A Study on the Impact of Selected Schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme on Assets and Employment among Rural Beneficiaries in Karnataka*

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ABSTRACT

A study conducted in Bangalore district involving 120 beneficiaries of Integrated Rural Development Programme revealed that there was not much difference between the value of the materials possessed by the beneficiaries before and after their participation in the programme. As regards employment, there was increase in the absolute number of days of employment for all the categories of beneficiaries after initiation of the IRDP. The additional employment generated in different schemes was highest in bullock-cart scheme followed by sheep rearing and buffalo rearing schemes.

The Indian experience since Independence in the field of rural development has clearly brought out that mere sectoral or project approach is not adequate for improving the living conditions of the people in rural areas. Even the conventional approach of the Community Development Programme to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people has also not achieved the objectives to the desired extent. A strategy of direct attack in terms of identification of the poorest of the poor in rural areas and raising their income as to improve the quality of life of them was required. Therefore, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has emerged as a logical step based on the tested methodologies and administrative practices evolved during the planning for rural development.

In this study, the IRDP, which holds the much needed change in the Indian rural scene, is analysed for its impact on the asset and employment creation among rural beneficiaries. The specific objectives of the study were as follows.

(i) To analyse the impact of selected schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme on owning of assets by the beneficiaries.

(ii) To assess the extent to which the additional employment has been provided to the beneficiaries.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Bangalore district of Karnataka in 1987. The District Rural Development Society (DRDS), Bangalore district, has been in operation since 1981. The agency had extended benefits to 33,823 beneficiaries including small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, and non agricultural labourers, upto the end of April 1985. The study covered these beneficiaries. Since the initiation of IRDP, there has been a steady increase in the flow of funds towards the poorer sections of rural population in the district through a number of economically viable schemes.

Selection of Blocks and Villages : The staff of the DRDS were asked to identify two blocks in the district where good work was done in one block and poor work in another block with regard to animal enterprises. Accordingly, Kanakapura block where good work was done and Magadi block where poor work has been turned out were selected for the study. A list of villages which had beneficiaries of the selected livestock schemes (bullock and cart, sheep rearing and she-buffalo rearing) was prepared in respect of two selected blocks. The villages having at least two beneficiaries in each of the three schemes were considered for the study. Out of these villages, four villages in each block were randomly selected for the study.

Selection of the respondents : In each of the selected village, a list of beneficiaries in respect of the three schemes listed above was separately prepared. The proportionate sampling was resorted to in each block to make up the sample size of 20 in respect of each scheme, bullock and cart, sheep rearing and she-buffalo rearing. Thus, a total of 60 respondents each in Kanakapura and Magadi blocks spread over eight villages were selected for the study.

Data collection and analysis : Based on the objectives of the study, a structured schedule was prepared. In this process, experts in the field of agricultural extension and rural development were also consulted. The schedule was pretested and revised before using for data collection from the respondents. The data were collected personally from the respondents. The data were analysed using frequencies, percentages, averages and 't' test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study are discussed below.

1. **Extent of owing assets by the beneficiaries**

(i) *Material possession :* The information on material possessions of the beneficiaries before and after the scheme was introduced in the blocks was obtained in order to know whether the IRDP has helped them to acquire material possession through the probable raise in the income of the family. It was noticed that there was not much difference between the value of the materials possessed before and after the participation in the programme. However,

there was an increase in the value of materials possessed by the beneficiaries under bullock-cart scheme in Magadi block (a difference of Rs. 388-50) and the difference in respect of schemes relating to sheep rearing and she-buffalo rearing was a meagre sum of Rs. 22=00 and Rs. 54=00, respectively, Similarly in Kanakapura block, this difference was Rs. 35=00, Rs. 12=00 and Rs. 5=00 under bullock-cart, sheep rearing and she-buffalo schemes, respectively. It may be mentioned here that, little time has elapsed after the supply of livestock, and the generated income might have been used to repay the old debts apart from meeting the cost of rearing animals and bank dues. However, the beneficiaries under bullock-cart scheme considered to have made small improvement in the value of materials owned by them (Table 1).

