

RESEARCH PAPER

Information technology (IT) application in bench mark assessment and project monitoring

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted during 2010-2011 in Chitradurga district of Karnataka state with community residing around Narrain Mines of SESA GOA LIMITED, which is a mining and highest iron ore exporter in India in the private sector. The study was a part of initiation of the project entitled Alternative livelihood opportunities project (ALOP) which was funded by the Sesa Goa limited and implemented through University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. Benchmark assessment was done with the activities such as orientation on project and rapport building, collection of secondary data, participatory rural appraisal (PRA) exercise and organizing the data and data entry. The household maps and plot maps drawn in the village and field was digitized using Auto CAD package which was converted it into Dxt. file (Drawing file to text file). The first information collected would be transferred on the maps by application of GIS tool ARCINFO (Dxt. to coverage's). The study brought out the fact that bench mark survey would be more meaningful if it is done focusing various dimensions of the family as well as resources. Further application of IT tool's would benefit in mapping the status which can be understood by the community easily. It also helps in monitoring the flow of project inputs to the community members and also their impact on the families. These tools also makes possible to share the information among the different project team for mutual learning and bringing innovative ideas in to development project.

Key Words : Information technology, Project monitoring

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Development in IT during last one decade has brought sea change in information and data management. The IX Plan emphasized the important that information technology (IT) can play in social sectors like health, education and rural development (IX Five Year Plan, 1997). Since the 1980s, information and communication technology has become a part and parcel of development planning in India, particularly for rural development. It provides inter-governmental link, so as to achieve the required broad-based process of socio-economic transformation. It is strongly acknowledged that IT can help in overcoming most of the problems in government schemes, more so in rural areas. It promises ever-expanding individual freedom and choices, growing democratic aspirations, rising trend towards gender equalization, empowerment of women and the weaker section, besides strengthening participatory development, process and accelerating human development.

In the last decade, the enthusiasm over the rapid growth of information and communication technologies and their applications have generated a variety of projects, research, events and other initiatives that focus on fostering development. Many of these initiatives are directed at arresting the growing divide between countries and communities that had access and mastery of new information technologies and

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