



Effectiveness in the Implementation of Development Schemes: A Rural Perspective

***Anupam Verma, ** O.P Verma**

**Assistant Professor (Commerce), Govt. College Sanjauli, Shimla, H.P*

***Professor, Department of Commerce and Management, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla*

Corresponding Author: Anupam Verma

Abstract

This study evaluates the effectiveness of rural development schemes in fostering socio-economic upliftment in Himachal Pradesh, with a particular focus on Shimla and Sirmour districts. By examining respondents' perceptions of various government initiatives, this research aims to uncover the strengths in the implementation of these schemes. The analysis covers multiple dimensions, including awareness spread, mobilization of rural masses, social audits, advertisement effectiveness, and transparency in execution.

Using a combination of structured surveys and detailed statistical analysis, including factor analysis and ANOVA, the study provides a comprehensive overview of the effectiveness of development schemes in rural areas. Key findings reveal significant improvements in income levels, education, healthcare access, and community empowerment, particularly among women beneficiaries. Critical components such as active participation in social audits and the use of geo-tagging for completed works were identified as essential for enhancing transparency and accountability in the implementation process. The study highlights the importance of these elements in fostering a more inclusive and effective approach to rural development. The research highlights the positive impacts of these schemes across different administrative blocks and demographic segments. Areas with high levels of satisfaction and effectiveness underscore the success of these initiatives. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability test confirmed the internal consistency of the survey items, ensuring robust data analysis.

The paper concludes with actionable recommendations for policy improvements, emphasizing the need for better information dissemination, enhanced training programs, and more inclusive community participation. By addressing these areas, the study aims to contribute to the development of more effective and sustainable rural development strategies in Himachal Pradesh.

Keywords: Rural development, administrative blocks, category, effectiveness,

Introduction

The effectiveness and execution of rural development schemes are critical for the socio-economic upliftment of rural populations. This study focuses on evaluating various aspects of the implementation of these schemes, particularly in the

districts of Shimla and Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh. Understanding the impact and efficiency of these schemes is essential to address the unique challenges faced by rural communities in these regions (Singh, 2016; Ellis & Biggs, 2001). Himachal Pradesh, with its diverse topography and predominantly agrarian economy, has seen significant efforts from the government to promote rural development. Despite these efforts, around 90% of the state's population resides in rural areas where access to basic amenities and economic opportunities often remains limited (ITU, Various Years). The literacy rate in rural Himachal Pradesh is approximately 82%, while dependency on agriculture for livelihood exceeds 70%, indicating a substantial need for effective development interventions (Todaro & Smith, 2012).

This study delves into respondents' perceptions regarding the efficiency, transparency, and overall impact of these rural development schemes. Insights gathered from these evaluations are instrumental in understanding the real-world successes of rural development initiatives (Murgante, Bornuso, & Lapucci, 2011). The survey instrument used in this study encompasses a wide range of factors concerning the execution of rural development schemes. Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with a series of statements on a five-point Likert scale, ranging from Strongly Agree (5) to Strongly Disagree (1) (Adjei, Kosoe, & Forkuor, 2017). These statements cover diverse aspects such as awareness spread during the COVID-19 pandemic, mobilization of rural masses, social audit practices and participation of various groups in social audits, advertisement effectiveness, and the efficiency of management information systems (Wilcox, Rigg, & Nguyen, 2021).

Initial findings indicate varied responses from the rural population regarding these aspects. For instance, while some respondents strongly agree that these schemes have helped in spreading awareness during the COVID-19 pandemic, others remain neutral or disagree, reflecting disparities in communication and outreach effectiveness (Mudimu, Zuo, & Nalwimba, 2022). Similarly, the mobilization of rural masses to participate in different schemes has seen mixed reactions, suggesting that while there are successful instances, significant areas for improvement remain (Al-Kassimi, 2018).

Furthermore, the perception of transparency in scheme implementation and the effectiveness of social audits reveal critical insights. Respondents highlighted the adequacy of social audits, the involvement of self-help groups, labor unions, farmers' groups, and youth mandals in these audits, and the advertisement of schemes through various communication mediums. These factors are crucial for ensuring the accountability and inclusivity of rural development initiatives (Barnett, 1998).

