

Empowering Rural Transformation: Assessing the Impact of MPLADS Funds Utilisation on SAGY Initiatives in Chandigarh's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana Village

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Abstract:

This study evaluates the impact of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds utilization on Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) initiatives in Chandigarh's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana village. Utilising quantitative analysis, the research examines the distribution and allocation patterns of MPLADS funds across various project categories within the SAGY framework. Data obtained from the MPLADS office include project names, categories, expenditures, and work numbers for projects executed during Phase-I of SAGY. Findings reveal significant investment across sectors such as healthcare, sanitation, infrastructure, and livelihood enhancement. The study underscores the importance of continuous monitoring and evaluation to optimise resource allocation and enhance community development outcomes.

Keywords: MPLADS, SAGY, community development, rural transformation, fund utilisation, Chandigarh, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, infrastructure, healthcare, sanitation, livelihood enhancement, quantitative analysis.

1. Introduction

Background of MPLADS and SAGY:

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) are important initiatives aimed at promoting local development and community empowerment across India. Envisioned to empower elected representatives to make significant contributions at the grassroots level, these initiatives have immense potential to catalyse socio-economic changes within their constituencies.

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):

MPLAD Scheme is a Government of India initiative that was introduced on 23rd December 1993, aims to enable Members of Parliament (MPs) to address developmental needs of local areas within their respective constituencies. Each Member of the Parliament receives funds of Rs 5 crore each financial year and they

are entitled to recommend developmental works in their respective constituencies. Unutilised funds can be carried forward to the next financial year. The scheme primarily focuses on developing local grassroots level infrastructure related to health, sanitation, education, and other community centric projects.

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY):

In line with the ethos of community driven progress, the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched on 11th October 2014, with the vision of transforming villages into model villages of inclusive growth and holistic development. Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana urges Members of Parliament to adopt and develop one village per year in their constituency, fostering comprehensive progress across various sectors, including health, education, infrastructure, sanitation, and livelihood enhancement.

Similarities between aims and objectives of MPLADS and SAGY:

Similarities in Aims and Objectives	Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)
Empowering Elected Representatives:	- Empower Members of Parliament (MPs) to address local development needs within their respective constituencies.	- Empower MPs to adopt and develop one village per year, focusing on comprehensive progress across various sectors.
Community Development:	- Improve the quality of life and well-being of citizens by funding projects that promote community welfare.	- Enhance infrastructure, healthcare, education, sanitation, and livelihood enhancement in villages.
Inclusive Growth:	- Promote inclusive growth by allocating funds to projects that benefit marginalised and underprivileged sections of society.	- Foster decentralised governance and community participation in development initiatives.
Transparency and Accountability:	- Ensure transparency and accountability in the utilisation of funds by MPs through robust monitoring mechanisms.	- Address the micro-development needs of villages through active engagement with local communities.
Infrastructure Development:	- Support grassroots-level infrastructure development, such as roads, schools, healthcare facilities, and sanitation.	- Enhance infrastructure, social amenities, and public services in rural and semi-urban areas, contributing to overall socio-economic development.
Sustainable Development:	- Promote sustainable development practices and environmental conservation.	- Promote sustainable development practices and environmental conservation.

Implementation of MPLADS:

The implementation of MPLADS involves several key steps to ensure effective utilisation of allocated funds and timely completion of developmental projects:

Allocation of Funds: Each Member of Parliament (MP) is allocated funds to undertake developmental works in their respective constituencies. These funds are disbursed annually, and MPs are empowered to recommend projects based on local needs.

Project Identification: MPs identify and prioritise projects in consultation with local authorities and community representatives. Projects typically focus on infrastructure development, such as roads, bridges, schools, healthcare facilities, and sanitation infrastructure.

Approval Process: Once projects are identified, they undergo a rigorous approval process, including scrutiny by district authorities and relevant government departments. This ensures alignment with local development priorities and compliance with statutory regulations.

