

Research Paper

# Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NSRLM) And Sustainable Development: Some Field Based Evidences

Giribabu, M.

Department of Economics, Mizoram University, Tanhril, Aizawl, Mizoram, India

Corresponding author: giribabum@mzu.edu.in (ORCID ID: 0000-0002-7467-6199)

Received: 24-01-2021

Revised: 10-03-2021

Accepted: 12-03-2021

## ABSTRACT

The Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (hereafter NSRLM) was established on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, 2012 and is the implementing agency of NRLM in the State. It is the human development program aimed at poverty reduction by increasing the household income through sustainable livelihood and improved access to financial services. Primary data has been collected using convenience sampling method from 300 individual SHG members covering three districts, three blocks and six villages (50 respondents from each village). Six components of livelihood security have worked out and each component has been ranked for availability, accessibility, quality and status. Weighted average score has been calculated by scoring indicators on a five-point ordinal scale ranging from 1 to 5 *Measuring Livelihood Security Index*. The study was found that except food security index the other security indices in all selected villages are in medium or low range and still they are living under sustainable in danger which emphasized the urgency to initiate and implement effective poverty alleviation and capacity building schemes in the entire state.

## Highlights

- ① Larger increase in household income and food security.
- ① Access to bank credit and investment fund at significant levels.
- ① Social and political transformation of Naga women is concerned.
- ① Sustainable development index is moderate in the State.

**Keywords:** Livelihood mission, sustainable development and Nagaland

Over the last few decades alleviation of poverty and social equality has the major concern in developing countries (Mehta & Shah, 2003) and poverty is perceived as a multi-dimensional and complex phenomenon (Alikire and Seth, 2015). To mitigate the inequalities and reduction of poverty the government of India has been undertaking various welfare schemes and poverty eradication programmes for the people of lower strata (Chambers, 1995). The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India has initiated the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) programme in June 2010 with the support from the World Bank to implement the new strategy of poverty alleviation woven around community-based institutions aimed at creating efficient and

effective institutional platforms of the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

Financial independence and economic empowerment are very important for thralldom poverty and other direct and indirect benefits like meeting their nutritional diet, access to health care, education for children, proper dwelling and even social security (Duflo, E. 2012). To alleviate poverty and empower the women, Self-Help Groups and credit

**How to cite this article:** Giribabu, M. (2021). Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NSRLM) And Sustainable Development: Some Field Based Evidences. *Economic Affairs*, 66(1): 33-40.

**Source of Support:** None; **Conflict of Interest:** None



management groups have been started in India. It is recommended to be informal and keep the members away from bureaucracy, corruption, unnecessary administrative expenditure and profit motive. Self-Help Groups are expected to be homogenous, so that the members do not have conflicting interest and all the members can participate freely without any fear. The groups have been recognized as a useful tool to help the poor and as an alternative mechanism to meet the urgent credit needs through thrift (Rao, 2003), a medium for the development of saving habit (Rajamohan, 2003) and enhancing the equality of status, of women as participants, decision-makers and beneficiaries in the democratic, economic, social and cultural spheres of life (Ritu Jain, 2003).

The Mission's primary objective is to reduce poverty by promoting diversified and gainful self-employment and wage employment opportunities for sustainable increase in incomes and provide a combination of financial resource and technical assistance to states such that they could use the comprehensive livelihoods approach encompassing four inter-related tasks i.e. (i) mobilizing rural poor households into self-help groups (SHGs); (ii) access to credit and other financial, technical and marketing services; (iii) building capacities and skills of the poor for gainful and sustainable livelihoods; (iv) improving the delivery of social and economic support services. The programme tries to reduce poverty by building strong institutions of the poor and provide access to financial and livelihood services (RBI, 2013)<sup>1</sup>. With this background, the present study made an attempt to assess the effectiveness of implementing NSRLM to mitigate poverty and overcome the barriers to attain sustainable livelihood securities in the State of Nagaland.

## DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The data has been collected from two different sources: primary and secondary. Secondary data has been obtained from VDB, BDO and other economic and statistics books, journals, newspapers

<sup>1</sup>Financial services include different financial benefits in the form of revolving fund, community investment fund and capital mobilised through bank linkage and livelihood services the programme imparts self-employment to the beneficiaries (RBI, 2013).

and magazines. For primary data, comprehensive interview schedules and questionnaire methods have been used at a three-stage probability/non-probability sampling methods with blocks as primary unit, villages as secondary unit and the member beneficiaries as the ultimate sampling unit. A total 300 individual SHG members of NSRLM were interviewed covering three districts, three blocks and six villages (50 respondents from each village).

**Model:** Six components of livelihood security have worked out such as Food Security, Health Security, Habitat Security, Economic Security, Social Network Security and Educational Security. Each component has been ranked for availability, accessibility, quality and status. Weighted average score has been calculated by scoring indicators on a five-point ordinal scale ranging from 1 to 5 *Measuring Livelihood Security Index (covering all basic indicators of health security, nutritional security and food security and economic security)*. An index provides information about all dimensions through a single number.

$$D_i = \frac{A_i - m_i}{M_i - m_i}$$

Where,  $d_i$  is the index of  $i^{\text{th}}$  dimension.  $A_i$ ,  $M_i$ ,  $m_i$  are actual value, maximum value and minimum value in  $i^{\text{th}}$  dimension. The Household Livelihood Security index (HLSi) for each indicator of the entire household was calculated by,

$$HLS_i = \frac{\sum Zind_i}{N}$$

Where  $\sum Zind_i$  is summated standardised Score of all households and N is Number of households cover in the study. Then overall index of livelihood security Index is computed as below formula (Samanta and Nayak, 2015).

$$LSI_i = \sum_{i=1}^6 w_i d_i$$

Where,  $W_1 = W_2 = W_3 = W_4 = W_5 = W_6$  and  $LSI_i$  represents overall livelihood security index of  $i^{\text{th}}$  individual and 'n' represents the number of dimensions. Livelihood security was operationalised as an adequate access to income and other resources to meet the basic needs.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Livelihood Security- Conceptual Note

Livelihood can be seen as a sequence of actions or transactions needed for a household to lead a healthy life with dignity and these actions and interactions depends on the economical, financial, social and political abilities of households (P. K. Singh, B.N. Hiremath, 2010). Understanding of livelihood systems of tribal population in North Eastern Region (NER) is vigorous to effective poverty reduction. Poverty and inequalities in this region in not one-track logic and be it in economic, financial, social, technical, cultural and political aspects. A livelihood can be made up of the competencies, assets (like resources, claims and access) and ability to recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide viable livelihood opportunities for the subsequent generation as well as which contributes net benefits to supplementary livelihoods at the local and global levels, and in the long and short run (Chambers and Conway, 1992).

On the other hand, the concept of sustainable livelihood security (SLS) has a comprehensive meaning, encompassing current concerns and policy requirements pertaining to sustainable development (SD). Swaminathan (1991a) has defined sustainable livelihood security as livelihood options that are ecologically secure, economically efficient, and socially equitable highlighting in all ecology, economics, and equity. While Chambers (1986) has defined sustainable livelihood as a 'level of wealth and of stocks and flows of food and cash which provide for physical and social well-being and security against becoming poorer'. Chambers and Conway (1992) proposed the concept of Rural Livelihood Security (RLS) to focus on: capability, equity, and sustainability. Since the concept implies the protection or assurance of the means of livelihood for the masses not only at the present time but also in the future, it reflects equally the concern for both the inter-generational and the intra-generational equity.

### Components and Measurement of Sustainable Livelihood Index

Food Security (FS) is an important measure of well-being of the household. Access to sufficient food

in calories and monthly per capita expenditure on food items were identified. Similarly, in Economic Security (ES), the components of household income and household assets were taken. While in Health Security (HS), the components of accessibility of primary health services, availability of sanitation and safe drinking water were taken, on the other hand, for Habitat Security (HBS): Type of dwelling, Availability of Electricity, cooking gas were identified and for social security, social network and community participation were taken as important components to measure sustainable livelihood index (SLI) among the households in order to lead a healthy and productive life. On a scale of 1 to 5, sustainable livelihood security index score for all selected districts was worked out and the results is shown in the Appendix Figure A.1.

