



The Role of Government Schemes in Strengthening Rural Employment and Access to Essential Services in Satna District

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Abstract

Rural development in India remains a key policy priority due to persistent challenges related to employment generation and access to essential services such as drinking water, healthcare, and education. In response, the Government of India has implemented several welfare and development schemes aimed at improving livelihood opportunities and enhancing the quality of life in rural areas. The present study examined the role of government schemes in strengthening rural employment and improving access to essential services in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh. The study adopted a descriptive and analytical research design and was empirical in nature. Primary data were collected from 200 rural respondents using a structured questionnaire, while secondary data were sourced from government reports, journals, and published literature. Statistical tools such as percentage analysis, regression analysis, and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were employed to analyze the data and test the formulated hypothesis. The findings revealed that a majority of respondents were aware of government schemes and perceived them as effective in improving access to potable drinking water, healthcare services, and educational facilities. Employment-oriented schemes were viewed as supportive in providing livelihood security, particularly in terms of seasonal and supplementary employment. However, the results of regression and ANOVA analysis indicated that there was no statistically significant relationship between government schemes and the employment status of rural people at the prescribed level of significance. The study concluded that while government schemes played a significant role in enhancing access to essential services and improving overall living conditions, their impact on employment generation was limited in measurable terms. The findings emphasized the need for stronger integration of employment schemes with skill development, local economic planning, and infrastructure development to achieve sustainable rural employment.

Keywords: Government Schemes, Rural Employment, Essential Services, Rural Development, Employment Status, Satna District.



1. INTRODUCTION

Because so many Indians make their living in agriculture and related fields, rural development is and will remain an important issue for the country. Problems with unemployment, lack of access to healthcare, education, and clean water, as well as other basic necessities, and restricted options for making a living, persist in rural areas even after numerous legislative interventions and economic changes. In order to achieve balanced regional development and inclusive growth, it is essential to address these concerns.

The Indian government has launched a plethora of welfare and development-oriented programs to address the economic gap between rural and urban areas, with the goals of increasing employment opportunities in rural areas and facilitating better access to basic amenities. The availability of basic amenities and employment security in rural households have been improved through the implementation of sector-specific programs like Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). In addition to creating jobs, these plans aim to enhance people's quality of life by fixing problems with infrastructure, education, and health.

The majority of the population of the Satna district of Madhya Pradesh lives in rural areas and makes a living through farming, day labor, and informal jobs. Rural households still face issues with employment security, healthcare access, access to safe water for drinking, and educational facilities, despite the significant implementation of various government projects in the district. It is important to assess the real impact of government actions at the grassroots level because their efficacy in resolving these issues differs between areas and socio-economic categories.

More recent rural development policies have moved away from a narrow emphasis on income support and toward a broader strategy that places an emphasis on creating jobs, bolstering social security, and expanding access to basic public amenities. Human development metrics including health outcomes, literacy rates, and living circumstances are the focus of service-oriented programs, whereas employment-oriented programs work to alleviate rural poverty, stop seasonal migration, and establish economic stability. An essential empirical concern, however, is the degree to which these programs may substantially affect job status and enhance access to essential services.\



The purpose of this research was to look at how various government programs in Satna district have helped to increase employment opportunities in rural areas and better access to healthcare, education, and clean water. Another goal of the research was to determine if there is a correlation between rural residents' employment situation and government programs. The research sought to provide light on the efficacy of current government interventions by analyzing the perspectives and encounters of rural recipients. Its objective was to discover areas where outreach and execution were lacking.

Researchers in Satna district hope that their study's results will shed light on the inner workings of rural employment and the processes that bring services to residents. Researchers hope their findings will help administrators, lawmakers, and development agencies better implement rural development schemes, engage rural residents with government program benefits more effectively, and refine rural development tactics overall.

1.1.Objectives of the study

- To study that how much Govt. Schemes are helpful in fulfilment of basic needs such as portable water, Health care and Education.
- To find out whether Govt. Schemes are helpful in increasing employment of rural people.

1.2.Hypothesis

H1: There is no significance relationship between Govt. Schemes and employment status of rural people.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The functions of agriculture, technology, government, and community involvement have been the focus of recent research that has investigated many interrelated aspects of rural development. The importance of agriculture as a strategic sector in India's goal of a \$5 trillion economy was emphasized by **Rao and Ramakrishna (2025)**, who called for more investment, better infrastructure, new policies, and more farmer input into policymaking to boost agricultural output, exports, and economic contribution.

