



Panchayati Raj in Manipur: A Study with Special Reference to Leimaram Gram Panchayat of Bishnupur District

Bandana Loukham

Indira Gandhi National Open University

ABSTRACT

Panchayats have been the foundation of the Indian villages starting from the start of the written history. Panchayat Raj is an arrangement of administration where Gram Panchayats are the fundamental units of administration. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been engaged with the program execution and they comprise the center of decentralized improvement of arranging and its execution. Panchayat Raj Institutions target at interpreting the Gandhian dream of village self-administration (Gram Swaraj) and to turn into a successful instrument of country improvement and recreation. Starting around 1959 almost all rural development departments have been executing their programmes through PRIs. With the execution of State Acts under the soul of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment obvious job of Panchayat Raj Establishments in provincial improvement has been imagined. The paper aims highlight the system of Panchayat Raj, role of Panchayat Raj institutions in the implementation of the government schemes for poverty alleviation and rural development, various government schemes, etc.

Key words: foundation, administration, execution, recreation, institutions

1. INTRODUCTION

The idea of Panchayati Raj in India is not new instead, considered as an old establishment. It was pervasive in various types of nearby self-government since days of yore. Mention may be made from the Rig Veda, Dharmasastra, Upanishads, Jatakas, Manusmriti, Mahabharata, Arthasastra, and so on. Kautilya's Arthasastra envisions serious areas of strength for a came close to town regulatory framework (Chandrasekhar, 2008). The defeat of nearby government began as the colonization cycle of English government progresses. Many changes have surfaced during the English rule where, local self-government remained more or less defunct or confined at the hands of few individual members. Be that as it may, another period of local self-government has come after India became independence and especially, the improvement of Panchayati Raj at a quicker rate from the 73rd Amendment onwards.

The current study aims to examine the various rural development programmes with special focus to the role of Panchayati Raj in rural development and implementation of work effectively in Bishnupur District of Leimaram Gram Panchayat Manipur.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The Panchayat Raj Framework is assuming a significant part in country improvement. Leimaram Gram Panchayat Under Nambol block of Bishnupur Area, Manipur has taken the responsibility of executing different provincial advancement programs supported by both state and central governments. The study is significant for assessing the role of panchayat and its impact on the advancement of study region.

3. OBJECTIVES

- To find out the reason of the need of development programmes in rural development.
- To examine the participation of masses in the functioning of decentralised democracy.
- To evaluate the Rural development activities of Leimaram Gram Panchayat.
- To identify problems of Leimaram Gram Panchayat in implementing Rural development programmes

4. METHODOLOGY

The method adopted in this study is historical in the qualitative research kind. It is on the basis of content analysis. Relevant data to the study have been collected from concerned departments, personal interviews were conducted with some Pradhans, some members of the Village Panchayat and Zilla Parishad, officials and beneficiaries as primary sources and secondary sources from books, journals, newspaper clipping etc.

5. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The Bishnupur District is one of the smallest Districts in Manipur, having a geographical area of 496 kms. and only three sub divisions. It has one Zila Parishad (consisting of 11 Zila Parishad Members) and 24 Gram Panchayats, 4 Municipal Councils and 3 Nagar Panchayats and 89 villages. Different developmental schemes have been implementing in the state but it is very much questionable on the achievement in the rural areas of Bishnupur District. There are issues relating to difficulties in implementation of certain schemes/projects.

6. FINDINGS

- i. Implementation of MNREGS is still problem in Manipur that the record finding in the field investigation confirm that most of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) cannot provide 95 days of work to the job card holders.
- ii. In particular to the Leimaram GP, only 15 days are provided it is indeed very serious.
- iii. Beneficiaries can get direct benefit from the MGNREGS and PMAY while the state finance commission and 14 finance commission indirectly benefited to the villagers in the sense that different developmental programmes are undergoing through this State Finance Commission(SFC) and 14 Finance Commission(FC) like watershed management, road construction, well and pond digging, repairing and construction of primary schools in different villages.