**Food Security:** It is evident that in all selected villages, majority of respondents were stated that their livelihoods have improved after NSRLM scheme was implemented. Out of six components of livelihood security, economic security got the highest weightage (63.0%) followed by Food security (61.8%), education security (55.8%), social security (52.4%), habitat security (52.2%) and Health security (52%) respectively. Similarly, the distribution of respondents on each indicator of livelihood security in selected villages have been presented in tables 1 to 6. The data from table 1 shows that majority of the respondents 121(40.3%) were having high level food security followed by medium level 109 (36.3%) while 70 (23.3%) were under low level of food security. Among the villages, model village was predominant in high level food security while Diphupar was lowest under the Dimapur district. Thus, the study reveals that about 76 per cent of the respondents were having medium and high level of food security which indicates that low level of vulnerable conditions prevails with respect to food security in selected villages except in Changtonya and Diphupar villages respectively.

**Economic Security:** Similarly, table 2 presents economic security indices of respondents in the selected villages. The results indicate that majority 137(45.7%) of the respondents were having medium level of economic security followed by 95(31.7%) of high-level economic security. While 68 (22.6%) respondents were found under low level which emphasised the need for more economic

**Table 1:** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Food Security Index

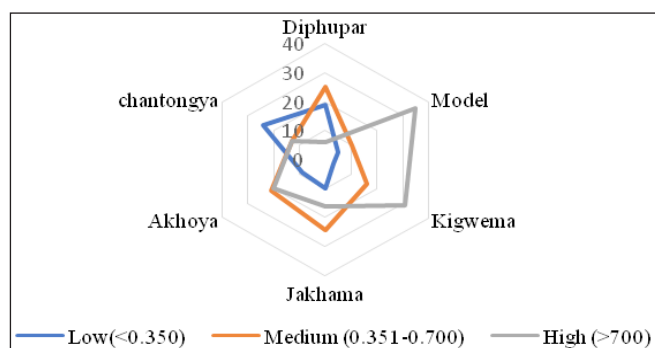
Variables	Dimapur		Kohima		Mokokchung		All
	Diphupar	Model	Kigwema	Jakhama	Akhoya	Chantongya	
Low (<0.350)	19 (38.0)	5 (10.0)	3 (6.0)	10 (20.0)	9 (18.0)	24 (48.0)	70 (23.3)
Medium (0.351-0.70)	25 (50.0)	10 (20.0)	16 (32.0)	24 (48.0)	21 (42.0)	13 (26.0)	109 (36.3)
High (>0.701)	6 (12.0)	35 (70.0)	31 (62.0)	16 (32.0)	20 (40.0)	13 (26.0)	121 (40.3)
Mean Score	0.470	0.771	0.614	0.566	0.640	0.470	0.588

Sources: Authors calculation from the primary data; Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

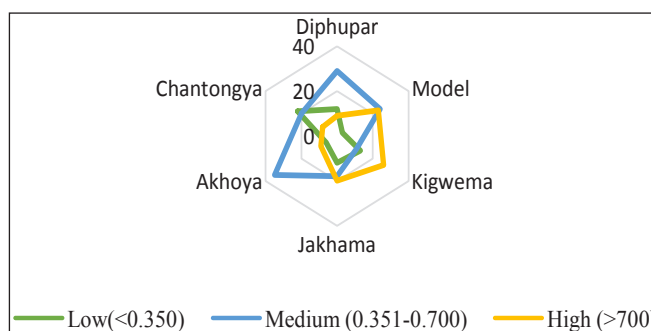
**Table 2:** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Economic Security Index

Variables	Dimapur		Kohima		Mokokchung		All
	Diphupar	Model	Kigwema	Jakhama	Akhoya	Chantongya	
Low (<0.350)	12 (24.0)	3 (6.0)	13 (26.0)	12 (24.0)	6 (12.0)	22 (44.0)	68 (22.6)
Medium (0.351-0.70)	29 (58.0)	24 (48.0)	11 (22.0)	18 (36.0)	35 (70.0)	20 (40.0)	137 (45.7)
High (>0.701)	9 (18.0)	23 (46.0)	26 (52.0)	20 (40.0)	9 (18.0)	8 (16.0)	95 (31.7)
Mean Score	0.487	0.770	0.577	0.610	0.424	0.526	0.565

Sources: Authors calculation from the primary data; Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.



