



EFFECTIVENESS OF VILLAGE LEVEL ORGANIZATION (VLO) UNDER NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION, NAGALAND, INDIA

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Abstract: National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is a poverty alleviation project launched in 2011 by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NSRLM) is the implementing agency of NRLM in Nagaland State, India. NSRLM promotes Community Based Organizations (CBOs) viz., Self Help Group, Village Level Organization (VLO) and Cluster Level Federation (CLF) and this study is based on the effectiveness of VLO. As per NSRLM, a Village Level Organizations (VLOs) is an organization formed by a number of SHGs in-order to bring socio-economic changes and capacity building among the members of the groups and their respective SHGs at large. The research was conducted in Nagaland State covering three districts and two VLOs from each district whereby a total of eight respondents per VLO were interacted upon, thus making a total sample respondents of 48 respondents representing six VLOs. From the findings, it was established that, all the VLO were newly formed whereby one VLO out of six VLOs were found to be in their formation stage while majority were found to be in its normalizing stage. For measuring the effectiveness of Village Level Organizations (VLOs), the SHG Performance Measurement Tool devised by Sa-Dhan was adopted with necessary modifications. It was calculated using Frequency, Percentage, Mean and Standard Deviation.

Key words: Performance, effectiveness, NRLM, NSRLM, Village Level Organizations.

1. INTRODUCTION:

National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is a poverty alleviation project. This scheme which was launched in 2011 by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is focused on promoting self-employment and organization of rural poor. The basic idea behind this programme is to organize the poor into SHG (Self Help Groups) groups and make them capable for self-employment. With a budget of \$5.1 billion, it is one of the world's largest initiatives to improve the livelihood of poor. This programme is supported by World Bank with a credit of \$1 Billion. The scheme was succeeded by Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY) on 25 September 2015 and is also referred to as DAY- NRLM.

Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NSRLM) is the implementing agency for NRLM in the state and embodies the principles and vision of NRLM while keeping in mind the unique features of the state. It was launched in 2012 in Nagaland. Structurally, NSRLM comprises of the workers at the State, District and Block level to cater to the requirements of rural areas across the State. Thus, upholding the vision statement of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), one of the major concerns of Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NSRLM) indeed is to identify and mobilize the poor into Self Help Groups thereby strengthening them towards self reliance.

The core belief of NRLM is that the poor have innate capabilities and a strong desire to come out of poverty. On the basis of large scale experience it has been observed that even the poorest of the poor family can come out of



abject poverty in a period of six to eight years by this intrinsic capability. NRLM also believes that the programme can be up scaled in a time bound manner only if it is driven by the institutions of the poor. Based on this ideology, NSRLM promotes Community Based Organizations (CBOs) viz., Self Help Group, Village Level Organization (VLO) and Cluster Level Federation/Block Level Federation (CLF/BLF).

According to PRADAN, “A self-help group is an informal association of 10 to 20 rural women, socio-economically homogeneous, with a background of affinity, who meet regularly to transact the business of Savings and Credit. As per NSRLM, a VLO is an organization formed by a number of SHGs in-order to bring socio-economic changes and capacity building among the members of the groups and their respective SHGs at large. It is a body consisting of representatives from all’ the member SHGs. CLF/BLF is a forum for VLOs to step up development of women members taking advantage of collective effort of members of their VLOs, enabling a holistic and need based economic and social development.

As per the yearly reports of NSRLM and press media reports, there has been a positive impact at the household level as well as at the programme and policy level (www.morungexpress.com), therefore, this research was an attempt to assess the performance of VLO particularly in terms of its effectiveness.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The sampling technique used in this study was based on random sampling. The present study is limited to three districts out of twelve districts of Nagaland, namely *Dimapur, Mokokchung, and Longleng* were randomly selected for the present investigation. In this study 2 VLOs from each district were identified by obtaining a list from various sources. It was found that VLOs were in their initial stage of establishment therefore only 6 were considered and atleast 8 respondents from each VLO were included as representative respondents for each VLO thus making a sample respondents size of 48 respondents.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

(i) Period of establishment

Table (i) Distribution of VLOs based on Period of establishment N=6

Year of establishment	f	%
2015	1	16.66
2016	5	83.33

As evident from Table (i), 5 VLOs (83.33%) were established in 2015 and 1 VLO was established in 2016 (16.66%). From the findings, it can be established that, all the VLOs were newly formed whereby one VLO out of six VLO were found to be in their formation stage while majority were found to be in their normalizing stage.

