



Analysis of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna in the Bundelkhand Region

Under the guidance of Dr. Anirban Kar

**Submitted By:
Ankit Singh
Kashif Khan
Nitin Arora
Piyush Raj**

Contents

Introduction	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Literature Review	6
METHODOLOGY	8
RESULTS OF THE SURVEY	10
BANDA.....	10
Comparison of Socio-economic conditions of Triveni and Surauli	12
CHITRAKOOT	13
Comparison of Socio-economic conditions of Dewal and Chaura.....	15
Implication Failure: An Analysis	17
References	18

Introduction

Infrastructure can be defined as the basic services and facilities necessary for an economy to function (Sullivan and Sheffrin 2003). It is the set of interconnected structural elements that provide framework supporting an entire structure of development. These structural elements could be roads, irrigation, telecommunication networks, energy or it could be institutions like health systems, financial systems and law enforcement system.

It is an accepted view point that Infrastructure development and access to infrastructure is essential in the fight against poverty and social injustice. It is this objective that many development schemes and aid from developed countries is aimed at. Policy makers and academicians have argued that investment in infrastructure not only creates economic activity and growth but also gives an opportunity to the marginalized section of the society to improve their conditions (Amis and Kumar).

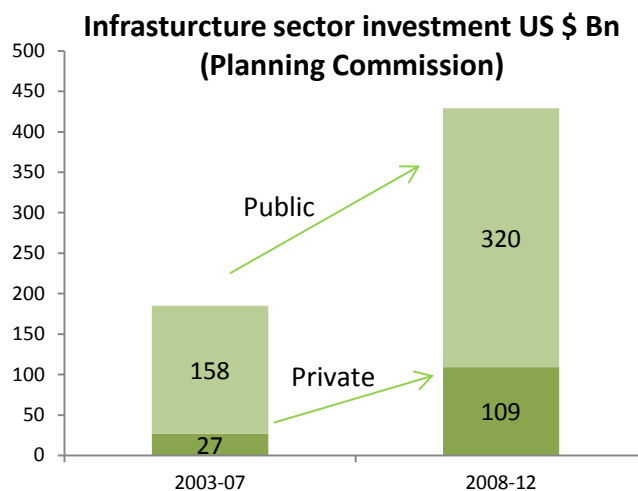
Electricity is one such element. The electrification of villages has been found to have a positive effect on the life of the rural poor (World Bank 2007, Valunekar 1968). This study aims to assess the impact of the rural electrification in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. Bundelkhand region has been a historically backward region. Despite the recent push for rural infrastructure development in India this area remains backward. The per capita energy consumption, literacy, income all fall behind the state average (Planning Commission, Annual Plan for 2010-11). As seen in the studies previously cited electrification can help tackle these problems. Through this study we aim to look at the impact electrification has had on the lives of the people in this region. Electrification is expected to provide people with new employment opportunities and through this increase is expected to show improvements over metrics like household income. Electrification is also expected to impact the consumption of kerosene as the use of kerosene lamps is expected to decrease. Electrification can also have an impact on the number of study hours of children.

Infrastructure development, Bharat Nirmaan and Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna

According to estimates from the Planning Commission rural head count ratio in India for the year 2011-12 was 33.8 %. In a country like India where the majority of the population lives in rural areas (69 %, Census of India 2011) infrastructure development in rural areas becomes all the more important. By investing in rural infrastructure like transportation, energy and telecommunication one can expect the outcomes to improve in the future.

The government has been stressing on the need for rural infrastructure development. There have been many programmes initiated by the Central and state governments to achieve this aim. Many of these projects are being carried under Public Private Partnerships. According to the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) the budget estimates and the central releases increased from Rs. 12,698 crores and Rs. 14,868 crores in 2004-05 to Rs. 78,997 crores (Revised Estimate) and Rs. 74,682 crore respectively in 2010-11 (Ministry of Rural Development).

The Planning Commission of India states that Bharat Nirman, launched in 2005 for upgradation of rural infrastructure comprehensively across its sub-sectors, aims to provide electricity to 1,25,000 villages and to 23 million households; connect the remaining 66,802 habitations with all-weather roads and construct 1,46,185 km of new rural roads; provide drinking



water to 55,067 uncovered habitations; provide irrigation to an additional 10 million ha; and connect the remaining 66,822 villages with telephones. It is estimated that out of the total projected investment of Rs 13,11,293 crore to be incurred by the Centre and the states on all infrastructure sectors during the Eleventh Plan, about Rs 3,93,388 crore (or 30 per cent) would be spent exclusively towards improving rural infrastructure (Mid Term Appraisal for XI FYP, Planning Commission of India). The prime minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh claimed that Bharat Nirmaan will have a “time bound business plan for action in rural infrastructure.” These targets were supposed to be achieved by the end of the year 2009.

