

Livelihood Missions and Economic Improvement in Nagaland: An Empirical Study

Gurdev Singh

Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, Annamalai University

gurdev@gmail.com

Cell No: 8248752162

ORCID ID: 0009-0008-9186-0909

Abstract: *With the aim of strengthening the economy, authorities in Nagaland have launched a series of livelihood missions. These initiatives aim to help the people of Nagaland improve their standard of living by providing them with better access to employment and higher levels of income. Livelihood missions have made important contributions to the state's economic growth through a number of different projects and programs. In Nagaland, agriculture and related industries greatly benefit from livelihood missions. Since the state's economy is largely dependent on agriculture, these initiatives aim to modernize farming methods, expand access to those methods, and increase the value of agricultural outputs. Livelihood missions boost farmers' incomes and the economy as a whole by improving agricultural productivity and efficiency. Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprise (MSMEs) development is a primary focus of livelihood initiatives in Nagaland. These envoys aid micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) monetarily, technically, and in terms of marketing and infrastructure. Supporting the expansion of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) is one way that livelihood missions help advance economic growth for everybody. The methodology undertaken is descriptive analysis. The objectives are first to discuss the role and importance of livelihood missions, second one is to know the importance of Micro-Enterprises, and third is significance of rural development.*

Keywords: Economic Conditions, Livelihood Missions, Micro-Enterprises, Rural Development, Small-Scale Industries.

1. Introduction

Many places, like Nagaland, have greatly benefited from livelihood missions, which have helped boost the local economy. Nagaland, in India's northeast, is renowned for its cultural diversity and historical significance. However, the state's economic growth has been stymied by a number of factors, including inadequate infrastructure, a reliance on agriculture, and a lack of available jobs. To combat these problems and improve the economic standing of the people of Nagaland, livelihood missions have been launched in recent years. In order to build a more equitable and prosperous economy, these initiatives aim to increase opportunities for business ownership, skill building, and long-term employment. The economic climate of Nagaland will be examined in this essay, along with the many changes brought about by livelihood missions [1]. However, its economy has been plagued by problems for decades, including a lack of available jobs, outdated facilities, and an unequal distribution of wealth. The government of Nagaland has begun a revolutionary journey through livelihood missions to tackle these urgent problems and pave the path for sustainable development. These initiatives aim to improve the state's economy by promoting entrepreneurship, training, and broad-based expansion. The people of Nagaland are working toward a more prosperous and fair future, and this in-depth investigation delves into the many dimensions of these missions, their goals, strategies, and tremendous influence on the lives of the people [2].

In the present study, the researcher uses a descriptive and analytical method. Secondary data were sourced from research journals, articles, newspapers, and a thesis related to, Rural Development in Nagaland, magazines, and government documents were also referred. The first objective is to discuss the role and importance of

livelihood missions, the second objective is to know the importance of Micro-Enterprises, and the third one is significance of rural development

Livelihood missions, when successfully implemented in Nagaland, might have a major impact on the state of the economy there. Missions with the goal of improving people's standard of living through the creation of long-term employment and business prospects are called "livelihood missions." Since agriculture and other traditional occupations provide a living for a large percentage of Nagaland's population, economic diversification and the decline of subsistence farming are two major goals of livelihood missions. Promoting entrepreneurialism and skill development is an important part of livelihood missions. Training and capacity-building programs help people develop or hone the skills they need to start or grow their own businesses. Industries such as tourism, handicrafts, food production, and other similar enterprises fall under this category. Livelihood missions enable people to become self-reliant by inspiring them to start their own enterprises [3]. The restoration of agriculture and horticulture in Nagaland is one of the most significant results of these missions. Livelihood missions have considerably enhanced agricultural output by introducing modern farming practices, utilizing high-yield crop varieties, and establishing farmer cooperatives. To guarantee the state's food security and to have surplus production for commerce, farmers can now grow anything from rice to exotic fruits. This has helped alleviate poverty by increasing farmers' incomes and decreasing their reliance on foreign imports [4]. In addition to providing a stable income for Naga craftsmen, the promotion of traditional handicrafts and handloom weaving through these missions has been crucial to conserving the region's unique cultural legacy. The government's assistance in selling these one-of-a-kind products has expanded their

