

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Constraints faced by bhil (tribal) farmers in availing benefits of development programmes and their solutions

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SUMMARY : The present study was carried out in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra state to analyze constraints faced by bhil farmers in availing benefits of the schemes of development programmers and solutions to overcome those constraints. Total 20 villages from four selected talukas were identified for the present study. Ex post facto research design was used and 200 sample sizes were selected for the study by using random sampling method. The data were collected by personal interview method. The collected data were analyzed by using appropriate method of analysis viz., percentage, mean, rank, standard deviation and correlation co-efficient. Overwhelming majority (85.50%) of the bhil farmers stated that the lack of awareness about various developmental programmers or schemes and (75.00%) delays in implementation of schemes is an obstacle in availing the benefits. The delay in sanction (66.50%), inadequacy of guidance thorough concern officer (64.50%), for some schemes and majority of the bhil farmers had suggested that to make available the information about various developmental programmers (80.00%).

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KEY WORDS :

Constraints,
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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

India has the largest concentration of tribal people. These groups are concentrated in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Lakshdwp, Dadra and Nagar Haweli, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Andman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Daman and Diu. They also live in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. Among these the 'Bhil' tribes are found in Khandesh Region of Maharashtra state particularly in district of Nandurbar, Dhule, Jalgaon and Nasik.

Under the tribal sub plan strategy, area of tribal concentration were carved out and made

into integrated tribal development project (ITDP). Various development schemes were started by state government through integrated tribal development programme. Specially, in agriculture and allied sectors for the effective implementation of these schemes. Tribal development division was established at national level from May 1, 1983. The amelioration of the lot of the under privileged people in India, particularly of the tribes, then castes and classes which are given on inferior status due to the accident of birth has to be an important aim for any government committed to democracy. The constitution of India prescribes protection and safeguard for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes with the object of removing their social disabilities and promoting their varied interests.

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The benefits of democracy and a decade of economic liberalization have not trickled down to the lower strata of rural society in general and 'Bhil' community in particular, still stepped in immemorial poverty. So long as the economic and social conditions of these people do not improve; all the spectacular changes, which have taken place in the rural and urban areas mean nothing to the submerged half of the people and to the condition as a whole. Availing the benefits otherwise available through the provisions of constitutions, schemes and programmes introduced from time to time primarily for livelihood upliftment, how far and to what extent social change has been taken place among the small and marginal farmers belonging to these communities was a matter of curiosity and concern.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra which is declared as Adivasi district by state government. It was conducted in purposively selected four talukas namely Navapur, Shahada, Akkalkuwa and Dhadgaon of district. Ex-post facto research design was used for the study. The sample size of 200 bhil farmers as respondents were selected by 'nth' method of proportionate sampling. In

line with objectives of the study interview schedule was developed and data were collected. Suitable scales of earlier researcher were used. Statistical methods like mean, standard deviation, correlation, multiple linear regression and step down regression were used for interpretation of the data.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation are summarized below :

Constraint and suggestion :

Constraints :

Constraints which were directly or indirectly considered as stumbling block in getting the benefits of the schemes meant for them, so as to increase their livelihood status of bhil farmers in study area were studied. In depth constraints were analysed in relation to personal, socio-economic, situational and psychological aspects of bhil, farmers. Endeavour has been made to locate the constraints from gross root to top level. Taking into consideration the similarity about various constraints faced by bhil farmers were critically studied and presented in Table 1.

It was seen from data presented in Table 1 that an

Table 1 : Distribution of the bhil farmers according to the constraints faced by them in availing benefits of the schemes of development programmes (n=120)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Bhil farmers	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Lack of awareness about various development programme (scheme)	171	85.50
2.	Delay in implementation of schemes	150	75.00
3.	Delay in sanctions	133	66.50
4.	Inadequacy of guidance through concerned officers	129	64.50
5.	For some schemes the beneficiary had to pay 50 per cent or 25 per cent cost of the total cost	123	61.50
6.	Lengthy bank documentation procedure	118	59.00
7.	Cheating of the beneficiary by middle man or commission agent	114	57.00
8.	Most of the schemes are available in kind rather than cash for beneficiary	107	53.50
9.	Non co-operation of official concerned with implementation of schemes	105	52.50
10.	Farmers with good reports with implementing officers only receive information	103	51.50
11.	Paucity of time for contact with implementing offices only	100	50.0
12.	Untimely availability of service and supplies	90	45.00
13.	Benefits goes to influential persons and not to the needy beneficiary	90	45.00
14.	Difficult documentation procedure	71	35.50