As per 2001 census, a total of 7,80,90,874 rural households in the country constituting about 56.48% were un-electrified. The total number of un-electrified villages in the country was estimated to be around 1, 25,000 as per the new definition of village electrification (effective from 2004-05) (Census of India, 2001). The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Viduyatikaran Yojna (RGGVY) was launched in 2005 recognizing these needs. The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been appointed as the nodal agency for this project.

This was to be achieved through the implementation of:

- Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with at least one 33/11 KV (or 66/11 KV) substation in each block;
- Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI) with at least one distribution transformer in village/habitation and
- Decentralised Distributed Generation (DDG) systems where grid supply is not feasible or cost-effective

The project has a total budgetary allocation of Rs. 32314 Crore under 10th and 11th Five Year Plans. According to a Standing Committee Report the scheme, by 2010 was supposed to – Electrify all villages and habitations, provide electricity access to all households and give electricity connections to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families free of charge [Standing Committee Report].

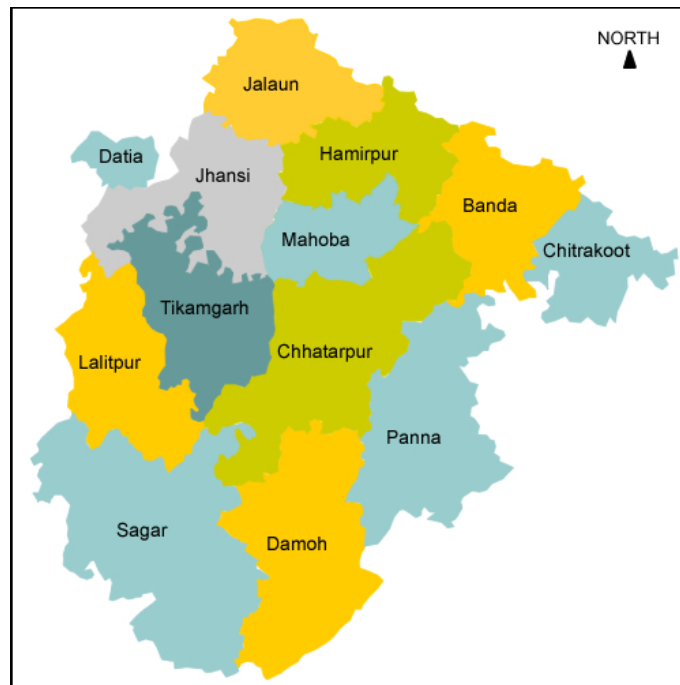
According to the new definition of village electrification, a village would be declared electrified if:

- Basic Infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution lines are provided in the habited locality as well as Dalit Basti/hamlet where it exists
- Electricity is provided to public institutions like Schools, Panchayat office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community centers etc
- The number of households electrified should be at least 10 % of the total number of household in the village

But the target of 100 % rural electrification has clearly not been achieved and the project is still ongoing.

Bundelkhand Region

Bundelkhand is a region in north India locked between the Ganga River in the north and the Vindya Mountains in the south. It consists of 13 districts : Jhansi, Banda, Datia, Tikamgarh, Rath, Lalitpur, Sagar, Damoh, Orai, Panna, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Narsinghpur and Chhatarpur. Seven of these districts are in Uttar Pradesh and six are in Madhya Pradesh. It is predominantly an agrarian economy; over 80% of population is dependent on agriculture, livestock, usufructs from forest and outsourcing income by seasonal migration after Rabi sowing (Forest Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh).



Map of Bundelkhand Region

It is one of the most under developed regions of India and is frequently hit by droughts. The region lacks behind national averages but also MP and UP in regards to all development measures.

In the part of Bundelkhand which lies in UP 77 % of the total population lives in rural areas (Plannig Commission, Annual Plan 2011). Compared to the 79 % of villages electrified in 2000-01 in UP, Bundelkhand had 70 % of the villages electrified. The adult literacy was 48 % compared to 57 % of the whole state (Manju Narula) and this is after a very dismal performance by UP on the literacy front. Female literacy is 35 % compared to the state average of 43 %. The per capita power consumption 183 kWh is less than half the rest of the country. When compared to the rest of MP the outcomes are not encouraging either.

Literature Review

Rural electrification in Bundelkhand region has been a growing research area during last decade. Various papers have also been published regarding the impact of electrification on socio economic indicators in this region. While some papers found that rural electrification has actually made a positive impact on the socio economic condition of the rural areas, some papers showed that the rural electrification programmes of the government are lacking in many areas and there is a lot of scope for further improvement with regard to implementation, quality of infrastructure etc.

