

PARTICIPATION OF RURAL PEOPLE IN GOVERNANCE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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ABSTRACT

Participation of rural people in planning, implementation and governance of the rural development programme is much essential for democratic decentralization and to bring balance in development in society, particularly in rural areas. The more participation of people is sought more effective in implementation and governance of the programme. In this paper a sincere effort is made to know the satisfaction of RDP's administrative officials about their regulating and monitoring system, and opinion towards the beneficiaries' active participation in decision-making and governance of the programmes. It has been found that more than fifty percent of respondents are found highly satisfied with their regulating and monitoring system, and near about fifty percent administrative have opined that rural masses are playing an important role in decision-making and governance of the programme at moderate level. The paper makes a number of policy suggestions to ensure the individual's participation and governance of the programme.

KEY WORDS: RDP, Participation, Governance, Monitoring.

INTRODUCTION

Rural Development has been receiving a greater attention of the governments across the world. It [RD] is a topic, which is very easy to understand, but hard to implement. The meaning of rural development has been a subject of much debate and little agreement. The definition of rural development varies from one point of view to the other. In a recent trend, "Rural Development" is recognised as the means to improve the quality of individual life in villages. A better quality of life generally calls for higher income, right to better education, higher standards of health and nutrition, less poverty, a cleaner environment, more equality of opportunity and greater individual freedom. According to the World Bank, "Rural Development is a strategy to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people, the rural poor, including small and marginal farmers' tenants and the landless"¹. Generally, rural development refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic welfare of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas².

Participation and Monitoring System

Participation is defined here as the extent to which beneficiaries are involved in information sharing, consultation, decision-making, and initiating action in the programme

activities. Being more specifically, participation means doing things together exchanging ideas and experiences, consulting and considering all views, empowerment, collective ideas and efforts, doing things together in work. Participation also means fostering of a dialogue between the local people and project preparation implementation, monitoring and evaluation in order to obtain information on the local context and on social impacts³. On the other side, monitoring is an equipment which help to take immediate actions and respond to the problems before it becomes complex. An effective and efficient monitoring system helps to increase the output. It is an essential part of any rural development programme. It improves the practices of the labourer, through the control of its good regulating and monitoring system.

RETROSPECTIVE LITERATURE

Meenu (2018)⁴ has revealed in her study that there are manifold problems contributing to the ineffectiveness of people's involvement. She found that the mechanisms of direct people's involvement through different management committees are faulty. There is no strong legal system to ensure that people's involvement is legitimate at the rural level. The assessment systems in relation to people's

involvement, and their satisfaction over the outcomes of the development programs, are inoperative. She reported that mainly trust of local people in their elected leaders, is deterring true people's involvement through their elected leaders.

Poonia (2012)⁵ has noted that public policy and public works in India have generally tried to include women as a large percentage of beneficiaries, but has not paid enough attention to a gender sensitive design. The MGNREGS in its design has attempted some gender sensitivity. The women who were not working previously, have started to work at MGNREGS sites. The preliminary finding shows that, in Kerala, there has been some shift from agriculture to the MGNREGS, mainly with respect to female workers. Further, author said, the rural development programme has a lot of potential to stimulate local development, if its management and delivery are good; and also to strengthen women's position in the labour market.

Pattanaik and Lal (2011)⁶ have looked at the social audit system of the Sirsa district of Haryana and found that the village Panchayats are maintaining registers and records, which are a picture of transparency. The RTI Act has also made the Panchayats further cautious and careful to keep the record, which may be at any time liable to public scrutiny. During the research authors have found that E-governance at the village level in the Panchayats is connected with computer and internet facilities. It is a milestone in path of E-governance transparency and they have reported that overall progress of social audit system is found satisfactory.

Sudarshan et al. (2010)⁷ have studied the reasons behind wide variations in the participation of women in the NREGA and the policy implications that follow. Researchers have found on fieldwork basis that two states where women from a high proportion of workers, Kerala and Rajasthan, and, one where the proportion was low i.e. Himachal Pradesh. The emerging policy implications include the need to develop a

wider range of activities that acknowledge life-cycle issues and bodily ability: in sparsely populated and remote areas a different design or even a cash transfer programme may be better able to meet the objectives of assuring minimum income. Authors have suggested that there is need to enhance awareness among the beneficiaries and inspire them to participate in various activities and income oriented schemes so that participation ratio could be increased.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the Executive's Opinions about the Beneficiaries' Participation in Decision-Making.
2. To study the satisfaction of Executive's about the Regulating and Monitoring System of RDP.
3. To give suggestions on the basis of findings to make programme more effective and result oriented.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study is purely based on primary data. For achieving the objectives of the study, primary data was collected through questionnaire. The sampling elements comprised of 55 out of 42 responded, rest of sample were either not received or were incomplete. Multistage random sampling method was adopted to select the sample. As far as the collection of primary data was concerned, it was collected from the rural development programmes' regulating and monitoring administrative of Himachal Pradesh. Consistent with the study objectives statistical tools, such as Percentage and Chi-squares test were applied.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

Opinions about Beneficiaries' Participation in Decision-Making

In the present section, a sincere endeavour has been performed to know the perception of RDP administrative officers about beneficiaries desiring to participate in various decision-making processes under rural development programmes.

