

3. Output and Impact Monitoring Study of Kawad Project

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An institutional arrangement wherein the funding agency approaches the State Government to organise the 'Resource Region' centred Watershed Development Programme with the help of Non-Governmental Organisations, combines the best features of the State and the NGOs. This approach combines the technical competence of the State as an essential hardware in the implementation of Watershed Development Programme and involvement of NGOs performs the role of software in promoting participation of the target population. Moreover, this approach combines the flexibility, democracy, equity and ease in decision-making of the NGO, with the technology, administrative skills and accountability of the Government. KAWAD has followed exactly this approach, and therefore the success was assured by the design.

The rural livelihood project under the domain of watershed is being implemented in three districts, viz., Chitradurga, Bellary and Bijapur. All these districts are traditionally drought-prone areas of the State, and one watershed was identified in each of these districts for the purpose of treatment. Chinnahagari Watershed is selected coming under Molakalmuru block of Chitradurga district, Upparhalla Watershed belongs to Kudligi block of Bellary district and Doddahalla Watershed is from Indi Block of Bijapur district. These watersheds covered 62 villages spread over 13 Gram Panchayats and 13,400 households. The area covered under these watersheds is about 54,000 hectares.

The institutional structure of KAWAD goes through different layers. The design of the project and the administration is undertaken at the State headquarters of the project. In each of the districts, the watershed implementation is assigned to an Implementing Agency. Karnataka Watershed Development Department, represented by an Assistant Director of Agriculture, is the Implementing Agency for Doddahalla Watershed in Indi Taluka of Bijapur District. Zilla Parishad, through its officer administering agriculture, is the Implementing Agency for Upparhalla Watershed in Bellary district. In the third case, an experienced NGO represented by MYRADA was given the task of implementing the project in Chinnahagari Watershed coming under Molakalmuru block of Chitradurga district. There are 11 PNGOs spearheading the project in the three watersheds helping to form MWSDCs and SHGs.

Objectives and Methodology

The main objective of the study is to identify the output indicators and arrive at the livelihood status in the project area. It is specifically attempted here to understand the project document, its outputs and impact on the rural economy in the three selected watersheds. Measurement of livelihood and group assessment formed an important objective of the study. We have used four components for the purpose of delineating the methodology of the study. In the first component, we have selected 10 per cent MWSDCs taking care that each of the PNGO is represented in the process. This was achieved by first segregating the MWSDCs by PNGOs and taking a random sample from each of the list of MWSDC provided by PNGOs. Second, we had taken a sample of 70

SHGs spread over the three watersheds with probability proportion to the number of SHGs in each of these watersheds. Here again, care was taken for proportional representation to the PNGOs. The sample of the households was taken randomly based on the list provided by the Implementing Agencies. The total number of households selected was 1,170. Four types of tools were used for the analysis viz., MOL Tool, GSA Tool, Household Survey Tool and Interviews of Service Providers Tool.

Monitoring of Livelihoods (MoL)

Monitoring of Livelihoods (MoL) is a participatory monitoring tool for assessing livelihood of the stakeholders using a sustainable rural livelihood framework. The tool was developed by Catalyst Management Services especially for KAWAD. The tool encompasses five assets/capitals covering the major livelihood functions. These include (i) Physical Capital, (ii) Social Capital, (iii) Financial Capital, (iv) Human Capital, and (v) Natural Capital. All these indicate five aspects of the rural livelihood system. The exercise was conducted with the members of the MWSDCs and SHGs. The members were asked to identify an icon based on pre-identified levels of the capital indicators. It was found that a large number of members cluster in the bottom two categories, whereas the top two categories have very little representation among the members of the MWSDCs and SHGs. This clearly indicates the weak financial position of the households in the watershed area. Among the three watersheds, Doddahalla watershed seems to be predominated by lower values of the five capital indicators. Upparhalla watershed performed slightly better on this scale. There is homogeneity across watersheds in the levels of capital ownership but there is significant heterogeneity among the members within the watersheds. The poverty levels are higher in the Doddahalla watershed than in Upparhalla or Chinnahagari.

Household Level Survey

The household sample survey was undertaken with twin objectives. First, we tried to bring out the profile of the sample households in the three watersheds. The profile essentially covered presently existing conditions of the sample households. Therefore, this profile served as a benchmark for sample households, which can be utilised effectively, if the same households are resurveyed after a few years. Second, our analysis also brought out the views of the respondents about the implementation process as perceived by them. The panel of respondents included a sizeable proportion of Scheduled Caste households that supplements equity aspect in the impact parameters.

A few important issues emerging out of the analysis are highlighted here. First, the beneficiaries adopted and participated in the KAWAD Model of implementing the watershed development programme. Their information base and exposure to the technical details were quite noteworthy. Second, the project has created a definite participating spirit among the beneficiaries and probably sustained institutional structures in the form of MWSDCs and SHGs. Finally, the project has impacted equity, efficiency, empowerment to the rural poor and supplementary economic activities. All of these will contribute towards the sustenance of the created institutions.

Conclusions

In some of the cases we found that the process of formation of SHGs was still going on. Since this is a dynamic activity it can feature continuously in the rural areas but the connection between new SHGs and MWSDCs becomes fresh and, therefore, a few members are likely to suffer in the process.

MWSDCs and SHGs have proved to be empowering institutions to the communities, and have also provided substantial opportunity to the members of the weaker section and female members of the committees. The decisions are taken democratically and most of the members were well aware of the technical components of watershed management as well as managing the group. This adds to the positive gains of the project.

The NLBA activities undertaken with the support of the SHGs have substantially changed the income and employment profile of the households. However, the service sector has not been developing at the same speed as that of the NLBA activities.

Women and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have benefited significantly from this initiative.