**Fig. 1:** Distribution of respondents on the basis of food security index



**Fig. 2:** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Economic Security Index

opportunities. Among the villages, Kigwema and Model village predominates in high level of economic security while Chantongya was found to be low level. Thus, the study reveals that about 77 per cent of the households were having medium and high level of economic security and which indicates that most of household annual income and assets are in subsistence level except in Chantongya village in Mokokchung district which needs to strengthen economic opportunities through promoting agriculture and other income generating activities.

**Education Security:** The estimates worked out in table 3 provide extensive information about educational security of the households among the villages. It can be revealed that a large number 124 (41.3%) respondents were having medium level of educational security, followed by those having low

107(35.7%) and high level of educational security 69 (23.0%) respectively. Among the villages, Jakhama predominated in high level while model village prevails low in which 24 percent of respondents are illiterates. Thus, the study reveals that the level of educational security in the study villages were found to be good as more than 63 per cent of the respondents were having medium and high level of educational security. However, significant number of respondents have expressed that their educational security was in low level which emphasized on the urgency of upgrading of educational institutions for improving upon the educational security in the society.

**Health Security:** Table 4 presents health security of the families in selected villages indicates that a large number of respondents 142 (47.3%) were having medium level of health security followed



**Table 3:** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Education Security Index

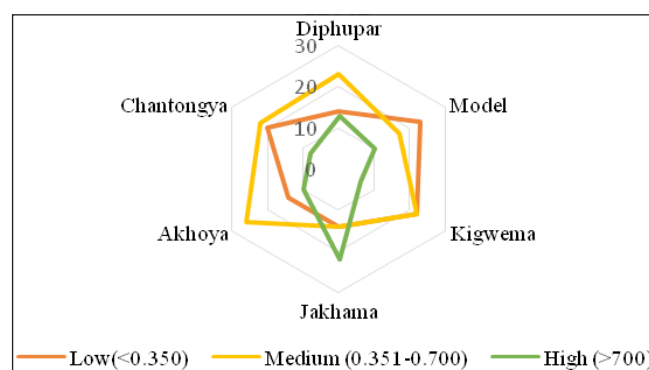
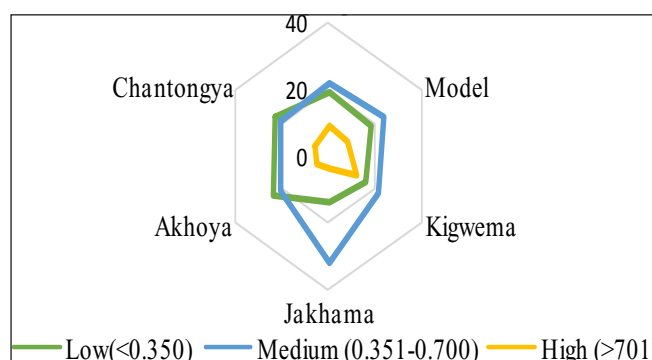
Variables	Dimapur		Kohima		Mokokchung		All
	Diphupar	Model	Kigwema	Jakhama	Akhoya	Chantongya	
Low (<0.350)	14 (28.0)	23 (46.0)	22 (44.0)	14 (28.0)	14 (28.0)	20 (40.0)	107 (35.7)
Medium (0.351-0.70)	23 (46.0)	17 (34.0)	22 (44.0)	14 (28.0)	26 (52.0)	22 (44.0)	124 (41.3)
High (>0.701)	13 (26.0)	10 (20.0)	6 (12.0)	22 (44.0)	10 (20.0)	8 (16.0)	69 (23.0)
Mean Score	0.496	0.451	0.464	0.595	0.484	0.429	0.486

*Sources:* Authors calculation from the primary data; *Note:* Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