7. REVIEW OF WRITING

BOOKS:

P.C Sikligar (2020), Panchayati Raj & Rural Development: Policy Practice & Implication this book aim to establishes a link between the Panchayati Raj and Rural Development. Panchayati Raj being people-centric institutions promotes quality of life of the people living in the rural areas. India is a home of villages where a large chunk of population lives whereas Panchayati Raj is a hearth of governance and development in rural areas. Government has assigned developmental tasks to Panchayati Raj bodies by involving people and their representatives. The goal of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Development Schemes are interlined which focus on resolving issues of the people and take care of development. It covers strategy and evolution of Panchayati Raj system and effectiveness of centrally sponsored schemes.

Tahir Hussain, Mary Tahir, Riya Tahir (2018), Fundamentals of Rural Development this book highlight the Fundamentals of Rural Development is a concise yet thorough text which strives to impart a good comprehension of rural development in India. It presents the theories of (RD), structure of rural economy, policy instruments, and strategies in poverty alleviation globally, planning issues and programs for implementation, institutional and organizational roles and involvement, and the overall management of rural development. In particular, it emphasizes the pivotal role of human resources as both a means and an end of development.

Rajeeb Kumar Behera (2023), Steps towards Rural Development in India is a book that aims to highlight the critical role of rural development in India's overall growth and provide an overview of the current state of rural development. Despite rapid urbanization, a significant proportion of India's population still lives in rural areas, making their development and wellbeing essential.

ARTICLES:

Wahengbam Sanjit Singh (2022), Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in Manipur This work attempts to analyze the problems of execution of work and the administrative complexity of the Panchayati Raj system and the role of the elected representatives of local self-government in the proper implementation of the various rural development programmes. The Panchayati Raj Institutions are expected to take part as implementing and supervisory agencies in development activities so as to execute the rural development programmes efficiently and timely.

Moirangthem Kabita Devi (2016), Rural Development Process through MGNREGA in Manipur this article highlight Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 is the Government of India's most important rural poverty alleviation programme with the primary objective of enhancing the livelihood security of rural people by providing wage employment to unskilled labour. It is also expected to create durable assets and strengthen the livelihood resource base of rural poor so that the employment generation is on sustainable basis.

Mrs. Vani H, Prof. Ravindranath N. Kadam (2016), Panchayat Raj Institutions And Rural developments In India this article highlight as Panchayats have been the backbone of the Indian villages since the beginning of recorded history. Gandhiji, the father of the nation, in 1946 had aptly remarked that the Indian Independence must begin at the bottom and every village ought to be a Republic or Panchayat having powers. Gandhiji's dream has been translated into reality with the introduction of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system to ensure people's participation in rural reconstruction. The passage of the Constitution Act, 1992 marks a new era in the federal democratic set up of the country and provides constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Ideas/Suggestion

- Small scale and cottage industries should be improved to create a large number of job opportunities in the Rural regions.
- Proper education facilities should be provided to literate the Rural people.
- Special policies should be introduced to solve the problems of unemployment specially disguised unemployed.
- Initiatives and participation of Rural people in development schemes must be enlarged.
- Policies should be formulated to encourage the rural youths for entrepreneurial occupations.

CONCLUSION

Panchayats are India's ancient autonomous democratic institutions. The philosophy of Panchayat Raj is deeply steeped in tradition and culture of rural India. It is by no means a new concept. Panchayat Raj provided a system of self-governance at the village level. Panchayat Raj Institutions is the grass root unit of self-government. It has been declared as the vehicle of socio-economic transformation in rural India. Effective and meaningful functioning of these bodies would depend on active involvement contribution and participation of its citizens, both male and female. The role of such institutions is so vital in the rural development.

