



## Impact of income generating activities on rural livelihoods of KAWAD project beneficiaries

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted during 2007-08 in Bellary and Bijapur districts of Karnataka state with 120 beneficiaries of KAWAD project as the sample to analyze the impact of income generating activities on rural livelihoods of Karnataka Watershed Development (KAWAD) project beneficiaries. The study revealed that, the change in overall capital acquisition index was 51.27 per cent before to 78.89 per cent after undertaking income generating activities and t-value calculated was 6.13, which was significant at 1 per cent level. There was non-significant relationship found between independent variables and overall asset improvements among beneficiaries.

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### INTRODUCTION

'India lives in its villages' - this axiom is as true today as it was when the country became independent 64 years ago. Over 67 per cent of the population lives in rural areas. Agriculture and related activities in rural India contribute to 20 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and is responsible for the employment of over 60 per cent of the workforce. Hence, when one talks of socio-economic progress in India, what is mostly relevant is how the lives of the rural people have changed.

Many projects have undertaken livelihood development programmes for rural people however, there are hardly empirical evidences on the impact of programmes on capital improvement. DFID assisted KAWAD was one such project that has undertaken livelihood development programmes in North Karnataka. Hence, the present study was conducted with the following specific objectives: To study the impact of income generating activities on rural livelihoods of KAWAD project beneficiaries and to ascertain association between personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics and sustainable rural livelihoods of KAWAD project beneficiaries.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Bijapur and Bellary districts of Karnataka during the year 2007-08. Bijapur and Bellary districts were purposively selected for the study where maximum number of households are benefited by the KAWAD project. KAWAD project was implemented in Indi and Kudligi Taluks of Bijapur and Bellary districts, respectively. So, in Indi Taluk, four villages and in Kundligi Taluk five villages were selected. These villages were selected purposively based on the criteria of maximum number of beneficiaries undertaken income generating activities. From the selected villages, the list of beneficiaries undertaken income generating activities was prepared by contacting Village Level Federations (VLFs). Income generating activities such as, cow rearing, buffalo rearing, sheep rearing, goat rearing and kirani shop were purposively selected, because most of the beneficiaries have undertaken these activities in the study area. Among the beneficiaries, 120 respondents were randomly selected. Thus, the total sample size was 120.

### OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation are presented below:

#### Key words :

KAWAD project,  
Income  
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