development and programmes. It also deals with a hypothesis, objectives, sample design, the methodology, and limitations of the study conducted in the Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana. Chapter four discusses the profile of Haryana and Yamuna Nagar district. A brief introduction of the ongoing schemes in the area of study is also given. This chapter also deals with the analysis of the physical and financial progress of the rural development expenditure in the area of the study. Chapter five deals with the details of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana. It also examines the socio-economic characteristics and scheme-wise distribution of the beneficiaries. Chapter six is the concluding chapter which deals with the major findings and gives suggestions for the effective implementation of the programme.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ B. Suguna (2011). *Empowerment of Rural Women Through Self Help Groups*. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House.

⁶⁰ Meenu Jain (2011). *Rural Development Programmes in India*. Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications.

Ram Shankar Singh's (2012) book of *Rural Development Through Community*' is broadly divided into eight chapters. The first chapter deals with decentralized rural development and the role of self-help organizations. This chapter highlights the practices of several countries about decentralization and self-help organizations. The second chapter is named Training of Trainers on Participatory Local Development. This chapter deals with participatory training methods, training needs assessment, a training module on participatory planning and management, etc. It emphasized the importance and needs for training. Chapter three discusses the decentralization for the empowerment of rural poor covering the importance of decentralization. It also talks about decentralization policies and legislation in India. It indicates the importance of the Panchayati Raj Institution for decentralization in India. Chapter four discusses in detail voluntarism in rural development in India. It states the concept, process, and importance of voluntarism in rural development. Chapter five deals with the employment, manpower planning, and labor policy. It also indicates the DRDA in the development of the rural area. Chapter six discusses poverty alleviation through community participation. Chapter seven emphasizes entrepreneurship as an economic force in rural development. It encourages the rural people in the promotion of entrepreneurship. The last chapter states about Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, which covers the problem, consequences, and strategy.⁶¹

M.K Singh's (2014) book of *Rural Development Administration*' is broadly divided into seven chapters. Chapter one starts with the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) which was implemented in Gujarat. Water conservation and sustainable natural resources management are the heart of AKRSP's work. This chapter highlights the challenges faced by rural India and its opportunity. The second chapter is named Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Development which stated about the 73rd Amendment Act 1992 and also covers the financial power of the Panchayati Raj Institution and the constitution of the State Finance Commission. It

⁶¹ Ram Shankar Singh (2012). *Rural Development Through Community*. Delhi: Globus Press.

talks about the people's participation in village-level government which covers the importance of participation, who is participating, and why. This chapter also discusses some government programmes for the development of rural India. Chapter three discusses the Ministry of Rural Development which deals with the history, organizational structure, and functions of the Ministry. It emphasizes the role of the Ministry in the development and improvement of rural India. Chapter three is about the role and functions of the District Rural Development Agency. It discusses the importance of coordination between the agency and Panchayati Raj Institutions. It focuses on the administration of the DRDA like organizational structure, administrative costs, personnel policies, financial procedures, etc. It also highlights the District Urban Development Agency. Chapter five dealing with the importance and necessity of e-governance in the administration of rural development. It emphasizes capacity building through e-governance, service delivery, promotion of science and technology, human development, and democratic governance, etc. Chapter six is concerning employment in rural India. It talks about female participation, wage rates, trends in rural employment, etc. It highlights the current situations, challenges, and potential for rural employment in India. The last chapter deals with rural development planning management.⁶²

S. Vijaya Kumar and Venkataramana (2006) in their article 'Role of Non-Government Organisations in Rural Development' in the book *Empowering Rural India- Experiments and experiences* focus on the NGO. It highlights the voluntary movement in India which covers the concept and establishment of NGO. This article discusses the NGO's movement, different forms of NGOs and their activities, NGOs in India, etc. It focuses on the role of NGOs in rural development in the context of the five-year plan. It highlights the collective participation, importance of social service, welfare activities, development of renewable resources, social development, and other important roles played by the NGOs. This article also highlights some challenges faced by NGOs like lack of dedicated leadership, lack of finance, lack of

⁶² M.K Singh (2014). *Rural Development Administration*. Delhi: Anmol Publication.