Murari and Parmar (2025) investigated how AI may revolutionize rural development, focusing on the fields of agriculture, healthcare, and education. The study found that AI-driven technologies raise productivity and living standards, but it also found that there are significant

obstacles, such as a lack of infrastructure, skilled workers, and ethical considerations. As a result, the researchers are advocating for AI adoption frameworks that are both inclusive and well-regulated.

With the help of machine learning, **Sha et al. (2025)** created eRurban, a data-driven framework for rural planning that ranks communities according to their development potential. Their strategy was more efficient and dependable than conventional planning techniques, which led to more equitable distribution of resources and long-term viability in rural areas.

Contributing to the larger conversation on AI's function in maintaining economic stability, **Singh (2025)** investigated its potential use in identifying herding behavior in financial markets. Even though the study didn't have anything to do with rural development per se, it did highlight the increasing role of sophisticated analytics in economic decision-making, which has an indirect impact on rural economies.

In his study on rural development planning, **Adhikary (2025)** found that grassroots involvement was severely lacking, especially among women and landless laborers. In order to guarantee inclusive planning and better infrastructure results, the study stressed the necessity to enhance Panchayati Raj Institutions.

By increasing local responsibility and responsiveness, fiscal devolution greatly boosted rural infrastructure development, according to **Ain, Yousaf, and Tahir's (2025)** analysis of decentralization changes in Pakistan. This, in turn, supports sustainable development goals.

Creating jobs, reducing poverty, and reaching numerous SDGs are all made possible through rural entrepreneurship, which **Rajsinghot, Bala, and Singhal (2024)** highlighted as a critical driver of sustainable rural development. In order to encourage business ventures in rural areas, the study stressed the significance of education, training, and government subsidies.

Lastly, community-led initiatives and social innovation were highlighted by **Choudhury and Shaw (2024)** as critical elements of sustainable rural development. Their research demonstrated how non-governmental organizations (NGOs), grassroots innovators (Is), and collaborative methods helped alleviate long-standing problems in rural areas and foster inclusive and long-term economic development.



3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the Satna area of Madhya Pradesh, researchers set out to find out how various government programs have helped boost rural employment and expand access to healthcare, schools, and clean water. The results were guaranteed to be accurate, reliable, and valid by using a scientific and systematic approach to the research.

3.1. Research Design

An analytical and descriptive research design was used for the investigation. To learn how rural households are familiar with and make use of government schemes, researchers used a descriptive approach. To find out how these schemes relate to rural residents' job situation, they used an analytical methodology.

3.2. Nature of the Study

Due to its reliance on primary data obtained from rural respondents, the study was empirical in nature. In order to bolster and augment the main results, secondary data were also consulted.

3.3. Area of the Study

Researchers in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district delved into the **rural areas** for their investigation. To make sure there was enough geographical representation, we picked villages from different blocks in the district.

3.4. Population of the Study

People who lived in rural areas of Satna district and were either currently receiving or may get benefits from different government programs for jobs and basic necessities made up the study's demographic.

3.5. Sample Size and Sampling Technique

For the study, a total of 200 participants were chosen at random. All rural homes had an equal chance of being selected for the survey because the respondents were picked using the simple random sample technique. This strategy improved the sample's representativeness and helped decrease sampling bias.

3.6.Sources of Data

Data for the study came from a variety of sources, including primary and secondary sources.

- **Primary Data:** Information gathered from people living in rural areas came from a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire inquired about fundamental amenities including water, healthcare, and education, as well as employment status and government programs.
- **Secondary data:** Previous studies on rural development and employment plans, as well as official websites, books, journals, census reports, and secondary data obtained from these sources were considered.

3.7.Research Tool

The main source of information for this study was a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was structured into several parts that addressed:

- Respondents' socioeconomic status
- Rural households' employment status
- Availability of basic amenities including clean water, healthcare, and education
- Rural residents' familiarity with and participation in government programs

A five-point Likert scale, from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree, was used to record the responses.

3.8.Data Collection Method

Interviews with participants and questionnaires conducted in the field were used to gather data. To make sure the respondents understood and could accurately answer the questions, the researcher went to each of the chosen villages and presented the study's goals in person.

