

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE URBAN POOR OF NATIONAL URBAN LIVELIHOODS MISSION: EVALUATION OF BILASPUR CITY**

**Dr. Umesh Gupta**

Professor Head of Department MSBS, MATS university Raipur Chhattisgarh

**Vikas Pandey**

Research Scholar MSBS, MATS university Raipur Chhattisgarh

**ABSTRACT**

The goal of the study was to evaluate critically NULM's contribution to the skill development of Bilaspur's urban poor households. The study set out to understand the impact of training and development in NULM for enhancing skill sets among urban poor households, evaluate the transparency of the NULM programme designed to generate employment, and examine the role of NULM in providing sustainable employment through skill development among urban poor households. The association between the factors was established using both secondary data from websites and qualitative interviews. According to the findings, the NULM plan has improved the standard of living for urban poor households by giving them access to economic opportunities. In order to understand how the strategy has been executed and benefited the urban poor, the study can be expanded to other Indian states for potential future consequences. Additionally, the NRLM programme covers the rural poor, which can also be examined in the future, while the NULM programme concentrates on the urban poor.

**Keywords:** National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM); Urban Development; Training; Bilaspur

**INTRODUCTION**

A key principle of development assistance is giving local governments and communities the management responsibility (Mansuri&Rao, 2012). The practise of development assistance is based on the notion that local institutions can best serve the needs of local communities because they are near to the population, are aware of their preferences, and are effective at allocating finances and resources. An important conclusion of the current study is that active assistance from project implementers is necessary for involvement at the community level to function at its best (Fox, 1993; Mansuri&Rao, 2012). Furthermore, when the relevant communities work together and the key facilitators for the scheme are competent and responsible, the goals of the various government-initiated programmes can be best achieved.

The primary government representatives in development programmes are facilitators. Their responsibility is to encourage involvement, spread knowledge, and make the implementation process easier (Mansuri&Rao, 2012; Perry, Zulliger, & Rogers, 2014). The literature that focuses on the interaction between the government and facilitators is, however, scarce. By examining the NULM instance, the research explores the function of facilitators in urban poor

people's training, development, and provision of livelihood chances. India is rapidly urbanising, which is causing a high rate of semi-skilled and unskilled labour to migrate from rural to urban areas. This has led to an increase in low-wage employment and the expansion of the unorganised sector. To combat and lessen the urban poor's vulnerability and poverty, the government established NULM. In order to achieve the larger objectives of eliminating poverty, NULM intends to build strong institutions at the grassroots level for impoverished people living in metropolitan areas to assist them in finding sustainable and lucrative employment possibilities.

The confluence of NULM's projects with state government initiatives and programmes from relevant departments and ministries that deal with entrepreneurship growth, skill development, livelihood, health, and education is highly valued by NULM. Cities, towns, and district administrative centres are key players in implementing NULM. It is used in towns and cities with a population of at least 100,000. The programme also incorporates the private sector and civil society sectors in giving the urban poor job opportunities and skill development. Increasing production, employability, and supporting the sustainable development of businesses that lead to inclusive growth are all factors that contribute to skill development as a means of overcoming poverty. A cycle of greater productivity, excellent employment possibilities, higher incomes, and development are brought about through skill development.

In order to improve the livelihood possibilities and skill sets of the urban poor, NULM focuses on capacity building. Additionally, training is given to enable the underprivileged population of metropolitan areas develop micro-enterprises with the aid of self-help groups. This study has two distinct goals. The first goal is to evaluate NULM's contribution to the provision of long-term employment for urban poor households through skill development. The second goal is to comprehend how NULM's training and development programmes have improved urban poor households' skill sets in Chhatisgarh, with a focus on the district of Bilaspur.

Urbanization and economic development are closely intertwined. As a result, cities now account for more than 60% of the nation's GDP, contributing to its expanding economic growth. According to the 2011 Census of India, there are currently 377 million people living in urban areas, a startling 31% growth from 2001.