skillful grass-root level professionals, etc. This article also presents some opportunities for strengthening the role and status of NGOs like exposing their activities, exploring multiple donors for different activities, etc. The article ends with a concluding part which says that NGOs have steadily improved their stands in the development and welfare activities in India. This article suggested that development professionals in NGOs should have belief and also should practice the three fundamental principles of Gandhi- Swaraj, Antyodaya, and Sarvodaya.⁶³

Manoj Kumar Singh (2010), in his article 'People's Participation in Rural Development: Some issues' published in the book of *Rural Development in North East India* focuses on people participation in rural development. It starts with the definition of rural development and defines it as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of people in a rural settlement and, in particular, it focuses on the rural poor comprising the small-scale farmers, tenants, and the landless. This article is about people's participation and highlights the concept and objectives of people participation. This article indicates that the purpose and process of people's participation is the involvement of human resource development (HRD) in executing any activity. This article also highlights the needs and importance of people participation in rural development which says that people participation is required for maintaining democracy through decentralization of power. This article indicates the several problems associated with people participation like the absence of a strong commitment on the part of the government, the unhelpful attitude of civil service, etc. It also highlights the role of the development agency and indicates the importance of a field-level personnel plan for the involvement of the people in development activity. This article concludes with the relevance and requirements of people's participation in rural development.⁶⁴

⁶³ S. Vijaya Kumar, Venkataramana. (2006). 'Role of Non-Government Organisations in Rural Development' in *Empowering Rural India- Experiments and experiences*. Delhi: Kaniska Publishers Distributors.

⁶⁴ Manoj Kumar Singh (2010). 'People's Participation in Rural Development: Some issues' in *Rural Development in North East India*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing.

Meenu Agrawal and Prabha Singh (2011) in their article ‘Urbanisation of Rural Areas and Poverty Eradication through Innovations’ in the book *Poverty Eradication and Development through Innovations* start with the introduction of enabling rural innovations. This article discusses the governmental efforts for transforming rural areas and also indicates a comparison with China in the process of urbanization. This article highlights the status of urbanization in India. This article focuses on the basic needs in development for rural areas in India including education, energy, productive agriculture, transportation, digital infrastructure, and good governance. One of the important suggestions of this article is to eradicate poverty by introducing a credit, debit, or smart card system to replace the existing Public Distribution System and it says that such a mechanism will dramatically reduce leakages and administrative costs.⁶⁵

Samir Ghosh (2013), in his article ‘Women Empowerment and Role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Micro-Finance’ published in the book *Micro-Enterprise and Rural Development in India* starts with the status of women and calls them the most deprived sections in the society, but they can mobilize borrowed money more actively than their male family members. It says that more concentration should be given to women’s development. This article stated that one of the powerful approaches to women empowerment and rural entrepreneurship is the formation of the Self-Help Group. This article suggests that Micro-Finance Institution (MFI) set up by an NGO or Non-Banking Financial Companies is one of the best ways to support a Self-Help Group. This article concludes with the importance of MFIs and mentions the points for the improvement of their functions.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ Meenu Agrawal, Prabha Singh. (2011) ‘Urbanisation of Rural Areas and Poverty Eradication through Innovations’ in *Poverty Eradication and Development through Innovations*. New Delhi: New Century Publications.

⁶⁶ Samir Ghosh (2013). ‘Women Empowerment and Role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Micro-Finance’ in *Micro Enterprise and Rural Development in India*. New Delhi: Serials Publications.

After going through the above-mentioned books and articles, we have found that very few books and articles are available on the livelihood projects in general and the NERLP in particular, and that about the state of Mizoram. So, the study is undertaken to look into all the necessary aspects to arrive at logical conclusions and constructive suggestions.

Statement of the Problem

The development of the country depends on the status of the rural areas. Rural development is the dynamic process of improvement of rural livelihood by improving the economic, social, and political status of the rural people. Several programmes and schemes have been imparted for the growth and development of the rural areas. But still, there are major challenges and gaps in the field of poverty and livelihood sectors. Some of the programs and projects could not achieve their goals and objectives. Due to this, it is required to study how the rural development programmes and projects have been implemented and looked after. It is also needed to study how to utilize the resources (including human resources) in the best possible manner and more productive ways.

