

Socio-Economic Dimensions of Beneficiaries in Kawad Watershed Development Project



Agriculture

KEYWORDS :

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Indi taluk of Bijapur district in Karnataka to assess the socio economic dimensions of the beneficiaries in Karnataka Watershed Development Project. The investigator interviewed 100 beneficiaries with the help of a well structured interview schedule under watershed area. The study revealed that majority 45% of the respondent beneficiaries of were old age group, little formal education (34%), and 68% respondents were small and marginal farmers and 51% of respondents comes under lower annual income category.

Introduction

A large portion of the rainfed areas (55% of arable land) in India is characterized by low productivity, high risk and uncertainty, low level of technological change and vulnerability to degradation of natural resource (NRAA, 2012). The region houses a sizeable number of unemployed, poverty-stricken and undernourished population. This region is underdeveloped due to extreme seasonal fluctuations, weather and market uncertainties and highly unstable income (Joshi et al, 2006). Water is critical for rainfed areas because of scarcity and also lack of proper management that accelerates shortage. The watershed program is a land-based program, which is increasingly being focused on water, with its main objective being to enhance agricultural productivity through increased in situ moisture conservation and protective irrigation for socioeconomic development of rural people. An important concern in watershed development is the equitable distribution of the benefits and sharing of the costs of land and water resources development and the consequent biomass production. Watershed Development and Management Program was initiated during 1980s to address these limitations of the rainfed AER (Planning Commission, 2001). These watershed programs are supported by national governments and also by some international donors to tackle some of these generic problems with the objectives of soil conservation, improving the land productivity and promoting appropriate technologies for efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. In these sector NGOs are working tirelessly for conservation of natural resources and uplift of the poor.

The Karnataka Watershed Development Project (KAWAD) is located in the northern districts of Karnataka State, India. This is an area that is characterised by limited water resources for which there is increasing competition. In addition to piloting different institutional approaches to watershed development, KAWAD aims to improve the livelihoods of the inhabitants of three selected watersheds (total area of around 45 000 ha). As is typical with most watershed development programmes, the main focus of KAWAD's physical interventions is on soil and water conservation (e.g. field bunding, construction of check dams).

The present study conducted with the main objective of to analyze the socio economic dimensions of respondent beneficiaries in the watershed development programme.

Methodology

In the present study investigator analyzed the socio economic dimensions of respondent beneficiaries in Karnataka Watershed Development Project (KAWAD). KAWAD implemented WDP in three districts of Karnataka viz., Bijapur, Chitradurga and Bellary. The present study was conducted in Incheheri micro-watershed situated in Indi taluk of Bijapur district in Karnataka state which was randomly selected for the study. A sample of 100 beneficiaries of watershed project was selected randomly for the study. The data collection was done with the help of well structured pre-tested schedule. Descriptive statistics, frequency and percentage were used.

Result and Discussion

1. Socio-Personal profile of the respondents

The study of socio personal variables in table-1 shows that the 45% of the surveyed respondent beneficiaries dominated by old age group. This was followed by middle age group category (35%) and rest under young age.

Table - 1 Socio-Personal profile of farmer

(N=100)

S. No	Particulars	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age			
		Young (<35)	20	20.00
		Middle (36-45)	35	35.00
		Old (>46)	45	45.00
2.	Education			
		Illiterate	32	32.00
		Primary	34	34.00
		High school	24	24.00
		Above	10	10.00
3.	Caste			
		General	33	33.00
		OBC	32	32.00
		SC	23	23.00
		ST	12	12.00
5.	Family Size			
		Small (up to 5)	24	24.00
		Medium (6 to 8)	48	48.00
		Large (more than 9)	28	28.00
6.	Family Type			
		Nuclear	79	79.00
		Joint	21	21.00

The study found that 34% of respondents have little formal education and 10% completed graduation whereas in 32% were illiterate. Similarly 32% of respondents comprised of Other Backward Class (OBCs) category. Regarding family size and family type majority were medium families ranging from 6 to 8 members (48%) and nuclear type (79%).

2. Socio-Economic profile of the respondents

Table-2 revealed that majority (68%) respondents were small and marginal farmers. The fragmentation of ancestral land from generation to generation rights have led to similar size of land holding because of 79 per cent of respondents belongs to nuclear families. The other reason were being that those have less area of land and stagnation of income from farming and frequent expose of climatic vulnerabilities reduces their income and exposes to poverty in these semi arid region.

Table - 2 Socio-Economic profile of farmer
(N=100)

S. No	Particulars	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Landholding	Small and marginal	68	68.00
		Medium	20	20.00
		Large	12	12.00
2.	Source of irrigation	Open well	56	56.00
		Borewell	12	12.00
3.	Annual income (in Rs)	Up to 11,000	20	20.00
		From 11,000 to 22,000	51	51.00
		From 22,000 to 33,000	16	16.00
		Above 33,000	13	13.00
4.	Housing pattern	No house	4	4.00
		Thatched roof	66	66.00
		Tiled hose	19	19.00
		RCC	11	11.00
5.	Material possession	Farm Animal	92	92.00
		Tractor	8	8.00
		Bullock Cart	62	62.00
		Television	46	46.00
		Radio	85	85.00

The table-2 indicated that 51% of respondents income between the ranges of Rs.11, 000 to 22,000.it may be due to majority were small and marginal, meager land holding and dependence on monsoon and they did not have any additional source of income other than farming.

The results from the table showed that majority (76%) of the respondents living in thatched roof house; this is due to respondent's poorer financial conditions. For about material possession ninety two respondents owned by farm animals, bullock cart (62%) and only eight percent have the tractor.

Conclusion

From the above study this paper concluded that majority of the respondent farmers were small and marginal, little formal education and medium family size and nuclear type families. Vast area falls under rainfed with little source of irrigation like openwells and borewells. Most of beneficiaries were comes under low annual income category and lower economic status. To diversify their income sources is the need of the hour. Watershed development programme is the strategy for uplift of the resource poor farmers in a sustainable mode in these regions.

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