According to the National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector's Report on Conditions of Work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganized Sector, which was published in August 2007 (NCEUS, 2007), 92 percent of India's workforce in 2004–2005 was employed in the informal economy.

The majority of the unorganised non-agriculture sector is made up of the informal sector. The workers' lack of ability to take advantage of the opportunities provided by growing markets is a result of the low levels of education and expertise in the industry.

Since the majority of the poor work in unofficial industries, they are always in danger of being evicted, having their property taken, being harassed, and without having any sort of social protection. Despite having sufficient wealth, these urban populations' access to sanitary conditions will be limited, and social exclusion, violent crime, and dangerous environmental circumstances will all have a negative impact on their well-being.

Urban poverty can be categorised roughly into three categories:

1. Household susceptibility (access to land, shelter, basic services, etc.)
2. Socioeconomic vulnerability (deprivations related to factors like gender, age and social stratification, lack of social protection, inadequate voice and participation in governance structures, etc.)
3. Workplace vulnerability (precarious livelihoods, dependence on informal sector for employment and earnings, lack of job security, poor working conditions, etc.). These weaknesses are linked to one another. Sections of the urban poor that fall under the aforementioned description are more vulnerable than others; these groups, as well as women, children, and the elderly, SCs, STs, minorities, and people with disabilities, should receive particular care.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Following the 2013 restructuring of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, NULM was created. The scheme's major objective was to target the urban poor, particularly the homeless population there. It concentrated on creating grassroots community support, creating chances for self-employment by training skills, and creating microenterprises to make it simple to get finance. The National Urban Livelihoods Mission initiative was rebranded as DAY-NULM (Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana) (Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, 2016).

Researchers have looked into how government programmes affect the economic and social circumstances of the underprivileged population for the past 10 years (e.g. see Huma, &Hasan, 2017; Deininger& Liu, 2013). A substantial amount of research indicates that the outcomes of such programmes have proven to be beneficial to the poor people, especially women, even though prior studies on the usefulness of such schemes for alleviating poverty have produced conflicting findings (Huma, &Hasan, 2017).

In India, there is a massive labour supply and demand imbalance. The majority of employment are "skill based," necessitating vocational training. Using a percentage India has a huge imbalance between supply and demand. Nearly 90% of employment require "skill-based" training, which necessitates the requirement of vocational training. The ratio of vocational students to those between the ages of 15 and 24 is only 0.3%, which is a very small amount. According to estimates, between 75 and 90 percent of all new jobs will need some kind of vocational training. In 2009, India enacted a National Skill Development Policy.

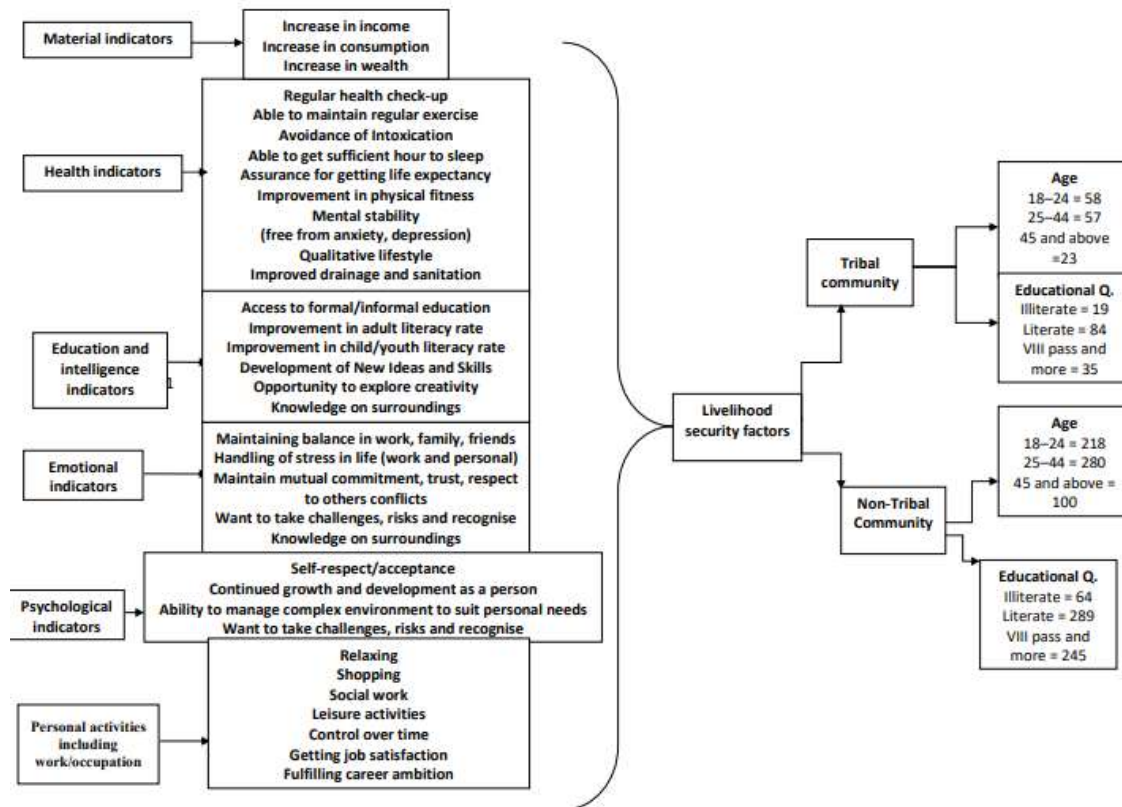
It strives to direct all stakeholders' skill-development programmes and strategies. By 2022, it hopes to have trained 500 million individuals in new skills. The NSDC has also achieved some strides in the State level's massive unorganised sector's skill development. The greatest obstacle India has is utilising its demographic advantage, which necessitates ongoing re- and up-skilling of the almost 40% of the population in the 30-59 age ranges in order to retain their employment levels. All skill-development strategies should have been implemented for this at the State and district levels. A study of India's overall labour force participation rate reveals improvements between 2001 and 2011. (Census 2011).

In their 2017 study, Hampamma and Naidu examined the effects of SHGs on the socioeconomic advancement, women's empowerment, and family welfare of tribal women living in the Kurnool region as well as the function of SHGs in the growth of Tribal households.

A conceptual framework for women's empowerment through self-help groups was provided by Nalina (2016). Self-help groups were first proposed by rural and semi-urban women to help them improve their living situations. The idea originated in rural areas.

Manohar (2015) conducted research on the specific impact of self-help groups and smaller scale funds on the financial empowerment of women-a contextual analysis of the Haveri locale in Karnataka, with the goal of evaluating the role of Self Help Groups in empowering women in the examination region and the impact of miniaturised scale money provided by the SHGs to the respondent woman individuals in their pay creating activities, reserve funds.

#### **FIG. 1 DIMENTION OF THE NULM**



## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The following research inquiries were made for the study:

Q1: How can NULM help urban poor households gain sustainable employment through skill development initiatives?

Q2: How do training and development programmes at NULM affect the improvement of urban poor households' skill sets?

In order to answer its research questions, the study uses a qualitative research methodology. The findings used both a descriptive and an interpretive design. For the purpose of conducting qualitative interviews, the purposive sampling method is used. The researchers were able to learn more about the respondents' genuine experiences thanks to this methodological approach.

## Respondents

The Chhattisgarh state of India's urban poor households served as the interview's respondents. The first author visited the sample area in person and interviewed 10 respondents in a semi-structured manner.

### Validity and Reliability

According to Guba (1981), the crucial elements in qualitative research are dependability, transferability, credibility, and reliability. The techniques used to establish legitimacy were peer review and member checking (Guba, 1981; Krefting, 1991). To make sure that respondents understood the terms in the same way the researcher had intended, the collected data were chosen in collaboration with the other author (Krefting, 1991).

Purposive sampling was used to ensure transferability because qualitative research cannot be generalised. This indicates that the results can be applied to other sample areas. Each author coded the qualitative interview, and the results were compared to ensure the study's validity. After two weeks, the identical procedure was continuously carried out and recorded until the author obtained congruent coding. The final component, conformability, was determined by the triangulation of data, which involves quoting at least two pieces of literature to bolster the claim.

The study also makes use of secondary data from websites, which are published data supplied by the governing bodies. These facts, such as the total amount of money allocated for training efforts, the number of urban poor households who benefited, etc., were used to assess the scheme's current state.

TABLE 1: information about the respondents' demographics

Respondent	Age	Marital status	Gender	Education
R1	20-30	Married	Female	Higher secondary
R2	40-50	Married	Male	Secondary Or education less
R3	20-30	Married	Female	Secondary Or education less
R4	40-50	Unmarried	Female	Graduate
R5	40-50	Married	Female	Graduate
R6	30-40	Married	Male	Graduate
R7	30-40	Unmarried	Female	Higher secondary
R8	30-40	Unmarried	Female	Secondary education Or less
R9	40-50	Married	Female	Higher secondary
R10	30-40	Married	Male	Secondary education Or less

### RESULTS

The initiatives taken by the government, local authorities, and communities at the grassroots level with the purpose of enhancing the skill set of the local population have been understood generally based on the interviews with urban poor households (Demographic details of the respondents are shown on Table 1). The State Urban Development Agency (SUDA), one of the main working entities under the NULM plan, focuses on reducing the vulnerability and

poverty of urban poor households by making chances for gainful employment and skilled wage jobs available to them. By creating strong institutions at the grassroots level for the poor, these projects significantly improve the urban poor's standard of living over time.

The following NULM objectives were identified by the study, which was helpful in comprehending the tasks carried out in accordance with the NULM plan. For the benefit of the urban poor, a three-tier community structure (SELF-HELP GROUP, ALF, and CLF) is first constructed. Second, assistance funds between INR 10,000 and INR 50,000 are given to SHGs and ALFs. "Based on the contribution that each member makes and the money provided by the government which may vary from INR 10,000 to INR 50,000, were the amount that is distributed to the members," the government says.

Thirdly, the strategy includes the creation of urban livelihood centres. Finally, support for SHGs and their Federations' capacity growth through training and other means. Examining government reports and conducting in-person interviews with members of the local community helped determine the impact of training and development possibilities. The results show that many locals have acquired skills that enable them to benefit from employment prospects as well as to maintain their current employment. For instance, the SHGs plan mini camps where different sessions are taught by specialists in knitting, alpaca making, candle making, and other regional crafts. The appropriate authorities' numerous trade exhibitions provide the trainers with venues to display their artistic talents.

## **CONCLUSION**

Two underappreciated research questions are covered in this study, such as how NULM helps urban poor households gain sustainable work through skill development efforts. And how does NULM's training and development programme affect urban poor households' skill levels? Given that skilled personnel shortages and educated unemployment (Agrawal, 2014) have made India into a country where skill development is crucial to government policy, the government is concerned about this situation (Mehrotra, Gandhi, & Sahoo, 2013).

According to the study, NULM plays a crucial role in improving the lives of the urban poor in Chhattisgarh by fostering the development of the requisite skill sets through training programmes. By creating strong institutions at the grassroots level for the poor, these projects significantly improve the urban poor's standard of living over time. The following NULM objectives were identified by the study, which was helpful in comprehending the tasks carried out in accordance with the NULM plan. In order to understand how the strategy has been executed and benefited the urban poor, the study can be expanded to other Indian states for potential future consequences. In addition, the NRLM programme, which places emphasis on rural poor people, can be explored. NULM focuses on urban poor people.

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