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CONTENTS

Sr. No.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)	Page No.
1.	VAR ANALYSIS OF EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND THE ECONOMIC GROWTH: EVIDENCE OF INDONESIA <i>Dr. CHENG-WEN LEE & NURHIKMAH OLA LAIRI</i>	1
2.	AN ANALYSIS OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF VALUE ADDED TAX TO MADHYA PRADESH STATE FINANCE <i>Dr. VAIBHAV MODAK & Dr. SURESH SILAWAT</i>	6
3.	ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY OF PLASTIC MIX BITUMEN ROAD <i>DEEPIKA SWAIN & Dr. KAILASH MOHAPATRA</i>	10
4.	THE ECONOMICS OF PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISING OF HEALTH CARE SERVICE SECTOR – A LITERATURE REVIEW <i>Dr. DHANANJOY DATTA & Dr. AMITA KUMARI CHOUDHURY</i>	15
5.	IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ON ASSET, INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH: A CASE STUDY OF MANDI DISTRICT <i>Dr. K.C. SHARMA & RAKSHA SHARMA</i>	19
6.	A STUDY ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FARMERS CULTIVATING SUGARCANE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ERODE AND TIRUPUR DISTRICTS <i>Dr. S. UMARANI</i>	22
7.	DYNAMICS AND DETERMINANTS OF IPO INVESTING BY RETAIL INVESTORS: EVIDENCE FROM INDIAN STOCK MARKET <i>Dr. SATHYANARAYANA & BHAVYA N</i>	27
8.	A STUDY ON CUSTOMER PERCEPTION TOWARDS VALUE ADDED SERVICES IN PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ERODE DISTRICT <i>M. SURESH KUMAR & Dr. G. SURESH</i>	36
9.	SWAY ON FDI IN INDIA: SOME RUDIMENTARY CORROBORATIONS <i>Dr. JOSEPH JAMES V, Dr. SAJEEVE V P & CATHERINE E PERIERA</i>	45
10.	PATIENTS' OPINION TOWARDS QUALITY HEALTHCARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY CO-OPERATIVE HOSPITALS: A STUDY ON SHRI J G CO-OPERATIVE HOSPITAL SOCIETY LTD., GHATAPRABHA <i>DINESHA K & Dr. LAXAMANA P</i>	52
11.	THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA <i>Dr. SHEETAL VARSHNEY</i>	55
12.	IMPACT OF TQM PRACTICES ON ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AT WORKING IRON AND STEEL FIRMS KARNATAKA <i>K C PRASHANTH</i>	58
13.	CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PRACTICES BANKS IN INDIA: A STUDY OF TWO PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS <i>DHRITABRATA JYOTI BHARADWAZ</i>	64
14.	DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF MGNREGS BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS IN PUNJAB: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY <i>Dr. SARBJEET SINGH & JAGDEV SINGH</i>	69
15.	AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF LIFE INSURANCE IN GANGTOK, SIKKIM <i>KEWAL RAI, ARUN ACHARYA, ROSHAN SHARMA, ANIL RAI & TSHERING LHAMU BHUTIA</i>	77
16.	EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN INDIA THROUGH EDUCATION <i>Dr. P. OMKAR</i>	84
17.	IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST) ON COMMON MAN IN INDIA <i>DODDA YALLAPPA JINDAPPA</i>	87
18.	STATUS OF WOMEN IN EGYPT SINCE INFITAH <i>EREIPHY KEISHING</i>	89
19.	INCOME AND INVESTMENT PATTERN AMONG WORKING WOMEN WITH REFERENCE TO MADURAI CITY – A CASE STUDY <i>R. VENNILA</i>	92
20.	DIGITAL INDIA: INFUSE TECHNOLOGY IN GOVERNANCE <i>POOJA</i>	95
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK & DISCLAIMER	98

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IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ON ASSET, INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH: A CASE STUDY OF MANDI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The paper analyses the impact of rural development programmes on assets, income and employment in Himachal Pradesh: A case study of district Mandi. The data collected from 300 households scattered over 12 villages in all selected developed blocks of district Mandi. The required information has been collected with the help of pre-tested scheduled from the sample households.

KEYWORDS

Mandi district, rural development programmes.