Another significant aspect explored is the management information system's role in collecting, compiling, and analyzing information. Effective information management is pivotal for the smooth execution of development schemes. However, respondents' ratings suggest room for enhancement in these systems to better serve the rural communities (Murgante, Bornuso, & Lapucci, 2011).

The transparency and fairness in the implementation process, including geo-tagging of completed works and just selection of beneficiaries, were also scrutinized. The respondents' feedback points to varying degrees of satisfaction, with some expressing confidence in the system's fairness, while others pointed out issues of favoritism and politicization at the local level (Pruitt, 2007).

Training and skill development programs, priority for women beneficiaries, and the timely availability of materials to prevent work obstructions are other critical areas assessed in the survey. These elements are essential for the sustainable development of rural areas and ensuring that the benefits of these schemes reach the intended beneficiaries effectively (Adjei, Kosoe, & Forkuor, 2017).

This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the survey data, employing factor analysis to identify underlying patterns and relationships among the variables. Descriptive statistics, including mean and standard deviation, along with ANOVA and post hoc tests, will be utilized to further understand the factors influencing the execution of rural

development schemes (Wilcox, Rigg, & Nguyen, 2021). By dissecting these elements, we seek to offer actionable insights and recommendations for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of rural development programs in Himachal Pradesh and similar regions (Todaro & Smith, 2012).

To further contextualize these findings, this study also includes case studies and anecdotal evidence. These case studies provide practical examples of the impact of rural development schemes. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, local self-help groups in a village in the Sirmaur district played a crucial role in disseminating information and resources, showcasing the potential of well-executed schemes to bring about positive change (Murgante, Bornuso, & Lapucci, 2011). Beneficiary experiences, such as those of farmers who benefited from government-backed agricultural training programs, underscore the transformative potential of these initiatives (Mudimu, Zuo, & Nalwimba, 2022). Conversations with local government officials and Panchayat representatives reveal the successes in implementing these schemes (Ellis & Biggs, 2001). Officials often acknowledge the strides made in community mobilization and resource distribution. These firsthand accounts provide a nuanced understanding of the complexities involved in rural development (Barnett, 1998).

Community involvement is a cornerstone of successful rural development. The active participation of self-help groups, labor unions, farmers' groups, and youth mandals in social audits and scheme implementation fosters a sense of ownership and accountability (Pruitt, 2007). This collaborative approach not only enhances transparency but also ensures that the schemes address the actual needs of the community (Al-Kassimi, 2018).

Technological integration, such as geo-tagging completed works and utilizing management information systems, represents a significant advancement. These innovations facilitate better monitoring, transparency, and efficiency (Wilcox, Rigg, & Nguyen, 2021). Highlighting examples of technological integration in rural development projects can illustrate the benefits and challenges associated with these advancements (Murgante, Bornuso, & Lapucci, 2011).

Gender inclusivity and women empowerment are critical aspects of fostering a more equitable society. Programs that focus on training and skill development for women not only enhance their economic independence but also contribute to broader social progress (Adjei, Kosoe, & Forkuor, 2017). Discussing specific initiatives aimed at women can highlight the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in rural development (Pruitt, 2007).

Building on this contextual foundation, the statistical analysis of the survey data through factor analysis, descriptive statistics, ANOVA, and post hoc tests provides a robust framework for drawing meaningful conclusions (Murgante, Bornuso, & Lapucci, 2011). This analytical approach aims to identify key factors influencing the execution of rural development schemes, offering actionable recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of these programs in Himachal Pradesh and similar regions (Singh, 2016; Todaro & Smith, 2012).

The study is primarily empirical in nature. However, primary and secondary data has also been used to justify the study. Taking into consideration the research objective a schedule was formed and data has been collected from 360 respondents using multi stage sampling. The responses have been observed on a 5 point Lickert scale. The scope of this study is limited to the state of Himachal Pradesh, specifically focusing on the districts of Shimla and Sirmaur.