3.9.Data Analysis Methods and Tools

Using SPSS software, the gathered data was coded, tabulated, and analyzed using statistical methods. Various methods were utilized: Analysis of variance (ANOVA), regression, mean and standard deviation, and percentages

In order to test the hypothesis, several instruments were utilized to investigate the connection between government programs and employment status.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTREPRETATION

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Rural Respondents (n = 200)

Demographic Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	122	61.00
	Female	78	39.00
Age Group (Years)	Below 25	28	14.00
	25 – 35	62	31.00
	36 – 45	56	28.00
	46 – 55	34	17.00
	Above 55	20	10.00
Educational Qualification	Illiterate	30	15.00
	Primary	44	22.00
	Secondary	64	32.00
	Higher Secondary	38	19.00
	Graduate & Above	24	12.00
Occupation	Agriculture	76	38.00
	Labour (MGNREGA/Other)	54	27.00
	Self-employed	36	18.00
	Service	22	11.00
	Others	12	6.00
	Below 10,000	56	28.00

Monthly Household Income (₹)	10,001 – 20,000	72	36.00
	20,001 – 30,000	44	22.00
	Above 30,000	28	14.00
Marital Status	Married	148	74.00
	Unmarried	52	26.00
Type of Family	Nuclear	116	58.00
	Joint	84	42.00
Total		200	100.00

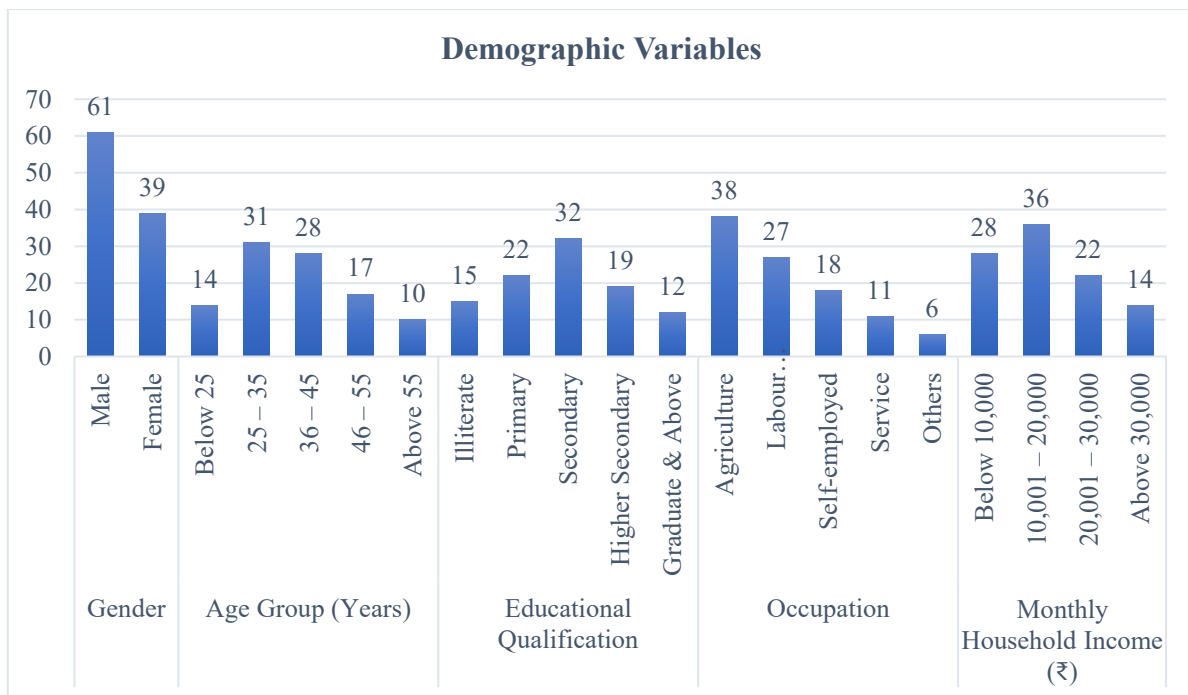


Figure 1: Graphical Presentation of Demographic Profile

Table 1 presented the socio-economic characteristics of the 200 rural respondents selected from Satna district. The majority of respondents were male (61.00%) and belonged to the economically active age group of 25–45 years, indicating significant participation from the working population. Educational attainment was moderate, with most respondents having education up to secondary level, reflecting the rural educational structure of the study area.

Agriculture and labor-related activities were the dominant occupations, confirming the agrarian nature of the rural economy in Satna district. Most households reported monthly incomes below ₹20,000, highlighting the economic vulnerability of rural families and the relevance of government welfare schemes. A higher proportion of respondents were married and lived in nuclear families, suggesting changing family structures in rural areas.

Table 2: Analysis of Perceptions on Government Schemes, Employment, and Essential Services (n = 200)

Dimension / Variable	Response Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Awareness of Government Schemes	Highly Aware	76	38.00
	Aware	84	42.00
	Neutral	24	12.00
	Less Aware	16	8.00
Employment Generation through Govt. Schemes	Strongly Agree	62	31.00
	Agree	78	39.00
	Neutral	34	17.00
	Disagree	18	9.00
	Strongly Disagree	8	4.00
Access to Potable Drinking Water	Strongly Agree	58	29.00
	Agree	72	36.00
	Neutral	38	19.00
	Disagree	22	11.00
	Strongly Disagree	10	5.00
Access to Healthcare Services	Strongly Agree	54	27.00

	Agree	76	38.00
	Neutral	40	20.00
	Disagree	20	10.00
	Strongly Disagree	10	5.00
Access to Educational Facilities	Strongly Agree	60	30.00
	Agree	70	35.00
	Neutral	36	18.00
	Disagree	22	11.00
	Strongly Disagree	12	6.00
Overall Improvement in Living Conditions	Strongly Agree	66	33.00
	Agree	74	37.00
	Neutral	32	16.00
	Disagree	18	9.00
	Strongly Disagree	10	5.00
Employment Status of Respondents	Regularly Employed	62	31.00
	Seasonally Employed	74	37.00
	Self-employed	36	18.00
	Unemployed	28	14.00

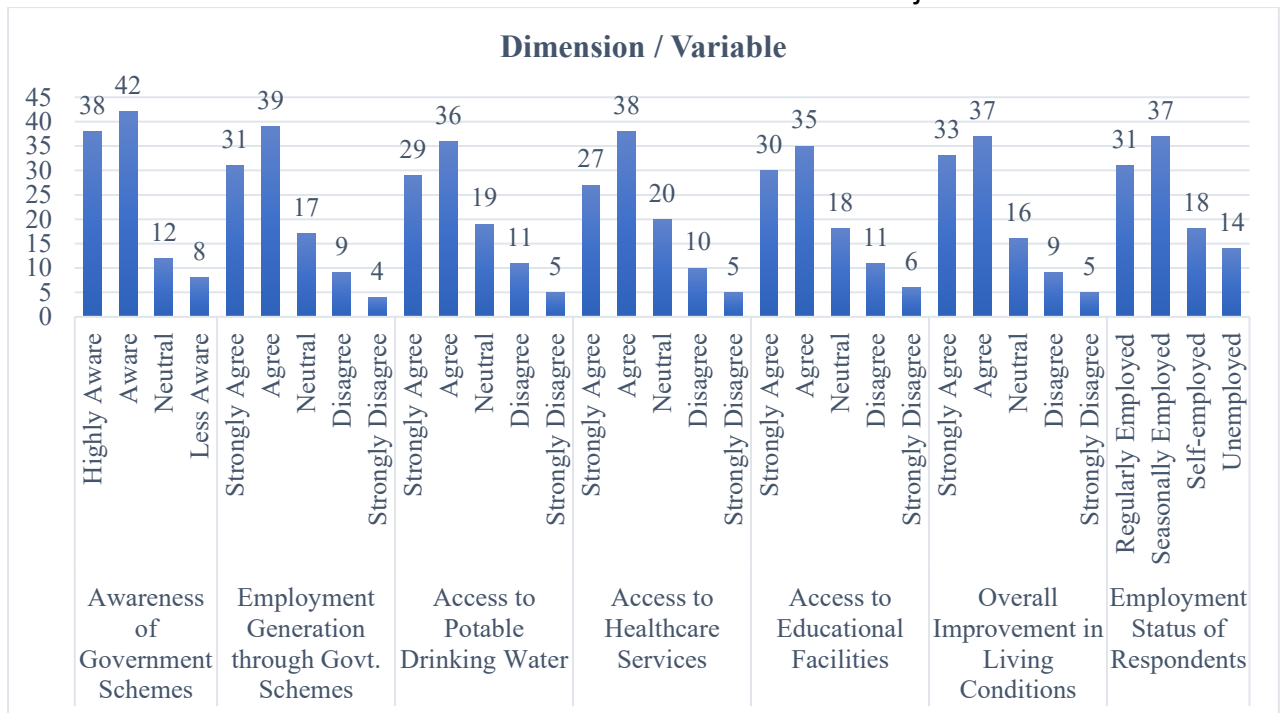


Figure 2: Graphical Presentation of Perceptions on Government Schemes, Employment, and Essential Services

Table 2 presented an integrated overview of rural respondents’ perceptions regarding government schemes, employment opportunities, and access to essential services in Satna district. A large majority of respondents (80.00%) were either aware or highly aware of government schemes, indicating effective dissemination of scheme-related information in rural areas.

With regard to employment generation, 70.00% of respondents agreed that government schemes contributed positively to employment opportunities, highlighting the role of employment-oriented programs such as MGNREGA. In terms of essential services, 65.00% of respondents reported improved access to potable drinking water, healthcare services, and educational facilities due to government interventions, reflecting the impact of schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat, and educational welfare programs.

Furthermore, 70.00% of respondents perceived an overall improvement in their living conditions, suggesting that government schemes collectively contributed to socio-economic development in rural areas. The employment status distribution showed that the majority of

respondents were either regularly or seasonally employed, indicating livelihood support through government initiatives.

4.1.Hypothesis Testing

H01: There is no significance relationship between Govt. Schemes and employment status of rural people.

Table 4: Model Summary for Relationship Between Government Schemes and Employment Status

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.032 ^a	.008	.005	.80862
a. Predictors: (Constant), Employment status of rural people				

A relatively poor correlation between government programs and rural residents' job status was shown in the model summary table. There appears to be very little relationship between the two variables, as the R-value of 0.032 indicates. The job situation of rural respondents only explained 0.8% of the variation in opinions of government plans, according to the R Square value of 0.008. Additionally, the regression model had nearly minimal explanatory power, as evidenced by the Adjusted R Square value of 0.005. This showed that differences in opinion on government programs could not be explained by differences in work status.

Table 5: ANOVA for Impact of Employment Status on Perception of Government Schemes

ANOVA ^a					
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.

1	Regression	.342	1	.342	.524	.470 ^b
	Residual	325.626	198	.654		
	Total	325.968	199			
a. Dependent Variable: Government Schemes						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Employment status of rural people						

The model's F-value was 0.524 and the p-value was 0.470, according to the ANOVA table. It was determined that the regression model was not statistically significant since the p-value was higher than the generally accepted level of significance (0.05). This finding suggested that people's opinions of government programs were unaffected by their work position. Therefore, a significant association between the variables could not be established using the total regression model.

Table 6: Coefficients Table for Regression Analysis on Government Schemes and Employment Status

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.075	.120		17.273	.000
	Employment status of rural people	-.026	.036	-.032	-.724	.470
a. Dependent Variable: Government Schemes						

The job status variable had a very weak and negative correlation with attitudes of government plans, as shown in the coefficients table, with an unstandardized coefficient (B) of -0.026. Further confirmation of the low influence of job status was provided by the standardized beta

value (-0.032). There was no statistical significance between the t-value (-0.724) and the accompanying significance value ($p = 0.470$) because the p-value was greater than 0.05. This suggested that people's opinions on government programs were unrelated to their work status.

The model summary, analysis of variance, and regression coefficients all came to the same conclusion: there was no statistically significant association between rural residents' job status and their opinions of government programs. Hence, H_{01} was accepted as the null hypothesis. According to the results, rural residents' opinions of government programs are likely influenced by variables other than their work situation.

5. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

This research set out to assess how several government programmes in the Satna area of Madhya Pradesh have helped to increase rural employment and broaden residents' access to healthcare, schools, and clean water. With a focus on employment and access to essential services, the study sought to measure rural households' knowledge, use, and perception of the effects of several government programs. Most rural residents were familiar with government programs and thought they helped expand access to necessary services, according to the study's results. Results from descriptive analyses showed that rural communities benefited from increased access to clean water, healthcare, and educational opportunities because of government initiatives. Support for livelihoods, especially in the form of seasonal and supplemental jobs, was seen as another benefit of employment-oriented programs. At the required level of significance, however, regression and ANOVA results demonstrated that government plans did not correlate with rural residents' job status. While rural households were aware of government programs and their benefits, these data showed that these initiatives were insufficient to significantly improve employment rates. It seems that factors outside the purview of government actions, such as agricultural reliance, seasonal changes, local economic situations, and skill levels, affected employment results in rural regions. In general, the study found that government programs helped people get the services they needed and made it easier for them to make a living, but that its influence on creating jobs was small and not statistically significant. To establish sustainable rural employment, the findings underscore the importance of better integrating employment schemes with skill development, local economic planning, and infrastructure development.

This study paved the way for more investigations in the future. To capture regional variations in the performance of government schemes and to increase the generalizability of the findings, future research can be conducted across various districts or states with a larger sample size. Furthermore, in order to see how government programs affect things like income growth, job security, and access to basic services in the long run, researchers may conduct longitudinal studies. To further explore the causal linkages between government initiatives and rural employment outcomes, future study could use advanced statistical techniques like structural equation modeling, panel data analysis, or multiple regression. To gain a better understanding of the difficulties with implementation, the experiences of beneficiaries, and the problems with governance, qualitative methods like interviews, focus groups, and case studies could be useful.

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