Ranganathan and Ramanayya (EPW 1998) conducted a survey to assess the long-term impact of rural electrification in the backward states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The survey covered four districts in each state, two relatively forward and two backward. They found that rural electrification did not have significant link with employment generation or occupational diversification in terms of switch to industry jobs, except for the slight increase in services. They also found that rural electrification showed a feeble impact on the number of 'industrial' establishments and their profits. While RE had a major impact on agricultural productivity and also a reasonable impact on those households who used electricity for rural industries, it did not have a major impact on rural industrialization per se, by widespread promotion of rural industrial activity. Thus merely providing electricity in rural areas will not lead to rural industrialization, but various complementary inputs, such as rural credit - where both the states got half the capital national average - and developing and fostering entrepreneurship. on the impact of rural electrification in MP and UP argues that rural electrification with emphasis on productive benefits is economically viable. They also mention that rural electrification also increases the usage of pump sets for irrigations.

Jaskiran Kaur Mathur and Dhiraj Mathur (EPW 2005) in their paper examined rural electrification in the villages of Madhya Pradesh from a socio-developmental perspective and argued that the direct and indirect benefits of rural electrification in reducing the burden on women, its positive impact on health, education and farm income, justifies the expense of network expansion for universal access. It also advocated multiple uses of electricity as this would enhance these benefits, have a beneficial effect on the environment, increase the viability of rural electrification and result in savings on household (total) energy expenditure. They found that electrification reduces the drudgery and burden of women and saves time that they can use for more productive purposes, thereby improving their status in the family. There were also significant benefits in education, health, household incomes and farm productivity. These benefits complement the entire spectrum of gender and rural development and poverty alleviation programmes, and therefore, justify the costs of expanding rural electrification.

T.N. Valunekar in his paper (EPW) studied rural electrification in a village in Maharashtra and showed that electrification has accelerated the process of modernization in different segments of village society. The labor-saving impact of electrification had greatly altered the importance of the large joint family and the extended kin group. Electrification also accelerated the spread of education in rural areas and thereby further facilitated modernization. They also concluded that

the position of women in the traditional family was altered considerably as a result of the labor-saving impact of electrification.

A study conducted by World Bank in India in 2007 articulates the inability of current methods of providing reliable and affordable electricity to the rural poor. Agriculture's misuse of power and large government subsidies have frequently been blamed for the poor state of power supply in rural areas.

N. Sheekumar and Shantanu Dixit in their paper (EPW 2011) analyzed the implementation of RGGVY and found that the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana for rural electrification has made some achievements in grid extension, village electrification and rural household connections. But there were questions on the quality of power supply, sustainability of infrastructure and the contribution to rural development. There have been many limitations in the planning process, which have subsequently resulted in implementation and sustainability issues. Sustainable operation has received the minimum attention from the planners and implementers. There were no indications to show that a good quality of supply and service was provided to the beneficiaries.

A.K. Sahani in his paper based on a survey pointed out the defects and shortcomings in the high voltage distribution system (HVDS) installations built under the Rajeev Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) of rural electrification avoiding which could have made the installations much better. Defects inherent in the technical specifications and those resulted during the execution of the scheme; both were addressed in his paper.

METHODOLOGY

A field survey based on direct interviews method was carried out in June 2012. A representative sample of about 30 households was drawn from each of the 4 villages.

Two districts, Chitrakoot and Banda, were chosen in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. From each district, two villages were chosen which were electrified under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna (RGGVY) and two villages which were not covered under this scheme. In Banda district, we covered Triveni village, which was not electrified under RGGVY, and Surauli, which was electrified under RGGVY. In Chitrakoot district, we surveyed two villages Dewal and Chaura. Dewal was not covered under RGGVY while Chaura was electrified under RGGVY. All these villages were 6-8 kilometers away from the district head-office. These villages were also

covered under different Central and state government schemes like MNREGS, ICDS, Indira Awaas Yojna, Vriddha Pension Yojna, Mahamaya Awaas Yojna, Kisan Credit Ccard, Public Distribution Scheme, Toilet scheme etc. We also checked whether these villages had hospitals and educational institutions and what was the state of services provided by them.

We covered only BPL households under our survey so that we do not face the problem of income bias because electricity connection may be related to the income of the concerned household. For this, we first contacted the Gram Panchayat heads of these villages and collected the BPL list. They also gave us the list of different government schemes which were implemented in their respective villages. The BPL households were selected on a random basis to avoid any bias.