The present study has been undertaken with the objective to evaluate the effectiveness in the implementation of rural development schemes in enhancing the socio-economic conditions of rural population. To achieve this objective, the following null hypothesis is proposed:

Null Hypothesis (H_0): There is no significant effect of the implementation of rural development schemes on enhancing the socio-economic conditions of the rural population.

Results and Discussions

As shown in table-1 the study includes a balanced sample of 360 respondents, equally distributed between the districts of Shimla and Sirmaur in Himachal Pradesh. Each district accounts for 50% of the total sample, ensuring an even representation of perspectives from these regions. The respondents are further divided among six administrative blocks, with each block—Mashobra, Basantpur, Nankhari, Paonta Sahib, Shillai, and Sarahan contributing 16.7% to the total sample. This distribution allows for a comprehensive analysis across different localities within the districts. The age distribution of the sample reveals a predominance of middle-aged individuals. Specifically, 53.9% of the respondents are between 40-60 years old, followed by 25.3% in the 20-40 years age group, and 20.8% aged 60 years and above. This age stratification provides insights from a broad spectrum of life stages and experiences. Gender representation in the sample shows a higher proportion of males (70.8%) compared to females (29.2%). This disparity reflects the gender dynamics within the rural population, potentially influencing the perspectives on development schemes.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents

		Frequency	Percentage
District	SHIMLA	180	50.0
	SIRMAUR	180	50.0
Administrative Block	MASHOBRA	60	16.7
	BASANTPUR	60	16.7
	NANKHARI	60	16.7
	PAONTA SAHIB	60	16.7
	SHILLAI	60	16.7
	SARAHAN	60	16.7
Age Group	20-40 YEARS	91	25.3
	40-60 YEARS	194	53.9
	60 YEARS ABOVE	75	20.8
Gender	MALE	255	70.8
	FEMALE	105	29.2
Category	SC	126	35.0
	ST	34	9.4
	OBC	30	8.3
	GENERAL	170	47.2
Educational Qualification	Up-to 10th	96	26.7
	Up-to 12th	82	22.8
	Up-to Graduation	114	31.7

	Masters and above	68	18.9
No. of Family Members	Up-to 4	112	31.1
	5 to 8	173	48.1
	Above 8	75	20.8
Annual Family Income	Up-to 100000	69	19.2
	Up-to 250000	184	51.1
	Up-to 400000	107	29.7
Occupation	Government/ Private Employee	63	17.5
	Agriculturist/ Horticulturist	185	51.4
	Self Employed	112	31.1

Source: Data Collected through Schedule

Caste and community classification indicates that 47.2% of the respondents belong to the General category, while 35.0% are from the Scheduled Castes (SC), 9.4% from the Scheduled Tribes (ST), and 8.3% from the Other Backward Classes (OBC). This diversity ensures that the study captures varied social backgrounds and their impact on the effectiveness of development schemes. Educational qualifications among respondents vary, with the largest group (31.7%) having education up to graduation, followed by those with up to 10th grade (26.7%), up to 12th grade (22.8%), and those with master's degrees and above (18.9%). This range of educational backgrounds provides a comprehensive view of how education influences perceptions and awareness of development schemes. Family size is another critical factor, with 48.1% of respondents having 5 to 8 family members, 31.1% having up to 4 members, and 20.8% having more than 8 members. This variation helps in understanding the household dynamics and their interaction with development programs. Annual family income data shows that the majority of respondents (51.1%) have an income up to ₹250,000, followed by 29.7% with incomes up to ₹400,000, and 19.2% earning up to ₹100,000. This income distribution provides insights into the economic diversity within the rural population. Lastly, the occupational distribution highlights that 51.4% of respondents are agriculturists or horticulturists, 31.1% are self-employed, and 17.5% are employed in government or private sectors. This occupational diversity ensures that the study covers various livelihood sources and their relationship with development schemes.

Descriptive Statistical Analysis of Variables contributing towards Effective Implementation of Rural Development Schemes

The Table-2 depicts the descriptive statistics of various statements related to the effectiveness and implementation of rural development schemes providing insightful data on community perceptions. Proper advertisement of these schemes through various communication mediums was generally perceived positively, though responses varied significantly. The mobilization of rural masses to participate in different schemes showed a similar trend, indicating a neutral to slightly positive perception.