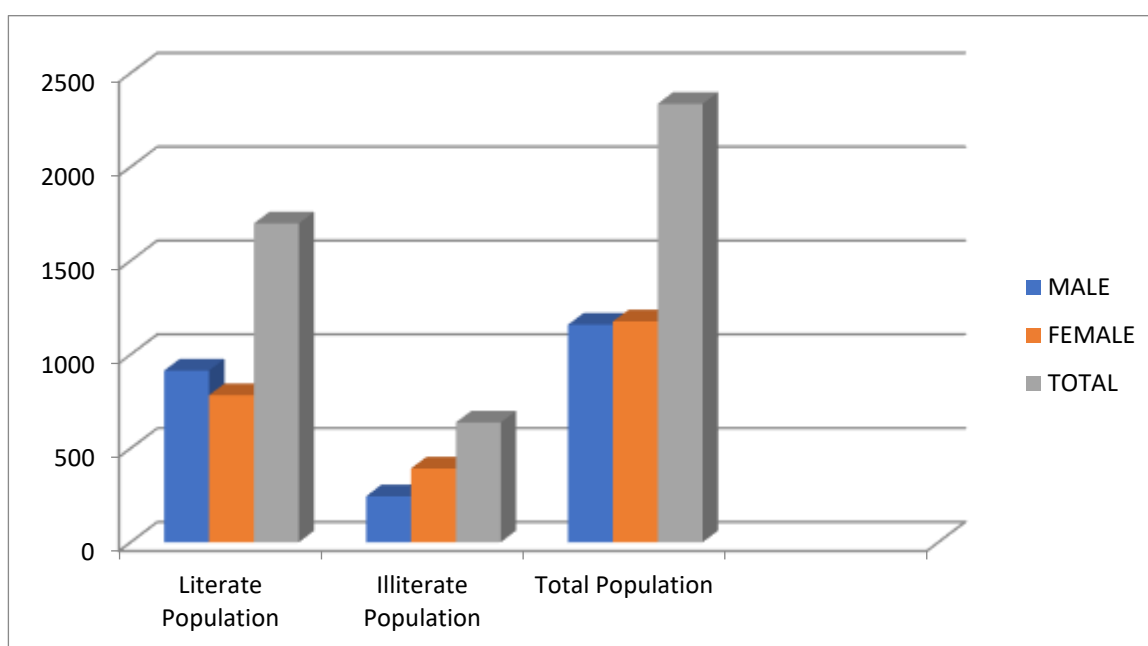
It can be concluded that rural development builds on a string system of collaboration among the government, government employees and the public. Education is the part and parcel for rural development. As by education the rural people will become aware of modern science and technology; they will be able to solve their obstacles. The government with the cooperation of the public has to play a crucial role to solve all difficulties discussed herein. Without solving these issues no one can think about the wide ranging development of rural society and its residents. Finally it must be accepted that the duty and responsibility lie on each and every person of our society to think about the development of rural society.

DATA ANALYSIS

Q1. POPULATION OF LEIMARAM (2011 Census)

Response

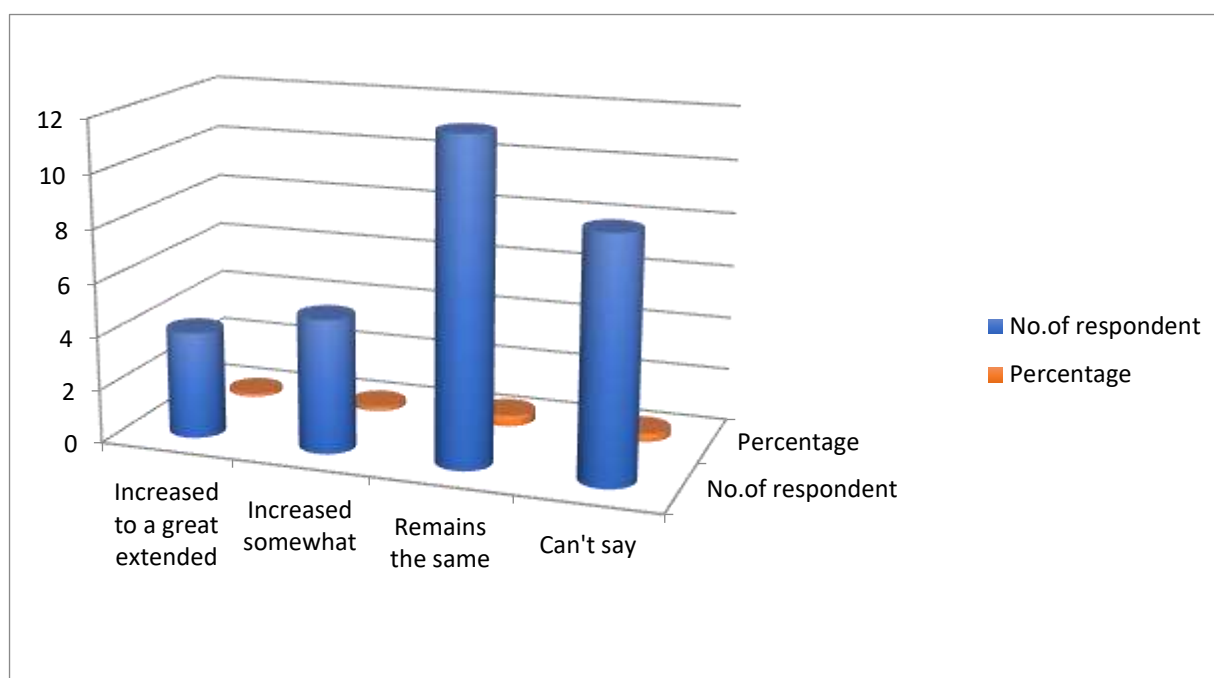
Particular	Literate population	Illiterate Population	Total population
Male	915	245	1160
Female	784	393	1177
Total	1699	638	2337