Northeast India is geographically separated and considered to be a backward region in a progressing economy. It is one of the most challenging regions of the country. Due to its disadvantageous geographical location, it faces many problems in the field of transportation, communication, infrastructure, development, etc. The main issue which hampers the developmental process of the northeast region is the multidimensional and complex nature of poverty involving the inability to satisfy basic needs, lack of control over resources, lack of education and skills, poor access to water and sanitation, etc. This region has better than average Human Development Indices but poverty and unemployment are widespread in rural and urban areas leading to many social issues and according to some feeding insurgency. NERLP is a world bank-funded project and implemented under the supervision of the Ministry of DONER. This project was designed to eradicate poverty in four states of northeast India. There is a need to study the administrative aspects like structure,

working, role, etc. which will be helpful for future actions and plans for alleviation of poverty.

Scope of the Study

The study started with the introductory chapter consisting of the concept of poverty which covers the concept, importance, and features of rural development. It also indicates the necessity of rural development for the whole development of the country. The study also indicates how the government takes steps for the development of rural areas since independence. It also highlights several rural development programmes and studies whether these have been successful or not. The policies created for the welfare and development of the rural areas are also highlighted. This study also discusses the status of North East India from a different angle and indicates how this region needs the development and empowerment than other parts of the country.

The main focus of the study is the administration of the North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP). This study covers the organisational setup, role, and functions, working, policy, etc. of the project. The actions and steps taken by NERLP are the important focus of the study. This project has implemented several programmes and activities for the welfare of the youth of the village and the weaker sections of the society and even for the satisfaction of the community. Some of the actions taken are Self-Help Group for women, Skill Development for youth, Community Development Project for the satisfaction of the needs of the whole community, organizing training for the awareness, and for gaining knowledge in several ways.

The main thrust of the study is whether the project has achieved the organisational objectives and goals. The results and impact of the project are studied about the eradication of poverty and improvement of livelihood.

NERLP is operational in four states of North East India and Mizoram is one of the states. In Mizoram, it covers two districts of Aizawl and Lunglei. In each

district, the administration of the project has been looked after by District Project Management Unit (DPMU) with the help of their subordinates. Among the two districts, Aizawl district is bigger and the study focuses on Aizawl district. In Aizawl District, the project covers five rural development blocks and is used for assessment of the project through questionnaires and observation.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the administration of NERLP including its organisational structure, functions, importance, etc. in the context of rural development programmes.
2. To study the working of NERLP including programmes and actions for rural development in Mizoram.
3. To study how effective is the working of NERLP in rural development and eradication of poverty.
4. To find out problems and challenges along with their remedial measures.

Research Questions

The following research questions are prepared for the study:

1. What are the major functions of the North East Rural Livelihood Project for the eradication of poverty and development of rural areas?
2. Is the working of the North East Rural Livelihood Project effective enough for the development of rural areas in Mizoram?
3. What are the problems and hindrances faced by North East Rural Livelihood Project in Aizawl District in its implementation?
4. What are the remedial measures and solutions for improving the working and functioning of the North East Rural Livelihood Project?

Methodology

The study is based on the Primary and Secondary sources of data collection. Primary data is collected from the officials of the District Project Management Unit (DPMU), the Project Facilitation Team (PFT), and from the beneficiaries of the project through questionnaires as well as observation. The Secondary data is collected from books, articles, journals, documents, internet sources, reports, and handbooks that relate to the proposed study. The annual plans, publications, and records of NERLP are used for the collection of data.

In this study, multi-stage sampling method is used in order to make primary data collection more manageable. The study is concentrated from four states of NE India to Mizoram. From Mizoram, it focuses to Aizawl District which consists of five blocks. From five blocks 25 villages are selected and Questionnaires has been administered to 250 sample respondents and out of which 240 were received and were final respondents. In this study, informal interviews and observations are playing important role during the collection of the data.

