

Analysis of Economic Aspects of Beneficiaries of Indira Kranthi Patham Programme in Andhra Pradesh



Agriculture

KEYWORDS :

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ABSTRACT

With the increasing population pressure, technological advances in the competitive global market, large number of people in India are bereft of stable livelihoods. It is now widely accepted today that promotion of large number of livelihoods especially for rural poor and women has emerged as the most significant development challenge of the century. The largest poverty alleviation project being implemented by Society for elimination of rural poverty (SERP) and funded by DRDA in Andhra Pradesh is Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP). The goal of the Indira Kranthi Patham project is to reduce poverty of below poverty line households through sustainable community based women organizations by introducing livelihood interventions through institution building, human resource capacity building and community managed sustainable agriculture. With this background in view an attempt was made to study only few components of IKP such as economic aspects (capital formation, expenditure pattern and benefits accrued of the programme) pertaining to only women SHG members of BPL families to know the percolation of the programme among the needy so as to improve their livelihood status. Majority of respondents perceiving that capital formation was medium, had medium expenditure pattern and had access to nutrition and health care services. Group livelihoods pertaining to agricultural activities need to be promoted in the area by utilizing finance meant for the purpose. SERP needs to ensure that all the benefits reach a SHG in a coherent manner.

Agriculture comprising crop and animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry, agro-processing and agri-business provides employment to a majority of the population in developing countries. However, a recent review of the progress made in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals, particularly MDG relating to a reduction in hunger and poverty has revealed that we have a long way to go before these goals are realized.

India's growing population requires more and more food grains and farmers need to be dissuaded from giving up farming as it is unable to provide employment for a longer period in economically and sustainable manner.

Andhra Pradesh has used self help groups (SHGs) extensively as a primary tool for poverty alleviation and empowerment. The basic principle behind SHG functioning is collective action with suitable support. Self help groups can move on to collective action at the community level but more remains to be done for sustained poverty alleviation.

The largest poverty alleviation project being implemented by SERP and funded by DRDA in Andhra Pradesh is Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP). The goal of the Indira Kranthi Patham project is to reduce poverty of below poverty line households through sustainable community based women organizations by introducing livelihood interventions through institution building, human resource capacity building and community managed sustainable agriculture.

With this background in view an attempt was made to study only few components of IKP such as economic aspects (capital formation, expenditure pattern and benefits accrued of the programme.) pertaining to only women SHG members of BPL families to know the percolation of the programme among the needy so as to improve their livelihood status.

Methodology

Exploratory research design was followed for the present study. The State of Andhra Pradesh was chosen for the study purpose as the investigator hails from the State. Mahaboobnagar district was selected as it is one of the largest districts in Telangana region with highest number of mandals under Indira Kranthi Patham. Out of sixty four mandals, two mandals viz., Kolhapur, Achampet were selected by random sampling on discussion with IKP staff. Two villages viz., Chukkayapalli and

Yenamametla from Kolhapur mandal, Uppuntala and Gattuthumen from Achampet mandal were selected at random from each of these mandals and thus, a total of four villages were selected for the study.

Thirty women belonging to two groups were selected at random from each village. A total of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents of eight groups were selected from the above selected villages for the study.

The selected items against capital formation were administered to the rural women beneficiaries on a three point continuum i.e. 'agree', 'undecided' and 'disagree' with weightages of 3, 2 and 1 respectively for positive statements and with a reverse order of 1, 2 and 3 for the negative statements. The average (or) mean score for each beneficiary was obtained through the responses of its respondents with both positive and negative statements.

The total expenditure was arrived at by summing up the expenditure on all items. The respondents were grouped in to three categories based on class intervals as follows.

S.No.	Category	Score
1.	Low (Rs.6600 to Rs.8600)	1
2.	Medium (Rs.8601 to Rs.10600)	2
3.	High (10601 and >)	3

The responses regarding benefits accrued were recorded in terms of frequencies and percentages. The highly availed benefit was the one which was perceived by majority of the respondents and others in that order.

Results and Discussion

Capital formation

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their perception on capital formation n=120

S. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	41	34.16
2.	Medium	63	52.50
3.	High	16	13.34
	Total	120	100.00

The results in the Table 1 indicated that majority (52.50%) of the respondents perceived that capital formation was medium through IKP programme followed by low (34.16 %) and high (13.34%).

