

Role of Woman in Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Programme

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ABSTRACT

Background: The status of women in India is determined by the factors such as the role of women in decision making in the family and in the community; their educational status; their participation in social, economic and political activities; their position in various professions as their legal status in terms of marriage, divorce and inheritance of property could be taken into consideration. The Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihood Programme (APRLP) was undertaken for the implementation of the livelihood development programmes. The project area covers 295 villages in 175 Gram Panchayats in the five districts. The study was undertaken in Prakasam district which consists of 56 mandals. sample size of 300 women who are enrolled as SHG members were randomly selected from these villages for the study. **Results:** shows that APRLP program gives significant improvement among the women and also reveal a significant association between age and participation in APRLP programme. The findings do not reveal any relation between age and improvement of livelihoods of members. And also there is no significant association between education and way of benefited with APRLP.

Keywords: Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihood Programme (APRLP), social, economic status

The status of women in India is determined by the factors such as the role of women in decision making in the family and in the community; their educational status; their participation in social, economic and political activities; their position in various professions as their legal status in terms of marriage, divorce and inheritance of property could be taken into consideration. Women in general are discriminated against in all walks of life and the status of women has declined gradually. According to Devi (1982: 9-12), there were distinct stages of rise and fall of status of women in India. Woman in the Vedic times enjoyed a very high status. She had as many rights to enjoy life as man had. Woman was man's friend, his co-worker and never his inferior; she had enjoyed the property rights and had access to the property of her father and husband.

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The Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihood Programme (APRLP) was undertaken for the implementation of the livelihood development programmes in Five Districts namely, Prakasam, Anantapur, Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar and Nalgonda. The watersheds were selected based on criteria of poverty, drought occurrence, high percentages of women-headed households, high percentages of landless labourers as well as small and marginal farmers. The project area covers 295 villages in 175 Gram Panchayats in the above five districts. Based on the experiences of earlier programmes and other institutions engaged in the implementation of watershed project, APRLP was introduced with an element of community participation as the fulcrum for sustainability of watershed programmes. Watershed Developmental Committees (WSDCs) were formed at the micro watershed level to take decisions about developmental activities (land-based activities) whereas Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were formed to look after the non-land based activities. Services of competent NGOs were being used to work with and support micro watershed communities in the micro watersheds. These were called Partner NGOs (PNGOs). There were three different implementing agencies i.e., NGO, Zilla Panchayat and District Water Management Agency (DWMA).

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the impact of the APRLP interventions on improvement and role of women in enhanced livelihood conditions in study area.
2. To find out the problems and constraints in the implementation of livelihood activities.
3. To suggest the strategies for effective policy making and further to improve the conditions of the women by implementation of Livelihood programmes.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in Prakasam district which consists of 56 mandals. Out of these, 52 are rural, 4 are urban. The APRLP programme was implemented in two revenue divisions i.e. Kandukur and Markapur. Kandukur division has 4 Mandals and Markapur division has 13 Mandals. The following steps were taken to select the subjects for the study. In the first phase, Ongole division was excluded because in Ongole the APRLP programme was not implemented. Markapur division was selected randomly for the purpose of study where the majority (13) of mandals was under APRLP programme. In the second phase, out of 13 rural mandals three mandals were selected for the study by using Simple random sampling method. sample size of 300 women who are enrolled as SHG members were randomly selected from these villages for the study. The Interview Schedule used for data collection was pre-tested and modified to reduce ambiguity in the questions. The data was collected, compiled and analyzed, using frequency, percentage; mean, standard deviation, Chi-square, ANOVAs and simple correlation.

Research Design

Descriptive design was adopted for the present study. The study was descriptive in the sense that an attempt has been made to describe the socio- economic and demographic correlates, improvement of livelihoods included in the study.

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Assessment of different dimensions of capitals and role of Women in improvement of their livelihoods

Table -1 H_0 : There is a significant difference in the annual income between before and after APRLP

After APRLP

| Annual Income | Mean | S.D | T-value | P-value | Decision |
|---------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Before APRLP | 26580 | 10938 | -17.04 | 0.000 | Significant |
| After APRLP | 44963 | 15151 | | | |

The table 1 and Fig.11 shows that the mean annual income is significantly increasing after conducting the APRLP program and it is statistically significant at 1% level of significance which subsequently results that this APRLP program gives significant improvement among the women. The same is mentioned below as a box plot.

Age Vs Participation in APRLP Programme

Table -2: Categorization of respondents by Age and participation in APRLP programme

| Age | Which Programme did you Participate | | | | Total |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| | Watershed | IGP | Capacity building | Any Others | |
| < - 25 | 11 (57.9) | 3 (15.8) | 2 (10.5) | 3 (15.8) | 19 (100.0) |
| 26 - 35 | 34 (41.5) | 28 (34.1) | 18 (22.0) | 2 (2.4) | 82 (100.0) |
| 36 - 45 | 39 (43.3) | 27 (30.0) | 24 (26.7) | 0 (.0) | 90 (100.0) |
| 46 - 55 | 29 (42.6) | 23 (33.8) | 15 (22.1) | 1 (1.5) | 68 (100.0) |
| 56 - > | 16 (39.0) | 13 (31.7) | 10 (24.4) | 2 (4.9) | 41 (100.0) |
| Total | 129 (40.3) | 94 (31.3) | 69 (23.0) | 8 (2.7) | 300 (100.0) |

Chi-square: 20.754; df: 12, P-value: 0.05

It is evident that age and participation in APRLP programme of the members that the majority (43.3 percent) of women participated in watershed programme in between the age group 36 and 45, followed by 33.8 percent respondents had undertaken Income generation programme in between 46-55 age group. However, 26.7 percent of the respondents of 36-45 age group participated in capacity building training. The results reveal a significant association ($P < 0.05$) between age and participation in APRLP programme.