Chapterisation

The present study is divided in seven chapters to highlights the study as follows:

- Chapter - I : Introduction
- Chapter - II : Rural Development and Livelihood: A conceptual study
- Chapter - III : Area Under Study
- Chapter - IV : Organisational Structure of North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP)
- Chapter - V : Functions and Role of North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP)

Chapter - VI : Results and Discussion

Chapter - VII : Conclusion

Major Findings

The major findings of the study are based on the data collected from the project implementing agency and the beneficiaries through questionnaires, unstructured interviews, observation, and interaction.

North East Rural Livelihood Project is a World Bank-funded project and operated in the four states of North East India such as Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. The core objective of this project is to uplift poor people and disadvantaged groups of society like women empowerment, youth empowerment, and other community development activities for the betterment of livelihood. NERLP was approved on 20th December, 2011, and came into effect on 12th March 2012. It has a Mid-Term Review (MTR) in the year 2014. The project has original closing on 31st March 2017, but it was actually closed on 30th September 2019.

Well-arranged institutions at the different levels are created to plan, implement and monitor the project from the grassroots level to the top level which includes the Ministry of DONER at the government of India level. The project has four levels of organizations including the Ministry of DONER, Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) at the regional level, District Project Management Unit (RPMU) at the district level, and Project Facilitation Team (PFT) at the block. The Project Facilitation Team makes the important appointment of Community Service Provider (CSP) at the village level such as Self-Help Group Facilitator, Para-Professional, and Bank Facilitator to assist them for efficient implementation of the project.

NERLP takes several steps and activities in the implementation of the project, from those, it focuses on Self-Help Group (SHG), Community Development Group (CDG), and Skill Development for Youth (Youth Group). Some of the major

findings from these three groups are highlighted and consist of issues, problems, and challenges.

Self-Help Group

In Aizawl District, there were 1619 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) consisting of 16057 members, enrolled by the Project Facilitation Team. There were 87 SHG federations within the district of Aizawl.

The present study indicates that the training conducted by the NERLP makes a lot of improvement in several ways including knowledge of bookkeeping, account keeping, loan repayment, etc. It creates self-confidence for the members of the group.

SHG receives funds from the NERLP to utilize for making a profit for the group. Members of the group borrow money from funds as loans and they repay with small interest. The study reveals that this practice makes a profit for the group and helps the member to take economic activities for the improvement of the livelihood. Funds received by the SHGs are as follows: Seed Capital Fund: INR 20,000/-, Livelihood Funds Tranche – I: INR 40,000/-, Livelihood Funds Tranche – II.: INR 40,000/-, Livelihood Funds Tranche – III.: INR 40,000/-

As per the norms, they rotate their leaders and all members of the group become the leader of the group. The study reveals that the rotation of leaders within the group creates a lot of improvement in gaining leadership knowledge and quality among the members of the SHGs.

In the guidelines and norms of the project, the SHG Federation must be formed to look after the SHGs within their area. The Federation has to assist in the formation of SHG, it has to control and uplift the SHGs. But in practice, the study observes that a lot of SHGs were formed before forming the Federation and this overlapping creates a lot of problems in the flow of funds and creates unproductive

utilization of funds in many groups. Some of them were not getting awareness about the utilization of the funds and they distribute them to the members of the group.

The study reveals that the Regional Programme Management Unit (RPMU) gives pressure on their subordinate (PFT) in the implementation of the project by making high target which creates problem in the administration of the project including making fake SHG, adding minor in the group, adding male in the self-help group etc.

The present study indicates that all the SHGs were enrolled in the Federation in each village. 63.157% were satisfied with SHG Federation in the way to look-after the SHGs and 36.84% of the respondents were not satisfied with SHG Federation. Regarding training conducted for the SHG, 86.84% of the respondents were attending the pieces of training conducted by the officials and federation, whereas 13.16% of the respondents were not attending the training. This study indicates that training was conducted as per the norms and almost all the beneficiaries are attending the training. The observation indicates that 72.72% of the respondents were getting benefits like gaining knowledge, leadership, skills, etc. from training, but 27.27% were not getting benefits from their training. One of the reasons they told is that training is a little bit difficult to understand for uneducated people and gives suggestion to simplify the training system. Almost all the groups were acting as a group and the present study observes that 140 respondents were doing agriculture and allied works for earning money. 50 respondents were using livestock as their source of income and at the time of this, the project mandate lending loan within their group as a source of income. So, 188 respondents were lending loans within their group with having the interest, the interest rate of the group loan is fixed by the meeting resolution of the group. The present study observes that the income of 69.47% of respondents was increased after joining the group, whereas 30.5% of the respondents say that their income was not increased even after joining the SHG. This study indicates that there was good coordination among the members of the group in the majority of the groups. 160 (84.21%) of the respondents agree that there was good coordination among the members within the group, whereas not from 30 (15.78 %) of the respondents. All the groups of the

