

Determinants of availment of benefits by integrated rural development programme beneficiaries

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Parbhani district of Maharashtra state to find out the determinants of IRDP benefits. Twenty five villages from Gangakhed, Pathri, Selu, Purna and Parbhani talukas were selected on the basis of highest recovery under IRDP. Findings of the study showed that all the characteristics of IRDP beneficiaries formed non-significant relationship with the availment of benefit.

INTRODUCTION

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is an outcome of long evolutionary process in India. A beginning was made with the community development programme, which was launched in October 1952 with main objectives of improving the rural areas. Integrated Rural Development Programme was conceived and covered of the 350 million (29.90 %) people below the poverty line in the country out of which around 300 millions were from small and marginal farmers, rural artisans and other workers. The implementation of IRDP was effectively made in Maharashtra since its inception *i.e.* 1978. Parbhani district is having 77.49 % rural population and 257469 below poverty line families which were selected for implementing IRDP at initial stage. In the present study attempt was made to assess the relationship between characteristics of beneficiaries with the availment of benefit from IRDP.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Parbhani district as it has highest number of below poverty line families (67.75 %) in Marathwada *i.e.* 2, 57,464 families. Five talukas from the district namely, Gangakhed, Pathri, Selu, Purna and Parbhani were selected for study after consulting DRDA officials and Panchayat Samiti reports and blockwise

records. Out of 130 villages from selected blocks where maximum recovery was made under IRDP scheme, 25 villages were selected randomly by following lottery method. From selected 25 villages the list of beneficiaries was obtained from Panchayat Samiti. Out of 796 beneficiaries, 25.12 % (*i.e.* 200) beneficiaries were selected randomly, which formed the study sample. The data were collected from the IRDP beneficiaries with the help of personal interview method at their homesteads or on their farm and carefully edited and processed with the help of frequency, percentage, correlation and simple regression test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented under following heads:

Profile of IRDP beneficiaries:

Most of the IRDP beneficiaries were young, able to read and write only, belonged to special backward class caste, having small family size and engaged in occupation of cultivation. Majority of them had annual income from rupees 4001 to 6000, land in between 1.1 to 2.00 ha., high use of sources of information and low level of social participation (Table 2).

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Integrated rural
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