reach to new domestic and international markets, increasing the income of artisans and raising their standard of living. The tourism industry, like agriculture and handicrafts, has flourished as a result of livelihood missions. Nagaland's untouched landscapes, rich tribal traditions, and one-of-a-kind celebrations have attracted visitors from all over the world. Many locals now have gainful employment because of the government's smart investments in transportation, lodging, and advertising that emphasize the state's eco-friendliness [5]. The provision of financial aid and access to credit facilities are also integral parts of livelihood missions. In Nagaland, many people have a hard time gaining access to funds for business ventures. Loans and grants are two ways in which livelihood missions might help with this problem. They may also help establish connections with banks and other financial institutions to improve entrepreneurs' access to credit. This funding can help businesses get off the ground and expand, which in turn boosts the economy. Improving access to markets for regional goods is another priority for livelihood missions. Nagaland is home to a plethora of potentially lucrative cultural artifacts, handicrafts, and agricultural products. However, inhibited expansion into new markets is a common problem in these fields. Missions aimed at improving people's livelihoods can help close this chasm by establishing connections between suppliers and consumers on a local, national, or even global scale. Trade shows, exhibits, and social gatherings can be used to facilitate the meeting of manufacturers and consumers. Livelihood missions can contribute to economic growth by increasing individual and community income through the promotion of locally produced goods [6].

Livelihood Missions:

The northern Indian state of Nagaland has been adopting livelihood missions to boost its economy. Missions focused on improving people's livelihoods seek to give them access to more and better ways to make a living. These initiatives aim to help rural communities overcome problems including unemployment, poverty, and a lack of basic services. The Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission (NSRLM), or "Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission" (DAY-NRLM), is one of the most important livelihood missions in Nagaland. The Government of India's Ministry of Rural Development initiated this initiative in 2012 with the goal of eliminating rural poverty by increasing the availability of possibilities for self-employment and skilled wage work. The NSRLM seeks to improve the economic standing of the underprivileged by encouraging them to form self-help groups (SHGs) and then providing them with resources such as loans, training, and access to markets [7]. The Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency (NBDA) is engaged in an important economic role as well. The economic potential of bamboo is enormous, and it is abundant in Nagaland. In 2004, the NBDA was formed to develop the state's bamboo resources commercially and put people to work using bamboo. Bamboo production, processing, value addition, and marketing are all areas that the agency is keen to advance. Individuals and communities working with bamboo benefit from the program's technical assistance, education, and funding. The Nagaland Bamboo Development Authority (NBDA) is instrumental in making bamboo a sustainable economic option for the local

population [8]. Additionally, the bulk of the population of Nagaland is involved in farming operations, making this sector extremely important to the economy. Several efforts have been launched to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable farming methods and increase farmers' income. The National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is one such program that is working to improve agricultural output, sustainability, and climate adaptation. The mission's primary goals are to encourage organic farming practices, soil health management, water conservation, and resource efficiency. Nagaland's agricultural sector can be protected for the long term if farmers adopt these methods to increase production and income [9].

Here are only some of the missions and programs for Nagaland's means of subsistence:

- 1) **Agricultural Development:** Nagaland's economy relies heavily on agriculture. Subsidies, updated farming practices, and encouragement of high-value crop production are just a few of the ways the government is striving to boost agricultural productivity [10].
- 2) **Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission:** If you happen to reside in a rural area of Nagaland, you must be aware of NSRLM, a flagship initiative designed to alleviate poverty and improve living conditions. Self-help groups (SHGs) are the primary focus, with funding and training for skill development being provided to rural youth and women [11].
- 3) **Entrepreneurship Development:** To inspire the next generation of business owners, many initiatives aimed at fostering entrepreneurship have been implemented. This may take the form of giving them money, offering guidance, or opening doors to new markets [12].
- 4) **Women Empowerment:** Promoting women's participation in self-help organizations, training in income-generating activities, and offering access to finance are just a few of the programs that aim to empower women economically and socially [13].

