

## **Impact of programmes implemented by BAIF on the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries from rural Maharashtra**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The results related to changes occurred in socio-economic and living conditions of the respondent beneficiaries were revealed that, 52.44 per cent increase in subsidiary occupation like dairy, 35.66 per cent increase was observed in medium annual income (Rs. 16001 to 39000). The irrigated area of the beneficiaries had increased by 23.23 per cent, whereas fallow land decreased by 20.71 per cent. The change occurred in material possession was, possession of chairs was increased by 18.67 per cent, tables 14.22 percent, iron cots 31.11 per cent and cupboards 20.00 per cent. There was a remarkable increase (37.33 per cent) regarding the possession of mopeds / motorcycles of the respondent beneficiaries followed by the possession of cycles by 21.78 per cent. The frequency of beneficiaries consuming “milk” and “milk + fruits” along with the basic diet of “cereals + pulses + vegetables” had increased from 12.44 to 36.44 and 4.89 per cent to 21.78 per cent, respectively. The frequency of respondent beneficiaries residing in huts was reduced by 23.11 per cent and 16.00 per cent increase in Kaccha cum *pacca* houses. An enormous 66.22 per cent decrease in the low socio-economic status group of respondent beneficiaries and 55.56 per cent increase in medium socio-economic status. In short, the BAIF had been able to change in the cropping pattern, livestock possession, dairy development activities and welfare activities, also increase socio-economic status and dairy as secondary occupations of the respondent beneficiaries.

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Accepted : April, 2008  
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**Key words :** Impact, BAIF, Socio-economic Status, Beneficiaries, Rural.

India has a long tradition of voluntary action through a system of ‘*dharma*’ (obligation) and ‘*daan*’ (charity)’. However, during past pre-independence era especially in the late nineteenth century there was up rise in national movement. The Gandhian Institutions actively canvassed village self-government and village self-sufficiency. No doubt, the post-independence emphasis on community organization was influenced by the guidelines of the First Five Year plan. The government had identified voluntary organisations as social organisations. In a vast country of a billion-plus like India, it is just not possible for the Government to live up to its promise of a truly Welfare State. There are vast areas concerning development and welfare that are left uncovered due to paucity of funds. It is in this scenario that NGOs step in and justify their existence in India. It is widespread belief that the NGOs are more successful in reaching the poor in poverty reduction and this resulted in rapid growth of funding for NGOs by government and external donors. As far as government funding is concerned, there are over 200 government schemes initiated by the central and state governments through which NGOs can have direct access to resources for rural development.

Mahatma Gandhi was probably the first among our leaders to promote rural development in India. In 1946, Mahatma Gandhi visited Urulikanchan, a small village near Pune. He established the Nature Cure Ashram and entrusted the responsibility of the ashram and rural upliftment to his trusted disciple Manibhai Desai. BAIF believes that the focus of the programme should be on the rural family rather than on a village, because the village as a whole has a heterogeneous character in respect of socio-economic status. If this important fact overlooked, a few well-do families of the villages invariably grab the benefit of development. As a result, the development agency becomes instrumental in widening the gap between the rich and the poor with the following specific objectives:

- To study the socio-economic status of the respondent beneficiaries of BAIF.
- To study the impact of programmes implemented by BAIF on the Socio-economic status of the respondent beneficiaries.
- To study the change occurred in overall socio-economic status of the respondent beneficiaries.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This study was carried out in Ahmednagar, Nashik and Pune Districts of Maharashtra, where various