**Table 4:** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Health Security Index

Variables	Dimapur		Kohima		Mokokchung		All
	Diphupar	Model	Kigwema	Jakhama	Akhoya	Chantongya	
Low (<0.350)	19 (38.0)	18 (36.0)	16 (32.0)	14 (28.0)	24 (48.0)	23 (46.0)	114 (38.0)
Medium (0.351-0.70)	22 (44.0)	24 (48.0)	22 (44.0)	32 (64.0)	21 (42.0)	21 (42.0)	142 (47.3)
High (>0.701)	9 (18.0)	8 (16.0)	12 (24.0)	4 (8.0)	5 (10.0)	6 (12.0)	44 (14.7)
Mean Score	0.483	0.503	0.522	0.436	0.416	0.363	0.453

*Sources:* Authors calculation from the primary data; *Note:* Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

**Fig. 3:** Distribution of respondents on the basis of education security index**Fig. 4:** Distribution of respondents on the basis of health security index

by low level 114 (38%) and high level 44(14.7%). Among the villages, Kigwema predominates in health security while Akhoya and Changtonya villages in Mokokchung District have low level of HS. As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) in Nagaland state about 80 per cent were having improved source of drinking water which protect against outside contamination and about 98.3 per cent were having toilet facilities which prevent people from coming into contact with human waste and can reduce the transmission of cholera, typhoid, and other diseases. Interestingly in all selected villages none of the respondent stated that they are practicing open place/field for toilet and that their villages were under free open defecation. Though there was good sanitation facilities, majority of the respondents reported that rain harvest water and fetching water from source provided by the

government supply and poor medical facilities indicative of vulnerable conditions in rural areas and hence it needs proper attention by the government and other health missions in the state.

**Habitat Security:** Regarding availability and accessibility of housing facility and household amenities as habitat security in selected villages is shown in table 5. It is evident from the data that majority 142 (47.3%) of respondents reported that they had medium level of habitat security, followed by, low level 97 (32.3%) and high level 61 (21.3%)<sup>2</sup>. Among the villages, all the selected villages were under similar conditions in which medium level predominates, followed by low level and high level of habitat security. Thus, the study reveals that

<sup>2</sup>As per NFHS-4 (2015-16), the Nagaland state the average number of living in pucca housing is just about 28.4 per cent while 96.9 per cent availed electricity connection and 66.6 per cent are using solid fuel for cooking.

**Table 5:** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Habitat Security Index

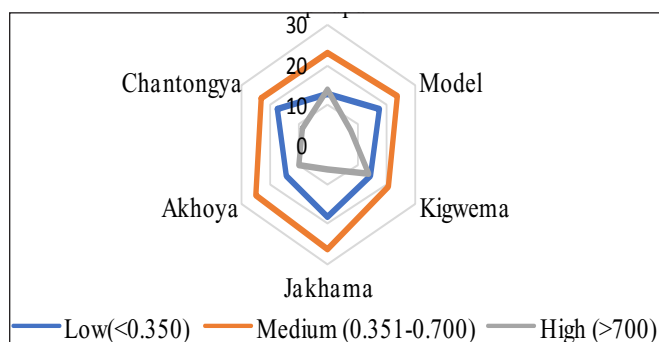
Variables	Dimapur		Kohima		Mokokchung		All
	Diphupar	Model	Kigwema	Jakhama	Akhoya	Chantongya	
Low (<0.350)	13 (26.0)	18 (36.0)	15 (30.0)	18 (36.0)	15 (30.0)	18 (36.0)	97 (32.3)
Medium (0.351-0.70)	23 (46.0)	24 (48.0)	21 (42.0)	26 (52.0)	25 (50.0)	23 (46.0)	142 (47.3)
High (>0.701)	14 (28.0)	8 (16.0)	14 (28.0)	6 (12.0)	10 (20.0)	9 (18.0)	61 (20.3)
Mean Score	0.498	0.448	0.469	0.459	0.461	0.476	0.468

Sources: Authors calculation from the primary data; Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