SHGs were getting financial assistance from the program. 81.37% of the groups were getting funds at the right time, but 18.42% of the respondents were not getting funds at the right time. Due to the overlapping of administration, some groups distribute the funds among members of the group and faced problems in the repayment of their loans.

The study reveals that there is an increased self-confidence and self-reliance among the respondents after joining the SHG.

Skill Development Training for Youth

In Aizawl District, 579 of the youth were trained for skill development and out of which, 230 were getting placement. This indicates that the placement rate is 39.72% under the project.

The present study observes that there is a gap between the NERLP and Training Institutions, which creates problems for the trainee. The study also reveals that there is a lack of expert trainers, which makes problems during the training.

The present study observes that 92.85% of the respondents say the selection criteria and process for Skill Development Training were fair and transparent, whereas 7.14% of the respondents were not agree with this. 73.21% of the respondents agree that the training systems, courses and institutions and trainers were good enough and but not agreed by 26.78% of the respondents. Some of the beneficiaries were facing minor problems during their training including language problems, lack of expert trainers, etc. The majority of the respondents 58.92% say that there was a placement offer for the trainee after finishing the training course and it depends on the performance during the training. 41.071% of the trainee were not getting placement offers from the institution/ training agency. 83.9 % of the trainee were getting benefits from the training programme whereas 16.07 % of the trainee were not getting benefits from training programme.

Community Development Group

In Aizawl District, 88 Community Development Groups (CDG)s were formed under this project.

The study found that there were 85 respondents from the beneficiaries and were selected through random. Regarding awareness about the Community Development Group (CDG), 72 (84.705%) of the respondents were getting awareness about the organization, functions, and working process of the CDG. 13 (15.29%) of the respondents were not knowing the CDG in details. This shows that the project needs to spread about the project to the beneficiaries as much as possible. Each work is done by the CDG itself. 68 (80%) of the respondents say that the working process of the CDG is fair and transparent, whereas not by 17 (20%) of the respondents. During the implementation of the project and in the administration of the group, 74 (87.06 %) of the respondents says that there was good coordination among the members of the group, but not by 11 (12.9%) of the respondents. There was good coordination between the Project Facilitation Team (PFT) and CDG from the opinion of 78 (91.76%) respondents during the implementation of the project. But, 7 (8.23%) of the respondents say that there were no good relations and coordination between PFT and CDG members.

As per the norms, the CDG must do the work which must be useful for 70% of the households in a village. The study (respondents) reveals that the fund given to the CDG is up to 10 lakh and which is not sufficient enough to do the works effectively.

As per the norms, the people of the village have to select the works to be implemented. The majority of the villages need a drinking water system and agriculture link road. But, in practice, the RPMU did not allow to the selection of construction of the drinking water system and Agriculture link road. So, some CDGs were selecting their third choice and this study reveals that they were not excited to implement and did not satisfy the needs of the villagers.

As per the norms and guidelines, all the transactions need to be done through a bank. But there is no bank in every village and some villages are far from the bank and faced problems in the implementation of the project.

The study observes that the paper works required to fulfill the norms of the project were complex and difficult to understand for the beneficiaries and faced problems in many villages. E.g. Utilization Certificate (UC)

Some of the important findings from the general project i.e. North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) are as follows:

The present study reveals that the majority of the respondents are female and holds 72.91%. This means that the involvement of the female beneficiaries is more than male involvement in this livelihood project of NERLP.