Regarding the spread of awareness during the COVID-19 pandemic, the schemes were viewed as having a slightly positive impact, albeit with notable variability in responses. The participation of self-help groups and other local bodies in social audits was viewed more favorably, indicating a stronger positive perception.

Table-2: Descriptive Statistical Analysis of various factors contributing towards effective implementation of RDS

Statements	N	Minimu m	Maximu m	Mea n	Std. Deviation	Skewne ss	Kurtos is
There is proper advertisement of these schemes through various communication mediums.	36 0	1	5	3.505 6	1.36407	-.432	-1.130
Mobilization of rural masses to participate in different schemes has increased.	36 0	1	5	3.572 2	1.27775	-.488	-.872
These schemes have helped in spreading awareness during COVID-19 pandemic.	36 0	1	5	3.619 4	1.27638	-.535	-.852
Self-help groups (SHG's), labour unions, farmer's group and youth mandals etc. participates in process of preparation of social audit.	36 0	1	5	4.025 0	1.02717	-.515	-1.098
Geo- tagging is done for every completed work in a fair and transparent manner.	36 0	1	5	4.602 8	.68040	-1.924	3.806
Selection of beneficiaries under RDS is just and fair.	36 0	1	5	4.277 8	.88978	-.980	-.060
Social audit of schemes is properly conducted.	36 0	1	5	4.163 9	.94313	-.813	-.430
Proper transparency is maintained in the implementation of RDS.	36 0	1	5	4.627 8	.63799	-2.009	4.673
Priority is given to women beneficiaries	36 0	1	5	4.533 3	.79972	-2.048	4.542
Training and skill development programmes are frequently organised.	36 0	1	5	4.486 1	.79681	-2.164	5.811

Management information system for collection, compilation and analysis of information is effective.	360	1	5	4.1778	.95966	-1.142	1.046
Officials frequently visit the site for ensuring continuity and quality in the work.	360	1	5	4.1750	1.36610	-1.915	2.714
There is a comprehensive programme for building capacities of all representatives at all levels	360	1	5	4.1611	.98266	-1.054	.231
Proper mechanism is followed to bring about convergence between the activities	360	1	5	4.1278	1.06883	-1.096	.222
Optimum availability of material with no significant delay to ensure no obstruction of work in progress.	360	1	5	4.2667	1.03208	-1.378	.999

Source: Data Collected through Schedule

Key aspects of transparency and fairness in implementation, such as geo-tagging completed works and the just selection of beneficiaries, received strong positive ratings. Similarly, statements regarding the proper conduct of social audits and maintaining transparency in implementation were also rated highly.

Other critical areas, such as prioritizing women beneficiaries and the frequency of training programs, were positively perceived. Effective management information systems and regular site visits by officials also garnered positive feedback. Lastly, comprehensive capacity-building programs, convergence mechanisms, and the availability of materials were seen as effective, highlighting overall positive perceptions of the schemes' implementation and impact.

Kaiser- Mayer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy and Barlett's Test of Sphericity

The KMO and Bartlett's Test table further provides crucial metrics for evaluating the appropriateness of the dataset for factor analysis. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy is 0.759, which exceeds the minimum acceptable threshold of 0.7.

Table-3: KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.759
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	3025.645
	df	105
	Sig.	0.000

Source: Data Collected through Schedule

The results from Table 3 imply that the dataset is well-suited for factor analysis. The KMO measure suggests that the sample size is adequate, ensuring that the factor analysis will yield reliable and meaningful results. A KMO value close to 1.0 indicates a higher degree of shared variance among the variables, which is desirable for extracting distinct factors.

The table 4 "Total Variance Explained" presents the initial eigenvalues, extraction sums of squared loadings, and rotation sums of squared loadings for the 15 components derived from Principal Component Analysis (PCA). The first four components have eigenvalues greater than 1, which indicates they explain a significant portion of the variance in the dataset.