Execution and Monitoring: Upon approval, projects are executed by implementing agencies, which may include government departments, local bodies, or non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Regular monitoring and supervision by MPs and district officials ensure adherence to timelines and quality standards.

Accountability and Transparency: MPLADS funds are subject to strict accountability measures to prevent misuse or misappropriation. Regular audits and public disclosure of fund utilisation ensure transparency and accountability to the electorate.

Implementation of SAGY:

SAGY aims to transform villages into model communities of inclusive growth and development through a participatory and community-driven approach. The implementation of SAGY involves the following key components:

Village Adoption: Each MP adopts a village in their constituency, committing to its comprehensive development over a specified period. The selection of villages is based on criteria such as population size, socio-economic indicators, and infrastructure needs.

Baseline Survey and Needs Assessment: Upon village adoption, a baseline survey is conducted to assess the socio-economic status, infrastructure deficiencies, and development priorities of the village. This helps in identifying key areas for intervention and formulating a Village Development Plan (VDP).

Stakeholder Consultation: SAGY emphasises community participation and stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes. Village-level committees comprising elected representatives, local leaders, and residents are formed to oversee the planning and implementation of development initiatives.

Project Implementation: Based on the VDP, a range of projects spanning sectors such as health, education, sanitation, livelihoods, and infrastructure are identified and implemented. Projects may include the construction of schools, healthcare centres, roads, water supply systems, and sanitation facilities.

Capacity Building and Empowerment: SAGY emphasises capacity building and skill enhancement among villagers to enable them to actively participate in the development process. Training programs on topics such as entrepreneurship, agriculture, healthcare, and sanitation are conducted to empower local communities.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are put in place to track the progress of projects and assess their impact on the overall development of the village. Mid-term reviews and annual assessments help identify challenges and make course corrections as needed.

2. Importance and Significance of the study:

These initiatives underline the important role played by elected representatives in addressing the micro developmental needs of their constituencies. MPLADS and SAGY signal a shift towards decentralised and participatory governance, To encourage active engagement with local communities to bring about positive change at the grassroots level. Through judicious fund utilisation and targeted project execution, these initiatives aim to enhance the quality of life and well-being of citizens living in rural and semi-urban areas.

3. Purpose of the Study:

The primary purpose of this study is to assess the impact of MPLADS funds utilisation on SAGY initiatives within Chandigarh's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana village (Sarangpur). By analysing data obtained from MPLADS office, including project names, categories, expenditures, and MPLADS work numbers, this research aims to evaluate the distribution and allocation patterns of MPLADS funds across various project categories. Through quantitative analysis, the study seeks to determine the extent of fund utilisation for SAGY initiatives, gauging project progress and potential impacts on community development. The findings of this study are intended to contribute insights for policy formulation, enabling improved strategies for fund allocation and optimising resource utilisation under the SAGY framework,

4. Methodology:

This study employs a quantitative research design to evaluate the impact of MPLADS funds utilisation on SAGY initiatives in Chandigarh's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana village (Sarangpur). Data obtained from the MPLADS office in Chandigarh include project names, categories, expenditures, and MPLADS work numbers for projects executed under **SAGY Phase-I**. A comprehensive review of MPLADS-funded projects within the SAGY village was conducted, encompassing all initiatives implemented during the specified period. Quantitative analysis was then employed to scrutinise the distribution and allocation patterns of MPLADS funds across project categories, utilising percentages to ascertain the distribution of funds. This analysis aims to identify trends, disparities, and areas for enhancement in fund allocation and utilisation, facilitating a comprehensive assessment of community development initiatives.

5. Quantitative Analysis:

Fund Allocation Distribution:

Table 1

S. No.	Project Name	Project Category	Expenditure (In Indian Rupees)	MPLADS Work No.
1	Garbage Bins	Sanitation	86,666	1/16th LS
2	Garbage Collection Centre	Sanitation	26,31,286	2/16th LS
3	Concretisation of streets and drainage system	Concrete Roads	12,44,432	5/16th LS

4	Construction of Bus shelters	Infrastructure	27,88,546	7/16th LS
5	Construction of Veterinary sub centre	Animal Husbandry	18,51,800	8/16thLS
6	Construction of toilet block	Sanitation	17,84,881	9/16th LS
7	Installation of generator on booster and supply of canal water	Water Supply	13,14,117	10/16th LS
8	Construction of civil dispensary	Healthcare	59,91,600	11/16th LS
Total			1,76,93,328	

Source: Work progress report of MPLADS, S.D.E-MPLADS, Chandigarh.

Table 1 presents an overview of eight distinct projects executed in Sarangpur village as part of the SAGY initiatives, utilising MPLADS funds across six diverse categories, with a cumulative expenditure of Rs 1,76,93,328. These projects cover a range of developmental aspects, including endeavours such as improving sanitation through the provision of garbage bins and collection centres, enhancing infrastructure via road concretization, and establishing vital facilities like bus shelters and healthcare centres. This collection of projects represents an inclusive allocation of funds, illustrating the diverse developmental aspects addressed within the village.

Utilisation Percentage:

Work category wise fund allocation

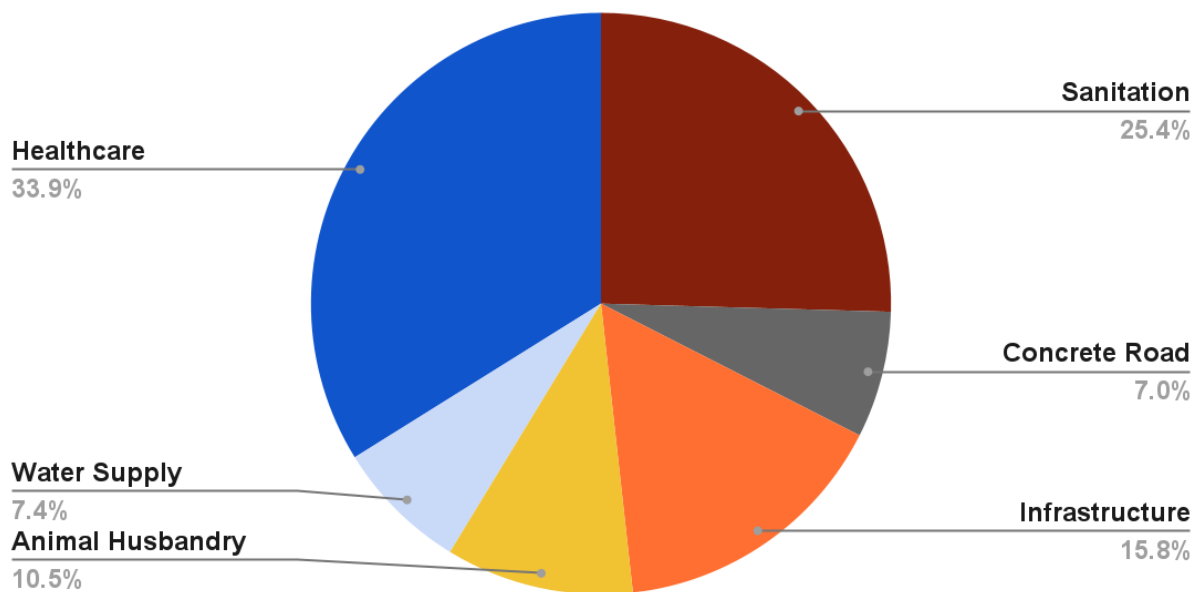


Chart 1

Source: Researcher’s Analysis

The Chart 1 above illustrates the percentage allocation of funds across work categories for SAGY initiatives funded by MPLADS in Sarangpur village during SAGY Phase 1 (2014-16). Out of the total expenditure, 33.9% was allocated to the Healthcare sector, 25.4% to improving Sanitation, 15.8% to infrastructure development, 10.5% to the Animal Husbandry sector, 7.4% to Water Supply, and 7.0% to projects related to laying concrete roads.