Table 1. Value of material possession of beneficiaries (in Rupees)

Schemes	Magadi			Kanakapura		
	Before assistance	After assistance	Difference	Before assistance	After assistance	Difference
Bullock and cart	409.50	798.00	388.50	807.50	842.50	35.00
Sheep	187.00	209.25	22.25	215.00	227.50	12.50
She-buffalo	193.50	247.50	54.00	182.00	187.60	5.60

SF = small farmer, MF = marginal farmer,
AL = agricultural labourer, NAL = Non-agricultural labourer

(ii) *Livestock possession* : The average value of the livestock possessed by the different categories was Rs. 5621=00 for small farmers, Rs. 2847=50 for marginal farmers, Rs. 2650=50 for agricultural labourers and Rs. 2000=00 for non-agricultural labourers in Magadi block. The respective values in Kanakapura block were Rs. 5592=30, Rs. 3320=00, Rs. 1783=00 and Rs. 2150-00. It is obvious that the average value of livestock possessed by small farmer in both the blocks was highest than the value of livestock owned by other categories of beneficiaries. However, it is not relevant to say that only the IRDP has increased the value of livestock possessed by the beneficiaries. But, the programme has instilled in their mind a sense of involvement in the development programme. As it was mentioned earlier, there was not a big gap of time between the initiation and full operation of the schemes.

The asset position of the beneficiaries in both the blocks was more or less the same. It was Rs. 8222=27 in Magadi block and Rs. 8211=24 in Kanakapura block (Table 2). The findings of the study are in line with the findings of Muthayya *et al.*, (1983).

Table 2. Asset position of IRDP beneficiaries (value in rupees)

Blocks	Household owning			Livestock possession					Material possession		Average total value of assets
	Pakka house	Katcha house	Average value	SF	MF	AL	NAL	Average value	House holds	Average value	
Magadi	26 (7923.07)	34 (1126.47)	4524.77	5621.0	2847.50	2650.58	2000.0	3279.75	60	418.25	8222.77
Kanakapura	33 (8018.18)	27 (1137.00)	4577.58	5592.30	3320.0	1783.0	2150.0	3211.32	60	422.33	8211.24

SF = small farmer, MF = marginal farmer, AL = agricultural labourer, NAL = Non-agricultural labourer

2. Pattern of employment among beneficiaries

The impact of IRDP can well be understood by studying the days of employment generated for beneficiaries by different schemes. Thus, the employment of the beneficiaries was studied before and after the implementation of the respective schemes (Table 3). The results reveal that the number of days of employment of the beneficiary family in Magadi block before implementation of the scheme was 280 days for small farmer, 195 days for marginal farmer, 166 days for agricultural labourer, and 263 days for non-agricultural labourer. It could be seen from the Table that the number of days of employment after the implementation of the scheme increased to 392 days for small farmer, 253 days for marginal farmers, 264 days for agricultural labourers and 281 days for non-agricultural labourer.

Table 3. Number of days of employment of households categorywise before and after participation in IRDP

Category	Magadi			Kanakapura		
	Before	After	't' value	Before	After	't' value
Small farmers	280.00	392.00	3.08*	276.76	410.38	2.50**
Marginal farmers	195.00	253.00	1.72 N.S.	200.41	324.79	3.80*
Agricultural labourers	166.00	264.00	2.84**	178.33	243.61	3.05*
Non-agricultural labourers	263.00	281.00	0.58 N.S.	220.00	288.00	1.76 N.S.