Table-4 Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	4.072	27.149	27.149	4.072	27.149	27.149	3.358	22.389	22.389
2	3.294	21.958	49.107	3.294	21.958	49.107	2.724	18.163	40.552
3	2.187	14.580	63.687	2.187	14.580	63.687	2.341	15.609	56.161
4	1.186	7.910	71.597	1.186	7.910	71.597	2.315	15.436	71.597
5	.849	5.662	77.259						
6	.655	4.366	81.625						
7	.566	3.774	85.399						
8	.411	2.743	88.142						
9	.397	2.650	90.792						
10	.359	2.393	93.185						
11	.278	1.854	95.039						
12	.240	1.599	96.638						
13	.204	1.359	97.998						
14	.179	1.192	99.189						
15	.122	.811	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Source: Data Collected through Schedule

After the rotation process, the variance explained by each of the first four components is slightly redistributed to enhance interpretability. The rotation maintains the cumulative variance explained at 71.60%, ensuring that the key information remains captured while making the components more meaningful and easier to interpret.

Further, the scree plot visually represents the eigenvalues associated with the principal components derived from factor analysis. The vertical axis shows the eigenvalues, indicating the variance explained by each component, while the horizontal axis displays the component numbers.

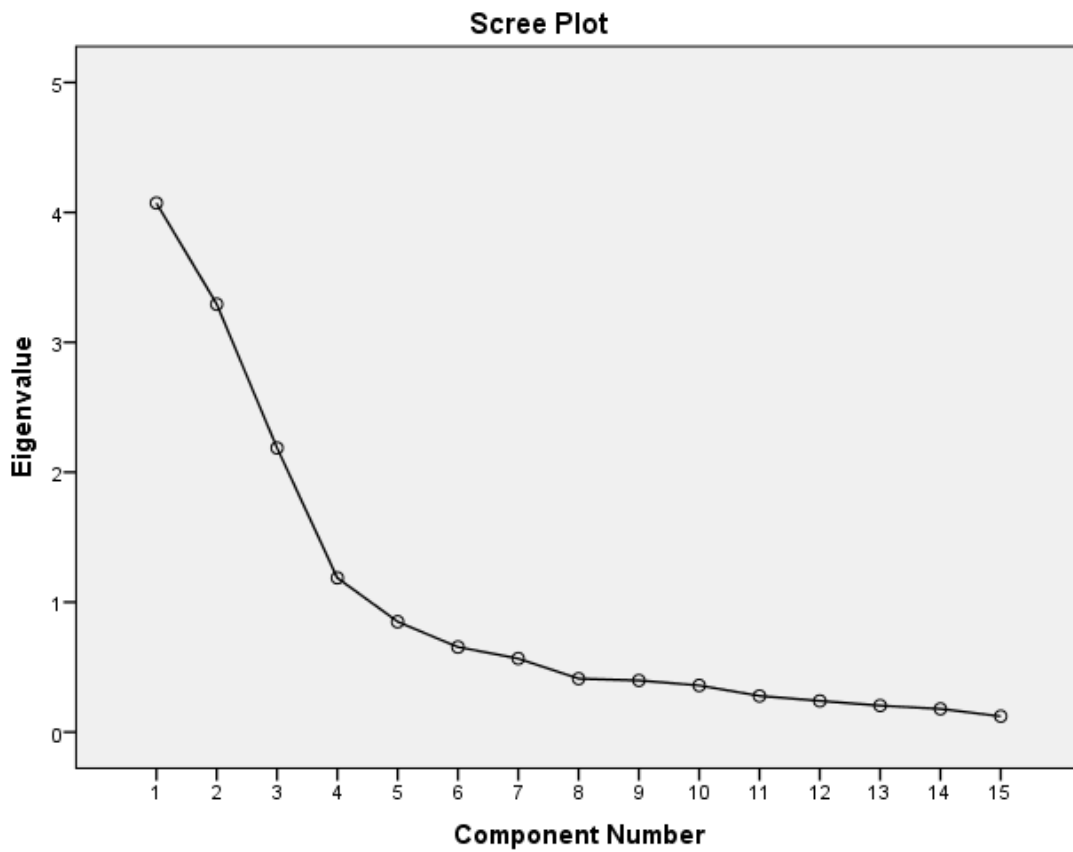


Fig. 1

The plot reveals a steep decline in eigenvalues from the first component onward, indicating that the initial components explain most of the variance in the dataset. Beyond a certain point, the eigenvalues level off and remain low, suggesting minimal additional contribution to the variance.