6. Findings:

1. Garbage Bins:

- Project Category: Sanitation
- Expenditure: Rs 86,666
- This project focused on improving sanitation infrastructure by providing garbage bins in the village. The expenditure incurred indicates a relatively lower investment compared to other projects.

2. Garbage Collection Centre:

- Project Category: Sanitation
- Expenditure: Rs 26,31,286
- The construction of a garbage collection centre signifies a significant investment in sanitation infrastructure, aiming to improve waste management practices within the village.

3. Concretisation of Streets and Drainage System:

- Project Category: Concrete Roads
- Expenditure: Rs 12,44,432
- This project focuses on enhancing the village's infrastructure by concretising streets and improving the drainage system, indicating a commitment to better mobility and drainage management.

4. Construction of Bus Shelters:

- Project Category: Infrastructure
- Expenditure: Rs 27,88,546
- Investment in constructing bus shelters demonstrates efforts to enhance transportation facilities for villagers, potentially improving connectivity and access to public transportation services.

5. Construction of Veterinary Sub Centre:

- Project Category: Animal Husbandry
- Expenditure: Rs 18,51,800
- Establishment of a veterinary sub-centre highlights the focus on animal husbandry and livestock healthcare services, catering to the agricultural needs of the rural community.

6. Construction of Toilet Block:

- Project Category: Sanitation
- Expenditure: Rs 17,84,881
- Investment in constructing toilet blocks indicates efforts towards improving sanitation facilities and promoting hygiene practices within the village, addressing a crucial aspect of rural development.

7. Installation of Generator on Booster and Supply of Canal Water:

- Project Category: Water Supply
- Expenditure: Rs 13,14,117
- The installation of a generator on the water supply booster aims to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the village, enhancing access to clean water, a fundamental requirement for rural development.

8. Construction of Civil Dispensary:

- Project Category: Healthcare
- Expenditure: Rs 59,91,600
- The construction of a civil dispensary signifies a substantial investment in healthcare infrastructure, aiming to improve access to medical facilities and healthcare services for the villagers.

7. Suggestions:

Enhance stakeholder participation: Encourage active involvement of local communities, elected representatives, and governmental agencies to ensure comprehensive planning and implementation of development initiatives.

Strengthen monitoring mechanisms: Implement robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track the progress of projects, identify bottlenecks, and address challenges in a timely manner, ensuring effective utilisation of funds.

Foster interdisciplinary collaboration: Facilitate collaboration between different sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, and agriculture to promote holistic development and address multifaceted challenges faced by rural communities.

Promote capacity building: Invest in capacity building programs aimed at empowering local communities with the skills and knowledge necessary for active participation in the development process, fostering sustainability and self-reliance.

Enhance transparency and accountability: Implement measures to enhance transparency in fund allocation and utilization, including regular audits, public disclosures, and citizen engagement initiatives, to ensure accountability and build trust among stakeholders.

8. Conclusion:

In summary, the evaluation of MPLADS funds utilisation on SAGY initiatives in Chandigarh's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana village demonstrates a concerted effort towards fostering holistic rural transformation. The allocation of funds across diverse sectors underscores a commitment to address multifaceted developmental needs comprehensively. While significant progress has been made in infrastructure enhancement, healthcare, sanitation, and livelihood opportunities, certain limitations in data availability and scope of analysis should be acknowledged. These findings highlight the importance of continuous monitoring and evaluation to optimise resource allocation and enhance the impact of community development initiatives. Moving forward, it is imperative to streamline coordination between stakeholders, enhance transparency, and strengthen accountability mechanisms to ensure sustainable rural development. By leveraging lessons learned and implementing targeted interventions, policymakers can further empower local communities and drive inclusive growth in rural areas.

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