Note : * = Significant at one per cent level ** = Significant at five per cent level
N.S. = Not significant

Table 4 gives details on additional employment obtained by the beneficiaries in an year. It is clear from the Table that small farmers obtained 112 days of additional employment, the marginal farmers 58 days, agricultural labourers about 98 days and non-agricultural labourers about 19 days per annum. Similarly in Kanakapura block, the additional employment for the respective categories of beneficiaries was 133 days, 125 days, 66 days and 68 days. (Table 4). It could be observed that in both the blocks the additional employment was highest for small farmers of bullock-cart scheme. Thus, they could get employment on their own farm on operations like ploughing, water lifting and threshing. Further, they have the scope to get hired employment elsewhere, especially during land preparation period.

The difference in the days of employment before and after the scheme was significant for small farmer and agricultural labourer category in Magadi

Table 4.   Number of days of additional employment of households
categorywise after participation in IRDP

Category	Magadi	Kanakapura	't' Value
	Additional days of employment	Additional days of employment	
Small farmers	112.00	133.62	1.25 N.S.
Marginal farmers	58.00	124.38	2.12**
Agricultural labourers	98.00	65.28	2.56**
Non-agricultural labourers	19.00	68.00	2.78**

Note :   ** = Significant at five per cent level   N.S. = Not significant

block as revealed by 't' test. Similar significant relationship was found in case of small farmers, marginal farmers and agricultural labourer categories in Kanakapura block also. The findings of the study are in conformity with the findings of Pant *et al.*, (1972), Pandey and Khanna (1980), Muthayya *et al.*, (1983) and Charyulu *et al.*, (1985). However, the days of employment for marginal farmers in Magadi block and non-agricultural labourers in both the blocks was not found to be significant. Nevertheless, there was an increase in the absolute number of the days of

employment for these categories of beneficiaries. The difference in additional employment between the two blocks was found significant for all the categories of beneficiaries except in case of the small farmer category.

The schemewise employment generation for the beneficiaries was also studied in order to understand the extent of benefits derived from each scheme. The difference in the days of employment before and after the scheme was initiated in Magadi and Kanakapura was significant for all the selected schemes (Table 5).

Table 5.   Number of days of employment of households in selected
schemes before and after participation in IRDP

Schemes	Magadi			Kanakapura		
	Before	After	't' Value	Before	After	't' Value
Bullock and cart	266.00	378.40	2.86**	262.90	410.50	3.62*
Sheep	216.60	284.75	2.13**	185.75	274.75	3.23*
She-buffalo	185.75	243.75	2.88**	187.25	262.50	3.39*

Note :   * = Significant at one per cent level   ** = Significant at five per cent level

The additional employment genera-ted in different schemes was highest in bullock-cart scheme in Magadi block (112 days) as Kanakapura (148 days) followed by sheep rearing scheme (68 days and 89 days) and she-buffalo (58 days and 76 days) (Table 6). It is not uncommon that, apart from using bullock on their own farm, they hired out bullocks along with any one of their family labourers. Thus, the number of days of employment not only increased on their farm but also had the scope to get some amount of hired employment outside their farm. The beneficiaries of two selected blocks did not differ in getting additional number of days of employment for them.

Table 6. Number of days of additional employment of households in selected schemes after participation in IRDP

| | Magadi | Kanakapura | |
	Average days of employment	Average days of employment	' t ' Value
Bullock and cart	112.40 (7.65)	147.60 (9.6)	1.625 N.S.
Sheep	68.15 (7.55)	89.00 (6.0)	0.16 N.S.
She-buffalo	58.00 (5.35)	75.25 (5.6)	1.05 N.S.

Note : N.S. = Not significant
(Figure in parenthesis indicates the average family size of the household)

In conclusion, it can be said that there was an increase in the absolute number of days of employment for all the cate-gories of beneficiaries after initiation of the IRDP programme. Similar increase in number of days of employment was also seen for all the selected schemes of IRDP. The value of materials possessed by the beneficiaries of both the blocks under bullock-cart scheme was high compared to sheep and she-buffalo rear-ing schemes. However, the asset posi-tion of the beneficiaries in both the blocks was more or less the same.

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