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Age and Improvement of Livelihoods

Table - 3 :Categorization of respondents by age and improvement of livelihoods

| Age | Improvement of livelihoods | | Total |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Yes | No | |
| < 25 | 18 (94.7) | 1 (5.3) | 19 (100.0) |
| 26 - 35 | 71 (86.6) | 11 (13.4) | 82 (100.0) |
| 36 - 45 | 80 (88.9) | 10 (11.1) | 90 (100.0) |
| 46 - 55 | 64 (94.1) | 4 (5.9) | 68 (100.0) |
| 56 > | 39 (95.1) | 2 (4.9) | 41 (100.0) |
| Total | 272 (90.7) | 28 (9.3) | 300 (100.0) |

Chi-square: 4.241; P-value: 0.37

Table depicts the age of the sample respondents vis a vis improvement of livelihoods after joining in APRLP. It can be seen that a majority 80 respondents were between 36 and 45 with the improvement of livelihood, followed by 71 respondents were between 26-35 age group who have improved in their livelihoods. The findings do not reveal any relation between age and improvement of livelihoods of members.

Table -4: Categorization of sample respondents by their age and benefit from Government

H₀: Age has no impact on benefit from the government

| Age | benefit from govt. | | Total |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Yes | No | |
| < 25 | 14 (73.7) | 5 (26.3) | 19 (100.0) |
| 26 - 35 | 58 (70.7) | 24 (29.3) | 82 (100.0) |
| 36 - 45 | 67 (74.4) | 23 (25.6) | 90 (100.0) |
| 46 - 55 | 49 (72.1) | 19 (27.9) | 68 (100.0) |
| 56 > | 30 (73.2) | 11 (26.8) | 41 (100.0) |
| Total | 218 (72.7) | 82 (27.3) | 300 (100.0) |

Chi-square: 0.326; P-value: 0.988

There is no significant association between age and benefit from the government i.e., all the age group respondents were equally benefited from the government i.e., both the variables are independent.

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Sub-Caste and Extent of Benefit

Table – 5 :Categorization of sample respondents by their sub caste and extent of benefit

| Caste | what way you benefited | | | | Total |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Increase income | Asset creation | Increased employment | No Improvement | |
| OC | 27 (60.0) | 5 (11.1) | 4 (8.9) | 9 (20.0) | 45 (100.0) |
| ST | 14 (51.9) | 5 (18.5) | 2 (7.4) | 6 (22.2) | 27 (100.0) |
| BC | 93 (76.3) | 20 (16.5) | 3 (2.5) | 5 (4.1) | 121 (100.0) |
| Sc | 74 (69.2) | 16 (15.0) | 9 (8.4) | 8 (7.5) | 107 (100.0) |
| Total | 208 (69.3) | 46 (15.3) | 18 (0.6) | 28 (9.3) | 300 (100.0) |

The table 5 shows that sub caste and extent of benefit after implementing APRLP, the majority 76.3 percent of the backward classes revealed that their income has been increased due to APRLP followed by 69.2 percent of the Scheduled Caste and 60.0 percent of Other Caste respondents also expressed that their income has been improved, whereas 20.0 percent of the backward classes, 15.0 percent of Scheduled Caste and 11.1 percent of Other Caste respondents created their assets. The findings do not reveal any relation between sub caste and asset creation of members.

Table – 6 H₀: There is no significant association between caste and obtaining benefit from the Government

| Sub Caste | Benefit from govt. | | Total |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| | Yes | NO | |
| OC | 36 (80.0) | 9 (20.0) | 45 (100.0) |
| ST | 14 (51.9) | 13 (48.1) | 27 (100.0) |
| BC | 96 (79.3) | 25 (20.7) | 121 (100.0) |
| SC | 72 (67.3) | 35 (32.7) | 107 (100.0) |
| Total | 218 (72.7) | 82 (27.3) | 300 (100.0) |

Chi-square: 11.377; P-value: 0.01

It can be seen in the above table (5B.6) that there is a significant association between caste and obtaining benefit from the government. From the above table it was further concluded that the percentage of OC and BC respondents were more benefited when compared with ST and SC.

Education and Extent of Benefit

Table – 7 Percentage of respondents by Education and extent of benefit

| Education | what way you have benefited | | | | Total |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Increase income | Asset creation | Increased employment | No Improvement | |
| Illiterate | 129 (65.2) | 31 (15.7) | 14 (7.1) | 24 (12.1) | 198 (100.0) |
| Primary | 55 (82.1) | 7 (10.4) | 4 (6.0) | 1 (1.5) | 67 (100.0) |
| Secondary | 17 (68.0) | 5 (20.0) | 0 (.0) | 3 (12.0) | 25 (100.0) |
| SSC | 4 (57.1) | 3 (42.9) | 0 (.0) | 0 (.0) | 7 (100.0) |
| Inter and above | 3 (100.0) | 0 (.0) | 0 (.0) | 0 (.0) | 3 (100.0) |
| Total | 208 (69.3) | 46 (15.3) | 18 (6.0) | 28 (9.3) | 300 (100.0) |

Table 7 shows the education and extent of benefit by APRLP that most of the members of primary education (82.1 percent) expressed that their income has been increased, 68.0 percent with secondary education also improved their income and 42.9 percent with SSC created assets. The results reveal that there is no significant association between education and way of benefited with APRLP.

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