

Livelihood Security before Implementation of Tribal Sub Plan in Manipur

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ABSTRACT

The Tribal Sub-Plan was initiated during Fifth Five Year Plan for socio-economic amelioration of the tribal communities in India. In Manipur, the Tribal Sub-Plan was intervened in 2015-16 with an objective to provide tribal families a variety of welfare and development programmes. Though, the Government of India has been formulating policies, programs, projects and schemes focusing on tribal people and investing significant financial resources through every Five Year Plan to accelerate the rural development, identification of the components mostly preferred by the tribal people, their actual need is still not yet known. Keeping the above facts in mind, the present study was conducted in Kangpokpi and Chandel districts of Manipur with the objective of prioritizing the different components of livelihood security based on the importance as perceived by the TSP beneficiaries before implementation of Tribal Sub Plan. A total of 100 TSP beneficiaries were interviewed. For analysis of data, The Method of Paired Comparison was followed. It was found from the study that health security is the most important component followed by financial security, educational security, habitat security and food security respectively.

Keywords : Tribal sub plan; livelihood security; Method of paired comparison;

Manipur is an isolated hill girt state in the North Eastern part of India. The hills of Manipur provide the geographical base to the state as they cover about 90 per cent of its area surrounding the small central valley and accommodate over one third of the state population. The State had problems of economic development and socio-economic transformation for a long period. With predominantly tribal population, shifting cultivation dominated economy, absence of industries and minimal urbanization; the hill districts of Manipur present a scene of poverty, unemployment, economic exploitation, social deprivation, poor health, illiteracy and lack of infrastructure.

Balanced growth and economic development is the ultimate aim of every country, however, it is difficult to think of the balanced development of the state without improving the lot of the tribal people living in the hill districts. After 25 years of independence, and successful completion of four five year and three annual plan, it was realized by policy makers that the Scheduled Tribes

are still way behind the mainstream development process. Apart from this, it was also been realized that the general plan schemes and programmes designed for the overall development of the economy hardly improved their socio-economic status. Similarly, the benefit of such general welfare schemes did not percolate down towards the development of STs Population of the country in any significant manner. In order to eradicate these problems, the concept of Tribal Sub-Plan was launched in the fifth Five year Plan aimed to ensure integrated development of the various scheduled tribe communities in the country with the aid of all pooled financial resources of the Centre and states, keeping in view their different economic and socio-cultural backgrounds (*Planning Commission, 2006*). In Manipur, the Tribal Sub-Plan project was intervened in 2015-16 with an objective to provide tribal families a variety of welfare and development programmes.

Though, the Government of India has been formulating policies, programs, projects and schemes

focusing on tribal people and investing significant financial resources through every Five Year Plan to accelerate the rural development, identification of the components mostly preferred by the tribal people, their actual need is still not yet known. According to *Burman et al. (1985)*, Planning for tribals and their areas has become a gamble in ignorance. He emphasizes need of inter communication among planners, implementers, academicians of different disciplines and tribals. Keeping the above facts in mind, the present study was conducted with the following objective :

To prioritize the different components of livelihood security based on importance as perceived by the beneficiaries of Tribal Sub Plan.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Kangpokpi and Chandel districts of Manipur where TSP has been implemented. From the two districts, four blocks (two blocks each from each district) were selected purposively. A total sample of 100 Tribal Sub Plan beneficiaries (twenty five each from each block) has been selected as respondents. Data were collected by the researcher with the help of structured schedule in the month of October and November in 2019. For analysis of data the Method of Paired Comparisons (*Edward, 1969*) was followed.

Concept of components of livelihood security of Beneficiary : Livelihood security was operationalized as adequate and sustainable access to income and resources to meet basic needs (including adequate access to food, potable water, health facilities, educational opportunities, housing, time for community participation and social integration). Five components which were considered as most important for livelihood security were selected. The five areas are

Food security: It was operationalized as the availability and access to balance food at household level. Food security , as defined by World Food Summit (WFS) and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), ' exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary and food preferences for an active life.

Financial security: It was operationalized as the access to regular and satisfied employment which can accrue financial support. It is the condition of having the resources to support a standard of living now and in the

foreseeable future.

Educational security: It included the educational level of the family and access to educational facilities including higher education.

Health security: It included the health status of the family and access to health care facilities. Global public health security is defined as the activities required minimizing the danger and impact of acute public health events of populations living across geographical regions and international boundaries.

Habitat security: It included housing with basic amenities.

Prioritization of different components of livelihood security before implementation of TSP : These five components namely (A) Food security (B) Financial security (C) Educational security (D) Health security and (E) Habitat security were presented to the respondents (TSP beneficiaries) in pairs, in ten possible combinations. The respondents were requested to mark one component over the other from each pair separately which they perceived more importance to improve their livelihood security. For analysis of data the method of Paired Comparison (*Edward 1969*) was followed.

The ten pairs are presented below:

1. Food security and Financial security;
2. Food security and Educational security;
3. Food security and Health security;
4. Food security and Habitat security;
5. Financial security and Educational security;
6. Financial security and Health security;
7. Financial security and Habitat security;
8. Educational security and Health security;
9. Educational security and Habitat security;
10. Health security and Habitat security;

The Method of Paired Comparisons: Thurstone developed the law of comparative judgement, which provides rationale for ordering of stimuli along a psychological continuum. It is a psychological scaling method, and makes the quantitative investigation of all kinds of values and subjective experiences (*Edwards, 1969*). In this method, the stimuli (items, statement or variables) are presented in pairs, in all possible combination and the respondents are asked to select one stimulus over the other from each pair separately which is judged more favorable. This method of psychological scaling also provides an estimate of the distances between each of the stimuli, in comparison to

the stimulus with least preference, whose scale value is (arbitrarily) brought down to 'zero'. If there are 'n' stimuli the numbers of pairs which may be obtained are $n(n-1)/2$. The stimuli or items for judgement should be distinct from each other and easily understandable. To eliminate response bias, both the stimuli in each pair and the pairs themselves, are randomly arranged. The stimuli are then presented to respondents (TSP beneficiaries).

The F –Matrix : The first table shall consist of frequencies corresponding to the number of times that each stimulus is judged more favorable than the other. The cell entries correspond to the frequency with which the column stimulus is judged more favorable than the row stimulus.

The P-Matrix : The P-matrix gives the proportion of times the column stimulus is judged more favorable than the row stimulus. This is obtained by dividing each of the cell entries in the F-matrix by N i.e. total number of respondents. A rearranged P-matrix is then made with the stimulus having the smallest column sum at left and that the highest at the right.

The Z-Matrix : The Z matrix gives the normal deviates corresponding to the proportions in the table of P-matrix. These are obtained from the table of Normal deviates (Edward, 1969). In the analysis of paired comparisons the method of 'complete data' was used as there was no P_{ij} value equal to greater than 0.99 or equal to or less than 0.01.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The F-matrix, P-matrix, rearranged P-matrix and the Z-matrix of the five components of livelihood security are presented in Table 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

The result of paired comparison of the five components of livelihood security is presented below :

Table 4 reveals that health security has got the highest scale value (1.631) and rank first which shows that the TSP beneficiaries consider health security is the most important component for their livelihood security. People of remote corner of different districts of Manipur experience extreme levels of health deprivation as well equipped hospitals is far ahead till now. Health problems prevalent in tribal areas include endemic infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and seasonal diseases like diarrhea, fever apart from malnutrition and anemia. In addition to this various other diseases like

Table 1. F-matrix for the 5 components of livelihood security judged by 100 respondents

Components	FS	FS	ES	HS	HaS
FS	-	84	82	88	74
FiS	16	-	42	75	24
ES	18	58	-	88	10
HS	12	25	12	-	8
HaS	26	76	90	92	-

*To be understood as 16 beneficiaries preferred food security to financial security and so on.

Table 2. P-matrix corresponding to the F-matrix

Components	FS	FiS	ES	HS	HaS
FS	0.500	0.840	0.820	0.880	0.740
FiS	0.160	0.500	0.420	0.750	0.240
ES	0.180	0.580	0.500	0.880	0.100
HS	0.120	0.250	0.120	0.500	0.080
HaS	0.260	0.760	0.900	0.920	0.500
Sums	1.220	2.930	2.760	3.930	1.660

Table 3. Rearranged P-matrix-Smallest to Highest Column Sum

Components	FS	HaS	ES	FiS	HS
FS	0.500	0.740	0.820	0.840	0.880
HaS	0.260	0.500	0.900	0.760	0.920
ES	0.180	0.100	0.500	0.580	0.880
FiS	0.160	0.240	0.420	0.500	0.750
HS	0.120	0.080	0.120	0.250	0.500
Sums	1.220	1.660	2.760	2.930	3.930

Table 4. Z-matrix- Hierarchy of five components of livelihood security as perceived by the respondents (TSP beneficiaries)

Components	FS	HaS	ES	FiS	HS
FS	0.000	0.643	0.915	0.994	1.175
HaS	-0.643	0.000	1.282	0.706	1.405
ES	-0.915	-1.282	0.000	0.202	1.175
FiS	-0.994	-0.706	-0.202	0.000	0.674
HS	-1.175	-1.405	-1.175	-0.674	0.000
Sums Z	-3.727	-2.750	0.820	1.228	4.429
Mean Z	-0.745	-0.550	0.164	0.246	0.886
Add largest negative deviation	+0.745	+0.745	+0.745	+0.745	+0.745
Rank (Scale value R)	0.000 ^V	+0.195 ^{IV}	+0.909 ^{III}	0.991 ^{II}	1.631 ^I

Note: FS: Food Security HaS: Habitat security
 ES: Educational security FiS: Financial security
 HS: Health security

hypertension, stroke and heart diseases are now leading causes of death. Tribal women face various health issues from early childhood to motherhood life. They face numerous types of health problems due to different factors. Some of the factors are poor health care system and delivery system, lack of required funds allotted in tribal area, lack of professional health practitioner, nurse and staff and inadequate health infrastructure (hospitals, dispensaries) PHC and others, low quality medical equipment, lack of health awareness programmes cum free distribution of medicines in remote villages. Frequent occurrence of various health threats such as pandemics, emerging infectious diseases, outbreak of diseases are also serious problem in remote areas of different hill districts of Manipur. All these might be the reasons for considering health security as the most important area for their livelihood security.

Financial security is the second important component (scale value 0.991) as perceived by the TSP beneficiaries for their livelihood security after the health security. Financial security means being economically stable and having enough money saved to cover emergencies and future financial goals. If they are financially secured they can be able to maintain a standard of living now and in the foreseeable future. Hence the financial security is perceived as the second important component by them.

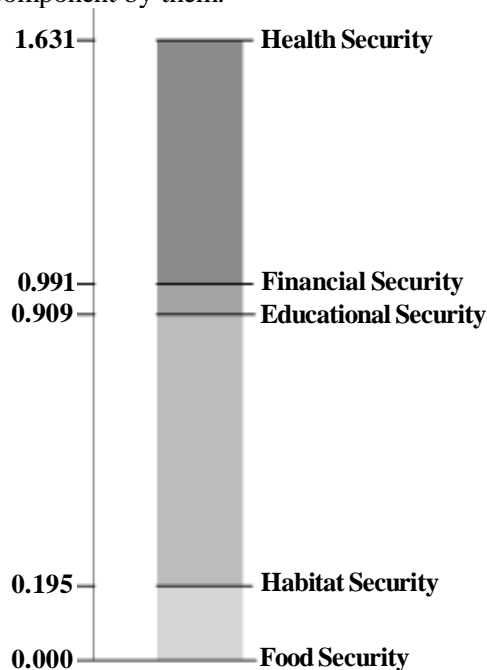


Fig.1. Bar diagram showing hierarchy of different components of livelihood security based on importance

The third important component as perceived by the TSP beneficiaries is educational security (scale value 0.909). Education is a conducive process which drags a person from darkness, poverty and misery by developing one's individuality in all aspects- physical, mental, emotional and social. Each and every individual is expected to become a fit member of the society and only education would make him to become one, and the development of a child depends much more in the functions of education in contemporaries' societies as that of cultural production (Aggarwal, 2003). However parents' expectation to see their children getting good education is somewhat not fulfilled due to lack of good quality education facilities in hill districts of Manipur. These might be the reasons of perceiving educational security in the third important component with their expectation of Government attention.

Habitat security has been ranked as the fourth important component according to the perception of TSP beneficiaries (scale value 0.195). Housing conditions are important determinants of health status. Access to descent housing and basic amenities is essential to improve health status of people. However, when TSP beneficiaries were interviewed, they reported that even though habitat security is one of the important components for livelihood security, receiving financial help for construction of house with basic amenities for everyone who are below poverty line in the district will be a tough job for the Government as they have seen very less number of individual getting opportunity in Indira Awas Yojana also. This is the main reason why their perception for getting benefit in habitat security is low.

Food security is considered as the fifth and the last important component as perceived by the TSP beneficiaries. The scale value (0.000) does not indicate absence of variables. The scale value has been brought down to arbitrary zero as per rule of the method of Paired Comparison. It is also an important component of livelihood security but it has got the least preference by the respondents. Though the TSP beneficiaries have shown minimum importance in food security, it does not mean that they are getting balanced diet, nutritious food all the time but at least they are not starving plus they are getting food to eat from their field. This is the main reason they want to give more preferences to other components.

CONCLUSION

According to TSP beneficiaries' perception, health security is the most important component followed by financial security, educational security, habitat security and food security respectively. It does not mean that they are fully secured in other components of livelihood security. As reported by the TSP beneficiaries, though they are not getting nutritious food /balanced diet to eat but they are not starving and not having concrete building

to stay but they are not homeless. However they are helpless when occurrence of various health threats such as pandemics, emerging infectious diseases, outbreak of diseases in remote areas of different hill districts of Manipur as they had experienced extreme levels of health deprivation as well as equipped hospitals is far ahead till now. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to strengthen policy related to health sector followed by the program that can enhance their financial security.

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