Table 2: Content analysis on the perception of respondents towards capital formation n=120

S. No.	Statement	Total score	Mean score	Ranking
1.	I feel that this programme has not enabled me to take up a viable agri-based enterprise	308	2.56	IV
2.	I feel that this programme has not enabled me to have access to credit which resulted in viable agri-based asset creation	207	1.73	V
3.	I feel that I need to be oriented to various ways & means of proper credit utilisation	329	2.74	II
4.	It is better if the staff monitor during credit utilization period	320	2.66	III
5.	I feel that community investment fund has helped me to enhance my group corpus	360	3.00	I
6.	I am unable to get three square meals a day for all family members	187	1.55	VI

The trend is evident from the results of Table 2 that majority of respondents perceived that 'I feel that community investment fund has helped me to enhance my group corpus' (3.00) followed by 'I feel that I need to be oriented to various ways & means of proper credit utilization' (2.74), 'it is better if the staff monitor during credit utilization period' (2.66), 'I feel that this programme has not enabled me to take up a viable agri-based enterprise' (2.56), 'I feel that this programme has not enabled me to have access to credit which resulted in viable agri-based asset creation' (1.73) and 'I am unable to get three square meals a day for all family members' (1.55) with respective mean scores which were ranked in order.

Table 3 : Distribution of the respondents according to expenditure pattern n=120

S.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	20	16.67
2.	Medium	70	58.33
3.	High	30	25.00
	Total	120	100.00

The results in the Table 3 indicated that majority (58.33%) of the respondents were categorized into medium followed by high (25.00%) and low (16.67%) expenditure categories.

Table 3 indicates that majority of respondents (58.33%) exhibited medium expenditure pattern. Though they accessed the benefits relating to food, health and childrens education through this programme, the expenditure pattern was medium. This indicates that the expenditure needs to be converted as investment in a livelihood sector to improve their quality of life. This finding is in line with that of Krishna Prasad (2005).

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents based on their perception towards the benefits of the programme n=120

S. No.	Benefits	F	P
1.	Access to community resource persons	50	41.67
2.	Membership in abhaya hastham	92	76.67

3.	Access to regular supply of essential food commodities	118	98.33
4.	Access to procurement centres in the village to market produce in the village	103	85.83
5.	Enabled to get remunerative price for produce	56	46.67
6.	Access to cultivable land	20	16.67
7.	Access to social action committees	76	63.33
8.	Access to low cost bank loans	113	94.16
9.	Access to pavalavaddi	98	81.67
10.	Access to credit from community investment fund	118	98.33
11.	Access to group livelihoods	10	8.33
12.	Access to nutrition & health care services	120	100.00
13.	Access to children's education	115	95.83
14.	Enabled in adoption of sustainable agricultural practices	10	8.33

The highly availed benefits as perceived by majority was access to nutrition & health care services (100.00%) followed by access to regular supply of essential commodities and access to credit from CIF (98.33% each), access to children's education (95.83%), access to low cost bank loans (94.16%), access to procurement centres in the village to the market produce in the village (85.83%), access to pavalavaddi (81.67%), membership in abhaya hastham (76.67%), access to social action committees (63.33%), access to remunerative price for produce (46.67%), access to community resource persons (41.67%), access to cultivable land (16.67%), access to group livelihoods and enabled in adoption of sustainable agricultural practices (8.33% each) with respective percentages in the order of priority.

It is clear from the Table 4 that due to convergence of IKP staff with nutrition & health department it could succeed in providing the nutrition & health care services. The community investment fund which was meant for asset creation was used to purchase food commodities from open retail markets & supplied the same to the members as they fell short of public distribution quota. Access to childrens education was next availed benefit as IKP as it worked in convergence with B.C welfare and tribal welfare departments.

Implications

Majority of respondents had medium capital formation hence, SERP needs to organize intensive awareness programmes on profitable utilization of loans to groups of common interest so as to result in capital formation which results in generation of income.

Majority of respondents have availed benefits in the sectors with which SERP has developed strong linkages. To sustain agri-based livelihoods, SERP during implementation of this multi pronged strategy (IKP) needs to coordinate with agriculture and revenue department in provision of cultivable land, facilitate in adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. Group livelihoods pertaining to agricultural activities need to be promoted in the area by utilizing finance meant for the purpose. SERP needs to ensure that all the benefits reach a SHG in a coherent manner.

Conclusion

The findings of this study would be of great help to the administrators to make the target groups select the trades which would generate more number of days of employment and increase income. As the IKP scheme is in the process of expansion in the Andhra Pradesh, the results of the study would be useful for planners and implementers of the programme.

REFERENCE

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