

Reassessing the Inter-District Performance under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) to Counteract Poverty in Manipur

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Abstract—Even as India continues to record impressive growth rates, rural poverty and unemployment in India have grown in an unprecedented manner during the last few decades. Poverty imposes an oppressive weight on India, especially in the rural areas, with the major reason for poverty as unemployment. In India unemployment is mainly due to the shortage of capital, the poor exploitation of natural resources and inadequate employment opportunities. In view of these scenarios of unending rural poverty and unemployment in India since Independence, poverty eradication has been one of the most important objectives by implementing many developments schemes. Among those, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) has special characteristics at reduction of rural poverty through providing self employment and creation of income generating assets. Thus, the study was proposed to gain more comprehension as to how far this flagship programme, been able to comply with the promises made during their introduction, based on secondary data of five consecutive years (2008-09 to 2012-13) collected from the respective District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) of Imphal East and Churachandpur. The study indicates the physical achievement as well as fund utilization made so far in both the districts. A total of 158 and 204 SHGs were formed during the study period (2008-09 to 2012-13) in Imphal East and Churachandpur district, with construction of 26 and 13 marketing sheds in respective districts. Weaving and piggery were found to be the major economic activities taken up in Imphal East and Churachandpur district. Average fund utilization was (86.55%) in Imphal East and (76.43%) in Churachandpur. Fund utilization and the physical performance were found to show somewhat similar trends in both districts, indicating a mutual dependent on each other during the years under taken for study.

Keywords: SGSY, Manipur, rural development, performance.