INTRODUCTION

Rural development and poverty alleviation have been the major areas of concern and thrust for the nation since independence. The Community Development Programme, consisting of various sets of schemes, was launched on 2nd October, 1952 throughout the country with an objective of overall development of rural areas with the active participation of community. Development blocks were created and considered pivotal for planning and implementation of various rural development schemes.¹ Several other development programmes adopted during the different five year plans were, Intensive Agricultural District Programme (IADP), Intensive Agriculture Area Programme (IAAP), Small Farmers Development Agency (AFDA), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) etc.

Mehrotra, Parida, Sinha and Gandhi (2014, pp. 49-57)² conducted a study on explaining employment trends in the Indian economy: 1993-14 to 2011-12. They used various round of National Sample Survey unit level data. They concluded that structural transformation with an absolute fall in agricultural employment and a rise in non-agricultural employment, increasing participation in education, decline in child labour, and mechanization of agriculture and rising living standard in rural areas due to a growth in rural wages which led to a decline in workforce, most of which was of women leaving the workforce. They also concluded that a fall in demand for manufacturing exports, increasing capital intensity and a decline in manufacturing employment during 2004-05 to 2009-10. This study estimated approximately 17 million jobs per annum need to be created in non-agriculture during 2012-17 based on these estimates, they suggested that policy makers should increase non-agricultural employment in India. Sharma and Chakraborty (2016, pp. 165-180)³ conducted a study why Arunachal Pradesh's social sector development is asymmetrical: a cross-district investigation. This study is based on secondary data. Principal component analysis (PCA) method has been used to construct that first, a massive dose of funding is required to decrease the infrastructure gap in the form of connectivity, electrification and creation of many social assets such as school, hospitals and the like. Second, as the cost of the delivery of basic social services, such as primary health care and education, are prohibitive in Arunachal Pradesh because of remote locations and accessibility. Third, as basic amenities such as water supply, sanitation, drainage and sewerage are inadequate. They suggested that these areas should be looked into on a priority level for planning. Although, pumping of finance into the social sector will not improve the human resource situation, investment should be undertaken in agricultural and allied sectors because income generated through these areas will definitely have some backward and forward linkages with social capital.

OBJECTIVES

In this paper an attempt has been made to estimate the impact of rural development programmes on the sample household of rural area of Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY

SAMPLING

For the empirical investigation, district Mandi has been selected purposely. The required information has been collected from 300 sample households of twelve villages selected randomly from two development blocks of the district.

NATURE OF DATA COLLECTED

An experimental test was developed by the investigator with the help of pre-tested schedule information pertaining to age and sex wise family composition, educational status, occupational as well as the value of the household assets has been recorded from all the sample households, as it exists at the time of the survey. Further, introduction related to rural development has been incorporated in the present study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This analysis is important because it brings out the different facet of the nature of economic activities as well as the levels of living. Population in any area plays an important role in affecting the income and consumption level and thereby the living standard. In the present empirical study, there are 300 sample households consisting of 778 males, 718 females and 622 children. Out of the total 300 households, 181 households fall in the category of marginal size of holding having land less than one hectare, 88 households fall in the category of small size of holdings having land between 1 to 2 hectares, 19 households are of the medium size of holding having land 2 to 4 hectares and the remaining 12 households fall in the category of large size of holdings having land more than 4 hectares.

In Himachal Pradesh, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was made effective from 2nd February, 2006 in Chamba and Sirmour districts, and covered all districts up to 1st April, 2008. The objective of this scheme is to provide livelihood security to the households in rural area of the state by ensuring 100 days generated employment in each financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. During the 11th plan, 1076.26 lakh mandays have been generated.⁴

During last four decades, various centrally and state sponsored rural housing schemes have been implemented through the Department of Rural Development. The Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) was launched as an independent and major housing device on 1st January, 1996 to provide assistance for the construction and up-gradation of the dwelling units for the BPL rural households. The selection of beneficiaries is done by the Gram Sabha. This scheme is being implemented in the ratio of 75:25 between the Government of India and the State Government. During the period of 11th Five Year Plan, Rs. 11607.98 lakh have been released for the construction of dwelling in rural areas and 50,117 houses were constructed under the scheme.⁵