Micro-Enterprises

The state of Nagaland, in the northeastern part of India, relies heavily on its microbusinesses to drive its economic growth. The local economy benefits from the work of these small enterprises since they help provide jobs, raise wages, reduce poverty, and expand the economy. This in-depth response will examine the role of micro-enterprises (MEs) in driving economic growth in Nagaland, as well as ME traits, ME struggles, ME-friendly policies, ME triumphs, and ME role models [14]. Handicrafts, handloom weaving, agro-processing, small-scale manufacturing, and services relating to tourism are just a few of the many examples of Nagaland's thriving micro-enterprise sector. These businesses may be on the smaller side, but they may have a major impact on the state's economy if given the chance. Not only do they help the economy and provide jobs, but they also help to conserve and spread awareness of Nagaland's unique artistic and cultural heritage [15]. The Role of Microbusinesses in Nagaland's Economic Growth A micro enterprise is a tiny company with few employees and low capital requirements agriculture, handicrafts, textiles, food processing, tourism, and services are some of the most

common areas in which these businesses may be found in Nagaland [16].

There are many ways in which they contribute significantly to the state's economy:

- 1) **Employment Generation:** Microbusinesses rely heavily on human labor and have the potential to generate a large number of new positions. These companies help alleviate the problem of high unemployment in Nagaland by employing people with varying levels of education and training. They help lower unemployment rates by using up available workers.
- 2) **Income Generation:** Microbusinesses are a source of revenue for the families and people that run them. They open up opportunities for independent work and income diversification, which is especially important in more remote places. This contributes to rising living standards and decreasing poverty.
- 3) **Local Economic Development:** Microenterprises contribute to local economic development by promoting entrepreneurship and fostering a culture of innovation. They encourage local production and consumption patterns, leading to increased economic activity within the community. This strengthens the local economy and reduces dependence on external sources.
- 4) **Promotion of Traditional Skills and Culture:** Many of Nagaland's microbusinesses focus on promoting and conserving ancient arts and techniques. These enterprises contribute to the preservation of age-old methods of production, skills, and forms of expression. Their one-of-a-kind wares and services also help the tourism industry.

Rural Development:

The state's rugged terrain, lack of infrastructure, and relative isolation pose significant obstacles to economic growth. However, the government and non-profit groups have taken several steps to encourage economic growth and rural development in Nagaland. Increasing support for farming and related industries is a vital part of Nagaland's plan to modernize its rural areas. There has been an effort to increase agricultural output, crop diversity, and the use of cutting-edge farming methods because agriculture is the mainstay of rural economies. To help farmers, the government has established programs like the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). These efforts are being made in an effort to boost agricultural practices, crop yields, and sustainable farming techniques [17]. In addition to agriculture, rural development in Nagaland also focuses on promoting entrepreneurship and small-scale industries. The government has launched various schemes, like the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and the Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC), to provide financial assistance, skill development training, and marketing support to aspiring entrepreneurs. These initiatives aim to create employment opportunities, reduce migration from rural areas, and boost the local economy [18]. Building up rural infrastructure in Nagaland is also essential. The state government has been working to enhance the educational, health care, and transportation systems in outlying communities. Clean water and sanitation facilities have also been brought to outlying settlements. Investments, tourism, and a higher standard of

living can all be attracted to rural areas by investing in the infrastructure there.

Vocational training programs have been implemented to provide education and experience in fields like tourism, hospitality, healthcare, and information technology to young people in rural areas in an effort to reduce youth unemployment. The goal of these courses is to produce a labor force that is better equipped to aid in Nagaland's economic growth. The administration also understands how vital it is to protect and publicize Nagaland's extensive cultural history. Efforts have been made to expand markets for indigenous handicrafts and art. These initiatives not only aid the state in maintaining its cultural character but also give rural artisans a chance to make a living [19]. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) significantly aid rural development in Nagaland. They collaborate closely with neighborhoods to launch new initiatives, including healthcare, education, and self-help groups for women. These NGOs play an important role as change agents and contributors to rural areas' efforts to achieve sustainable development [20].