We also analyzed the implementation of the RGGVY in these villages. We questioned the villagers whether they have an electricity connection, if yes, legal or illegal and if not, why they did not take the electricity connection. By their answers, we tried to analyze the status of implementation of this scheme in these villages.

We analyzed the villages on the following parameters:

- Average expenditure of households: This included the cost of food, education and health. The recall period will be 30 days.
- Fuel wood and kerosene consumption: This gave us an idea on the expenditure on energy by the household.
- Studying hours of children at home: This helped us measure the effect of electrification on education of children.
- Ownership of durables: The ownership of durables was expected to increase post electrification.
- Source of employment generation: This is a qualitative measure. Electrification is expected to provide increased opportunities for employment generation.

In case of fuel wood and kerosene consumption, we tried to compare the level of consumption of these commodities between villages covered under RGGVY and those without it. By comparing the average studying hours we tried to evaluate the effect of electrification on the education level of children across the electrified households. The change in ownership of durables is taken into account to further understand the change in the standard of living in the area with and without the scheme. The employment pattern with regards to both productivity as well as opportunity is also one of the variables taken into account for understanding the impact of this scheme in the area.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

BANDA

Banda is a district in the southern part of Uttar Pradesh. It is located on the bank of river Ken. It is one of the most backward districts of Uttar Pradesh which is lagging behind in almost all the socio economic indicators of development from the other districts of Uttar Pradesh. RGGVY was implemented in the some villages of this district which were not already electrified and where electrification was not complete. We chose Surauli (electrified under RGGVY) and Triveni village in this district for our survey.

Surauli is a village in `Badokhar Khurd` block of the district, situated at a distance of c.7km from the district headquarters. It currently inhabits c.600 individuals and 280 voters, most of them being involved in labor work with agricultural and allied activities as the major source of employment. Here, agricultural labourers get wages lower than the subsistence wage. In this village, electrification has not led to any economic activities at night. Most of the households have kaccha houses. Availability of light is almost zero during the day. Presence of television is conspicuous by its absence. RGGVY is not very popular in this region. Electrical appliances are non-existent. 20-25 houses have electricity connection. Roads inside the village are predominantly kaccha roads, with the exception of a single pakka road connecting the village to the district headquarters. There is a primary school and an anganwadi center within the school premises. There is no panchayat ghar or community hall. Many households connect wires to the electricity connection of households with legal connection. Midday meal scheme of the government is not operational in the village. Condition of roads is pathetic. There is no particular source of irrigation other than canal. Irrigation based on diesel pumps is rampant but that based on electricity is absent. Primary school has no qualified teaching staff and teachers' attendance is low. Even when they come, they have no interest in teaching. PDS is operating in this village with the ration shops open on 3-4 days a month only. People are supposed to get their quota of ration during that specified time, failing which their access to subsidized commodities is denied. Ration cards are not properly distributed. Many landless laborers haven't received a ration card in spite of the fact that they fall in the BPL category. There are no functioning self employment programmes in the village.

Free electricity connections are not being provided to the BPL families, as is supposed to be the case under this scheme. Electricity authorities ask for money in the range of INR8,000-10,000 and BPL households being devoid of as large an amount, are often left unelectrified. There are also official delays in providing electricity connections even after this payment has been made. Electricity supply is 10 hours a day in the electrified households.

Amongst other amenities, government toilets have been provided to some houses while many are still without this facility. Other government programmes, in particular Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), are somewhat functional but proper financing is not available to the BPL households because Gram Panchayat Pradhan (GPP) demands INR5, 000 per household under the IAY. Women are not employed due to lack of employment opportunities. Employment under MNREGA is mostly offered at the time of cultivation of paddy so most of the people don't avail of this scheme in those times.

Triveni is a village situated in the same block as Surauli i.e. Badokhar- Khurd and its distance from the district headquarters is c.5 Kms. Its population is around 800 people and 360 voters. Here, main occupation is labour and agriculture & its allied activities. Village has four primary schools and two junior high schools. Roads are predominantly kutcha. Village is connected to Banda through a pucca road. Because of direct connection to the district headquarters, the development of village has taken place as all the facilities are available in Banda. Some households' lands are rain-fed completely

In spite of the fact that the main source of the employment is agriculture modern techniques are not employed in production process. Main source of irrigation is rain water. Diesel pumps are used for irrigation mainly on the commission basis and electric pumps are very rare. Quite a few villagers also use tube-wells for irrigation. Most of the villagers do not cultivate their lands throughout the year rather they cultivate it only for 5-6 months. A ritual called Anna Pratha is prevalent in this village. According to this pratha, after the month of Chait, non-productive animals of the village are freed to graze around in the village fields. So the fields are not cultivated during this period. Livestock have no economic benefit for the villagers and they are only used for domestic consumption of milk and fuel.