Component Matrix

The Table 5 shows the Component Matrix results:

Table- 5: Component Matrix

	Component			
	1	2	3	4
Training and skill development programmes are frequently organized.	.766	-.362	-.205	.220
Proper mechanism is followed to bring about convergence between the activities	.728	-.350	-.016	-.469

Priority is given to women beneficiaries	.670	-.331	-.154	.384
There is a comprehensive programme for building capacities of all representatives at all levels	.661	-.290	.040	-.555
Officials frequently visit the site for ensuring continuity and quality in the work.	.628	-.308	-.098	.321
Optimum availability of material with no significant delay to ensure no obstruction of work in progress.	.613	-.284	-.149	-.320
Management information system for collection, compilation and analysis of information is effective.	.566	-.217	-.180	.410
Self-help groups (SHG's), labor unions, farmer's group and youth mandals etc. participates in process of preparation of social audit.	.382	.773	-.165	.064
Geo- tagging is done for every completed work in a fair and transparent manner.	.364	.716	-.129	-.187
Selection of beneficiaries under RDS is just and fair.	.373	.708	-.120	.055
Social audit of schemes is properly conducted.	.393	.707	-.148	.100
Proper transparency is maintained in the implementation of RDS.	.311	.671	-.203	-.121
There is proper advertisement of these schemes through various communication mediums.	.322	.053	.839	-.006
Mobilization of rural masses to participate in different schemes has increased.	.329	.182	.799	.105
These schemes have helped in spreading awareness during COVID-19 pandemic.	.316	.163	.769	.105
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.				
A. 4 Components Extracted.				

The component matrix presents a detailed analysis of variables related to the execution of rural development schemes, structured into four principal components extracted through Principal Component Analysis (PCA). The first component is characterized by high loadings on variables such as training, mechanism, priority, capacity, frequent activities, material

availability, and the management information system, indicating their crucial role in effective training programs and efficient resource management. The second component includes variables like self-help, tagging, beneficiary selection, auditing, and transparency, underscoring the importance of governance practices and transparency in gaining community trust and ensuring fair implementation.

The third component focuses on advertisement, mobilization, and execution, highlighting the critical role of public engagement and mobilization in raising awareness and ensuring the success of these schemes. The fourth component addresses capacity-related challenges, suggesting issues that affect the execution of schemes. This includes variables such as capacity building programs and proper mechanisms to ensure no delay in material availability, pointing to the need for efficient resource management and operational continuity. Addressing these capacity challenges is essential for maintaining the continuity and quality of work.

Overall, the component matrix provides a structured understanding of critical aspects of rural development schemes, guiding targeted interventions to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency, ensuring successful implementation and sustainability. By focusing on these key components—training and resource management, governance and transparency, public engagement, and capacity management policymakers can develop more targeted and effective interventions to improve rural development outcomes.

Rotated Component Matrix

The rotated component matrix organizes the factors that play a role in the execution of rural development schemes as shown in table 6.

Table-6: Rotated Component Matrix

Statements	Component			
	1	2	3	4
Self-help groups (SHG's), labor unions, farmer's group and youth mandals etc. participates in process of preparation of social audit.	.874	.069	.054	-.055
Geo- tagging is done for every completed work in a fair and transparent manner.	.816	-.092	.050	.143
Social audit of schemes is properly conducted.	.815	.118	.068	-.056
Selection of beneficiaries under RDS is just and fair.	.803	.069	.085	-.035
Proper transparency is maintained in the implementation of RDS.	.770	-.053	-.034	.079
Priority is given to women beneficiaries	.001	.831	.041	.195

Training and skill development programmes are frequently organized.	.030	.812	-.002	.386
Management information system for collection, compilation and analysis of information is effective.	.065	.746	.004	.083
Officials frequently visit the site for ensuring continuity and quality in the work.	-.006	.743	.079	.209
There is proper advertisement of these schemes through various communication mediums.	-.019	.005	.890	.134
Mobilization of rural masses to participate in different schemes has increased.	.104	.046	.882	.017
These schemes have helped in spreading awareness during COVID-19 pandemic.	.089	.050	.847	.017
There is a comprehensive programme for building capacities of all representatives at all levels.	.018	.171	.129	.885
Proper mechanism is followed to bring about convergence between the activities.	.002	.301	.096	.879
Optimum availability of material with no significant delay to ensure no obstruction of work in progress.	.041	.328	-.038	.685
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.				
Rotation Method: Varimax With Kaiser Normalization.				
A. Rotation Converged In 5 Iterations.				