The total amount of subsidy received, assistance received, the value of assets created out of this assistance, as well as the income and employment opportunities generated under the various Rural Programmes has been presented in Table 9.1. This table clearly indicates that the percentage share of subsidy on food-items to the total amount of subsidy has been worked out 98.27, 86.64, 80.96 and 73.74 percent on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively. Among all the holdings together this percentage came out 93.30. The percentage amount of subsidy on food-items shows a decreasing tendency with an increase in the size of holding. The percentage amount of subsidy on food-items is the highest on the marginal and small holdings group mainly due to the reason that the Government provides food-items on subsidized rate to the BPL families and the maximum BPL families belong to the marginal and small holdings group. The percentage share of subsidy on fertilizers to the total amount of subsidy has been worked out 1.73, 13.36, 19.04 and 26.26 percent on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively. Among all the holding groups together this percentage came out 6.70. The percentage value of subsidy on fertilizers shows an increasing tendency with an increase in the size of holdings. The percentage value of subsidy on fertilizers is the highest on the large holding groups mainly due to the reason that these farmers use more fertilizer as comparatively to small holdings. The per household share of assistance received from the Government for the construction of houses has been worked out Rs. 4500, Rs. 3500, Rs. 2000 and Rs. 0.00 on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively. Among all the holdings together this amount came out Rs. 3868.33. The percentage value of assets created out of this assistance to the total value of household assets under the Rural Development Programmes has been worked out 92.73, 90.39 and 100.00 percent on the marginal, small and medium size of holdings respectively, whereas, among all the holdings together this percentage came out 92.32. The percentage increase in household income through assistance received from the Government for the construction of houses under Rural Development Programmes has been worked out to 39.94, 38.13, 48.44 and 0.00 percent on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively. Among all the holdings together this percentage came out 39.16. This percentage of family human labour man-days utilization in gainful activities increased by 4.55, 5.69, 3.89 and 0.00 percent on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively. Among all the holdings together this percentage came out 4.76. Thus, the percentage increase in the value of household assets, income and employment on the account of the assistance received from the Government for the construction of houses shows that under the rural development programmes among the marginal, small, medium and large size of holding groups the least better-off household benefited the most and the better-off benefitted the least. It happened mainly due to the reason that the Government provides assistance for scheduled cast, scheduled tribe and BPL families for construction of houses under various schemes. The per household share of loans received under rural development programmes for livestock, i.e. mainly for the purchase of milch cattle, sheep, goats etc. have been worked out Rs. 352.60 and Rs. 372.19 on the marginal and small size of holdings respectively. The value of household assets increased on account of these loans to the total value of household assets created under these programmes has been worked out 7.27 and 9.61 percent on the marginal and small size of holding respectively. The percentage of household income increased through livestock received under the integrated rural development programmes to the total household income increased through the different development programmes has been worked out 1.43 and 2.00 percent on the marginal and small size of holding respectively. The percentage of family human labour man-days increased in livestock activities has been worked out 2.58 and 1.61 percent on the marginal and small size of holdings respectively. In the study area MANREGA plays an important role to provide employment opportunities to the sample household. The percentage of family human labour man-days generated in MANREGA has been worked out 92.87, 92.71, 96.11 and 100.00 percent on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively. Among all the holdings together this percentage came out 93.03. The percentage amount of assistance received from the Government for old age pension as well as fee concession and fellowship to the total amount of income received under various rural development programmes has been worked out 1.54, 2.01, 3.42 and 4.57 percent on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively. Among all the holdings together this percentage came out 1.74.

Thus, it can be concluded from the above empirical results that the percentage amount of subsidy on food-items shows a decreasing tendency with an increase in the size of holdings. The percentage amount of subsidy on food-items is the highest on the marginal and small holdings group mainly due to the reason that Government provide food-items on subsidized rate to the BPL families and the maximum BPL families belong to the marginal and small holdings group, whereas contrary to it, the percentage amount of subsidy on fertilizers shows an increasing tendency with an increase in the size of holding. The percentage value of subsidy on fertilizers is the highest on the large holdings group mainly due to the reason that these farmers use more fertilizers as comparatively to small holdings. The percentage increase in the value of household assets, income and employment on the account of the assistance received from the Government for the construction of houses shows that under rural development programmes among the marginal, small, medium and large size of holding groups the least better-off household benefited the most and the better-off benefitted the least. It happened mainly due to the reason that the Government provides assistance for scheduled cast, scheduled tribe and BPL families for the construction of houses under various schemes. The percentage of assistance received from the Government for old age pension, fee concession and fellowship received by the sample household shows an increasing tendency with an increase in the size of holdings. This clearly reveals that under the rural development programmes in case of employment scheme the poor benefited the most and least poor benefited the least. Thus, in the sample area, rural development programmes and employment schemes seem to have improved the socio-economic conditions of the poor rural households.

PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTIONS

The rural development programmes have not been implemented successfully in the study area. The poorest benefited the least and least poor benefited the most under the Integrated Rural Development Programmes mainly due to the favoritism prevailing while preparing the list of the beneficiaries and distributing the benefits. The Poverty Alleviation Programmes (except the self-employment scheme) have fallen short of their expectations in the rural areas of district Mandi, because the empirical results of the present study clearly established the fact that through these programmes the better-off benefited the most and least better-off benefited the least. About 60 percent of the sample households have said that they are satisfied with the facilities provided from Gram Panchayats. Nearly 75 percent of the sample household has got the representation in the co-operative societies. The rural households of Mandi district are very firm in their faiths and beliefs. About 65 percent of rural households of Mandi district are superstitious. They believe that the blessings of God can remove mental illness, ailments, misfortune and natural calamities. Dowry system is prevalent among the rural households of district Mandi. About 35 percent of the households favoured the dowry system, but dowry is never demanded and never insisted upon. About 20 percent of sample households favoured the joint family system mainly due to the reason that land is the mother and they don't want to divide it, whereas, 80 percent sample households favoured the nuclear family system because of economic independence.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the present empirical investigation that there exists a lot of disparities on different stages on different holding groups which resulted in wide variations in the levels of living of the poverty households. In order to reduce the disparities as well as raise the levels of living, the planners, policy makers and administrators should implement the poverty eradication programmes more effectively in the area in such a way so that most of the poor be benefited the most and the least poor be benefited the least.

TABLE 1: IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD ASSETS, INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE RURAL AREA

OF DISTRICT MANDI (Value in Rs.)						
Sr. No.	Items	Marginal Holdings	Small Holdings	Medium Holdings	Large Holdings	All Holdings
1	Subsidy					
	Subsidy on Food Items	3156	2367	2250	2000	2820.94
		(98.27)	(86.64)	(80.96)	(73.74)	(93.30)
	Subsidy on Fertilizers	55.6	365	529.26	712.36	202.63
		(1.73)	(13.36)	(19.04)	(26.26)	(6.70)
	Total (I + ii)	3211.6	2732.00	2779.26	2712.36	3023.57
		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)
2	Assistance from Government for Construction of Houses Under Various Schemes					
i)	Total Amount Received (Rs.)	4500.00	3500.00	2000.00	0.00	3868.33
ii)	Assets (Houses)	4500.00	3500.00	2000.00	0.00	3868.33
		(92.73)	(90.39)	(100.00)	(0.00)	(92.32)
ii)	Income	4500.00	3500.00	2000.00	0.00	3868.33
		(39.94)	(38.13)	(48.44)	(0.00)	(39.16)
i)	Employment (Man-days)	3.15	3.26	0.90	0.00	2.91
		(4.55)	(5.69)	(3.89)	(0.00)	(4.76)
3	Livestock					
i)	Total Amount of Loan	352.60	372.19	0.00	0.00	321.91
		(100.00)	(100.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(100.00)
ii)	Assets	352.60	372.19	0.00	0.00	321.91
		(7.27)	(9.61)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(7.68)
iii)	Income	161.23	183.33	0.00	0.00	151.05
		(1.43)	(2.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(1.53)
iv)	Employment (Man-days)	1.79	0.92	0.00	0.00	1.35
		(2.58)	(1.61)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(2.21)
4	Employment					
i)	Employment in MANREGA (Man-days)	64.32	53.12	22.21	27.00	56.87
		(92.87)	(92.71)	(96.11)	(100.00)	(93.03)
ii)	Income	6432.32	5312.33	1988.00	2300.00	5687.88
		(57.09)	(57.87)	(48.15)	(95.43)	(57.57)
5	Other Assistance (old age pension, fee concession and fellowships, etc.)					
i)	Total Amount	173.63	184.56	141.11	110.13	172.24
ii)	Income	173.63	184.56	141.11	110.13	172.24
		(1.54)	(2.01)	(3.42)	(4.57)	(1.74)
iii)	Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
iv)	Employment (Mandays)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
6	Grand Total					
i)	Total Amount of Loan	352.60	372.19	0.00	0.00	321.91
		(100.00)	(100.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(100.00)
ii)	Assets	4852.60	3872.19	2000.00	0.00	4190.24
		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(0.00)	(100.00)
iii)	Income	11267.18	9180.22	4129.11	2410.13	9879.50
		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)
iv)	Employment (Mandays)	69.26	57.30	23.11	27.00	61.13
		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in Parenthesis indicate percentage.

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