INTERPRETATION: As we see from the above chart and table, it shows that there are total population of 2337 peoples in Leimaram Gram Panchayat, out of which male population is 1160 while female population is 1177. According to 2011 census literacy rate of Leimaram village is 72.705 out of which 78.885 males and 66.61% females.

Q2. Contribution Level of Scheme (MGNREGS) earning toward Family incomes Response

Sl.No.	Particular	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Increased to a great extended	4	13%
2	Increased somewhat	5	17%
3	Remains the same	12	40%
4	Can't say	9	30%
	Total	30	100%



INTERPRETATION: From the above chart and table, it shows that only 13% of the sample respondents opine that their family income has increased to a great extent owing to MGNREGA earning. A moderate increase in household income due to MGNREGA earning has been perceived by 17% of the sample respondents. 40% of the respondents are of the view that there has been no substantial increase in their income owing to MGNREGA earning. "MGNREGA wage cannot be considered an income as the payment of MGNREGA wage is very irregular. As continuous days of work are very short and the total amount they get at a time is very less, the income cannot lead to household asset creation nor can it be invested in any productive venture.

Q3. Did the Rural community of Leimaram Gram Panchayat hold meeting over the pass year/month

- YES
- NO

Sl.NO	PARTICULAR	RESPONDENT (YES)	RESPONDENT (NO)
1	Matters pertaining to Agriculture production	19	11
2	Management of farm roads, drain & reservoir	23	7
3	Maintenance of common assets and facilities	17	13
4	Environment beautification & preservation	20	10
5	Rural community welfare	22	8

INTERPRETATION: The above table shows that the maximum responses are (YES) with a total of 101 respondents i.e., 19 from matters pertaining to agriculture production, 23 are from management of farm roads, drain & reservoir, 17 are from maintenance of common assets and facilities, environment beautification & preservation, 22 from rural community welfare. Followed by (NO) with a total of 49 respondents i.e., 11 are sl.no one, 7 are from sl.no two, 13 are from sl.no three, 10 are from sl.no four and lastly 8 from sl.no five.

REFERENCE

P.C Sikligar (2020). *Panchayati Raj & Rural Development: Policy Practice & Implication*. New Delhi, Blue Rose Publisher

Government of Manipur (2014): *Economic Survey, Manipur (2014-15)*, Directorate of Economics, Imphal, <http://www.censusindia.gov.in>.

Government of India (2011), *Report of Task Force on Panchayati Raj Institutions, Planning Commission*, New Delhi (Available at <http://india.gov.in/>)

Census of India 2011, Government of India

Tahir Hussain, Mary Tahir, Riya Tahir (2018), *Fundamentals of Rural Development*. New Delhi I K International Publishing House Pvt. Ltd

Wahengbam Sanjit Singh (2022), Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in Manipur, www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421