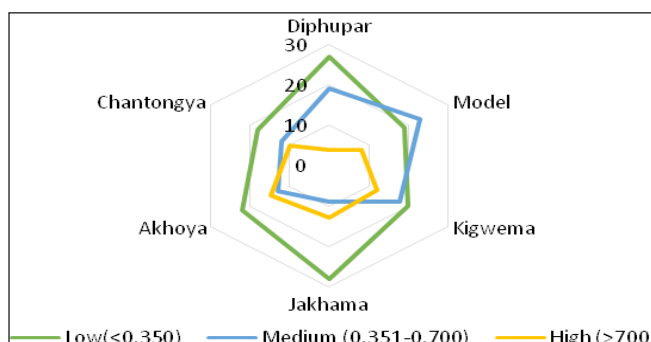
**Table 6:** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Social Security Index

Variables	Dimapur		Kohima		Mokokchung		All
	Diphupar	Model	Kigwema	Jakhama	Akhoya	Chantongya	
Low (<0.350)	27 (54.0)	19 (38.0)	20 (40.0)	28 (56.0)	22 (44.0)	28 (56.0)	144 (48.0)
Medium (0.351-0.70)	19 (38.0)	23 (46.0)	18 (36.0)	9 (18.0)	13 (26.0)	12 (24.0)	94 (31.3)
High (>0.701)	4 (8.0)	8 (16.0)	12 (24.0)	13 (26.0)	15 (30.0)	10 (20.0)	62 (20.7)
Mean Score	0.419	0.436	0.442	0.407	0.501	0.349	0.425

Sources: Authors calculation from the primary data; Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.



**Fig. 5:** Distribution of respondents on the basis of habitat security index



**Fig. 6:** Distribution of respondents on the basis of social security index

there is a need to improve the household amenities along with other infrastructural facilities like good road connectivity, communication, irrigation and institutional improvement for better habitat security in each and every corner of the State.

**Social Security:** Social Security (SS) works out broader range of community participation by women to look for ways to build civil society partnership and enable her to pursue viable livelihood by reducing risks, accessing services protecting themselves from deprivation and accessing information (CARE, 2002). The assessment of Social Security is shown in table 6. It was found that almost half 144 (48.0%) of the respondents were having low level of security, followed by medium level 94 (31.3%) and high level 62 (20.7%). Among the villages, both Model village and Diphupar under Dimapur district were having better than their counterpart villages. Though the participation

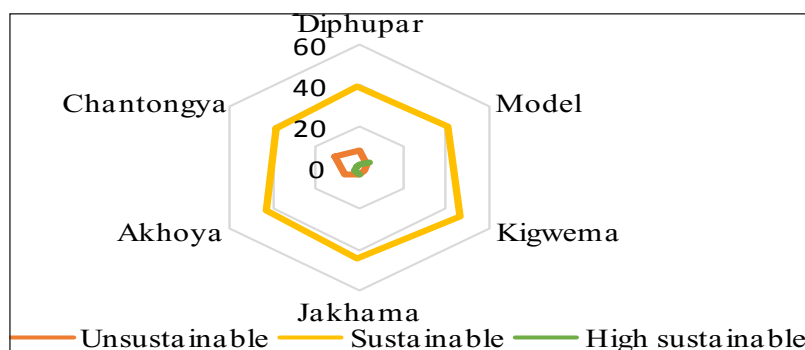
in community organizations was in good condition, decision making and political participation women are in vulnerable conditions and women are not allowed equally with men limits their access to information and kept them in a state of dependence (Toshimenla Jamir 2012).

**Sustainable Livelihood Index:** Table 7 shows the distribution of respondents' overall livelihood security into three categories viz. Low (unsustainable), medium (sustainable) high (high sustainable) levels. The overall score for livelihood security of the respondents in all selected villages was calculated by taking into account of the scores of all 6 different indicators of livelihood security and each indicator was multiplied with equal weightage to find out overall score for sustainable livelihood index. It is evident from the table that majority 251(83.7%) of respondents in the study villages had medium level of livelihood security whereas,