This study observes that more than the average of the beneficiaries 74.166% is below matriculation level in their educational status. 14.58% of the respondents are completing HSLC and 6.25% of the respondents are completing HSSLC. Only 5% of the respondents have completed graduation. This indicates that the majority of the beneficiaries are under matriculation and which sometimes makes problems in paper works and makes some difficulties in the implementation of the project.

This study observes that the majority of the beneficiaries i.e. 62.5% of the respondents are engaged in agriculture and allied activities, most of them are practicing shifting cultivation and the study observes that this method is difficult to replace till now. 16.25% of the respondents were using livestock rearing as their main occupation, but still, some of them were also doing other activities to supplement their occupation. 14.167% of the respondents were engaged in business activities like shopkeeper, Handloom, Soap making, etc. 7.08% were engaged in other activities like skilled labour, unskilled labour, etc.

The present study shows that 6.66% of the respondents were getting less than 1000 INR in a month. They don't have a proper source of income and they are

the target group of this project. 39.58% holds the majority from the respondents and getting between 1,001 – 5,000. 35.41% of the respondents were getting between 5,000 – 10,000 INR from their livelihood. 18.33% of the respondents were getting more than 10,000. INR and most of them were having stable livelihoods like shopkeepers, manufacturing units, etc.

The present study observed that 65% of the respondents get information/knowledge on NERLP through the facilitation team, 25% of respondents were from a family member, 8.33% of respondents get information from friends and other 1.66 getting from newspaper and other beneficiaries. This indicates that the Project Facilitation Team (PFT) fulfill their responsibilities and attains 65% for spreading knowledge/ information about the project.

NERLP has implemented several programs, three major programs are highly benefited namely, SHG, Skill Development Training for Youth, and Community Development Group. The study found that 190 respondents have joined SHG and 56 members of the respondents were engaged in skill development training. There were 85 respondents who were also engaged in CDG. The majority of these members have been engaged in more than one program which resulted in an access number of respondents i.e. 240 respondents.

The Project Facilitation Team and other officials of the project were responsible to monitor the works and implementation of the project. The study found that during the implementation, 68.33% of the respondents say that the PFTs were good at monitoring the works, 20.8% of the respondents were satisfied with PFT in terms of monitoring, but, 10.8% of the respondents were not satisfied by the PFTs in monitoring the project.

The present study indicates that 79.16% of the respondents say that there was good coordination between the officials and beneficiaries of the project during the implementation. But 20.83% of respondents were thinking that there was some gap and miscommunication between the Officials and the beneficiaries.

The main objective of this project is to uplift the status of the rural poor people. For this, improvement in the income is very important. The income of 58.33% of respondents was increased after the implementation of this project. It is one of the most important successes of the project. But at the time of this, 20% of respondents' income was not increased and 21.66% don't know whether it was improved or not. The study indicates that the growth rate of respondents' income after implementation of the project. 78.57% of the respondents' income was increased between 5 – 20% and 18.57% of respondents' income was increased by 21- 40%. 2.85% of respondents' income was increased by 41-60%. This observation indicates that there is improvement after implementation of the project and which is a very important point that indicates the success of the project.

The study found that 63.33% of the respondents bought important household assets and goods like vehicles, utensils, refrigerators, etc. after the introduction of NERLP, but, 36.66% of the respondents did not buy important household assets and goods. This indicates that more than average of the beneficiaries were getting improvement after the introduction of the project.

The main objective of the project is to improve the weaker sections of society and youth. 79.58% of the respondents say that there has been an improvement for the weaker sections of the society. 13.75% of the respondents were not found the improvement for the weaker sections of the society. This study reveals that there is improvement in the socio-economic condition of the society because the positive answer holds 79.58 % and but may not be as an ideal.

The findings of the present study are also relevant in the case of similar projects to be implemented by the authorities to implement all the welfare-oriented measures for the rural people effectively and efficiently. It has been observed that the beneficiaries in particular and the rural people, in general, can benefit from such livelihood opportunities. All these important segments of rural people including self-help groups, grassroots level officials, government agencies, civil society groups, and individuals should be involved at all stages such as need assessment, project formulation, resource mobilization, programme implementation, monitoring, and

feedback. So that, such programme will be contributing to not only self-sufficiency but also to overall socio-economic development in rural society.

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