

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Impact of Stree Shakthi Programme on beneficiaries income generation and its utilization pattern

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SUMMARY : Present study was conducted purposively in selected Chitradurga and Hiriyur talukas of Chitradurga district based on maximum number of Stree Shakthi Groups (SSGs). Twelve SSGs from each taluka and five members from each group were selected thus making a total of 120. The results indicated that majority of SSP beneficiaries' generated income from dairy (91.67%) followed by agriculture (83.34%) and NREGA works (50%). It was also observed that 83.33 per cent of beneficiaries utilized their income towards purchase of sheep/goat followed by milch animal (75%), house articles (72.50%), festivals (69.16%), health checkup (64.17%), cattle feed (62.50%), loan repayment (62.50%), children education (60.00%), groceries (58.43%) and cattle vaccination. Hence, poverty in the rural areas could be eradicated by empowering women through programmes like SSP.

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KEY WORDS :

Impact, Income generation, Income utilization, Beneficiaries

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Women play crucial role in the development of the family, community and society at large. Rural women constitute an important component of rural development. Because, they are engaged in both home and farm activities, Even then, they suffer because of their economic and social backwardness. There is continued inequality of women in all fields viz., education, health, politics etc. As a result, empowerment of women as assumed significant importance and it is the need of the hour. Hence, they must be socially, economically and politically empowered to

raise their status.

In this direction, Government of Karnataka has launched Stree Shakthi Programme (SSP) during the year 2000-01, covering 175 talukas. The SSP envisages formation of women Self-Help Groups (SHG's) in the name of Stree Shakthi Groups (SSGs) under the guidance and supervision of Anganawadi workers. The successfully implemented programme will certainly have an impact on income generation and its utilization pattern among women beneficiaries. Hence, this study was designed with the following specific objectives :

–To assess the impact of Stree Shakthi

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Programme on beneficiaries income generation.
–To know the income utilization pattern among the Stree Shakthi Programme beneficiaries.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted purposively in selected Chitradurga district. Two talukas namely Chitradurga and Hiriyur were selected based on maximum number of Stree Shakthi Groups (SSG's). The villages having maximum number of SSG's were listed in each taluka and 12 SSG's were selected randomly. Five members from each SSG's were considered as respondents for the study thus, making a total sample of 120. The data were collected by using pre-tested interview schedule and analyzed the data by using suitable statistical tests.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented under following heads:

Income generation among SSP beneficiaries :

The data in Table 1 revealed that majority of SSP beneficiaries generated income through dairy (91.67%) followed by agriculture (83.34%), National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) works (50%) and agricultural wages (33.34%) activities. This implies that dairy and agriculture fetched good income to the SSG members. Increased income is considered as a sign of progress which is found to be true in SSG activities. As a result, beneficiaries livelihood could be supported through improved expenditure pattern. Similar results were reported by Grewal *et al.* (1985); Naidu (1985); Nagaraja (1987); Venkataramaiah and Srinivasalu (1992); Tejaswini (1996); Prita (2001); Pushpa Latha and Revathi (1999); Gayathri Devi (2000); Pappachen (2001); Tasneemasultana (2001); Raghavendra (2002); Chetan (2002); Narayana Swamy (2005) and Venkataranga Naika (2006).

Income utilization pattern by SSP beneficiaries :

The results pertaining to the income utilization pattern by SSP beneficiaries is presented in Table 2. It is evident

Table 1: Distribution of SSP beneficiaries based on their income generation activities

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Activities	Number*	Per cent	Income/year (Rs.)
1.	Dairy	110	91.67	10,000-00
2.	Agriculture	100	83.34	11,285-00
3.	NREGA works	60	50.00	7,000-00
4.	Agril. wages	40	33.34	5,000-00

• Multiple responses

Table 2: Distribution of SSP beneficiaries based on their income utilization pattern

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Items purchased	Number •	Per cent	Income utilized/ year (Rs.)
1.	Sheep/goat	100	83.33	6,000-00
2.	Milch animal	90	75.00	7,333-00
3.	House hold articles	87	72.50	2,000-00
4.	On festivals	83	69.16	1,700-00
5.	Health checkup	77	64.17	1,000-00
6.	Loan repayment	75	62.50	5,625-00
7.	Cattle feeds	75	62.50	2,000-00
8.	Children education	70	60.00	1,500-00
9.	Groceries	70	58.43	1,671-00
10.	Cattle vaccination	60	50.00	1,000-00
11.	Clothes	50	41.67	2,166-00
12.	Material possession	55	37.50	1,300-00
13.	Labour wages	36	30.00	10,000-00
14.	Repair of house	30	25.00	1,250-00
15.	Fertilizers	30	25.00	2,000-00
16.	Seed	15	12.50	3,000-00
17.	Marriage	10	08.34	10,000-00

• Multiple responses

to note that 83.33 per cent of SSP beneficiaries utilized their income towards purchase of sheep/goat followed by purchase of milch animals (75%), household articles (72.50%), for festivals (69.16%), health checkup (64.17%), cattle feeds (62.50%), loan repayment (62.50%), children education (60%), groceries (58.43%) and cattle vaccination (50%). But, the income utilization was least towards purchase of clothes (41.67%), material possession (37.50%), labour wages (30%), house repair (25%), fertilizers (25%), seeds (12.50%) and marriage (8.34%). Thus, it clearly indicates that income utilization pattern has increased among SSP beneficiaries after becoming the SSG members. The study also shows that majority of SSP beneficiaries utilized their income towards purchase of sheep/ goat and milch animals. The possible reasons might be due to the fact that rearing of sheep / goat and milch animals does not require more skills. Because, these are the traditional activities in villages. The findings are more or less in line with the findings of Hardikar (1998) and Patil (2002).

Conclusion :

The study revealed that the dairy and agriculture activities fetched good income to the SSG members. The majority of the beneficiaries utilized their income towards purchase of sheep/goat and milch animals which were traditional and does not require technical skills. Hence, it is concluded that the activities undertaken by the SSP beneficiaries has generated income and increased their income utilized pattern. Hence, poverty in the rural areas could be eradicated by empowering women through programmes like SSP.

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