(ii) Membership

Table (ii) Distribution of VLOs based on membership N=6

Category	F	%
Small (= < 6)	0	0
Standard (6 to 15)	6	100
Large (above 15)	0	0

Table (ii) reveals that, all the VLOs (100.00%) had standard number of members.

(iii) Leadership

Here, it refers to the process of attaining leadership in the group. It may be based on rotation, election and selection basis.

Table (iii) Distribution of VLOs based on leadership process N=6

Process	F	%
Selection	1	16.66
Rotation	5	83.33

As evident from Table (iii) 5 VLOs (83.33%) leadership was done on rotation basis and only 1 VLO (16.66%) was done on selection basis.



(iv) Book Keeping and Documentation

Table (iv) Distribution of VLOs based on book keeping and documentation N=6

Books maintained	f	%
Attendance register	6	100
Minutes book	6	100
Savings book	6	100
Loan ledgers	6	100
General ledger	6	100
Cash book	6	100
Pass book (group)	6	100
Pass book (individuals)	6	100
Monthly reports	6	100
Any other	6	100

It is evident from table (iv) that, all the 6 VLOs (100%) were maintaining proper records of all requisite books.

(v) Capacity Building

Table (v a) Distribution of VLOs based on training obtained under NSRLM N=6

Training Obtained	f	%
Not obtained	1	16.67
upto 6	3	50.00
upto 12	2	33.33

Table (v a) reveals that, 3 VLOs (50.00%) had obtained training for upto 6 times since establishment. 2 VLOs (33.33%) had obtained training for upto 12 times and 1 VLO (16.67%) had obtained training for 1 time. Nevertheless, every VLO was found to have obtained training.

Table (v b) Distribution of VLOs based on training organized N=6

Training organized	f	%
Not organized	0	0.00
upto 6	4	66.67
upto 12	2	33.33

Table (v b) reveals that, 4 VLOs (66.67%) had organized training for SHGs upto 6 times, 2 VLOs (33.33%) had organized upto 12 times. Thus, from the findings it can be concluded that all the VLOs under study were actively involved in organizing trainings.

(vi) Regularity of meetings

Table (vi) Distribution of respondents based on regularity of meetings N=6

Meetings	f	%
100%	5	83.33
Below 100%	1	16.66

Table (vi) shows that 5 VLOs (83.33%) regularity of meeting was 100% while, 1 VLO (16.66%) was below 100%.

(vii) Monthly savings

Table (vii) Distribution of respondents based on monthly savings N=6

Category	f	%
No saving	2	33.33
Below 500	1	16.67
501 – 1000	1	16.67
1000 above	2	33.33



Table (vii) shows that, 4 VLOs out of 6 VLOs (33.33%) had monthly savings of more than Rs.1000, 1 VLO (16.66%) below Rs.500, 1 VLO (33.33%) had savings between Rs.500 to Rs.1000 and 2 VLOs (33.33%) had no monthly savings.

(viii) Relative effectiveness of VLOs

The effectiveness of the VLOs was measured in terms of performance

Table (viii) Relative effectiveness of VLOs **N=6**

VLO number	Final Normalized score	Class	Relative Effectiveness	
1	1.00	3		%
2	0.00	1	Excellent	50.00
3	0.70	3	Good	16.66
4	0.70	3	Satisfactory	33.33
5	0.35	2		
6	0.15	1		

From table (viii), it can be established from the findings that, from the 6 VLOs under study, 3 VLOs performance were excellent, 1 VLO was good and the performance of 2 VLOs were found to be satisfactory.

4. CONCLUSION:

The study revealed that, 100 per cent of the VLOs had standard (6-15) number of members and majority of the VLOs leadership was based on rotation and only 1 VLO was done on selection basis. It was observed that the 6 VLOs (100%) were maintaining proper records of all requisite books. The study also revealed that all the VLOs under study had obtained training and were also actively involved in organizing trainings. 5 VLOs regularity of meeting was 100% while, 1 VLO was below 100% and also, 4 VLOs had monthly savings of more than Rs.1000, 1 VLO below Rs.500, 1 VLO had savings between Rs.500 to Rs.1000 and 2 VLOs had no monthly savings. It was established from the findings that, from the study, 50 per cent VLOs performance were excellent, 16.66 per cent VLO was good and the performance of 33.33 per cent VLOs were found to be satisfactory.

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