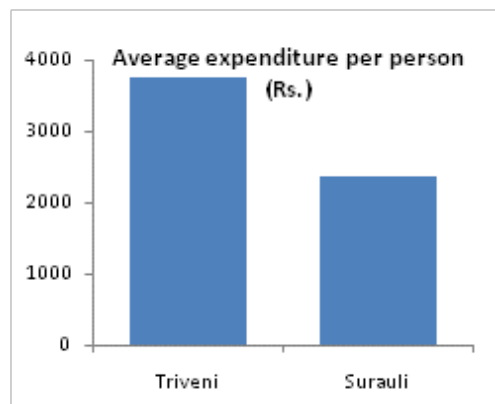
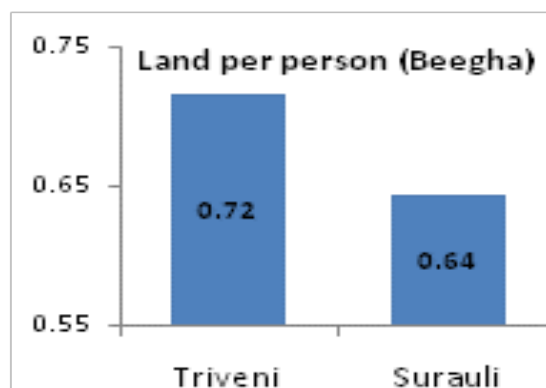
Government toilet scheme is operational here and toilets are built with 60% government contribution and 40% individual contribution. There is no intermediate college and government hospital in the village because village is situated not far from district health centre. In this village, fertilizers are acquired from co-operatives or if not available there it is bought from private shops. Finance through Kisan Credit Card is available (KCC) only if the farmers are ready to pay 6% commission on every loan that they receive. Old age pension plan is functional in this village. PDS is also functional here but it being availed of predominantly for kerosene and not many household purchase grains from these shops. Quantity of kerosene provided through PDS is not enough for a number of households and they have to purchase it from the market also. Employment under

MNREGA is provided to the households. Midday meal scheme of the government is operational here.

This village is not covered under RGGVY and the status of electrification is not satisfying. A number of BPL households have not been provided electricity connections but they have taken illegal connections from the households with legal connections. There is a set of households who run their cotton wheels on these illegal connections. Only 10 BPL households have legal electricity connections. Electricity connections are being provided only if the BPL households are ready to pay INR 2000-2500 but these households cannot afford to pay that amount of money. As a result these households opt not to take electricity connections. There is no economic activity performed at night.

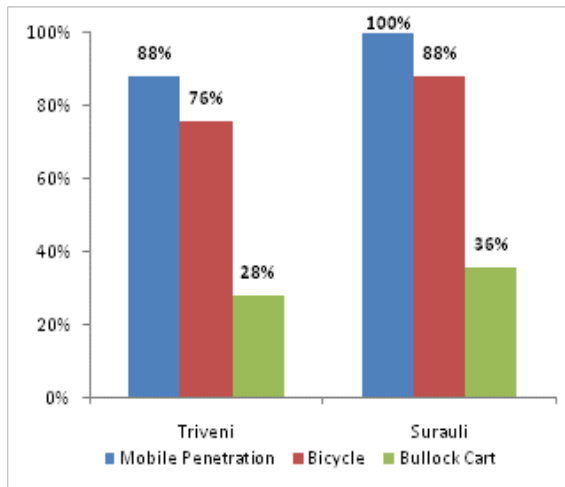
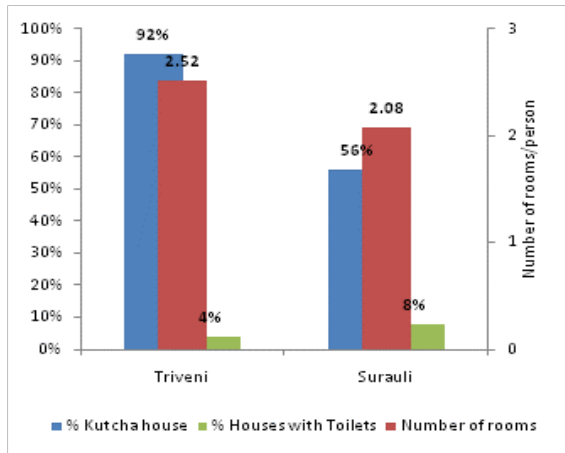
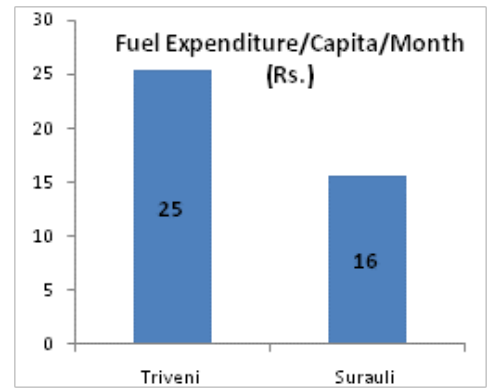
Comparison of Socio-economic conditions of Triveni and Surauli

