

## **GROWTH OF RURAL INDUSTRIES IN MANIPUR: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TWO VILLAGES**

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The paper attempts to examine the role of rural industries in the development of rural areas in Manipur. The paper is based on the result of field surveys conducted in two villages of Manipur. The paper tries to show the difference in the growth of rural industries in the two villages from the valley district of Manipur. The villages have been chosen with a view to undertake a comparative study on the growth of rural industries in a village closely situated to the urban centre with a village situated far from the urban centre.

**Keywords:** Rural Industries, villages, Urban centre, Households

### **INTRODUCTION-**

Rural Development is considered important not only for the population residing in rural areas but also for the overall economic development of a nation. This is because Rural Development in any country depends heavily on the development of its rural sector(Yakanna,2017). In this regard, Rural Industries play a significant role in the development of a nation. The term 'Rural Development' refers to the overall development in the rural areas with a view to improve the quality of life of the rural people (Singh and Shisodia,2016). It implies both the economic betterment and social well being of the rural people as well. Therefore, the concept of rural development encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities, village and cottage industries, village arts and craft, socio-economic infrastructure, community services and facilities and above all the natural and human resources in rural areas (Shinde,2017). It is generally believed that agriculture is the main source of income in the rural areas. However, a major problem that hinders the pace of development in India is the lack of adequate employment opportunities in agricultural sector. This is because agricultural activities are seasonal in character and moreover, there is an increasing pressure of population on limited land. Hence, agricultural sector cannot provide employment throughout the year in the rural areas. This shows that although farming is still a crucial activity in the rural areas, it is not able to make enough means of survival to all who are engaged in agriculture in the rural areas. It is significant to understand the farm and non farm linkages in providing livelihood to the rural people. The rural non-farm sector comprises all those activities associated with waged work or self-employment in income generating activities that are not agricultural but which generate income in the rural areas(Davis,2005). It is worth to mention that the growth of rural industries will also play a significant role in supporting the livelihoods of many households in rural areas. These rural industries vary in size from households to small factories. Thus, there is a need to understand the sustainable livelihood approaches in the rural areas (Scoones,2009).

The study attempts to understand the growth of rural industries in the villages of Manipur. The state of Manipur lies in the extreme north eastern corner of India. Imphal is the capital city of Manipur. Agricultural sector contributes a major share of the total state domestic product and provides employment to about 52.19 per cent of the total workers in Manipur (EconomicSurvey,2008-09).The total population of Manipur according to census 2011 is 28,55,794, out of which the number of male population is 14,38,586 and that of female is 14,17,208(statistical yearbook,2015).

### **Objective-**

- i) To compare the growth of rural industries in the two villages under study.
- ii) To identify the type of rural industries existed in the two villages.
- iii) To examine the role of rural industries in the livelihood of the villages.

### **Methodology:**

The study is based on a census survey conducted in two villages, each from two valley districts of Manipur.

- Information was collected in two rounds of survey, the first round of survey was a preliminary type where no structured questionnaires were used. The purpose of the preliminary survey was to get acquainted with the villages and also with the people residing in it.
- In the second round of survey, that is, the census survey, each and every household in the villages were surveyed and interviewed where information was collected on the age and sex distribution of the population in the villages, their education level, occupational structure and also the growth of rural industries in the villages.

### **Brief profile of the villages-**

The first village that has been chosen for the study namely Taobungkhok is situated eight kilometers away from the Patsoi Assembly constituency of Imphal West District. The entire village is surrounded by paddy fields. The village of Patsoi is situated on the west of Taobungkhok, Changangei on the South, Ghari on the East and Langjing on the North. The settlement area of the village is divided into three segments viz, Awang Leikai, Mayai Leikai and Makha Leikai. This village has been chosen to study the growth of rural industries in a village strongly integrated with the urban economy.

The second village that has been chosen for study namely Tejpur is located at about forty two kilometers away from Imphal under Hiyanglam constituency in Kakching District. The neighbouring village of Hiyanglam and Lamjao lie on the west, Langmeidong and Laimanai on the south, Kakching on the West and Keirak on the north of it. The settlement area in Tejpur has

also been divided into three segments namely Awang Leikai, Mayai Leikai and Makha Leikai. Therefore, Tejpur village is situated farther from the urban centre as compared to Taobungkhok Village.

The total number of Households in Taobungkhok during the surveyed year, in 2007, is 419 and that of Tejpur is 174. The total population of Taobungkhok is 2288 with 1176 male (51.4 percent) and 1112 (48.6 percent) female population while the total population of Tejpur is 890 with 457 male (51.3 percent) and 433 (48.7 percent) female population. Literacy rate of Taobungkhok excluding children population during the surveyed year is 88.6 per cent including 28 post graduates and one PhD. On the other hand, Tejpur has a literacy rate of 65.4 per cent excluding children population with no post graduate degree holder during the survey period.