Table 2 : Suggestions given by the farmers (n=120)

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Bhil farmers	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Make available the information about various development programmes	160	80.00
2.	Provide help at right time	146	73.00
3.	Supply inputs through Gram Panchayat office	140	70.00
4.	Proper monitoring be done by implementing agency	125	62.50
5.	Publish the list of beneficiary farmers in the village	86	43.00

overwhelming majority (85.50%) of the bhil farmers stated that the lack of awareness about various developmental programmes or schemes and delays in implementation of schemes (75.00%) is an obstacle in availing the benefits. The delay in sanction (66.50%), inadequacy of guidance through concern officer (64.50%), for some schemes, the beneficiary had to pay 50 per cent or 25 per cent cost of the total cost (61.50%), lengthy bank documentation (59.00%), cheating of beneficiary by middle man (57.00%), were other important constraints reported by the bhil farmers in enjoying the benefits available under various development programmes. Quite a good number of bhil farmers also stated that most of the schemes are available in kind rather than cash for them (53.50%), non-co-operation of official concerned with implementation of schemes (52.50%), farmers with good rapport with implementing officers only receive information (51.50%), short of time for contact with implementing officers (50.00%), where as 45.00 per cent of the bhil farmers had stated untimely availability of services, supplies and benefits goes to influential persons and not to needy and legitimate beneficiary. However, difficulty in procedure of loan a constraint have been stated by 35.50 per cent of bhil farmers.

In short the important constraints faced by the bhil farmers in getting the benefits were lack of awareness about various developmental programmes and delay in implementation of schemes, delay in sanctions, inadequacy of guidance through concerned officers, beneficiary had to pay 50 per cent amount of total cost, lengthy and clumsy bank documentation procedure, cheating by middleman. These constraints require immediate attention of the implementing agency so as to make the programmes needy and beneficiary oriented. This finding is supported by Suryawanshi (2008); Dixit (2001); Sonkamble (2000) and Mankar *et al.* (2000).

Suggestions of the farmers of study area :

The suggestions of bhil farmers so as to get benefits of various schemes meant for them were ascertained from them and are depicted in Table 2.

It was inferred from the data presented in Table 2 that the majority of the bhil farmers had suggested that to make available the information about various developmental programmes (80.00%), the required help be provided to them at right time (73.00%), inputs be supplied through Gram Panchayat office (70.00%), the monitoring should be done by implementing agency (62.50%) and the list of beneficial farmers should be published (43.00%), were suggestions made by sizeable number of bhil farmers.

It is concluded that the required information and help about various development programme should be extended to the bhil farmers in time, the list of beneficiaries be published and distribution of inputs be held at Gram Panchayat office for realization of benefits by the bhil farmers

and also increase the implementation of various development programmes for bhil farmers in more effective way.

This finding is supported by Pawar (1998), Sadamate (1998), Chair and Gulnar (1996), Nikam and Rajamane (1995), Surya and Bhuvnendram (1994).

Conclusion :

Major constraints faced by the overwhelming majority (85.50%) of the bhil farmers stated that the lack of awareness about various developmental programmes or schemes and delays in implementation availing the benefits (75.00 %). The delay in sanction (66.50%), inadequacy of guidance thorough concern officer (64.50%) for some schemes the beneficiary had to pay 50 per cent or 25 per cent cost of the total cost (61.50%), lengthy bank documentation (59.00%), cheating of beneficiary by middle man (57.00%), were other important constraints reported by the bhil farmer in enjoying the benefits available under various development programme and the majority of the bhil farmers had suggested that to make available the information about various developmental programmes (80.00%), the required help may be provided to them at right time (73.00%), inputs be supplied through Gram Panchayat office (70.00%), the monitoring should be done by implementing agency (62.50%) and the list of beneficially farmers should be published (43.00%) were suggestions given by sizeable number of bhil farmers.

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