To analyze the effect of electrification under this scheme on the socio-economic condition of Surauli we compared its performance on a number of indicators with Triveni. Indicators used by us were- land holding, average expenditure per person per month, expenditure on fuel consumption per capita per month, housing condition, durables, average study hours of the children at home. Our survey showed that average land holding per person in Triveni was 0.72 Beegha, whereas, in Surauli it was 0.64 Beegha. Average expenditure per person per month, in Triveni and Surauli, was found to be around INR 3775 and 2367 respectively. Expenditure on Fuel consumption per capita per month was INR 25.41 and INR 15.68 in Triveni and Surauli respectively. As far as housing condition is concerned Surauli seemed to perform better than Triveni. In Triveni 92% of



households were kutcha as compared to 56% in Surauli and also number of toilets were found to be greater than that in Surauli. To understand the effect of this scheme on durable ownership in Surauli we collected data about mobiles, bicycles and bullock-carts. And the results showed that the Surauli was ahead of Triveni in this regard as here mobile penetration was 100% in

comparison with 88% of Triveni. Number of bullock-carts and bicycles were also larger in Surauli.



Overall, this scheme did not make any significant impact on the income of the village which was, in fact, more in Triveni, where this scheme has not been implemented. But on the other hand it led to a decrease in per capita fuel expenditure in Surauli which was considerably lower than that of Triveni. Electrification under this scheme also led to an increase in mobile penetration in Surauli which was found to be greater than Triveni because even the households without the electricity connection used other households' connections to charge their mobiles. There were a few shops which allowed villagers to charge their mobiles after paying a certain amount.

CHITRAKOOT

Chitrakoot is a district situated at the southern border of Uttar Pradesh. This district is also backward in terms of socio economic indicators of development. Some villages of this district were also chosen for the implementation of RGGVY scheme. We chose a Chaura village for survey which was selected for complete electrification under this scheme. Another village named Dewal was surveyed by us, which, was not included under this scheme.

Dewal is a village in `Pahari` block of the district, situated at a distance of c.8km from the district headquarters. It has a population of around 700 inhabitants and 300 voters. The major source of employment in this village is physical labour and agricultural activities. People of this village tend to migrate to other places in search of work if work is not available in their village. Migrant labourers work for a few months in the field and migrate to some other village when no cultivation is done in Dewal. Roads are mainly kutcha made but pucca roads provide connectivity to the district center. The condition of roads is even worse than Banda district.

Very few BPL households in this village have electricity connection and thus they hardly avail any benefits out of this scheme. There is hardly any economic activity performed at night. Harijan basti in this village has no electricity. Illegal connections are rampant in this village. Electricity connections are provided by paying bribe to the officials and thus the villagers do not take the connection because the cost they will incur in getting a connection is more than the benefits they will receive from the connection.

PDS is functional in these villages. Ration is provided only once a week but it is not enough for their consumption. Kerosene is also distributed here through the PDS but villagers buy more kerosene from the private shops. People are provided employment under MNREGA scheme. Anganwadi services are also provided in this village. KCC is also being availed by the households in Dewal. Indira Awaas yojna is not being provided in this village. There is only one primary school in the village. Here is a government hospital and the doctor is present almost every day. Brahmins in this villages claim that they do not receive old age pension and think that they are being discriminated against by the gram panchayat head who is SC by caste.

Households use homemade dung cakes as fuel and also buy woods from the market. Livestock are fed from the fields and only small expenditure is done on them. Livestock is not being used for any economic activity(except bullocks) but only for domestic consumption. Agriculture is done throughout the year if there is no drought. Irrigation in this village is mainly rain-fed. Tube-wells and diesel pumps are also used for irrigation but electric pumps are replacing diesel pumps in this village and farmers are shifting to rent irrigation.

