

## Constraints faced by rural women in availing benefits of women empowerment programme

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study was conducted in twelve villages of six development blocks of three districts of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state on 120 women respondents with an object to study the constraints faced by the rural women in availing benefits of women empowerment programmes. The data were collected by personally interviewing the respondents and analyzed statistically. The results of the study depicted that majority of the respondents were delay in getting benefits, complex procedure and inadequacy of technical guidance.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Empowerment is a process of acquiring rights, developing self (personality development) and deciding by self - independently (self – decision making process). Women empowerment means providing women social, political, economical and religious rights, so that the status of women may become equal to the men in society. Empowerment is an active, multidimensional process which enable women to realize their full potential and power in all spheres of life. The present study was undertaken to the difficulties faced by the beneficiaries while getting the benefits of women empowerment programme.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted in randomly selected Parbhani, Hingoli and Nanded districts of Marathwada region in Maharashtra state. From each district, two development blocks were randomly selected. From each of the development blocks, two villages out of those in which the beneficiaries were receiving benefits during last two years (2003-04 and 2004-05), were randomly selected. The list of women beneficiaries was obtained from the ICDS office in each Panchayat Samiti. Twelve villages, having highest number of women beneficiaries of developmental programmes,

were selected. Then from each village, 10 beneficiary women were selected from among the total beneficiaries in the village. Thus, the final sample comprised of 120 beneficiaries.

Constraints faced by beneficiaries were ascertained by asking questions to beneficiaries to know which they faced by adopting benefits. The frequency and percentage of each constraint were worked out for the purpose of interpretation.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

It could be observed from Table 1 that 60.00 per cent of the respondents faced the problem of delay in getting the benefits. This may be due the lack of clear understanding about their role to play in the implementation of empowerment programmes. About 50 per cent respondents faced the constraint favouritism in distribution of benefits. Because most of the respondents were from medium level and below poverty level, their social participation was also low. Hence, there is need for availing better treatment by the traders, bank officials and the government officials. Those who are directly involved in empowerment programmes, should pay their attention on increasing better relations between officials and beneficiaries.

Two fifth (40 per cent) beneficiaries were suffering from the lack of cooperation among

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