**Table 7:** Distribution of Respondents Sustainable Livelihood Index

Variables	Dimapur		Kohima		Mokokchung		All
	Diphupar	Model	Kigwema	Jakhama	Akhoya	Chantongya	
Low (<0.350)	8 (16.0)	4 (8.0)	3 (6.0)	3 (6.0)	6 (12.0)	11 (22.0)	35 (11.7)
Medium (0.351-0.700)	40 (80.0)	41 (82.0)	46 (92.0)	44 (88.0)	42 (84.0)	38 (76.0)	251 (83.7)
High (>0.701)	2 (4.0)	5 (10.0)	1 (2.0)	3 (6.0)	2 (4.0)	1 (2.0)	14 (4.7)
Mean Score	0.478	0.548	0.491	0.525	0.496	0.454	0.499

*Source:* Authors calculation from the primary data; *Note:* Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

**Fig. 7:** Distribution of respondents sustainable livelihood index

35(11.7%) and 14(4.7%) of respondents had low and high level of livelihood security respectively. Though the impact of NSRLM on sustainable livelihood index of all the selected villages have shown at moderate level, the participation in NSRLM programme bears a significant positive impact on poverty eradication, livelihood promotion and women empowerment among the respondents. If the government takes proper action plan for better implementation with effective mechanism, the outcome of the programme will be more beneficial for the entire state of Nagaland.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR-IMPRESS), New Delhi under Minor Research Project.

## CONCLUSION

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are the backbone of poverty alleviations and it focuses on the development of farming and rural development oriented towards women's emancipation. NRLM is a poverty alleviation project implemented by the ministry of Rural Development and the scheme

is focused on promoting self-employment and organization of rural poor. The distribution of monthly income, expenditure and savings, there was a significant variation among the members after the scheme was implemented. The data shows that except food security index the other security indices in all selected villages are in medium range and still they are living under sustainable in danger. Thus, majority of respondents have opined that after implementation of NSRLM scheme in their respective blocks and villages, their livelihoods have been improved. However, significant level of respondents has reported that they are still under unsustainable and vulnerable condition which emphasized the urgency to initiate and implement effective poverty alleviation and capacity building schemes in both rural and urban areas and need to extend the programme in entire state instead of focussing only on intensive resource blocks.

## REFERENCES

- Alkire, S. and Seth, S. 2015. "Multidimensional Poverty Reduction in India Between 1999 and 2016: where and How?" *World Dev.*, **72**: 93-108.
- Chamber, R. 1995. Poverty and Livelihoods: Whose reality counts?. *Environ. and Urbanisation*, **7**(1): 173-204.
- Chambers, R. 1986. "Sustainable Livelihoods: An Opportunity for the World Commission on Environment and

- Development". *Institute of Develop Studies*, University of Sussex, Brighton, England.
- Chambers, R. and Conway, G. 1992. Sustainable Livelihoods: Practical Concept for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, IDS Discussion paper 296. *Institute of Develop Stud*: Brighton.
- Duflo, E. 2012. "Women Empowerment and Economic Development" *J. Econom. Liter.*, **50**(4): 1051-1079.
- Jain, R. 2003. "Socio-Economic Impact through Self Help Groups", *Yojana*, **47**(7): 11-12.
- Jamir, T. 2012. "Women and Politics in Nagaland: Challenges and Imperatives", Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.
- Mehta, A.K. and Shah, A. 2003. "Chronic poverty in India: Incidence, Causes and Policies", *World Dev.*, **31**(3): 491-511.
- Rajamohan, S. 2003. "Activities of Self-Help Groups in Virudhunagar District: A Study", *Cooperation*, **3**(6): 1517.
- Rao, V.M. 2001. "Dairy Women and Self-Help Groups: A Study in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka". *Ind. J. Agri. Econ.*, **56**(3): 467.
- Rao, V.M. 2003. "Women Self-Help Groups Profiles from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka", *Kurushetra*, **50**(6): 26.
- Samanta, D. and Nayak, N.C. 2015. "Determinants of people's participation: a study of rural West Bengal, India", *Dev. Prac.*, **25**(1): 71-85.
- Singh, P.K. and Hiremath, B.N. 2010. "Sustainable Livelihood Security Index in a developing countries: A tool for development Planning" *Eco. Indicators*, **10**(2): 442-451.
- Swaminathan, M.S. 1991a. "Greening of the Mind". *Ind. J. Social Work*, **52**(3): 401-407.