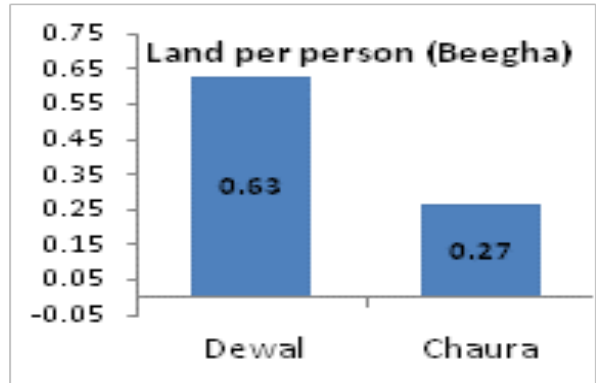
Chaura is situated in the same block, i.e Pahari, as Dewal. It is 8km away from the district headquarters. It has a population of around 800 inhabitants and 350 voters. Roads are kutcha built inside the village but pucca roads connect the village to the district center. The major source of employment generation is physical labour and agriculture and its allied activities. In this village too, BPL do not have electricity connection in general. Electricity line is passing through that region but the BPL households have not received legal connections. The same problem of illegal connection prevails in this village. Almost no economic activity is performed at night.

Anganwadi scheme is fairly active in this region and mid day meals are being provided to the children. Primary school is present in the village. The school has the electricity connection but the anganwadi center is without the connection. Some BPL households do not have ration card although they are eligible for it and hence they have to purchase ration from the market. ICDS is functioning well in the village and free vaccination is provided to the children at the ICDS centers. The villagers have received the benefits of MNREGA scheme by the government. Government health center is present but the residents are not happy with the doctors. PDS is also functional in the village and the villagers mainly use it to purchase kerosene at the subsidized rate.

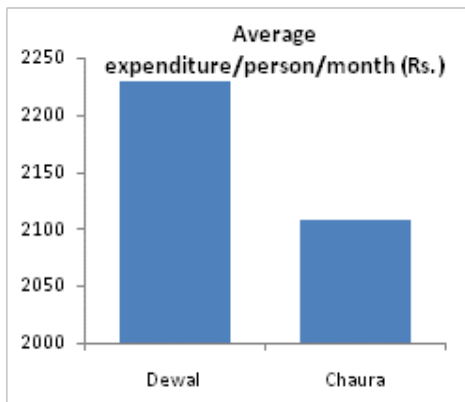
As in earlier cases, farmers in this village depend mainly on rain for irrigation. Diesel pumps are more prevalent than electric tube-wells. Livestock are grazed in the farms and are used for domestic purposes. Bullocks are used in the field as well as for carrying grains to the market.

Comparison of Socio-economic conditions of Dewal and Chaura

On comparing the socio- economic parameters i.e. land holding, average expenditure per person per month, expenditure on fuel consumption per capita per month, housing condition, durables, average study hours of the children at home, we found

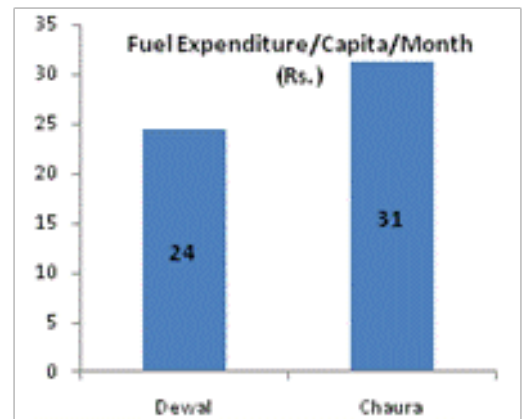


following results.



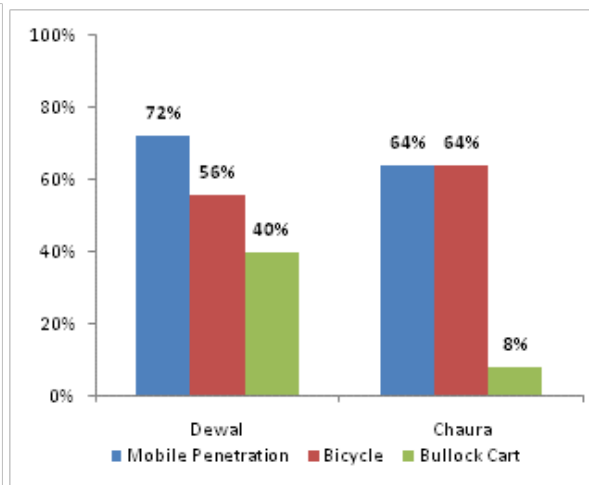
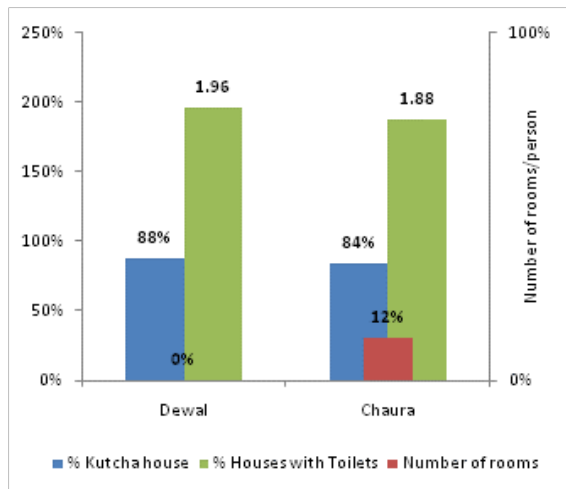
Average Land holding per person in Dewal was found to be 0.63 beegha and whereas in chaura it was 0.27 beegha which was far less in comparison with Dewal. Average expenditure per person per month in Dewal and Chaura was around INR 2231 and 2108 respectively. In our survey we found that the