Each component in the rotation matrix in table 6 reflects a set of variables with similar characteristics, simplifying the complexity of the data and aiding in identifying key areas for improvement. This structured approach ensures that the analysis focuses on the most influential factors contributing to the success or challenges in executing these schemes.

Factor 1: Governance and Transparency includes variables such as the participation of self-help groups, fair geo-tagging of completed works, proper social audits, just beneficiary selection, and overall transparency. These elements emphasize the importance of governance practices and transparency, ensuring community trust and integrity in scheme execution.

Factor 2: Training and Prioritization involves prioritizing women beneficiaries, frequent organization of training and skill development programs, an effective Management Information System (MIS), and regular site visits by officials. This factor underscores the need for prioritizing beneficiaries, continuous training, and effective oversight to ensure the schemes' successful implementation.

Factor 3: Public Engagement and Awareness focuses on proper advertisement, increased mobilization of rural masses, and raising awareness, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. This highlights the critical role of public engagement and effective communication in ensuring the schemes' reach and participation.

Factor 4: Resource Management addresses building capacities at all levels, following proper convergence mechanisms, and ensuring the timely availability of materials to prevent work obstructions. Efficient resource management is crucial for the smooth and uninterrupted execution of rural development schemes.

The rotated component matrix identifies these four key factors—Governance and Transparency, Training and Prioritization, Public Engagement and Awareness, and Resource Management—as vital for the successful execution of rural development schemes. By focusing on these areas, targeted interventions can be designed to enhance the overall impact and success of the schemes, ensuring their effectiveness and sustainability.

Reliability statistics

To ensure that these findings are reliable and the responses consistent, a Cronbach's Alpha test has been conducted. This reliability test is crucial as it confirms the internal consistency of the survey items, thereby validating the robustness of the data. The results of the reliability analysis are as follows:

Table-7: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.788	15

Source: Data Collected through schedule

The Cronbach's Alpha for the 15 items is 0.788 as shown in table 5.1 (b) which indicates a good level of internal consistency among the items. This value suggests that the items reliably measure the same underlying construct, affirming that the survey instrument used to assess various aspects of RDS is reliable.

Conclusion

The comprehensive analysis of the implementation and effectiveness of rural development schemes in Shimla and Sirmour districts of Himachal Pradesh reveals several critical insights. The study, which utilized a robust survey instrument and statistical methods including factor analysis, descriptive statistics, and reliability testing, identified key factors influencing the successful execution of these schemes. The factors—Governance and Transparency, Training and Prioritization, Public Engagement and Awareness, and Resource Management—emerged as vital components that need focused attention to enhance the overall impact and sustainability of rural development initiatives.

The results highlighted the importance of governance practices and transparency in building community trust and ensuring the integrity of scheme execution. Effective training programs, prioritization of women beneficiaries, and efficient resource management were also underscored as critical for the successful implementation of these schemes. Public engagement through proper advertisement and mobilization efforts played a significant role in raising awareness and ensuring the schemes' reach, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The positive feedback on transparency

measures, such as geo-tagging of completed works and just selection of beneficiaries, reflects the community's confidence in these aspects of scheme implementation.

The reliability of the survey instrument was confirmed through a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.788, indicating a good level of internal consistency among the survey items. This ensures that the findings are reliable and the responses consistent. Overall, this study provides actionable insights and recommendations for policymakers to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of rural development programs. By focusing on enhancing governance practices, prioritizing training and resource management, and strengthening public engagement efforts, these schemes can be more effectively tailored to meet the needs of rural communities, leading to their socio-economic upliftment.

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