### Findings of the Study:

Table 1 shows the number of industries located within the villages during the surveyed year.

**Table 1**

**Number of small industrial base in Taobungkhok and Tejpur:**

Industries	Number (percentage) Taobungkhok	Number (percentage) Tejpur
Brickfield	4 (2.8)	0
Rice Mill	8 (5.51)	3 (12.5)
Handloom	21 (14.5)	20 (83.3)
Handicraft	0	0
Embroidery	97 (66.9)	0
Wool Knitting	5 (3.4)	0
Carpentry	4 (2.8)	0
Metal Fabrication	1 (0.6)	0
Others	5 (3.4)	1 (4.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>145 (100)</b>	<b>24 (100)</b>

Source-census survey

Note –figure in the parenthesis indicate percentage

The data on industrial base in the villages shows that there are four brick fields in and around Taobungkhok. This shows that there is greater opportunity for employment in the brick fields in Taobungkhok village which is situated closer to urban centre of Imphal. As shown in the table, of the entire industrial base shown in Taobungkhok village, the percentage share of Brickfield industry is only 2.8 percent of the total industries, however, these brickfields provide a huge employment opportunities to those people who are willing to work as brickfield labour. A striking difference between the two villages is that there are no such brick fields that could

provide employment opportunities in Tejpur village and therefore, employment potential in Tejpur village in non agricultural activities is limited as compared to Taobungkhok.

As regards rice mills in the villages, it appears that the total number of rice mills in the whole of Taobungkhok is eight and the percentage share of rice mill is 5.51 of the total industrial base located in Taobungkhok .There were only three rice mills existed in Tejpur as reflected in the table but the percentage share is 12.5 of the total Industrial base. Tejpur being a small village with lesser population as compared to Taobungkhok, also shows signs of paucity of such small rural industries. This resulted in a higher percentage share of ricemills in Tejpur as compared to Taobungkhok as the number of industrial base are few and limited.

As regards handloom, there are 21 households in Taobungkhok with handloom as a source of income and the percentage share is only 14.5 per cent whereas in Tejpur, there are 20 households with weaving a source of income and the percentage share is 83.3 per cent. Weaving constitutes a major percentage of the total industrial base in Tejpur. This shows that women also make a huge contribution in Tejpur to their family income from weaving. The table also shows that there are 97 households having embroidery machine in Taobungkhok and the percentage share is 66.9 which occupy a major share of the total industrial base in the whole village. This reflects the significant contribution of women in the financial pool of their families through income earned from embroidery. It is worth noting here that activities such as embroidery, wool knitting, handloom etc is mostly treated as women's activity and no male member was seen to be involved in such activities. However, there are other small industries such as carpentry, rice milling, metal fabrication which mostly involved male members.

It appears from the table that that there are four households whose main source of income is carpentry in Taobungkhok and the percentage share is 2.8 while not a single household in the village were found to be engaged in activities such as carpentry in Tejpur. Similarly, in case of metal fabrication, it was found that there was one household who earns a living through metal fabrication in Taobungkhok and no households in Tejpur could be found whose occupation is metal fabrication. Apart from these, there are five other small industries in Taobungkhok such as goldsmithy, blaksmithy etc and only one in Tejpur. The total number of Industrial base in Taobungkhok is 145 and only 24 in Tejpur.

On the whole, the study shows that the industrial base is stronger in Taobungkhok as compared to Tejpur. Therefore, the findings of the survey reflects that rural Industrial bases are stronger in the village located in close proximity to the urban centre as compared to the village situated far from the urban centre of Imphal.

## **CONCLUSION-**

It is evident from the findings that the role of rural industries is becoming increasingly significant for livelihood and poverty alleviation of households in the villages. The study also give a picture that employment opportunities in the non farm sector is more in the village which

is situated close to the urban centre as compared to the village which is situated far from the urban centre.

Given these facts, if development of rural industries continue to take place, it is possible that this sector will play a major role in earning livelihoods of many rural families and hence, this will enhance the process of rural development too. Therefore, it is also suggested steps should be taken up for the development of these rural industries in the villages irrespective of whether the village is located close or far from the urban centre. This will accelerate the pace of overall economic development. Thus, the study shows that the linkage between farm and non farm employment in the rural sector and also the growth of rural industries is critical for rural development.

\*Note: The surveys referred to in this article are part of the field work conducted for submission of doctoral thesis of the author.

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