fuel expenditure per capita per month was INR 24.43 and 31.21 in Chaura and Dewal respectively. As far as housing conditions were concerned both the villages had high percentage of kutcha houses. In Dewal around 88% houses were kutcha compared to 84% in Chaura. In Dewal no household had toilet facility whereas in Chaura around 10% houses had toilet facility. To understand the effect of this scheme on durable ownership in Chaura we collected data



about mobiles, bicycles and bullock-carts. We found that mobile penetration in Chaura was around 72% which was more than that in Dewal which only had 64% mobile penetration. Bicycle holding in Chaura and Dewal were 56% and 64% respectively. However number of bullock-cart were higher in Chaura.

Our result shows that the scheme did not make any significant impact on land holding per person as it was higher in Dewal which was not included in the scheme. Also, the average expenditure per person per month was higher in Dewal. As far as fuel consumption per capita per month is concerned, it is lower in Dewal which shows that the scheme had a positive impact on fuel consumption. The scheme also led to an increase in mobile penetration in Dewal due to the same reason as mentioned in regards to Banda district. However, the scheme did not have any impact on toilet facility in the village as there was no toilet in any house.



Implication Failure: An Analysis

While the RGGVY scheme has raised expectations of people with no access to electricity, lack of quality and unreliable electricity supply has underlined that the scheme has failed to deliver so far and has also failed to match the expectations created.

It was seen that though, the village electrification has been completed household electrification has been meager because the scheme defines an electrified village as one in which 10% of the household have been electrified. So, most of the BPL households have been left out. It was told by the villagers that they were not informed about the scheme by the Pradhan or the electricity distribution agencies. Pradhans response was that they were also not involved in the implementation of the scheme. BPL households did not have enough information about the scheme and they did not know whom to contact to get a connection.

The scope of the RGGVY scheme envisages that provision of Rural Electricity Distribution and Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI) will facilitate power requirement of agriculture and other activities. This includes irrigation pump sets, small and medium industries, khadi and village industries, cold chains, health care, education and IT etc. It is also stated that panchayat bhavans and schools be given connection under the scheme. But in both the villages we visited there are no connections for schools, health centers and employment generating activities. Even panchayat bhavans did not have electricity connections.

The scheme has not really contributed to the rural development of these villages by ensuring electricity access to irrigation, micro enterprises. There were no significant changes reported by rural people particularly on the issues relating to irrigation and micro-enterprises.

According to the data we collected, the provision of free electricity connection to all 'below poverty line (BPL)' households has not materialized in both the villages in spite of the fact that both of these villages have been certified as being electrified by the establishment of rural feeders, distribution lines and transformers under the RGGVY.

Villagers reported more awareness about many other flagship programmes of Central Government such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) because these programmes emphasize on decentralization in planning and implementation, along with information, education. RGGVY is lacking in this regard and hence people have been socially and economically excluded from the scheme.

References

- [1] Sullivan and Sheffrin Economics: Principles in action, Pearson Prentice Hall, 474, 2003
- [2] Acemoglu and Robinson, Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty, Crown Publishing Group, 2012
- [3] Amis and Kumar, Urban economic growth, infrastructure and poverty in India: lessons from Visakhapatnam, Environment and Urbanization, 12(1), 185 — 196.
- [4] Madhusudan Ghosh, Economic Reforms, Growth and Regional Divergence in India, Margin: The Journal of Applied Economic Research, 2008, 2(3), 265-285
- [5] Census of India, 2011
- [6] Chapter 14, Mid Term Appraisal for Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-2012, Planning Commission of India.
- [7] Government of Madhya Pradesh, Forest Department, Concept Note for Project on Development of Bundelkhand Area
- [8] Planning Commission, Annual Plan for 2010-11
- [9] Manju Narula, Education, Gender, Access and Participation to Elementary Education in Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh
- [10] Census of India, 2001
- [11] Standing Committee on Energy, Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana