

Constraints faced by rural women in availing benefits from different women development programmes

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Parbhani, Gangakhed, Manvat and Selu Talukas of Parbhani district of Maharashtra state. The two villages from each Taluka were selected purposively, where maximum number of beneficiaries of women development programmes were observed. Thus, total eight villages were selected. From each village, fifteen respondents were selected randomly. Thus, 120 respondents were selected for study purpose and from the study it was found that the majority of the rural women were found in young age, illiterate, had medium economic empowerment, belonged to higher caste, married, agriculture + labouring occupation, medium size of family, medium social participation, medium annual income and medium sources of information. It was observed that majority of the rural women faced the constraints viz., lack of knowledge about various women development programmes, requires more time for sanctioning, constant follow up was required, delay in disbursement of benefits, harassment by the official, lack of knowledge about documentary requirement. The collection of documents was the time consuming, lack of knowledge about filling the application etc.

KEY WORDS : Personal, Socio-economic, Profile, Characteristics, Rural women, Constraints

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INTRODUCTION

Rural development is a complex and challenging process in which women can play a significant and crucial role. In rural India, the high rate of illiteracy and low economic status of women underline the need for increasing their earning power by providing them income generating assets provision of employment opportunities and income to rural women is one way to improve their nutrition, health, education and social status. In most developing countries, greater emphasis is laid on the need for development of rural women and their active involvement in the mainstream of development. In India, the government, to improve the status of rural women is making too sincere efforts, especially those below the poverty line through different schemes of rural women development. Since independence, sincere attempts have been made by the Government to rationalize the status of women through the execution of various plans and programmes. Efforts had been started by the setting up of the Central Social Welfare Board in 1953. Hence, the study was undertaken

with the following specific objectives to study the personal and socio-economic characteristics of rural women and constraints faced by the rural women in availing benefits from different women development programmes

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Parbhani, Gangakhed, Selu and, Manvat Talukas of Parbhani district of Maharashtra state. Two villages from each Talukas were selected purposively, where maximum number of beneficiaries of women development programmes were observed. Thus, total eight villages were selected. From each village, fifteen respondents were selected randomly. Thus, 120 respondents were selected for study purpose. The dependent variables taken for study were knowledge and benefits, independent variables studies were age, education, women empowerment, caste, marital status, occupation, size of family, social participation, annual income and sources of information. The data were collected with the help of specially designed structured

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interview schedule.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation are presented below :

Personal and socio-economic characteristics of rural women:

A close perusal of Table 1 indicates that majority (65.00 per cent) of the respondents were from young age group, followed by 30.00 per cent of them from middle age group and 5.00 per cent of them from old age group. Whereas, majority (36.66 per cent) were illiterate, followed by 30.00 per cent of them were educated upto Middle School level. About 21.66 per cent of them were educated upto Primary School level and 9.16 per cent of them could read and write. It was further noticed that 2.50 per cent of them were educated upto High School level. This finding is in confirmation with the earlier report made by Karande (2005). It was observed that majority (47.50 per cent) of the rural women belonged to medium empowerment category. About 30.00 per cent and 16.66 per cent of rural women were found in high empowerment and low empowerment category, respectively. While 5.83 per cent rural women belonged to very high empowerment category. The present findings are in confirmation with the earlier reports of Tayde (2006) and Dhavane (2008).

It is depicted from Table 1 that in distribution of respondents majority (40.00 per cent) of them belonged to higher caste, followed by 35.83 per cent of them belonged to lower caste and 24.16 per cent belonged to middle caste. With respect to the marital status majority *i.e.* 67.50 per cent of the rural women were married, followed by 26.66 per cent rural women were belonged to unmarried category and 5.83 per cent were widow/divorce. This trend is in conformity with the findings of Suryawanshi (2002) and Karande (2005). Majority (49.16 per cent) of the respondents were engaged in agriculture + labouring, followed by 30.00 per cent in agriculture and 20.83 per cent rural women were engaged in agriculture + subsidiary occupation as a major occupation. This trend is in inconformity with the findings of Suryawanshi (2002).