Table 1 Gender-wise Bifurcation: Beneficiaries' Participation in Decision-Making

Gender	Nature of Responses			Total
	To Great Extent	To Moderate Extent	To Some Extent	
Male	11	18	5	34
	26.2%	42.9%	11.9%	81.0%
Female	5	2	1	8
	11.9%	4.8%	2.4%	19.0%
Total	16	20	6	42
	38.1%	47.6%	14.3%	100.0%

Chi-Square = 2.629 df = 2 P.Value = 0.269

Source: Primary Probe

On the application of Chi-square test, its calculated value is 2.629 and P-value is 0.269. The P-value is found greater than 5 per cent level of significance. It is found that there exists an insignificant association between the gender of the

respondents and their perceptions about participation of beneficiaries in various decision-making process and governance of the programme.

Table 2 Age-wise Classification: Beneficiaries' Participation in Decision-Making

Age	Nature of Responses			Total
	To Great Extent	To Moderate Extent	To Some Extent	
Below 30	1	3	1	5
	2.4%	7.1%	2.4%	11.9%
30-45	5	9	3	17
	11.9%	21.4%	7.1%	40.5%
45-60	7	6	1	14
	16.7%	14.3%	2.4%	33.3%
Above 60	3	2	1	6
	7.1%	4.8%	2.4%	14.3%
Total	16	20	6	42
	38.1%	47.6%	14.3%	100.0%

Chi-Square = 2.869 df = 6 P.Value = 0.825

Source: Primary Probe

While applying the Chi-square test for independence, its value comes out to be 2.869 and P-value is 0.825, which is $P > 0.05$. It signifies that there exists insignificant relationship

among the age group of respondents and their perception about the participation of rural people in a decision-making process.

Table 3 Academic Qualification: Beneficiaries' Participation in Decision-Making

Education	Nature of Responses			Total
	To Great Extent	To Moderate Extent	To Some Extent	
Below Matric	10	4	4	18
	23.8%	9.5%	9.5%	42.9%
Plus Two	3	8	0	11
	7.1%	19.0%	0.0%	26.2%
Graduate	2	5	1	8
	4.8%	11.9%	2.4%	19.0%
Above Graduate	1	3	1	5
	2.4%	7.1%	2.4%	11.9%
Total	16	20	6	42
	38.1%	47.6%	14.3%	100.0%

Chi-Square = 9.493 df = 6 P.Value = 0.148

Source: Primary Probe

The computed value of the Chi-square test is 9.493 and P-value is 0.148. It is noted that the P-value is greater than 5 per cent level of significance. It confirms that there is no relationship between the educational qualification of respondents and their perceptions about active participation of rural people in various decision-making processes in RDPs.

Opinions about Regulating and Monitoring System of RDPs

In the following section, an attempt has been made to know the perception of RDP administrative officers about the regulating and monitoring system of rural development programmes.

Table 4 Gender-wise Bifurcation: Satisfaction about Regulating and Monitoring System

Gender	Nature of Responses			Total
	To Great Extent	To Moderate Extent	To Some Extent	
Male	22	9	3	34
	52.4%	21.4%	7.1%	81.0%
Female	1	3	4	8
	2.4%	7.1%	9.5%	19.0%
Total	23	12	7	42
	54.8%	28.6%	16.7%	100.0%

Chi-Square = 10.087 df = 2 P.Value = 0.006

Source: Primary Probe

The statistical tool Chi-square test has applied and its calculated value is found 10.087 and P-value is 0.006. The P-value is found less than 5 per cent level of significance. It is found that there exists a significant association between the

gender of the respondents and their perceptions about the regulating and monitoring system of rural development programmes.

Table 5 Age-wise Distribution: Satisfaction about Regulating and Monitoring System

Age	Nature of Responses			Total
	To Great Extent	To Moderate Extent	To Some Extent	
Below 30	2	1	2	5
	4.8%	2.4%	4.8%	11.9%
30-45	10	5	2	17
	23.8%	11.9%	4.8%	40.5%
45-60	7	4	3	14
	16.7%	9.5%	7.1%	33.3%
Above 60	4	2	0	6
	9.5%	4.8%	0.0%	14.3%
Total	23	12	7	42
	54.8%	28.6%	16.7%	100.0%

Chi-Square = 3.713 df = 6 P.Value = 0.715

Source: Primary Probe

While applying the Chi-square test for independence, its value comes out to be 3.713 and P-value is 0.715, which is $P > 0.05$. It signifies that there exists insignificant relationship

among the age group of respondents and their perception about the regulating and monitoring system of RDPs.

Table 6 Academic-wise Allocation: Satisfaction about Regulating and Monitoring System

Education	Nature of Responses			Total
	To Great Extent	To Moderate Extent	To Some Extent	
Below Matric	8	6	4	18
	19.0%	14.3%	9.5%	42.9%
Plus Two	5	4	2	11
	11.9%	9.5%	4.8%	26.2%
Graduate	5	2	1	8
	11.9%	4.8%	2.4%	19.0%
Above Graduate	5	0	0	5
	11.9%	0.0%	0.0%	11.9%
Total	23	12	7	42
	54.8%	28.6%	16.7%	100.0%

Chi-Square = 5.586 df = 6 P.Value = 0.471

Source: Primary Probe

The computed value of the Chi-square test is 5.586 and P-value is 0.471. It is noted that the P-value is greater than 5 per cent level of significance. It confirms that there is no relationship between the educational qualification of respondents and their perceptions about regulating and monitoring system of RDPs.

CONCLUSION

From the above analysis it is concluded that Government has taken various important steps to enhance the participation of rural people in planning, implementation and governance of the programme, but still involvement of rural household is observed below from its expectation. For this, govt., regulating agencies and programmes officer's need to educate, convey and inspire rural masses, so that their participation could be increased, and convince them that what kind of significant role they can play in governance of the programme. Likewise, programme officer need to work-hard and evaluate themselves for improving the regulating and monitoring system under programme, so that the obstacle can be removed and regulating and monitoring system can be made more effective.

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