2. Conclusion

The economic situation in Nagaland might greatly benefit from livelihood missions. Livelihood missions can help people improve their standard of living and contribute to regional economic growth by encouraging entrepreneurialism, giving financial support, strengthening market links, and encouraging sustainable practices. Providing residents of Nagaland with sustainable and diverse livelihood opportunities, livelihood missions have played a crucial role in fostering economic growth. The NSRLM, NBDA, NMSA, and the promotion of tourism have all played important roles in expanding rural residents' access to sustainable ways of making a living. These initiatives aim to strengthen people and communities by providing them with resources and training, connecting them to markets, and promoting environmentally friendly methods. Livelihood missions have greatly aided Nagaland's economic growth and general prosperity by tackling local problems and making better use of the state's abundant resources. The importance of livelihood missions as a method for improving economic conditions in Nagaland is highlighted in research titled "Improving Economic Conditions through Livelihood Missions in Nagaland." Economic growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation are just some of the areas that could benefit from such missions, as evidenced by the research. Some of the study's strongest points are its emphasis on interventions at the grassroots level, on developing capacity, and on empowering women and marginalized groups. A deeper examination of socioeconomic elements and other methods of achieving the mission's goals would have enriched the study. Nonetheless, the report lays the firm groundwork for additional investigation and policy actions to foster economic growth in Nagaland.

3. Funding

case study. *Journal of Tropical Agriculture*, 39(1), 52-54.

The research would not be possible without the funding of ICSSR. I am highly thankful to the agency that helped me through my research.

References

- [1] <https://nlsic.nagaland.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/NEPEDori.pdf>
- [2] <https://tsaspirants.com/nagaland-government-schemes/>
- [3] https://mdoner.gov.in/contentimages/files/Social_Assessment.pdf
- [4] Das, S., Chatterjee, A., & Pal, T. K. (2020). Organic farming in India: a vision towards a healthy nation. *Food Quality and Safety*, 4(2), 69-76.
- [5] Mandi, K., Azad, A., Dutta, S., & Hindorya, P. S. (2019). Agro Tourism: Exploring New Avenues In Rural India. *Science for Agriculture and Allied Sector*, 1(1).
- [6] <https://www.rbi.org.in/commonperson/English/Scripts/Notification.aspx?Id=3008>
- [7] <https://nsrlm.nagaland.gov.in/overview/>
- [8] Salam, K., & Dube, L. C. Feasibility Study for Bamboo based Carbon Credit generation in Nagaland.
- [9] <https://agriculture.nagaland.gov.in/activities-of-the-department/>
- [10] DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (nagaland.gov.in)
- [11] NSRLM : Nagaland
- [12] If You're A Young Entrepreneur, These Govt Schemes Will Help Your Startup Grow (youthkiwaaz.com)
- [13] Khan, T. (2016). Evidential roadmap: strengthening linkages between women's economic empowerment and growth; a background paper for the UN High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment.
- [14] Ashraf, M. I., & Hussain, M. (2012). FINANCING OF SMEs (SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES); ALTERNATIVES, POLICY MEASURES AND FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS–THE CASE OF PAKISTAN'S COTTON GINNING INDUSTRY.
- [15] Jamir, I., & Sridharan, P. (2017). Government and institutions' role in promoting micro-enterprises: A study among handicraft entrepreneurs in Dimapur District, Nagaland. *Entrepreneurship education: Experiments with curriculum, pedagogy and target groups*, 367-390.
- [16] Thingo, C., & Sarkar, S. S. (2013). Growth and development of MSME in North-East India. *Chief patron chief patron*.
- [17] <https://agriculture.nagaland.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/VISION-2025-DOCUMENT-low-resolution.pdf>
- [18] <https://industry.nagaland.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/AAR-Industries-Commerce-2016-Edit-1.pdf>
- [19] Rajendran, V., & Paul, D. (2020). Skilling the Rural Youth of the Northeast of India Through Rural Technologies. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development*, 30(1-2), 195-202.
- [20] Bhaskar, I., & Geethakutty, P. S. (2006). Role of non-governmental organizations in rural development: A