With respect to family size, majority (72.50 per cent) of the respondents had medium size families, whereas, 20.00 per cent of them having big size families and 7.50 per cent rural women had small size families. The present result is in inconformity with the earlier report of Karande (2005). With respect to social participation, majority (55.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium social participation, followed by 34.16 per cent of them had low social participation and 10.83 per cent had high social

Table 1 : Profile of rural women (N=120)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
A) Age			
1.	Young	78	65.00
2.	Middle	36	30.00
3.	Old	6	5.00
B) Education			
1.	Illiterate	44	36.66
2.	Can read and write only	11	9.16
3.	Primary School (1 st to 4 th std)	26	21.66
4.	Middle School (5 th to 10 th std)	36	30.00
5.	High School (11 th to 12 th)	3	2.50
C) Women empowerment			
1.	Very low	00	00.00
2.	Low	20	16.66
3.	Medium	57	47.50
4.	High	36	30.00
5.	Very high	7	5.83
D) Caste			
1.	Higher	48	40.00
2.	Middle	29	24.16
3.	Lower	43	35.83
E) Marital status			
1.	Unmarried	32	26.66
2.	Married	81	67.50
3.	Other	7	5.83
F) Occupation			
1.	Agriculture	36	30.00
2.	Agriculture + subsidiary occupation	25	20.83
3.	Agriculture + labouring	59	49.16
G) Size of family			
1.	Small	9	7.50
2.	Medium	87	72.50
3.	Big	24	20.00
H) Social participation			
1.	Low	41	34.16
2.	Medium	66	55.00
3.	High	13	10.83
I) Annual income			
1.	Low (up to 23,000)	20	16.66
2.	Medium (23,001 to 45,000)	83	69.17
3.	High (45,001 and above)	17	14.17
J) Sources of information			
1.	Low	23	19.16
2.	Medium	86	71.66
3.	High	11	9.16

participation. This is in conformity with the earlier report of Suryawanshi (2002) and Tayade (2006). With respect to annual income of family, majority (69.17 per cent) of

Table 2 : Distribution of rural women according to constraints faced in availing and utilizing benefits (N =120)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Lack of knowledge about various programmes	81	67.50
2.	Lack of knowledge about documentary requirement	50	41.66
3.	Lack of knowledge about filling the application	44	36.66
4.	More documentary requirement	26	21.66
5.	Collection of documents were painful	38	31.66
6.	Collection of documents was time consuming	49	40.83
7.	Non-cooperation of the respective authority	40	33.33
8.	Requirement of complicated information	26	21.66
9.	Constant follow up was required	58	48.33
10.	Requires more time for sanctioning	78	65.00
11.	Delay in disbursement of benefits	53	44.16
12.	Lack of proper guidance	27	22.50
13.	Lack of technical knowledge	20	16.66

the respondents had medium annual income, while 16.66 per cent and 14.17 per cent respondents had low and high annual income, respectively. This trend was inconformity with the findings of Suryawanshi (2002), Karande (2005) and Tayde (2006). Majority of the respondents (71.66 per cent) of the respondents had medium use of sources of information, while 19.16 per cent and 9.16 per cent of them had low to high use of sources of information, respectively. This trend was in conformity with the finding of Karande (2005) and Tayde (2006).

Constraints faced by the rural women in availing benefits from different women development programmes:

It is observed from Table 2 that 67.50 and 65.00 per cent of rural women experienced the problems of lack of knowledge about various programmes and requiring more time for sanctioning, respectively. Whereas, 48.33 per cent 44.16 per cent reported the problems of constant follow up was required and delay in disbursement of benefits, respectively. While 41.66 per cent and 40.83 per cent reported the problems of lack of knowledge about documentary requirement and collection of documents was time consuming, respectively.

About 36.66 per cent and 33.33 per cent of the rural women reported the problems of lack of knowledge about filling the application and non-cooperation of the respective authority, respectively. While 31.66 per cent, 22.50 per cent and 21.66 per cent of them experienced the problems

of collection of documents was painful, lack of proper guidance and more documentary requirement, respectively (Table 2).

About 21.66 per cent and 16.66 per cent of the rural women reported the problems of requirement of complicated information and lack of technical knowledge, respectively. These findings are inconsistent with that of Karande (2005) and Tayde (2006).

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