

Benefits availed by rural women from women development programme

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in selected villages of Nandgaon Khandeshwar tahsils of Amravati district Maharashtra. The results of correlation analysis revealed that total annual income and knowledge had highly significant correlation with benefits availed. However, education, socio-economic status, land holding, social participation, attitude had, significant correlation with benefits availed while the age and size of family showed non-significant correlation with benefits availed.

INTRODUCTION

To awaken the people, it is the woman who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves. In India about 76 per cent of the population lives in villages and 70 per cent is depend on agriculture in a direct or indirect way. Agriculture alone cannot provide full employment to the existing population which has led to poverty. Women development programmes have been implemented by Government of Maharashtra state since 1982 for overall development of rural women. It includes, Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS – 1975), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM – 1979) etc. The following women development programme were implemented in Nandgaon Khandeshwar tahsil of Amravati district.

- Provision of free sewing machine to economically backward women in rural areas.
- Integrated Child Development Programme.
- Arrangement of educational tour for women representative.
- Technical training for rural women.
- To arrange group marriage.
- Indira Awas Yojana.
- Provision of legal advice/counseling/helpline for rural women.
- Rural women and child care checkup camp scheme.

It was felt necessary to study the benefits availed by the rural women from women

development programme. Therefore, the present investigation, was undertaken to study the relationship between the personal and socio-economic characteristics of rural women and benefits availed by them from women development programme.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in selected villages of Panchayat Samiti, Nandgaon Khandeshwar of Amravati district of Maharashtra state where women development programmes were being implemented properly.

Amravati district comprises 14 tahsils. Tahsil wise information about women development programmes was obtained from the office of Zilla Parishad. Finally, Nandgaon Khandeshwar tahsil was purposively selected because in Nandgaon Khandeshwar tahsil the beneficiaries were maximum under women development programmes than the other tahsils.

The voters lists of respective villages were obtained from the office of Grampanchayat. The names of all the women voters from all the selected villages were arranged alphabetically. Out of the list, 120 respondents were selected by using random sampling method.

The data collected through personal interview schedule were analyzed and coefficient of correlation was worked out to find out the relationship between dependent and

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independent variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data in respect of the different kind of benefits derived by the respondents under the different schemes are present in Table 1.

The data from Table 1 revealed that among the respondents, 16.66 per cent derived benefit under the schemes to provide free sewing machine to economically backward women in rural areas to the extent of 18.48 per cent of the total amount spent under the scheme, while 5.85 per cent respondents availed benefit under Integrated Child Development Programme *i.e.* knowledge about child and women health, 9.16 per cent respondents availed benefit under education tour for women representative scheme *i.e.* knowledge about Panchayat Raj system, while 9.16 per cent respondents availed benefits under technical training for rural women to the extent of 3.80 per cent of the total amount spent under the scheme. About 8.33 per cent of respondents availed benefits under the scheme to arrange group marriage to the extent of 5.09 per cent of the total amount spent under this scheme. 11.66 per cent

respondents derived benefits under provision of goat to destitute women to the extent of 26.47 per cent of the total amount spent under the scheme. While 22.5 per cent of respondents availed benefit under provision of legal advice for rural women and 5.85 per cent respondents availed benefits under the rural women and child care checkup camp scheme *i.e.* advice and awareness about health problems.

Table 2 revealed that, independent variables namely total annual income and knowledge found to be highly significant where as, education, socio-economic status, land holding, social participation, attitude found to be significant while age and size of family did not show any significant correlation with benefits availed by rural women from women development programme. Similar results were observed by Komal Kashid (2008) and Rajebhosale (2007).

Table 1 : Extent of benefit's derived by the respondents under different women development programme

Sr. No.	Name of the scheme	Number of beneficiaries and per cent	Amount (in Rs.) and per cent
1.	Provision of free sewing machine	20 (16.66)	1,82,200 (18.48)
2.	Integrated child development programme	7 (5.85)	Other than financial benefit
3.	Education tour for women representative	11 (9.16)	Other than financial benefit
4.	Technical training for rural women	11 (9.16)	37,500 (3.80)
5.	Group marriage	10 (8.33)	50,000 (5.09)
6.	Provide goat to destitute women	14 (11.66)	2,61,000 (26.47)
7.	Indira Awas Yojana	13 (10.83)	4,55,000 (46.16)
8.	Provision of legal advice / counseling / helpline for rural women	27 (22.5)	Other than financial benefit
9.	Rural development and child care checkup camp scheme	7 (5.85)	Other than financial benefit
	Total	120	100.00

Table 2 : Relationship between personal and socio-economic characteristics of rural women with the extent of benefits derived by them

Sr. No.	Particular of characteristics	'r' value
1.	Age	0.1325 ^{N.S.}
2.	Education	0.1950 *
3.	Socio-economic status	0.2244 *
4.	Size of family	0.0574 ^{N.S.}
5.	Land holding	0.2138 *
6.	Social participation	0.1943 *
7.	Total annual income	0.2388 **
8.	Sources of information	0.1106 ^{N.S.}
9.	Attitude	0.1845 *
10.	Knowledge	0.2047 **

* and ** indicate significant of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively
N.S. = Non-significant

Conclusion:

Rural women largely belonged to middle age group (51.68 per cent), secondary educated (53.33 per cent), belonged to very low socio-economic status (84.16 per cent), had medium family size (84.84 per cent), landless (79.16 per cent), had no participation in any organization (77.51 per cent), had low annual income upto Rs. 25,000/- (83.33 per cent), had medium source of information (38.33 per cent), had highly favourable attitude toward different women development programmes (61.67 per cent), had medium knowledge about different women development programmes (69.16 per cent). About 51.66 per cent of the rural women availed benefits from the women development programmes. The respondents who were educated, having social participating, high information sources had derived more benefits from women

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