



IMPACT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION SCHEME ON ECONOMIC STATUS OF SCHEDULED CASTES BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS- A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This paper is intended to assess and evaluate the performance of the milch cattle scheme in terms of increasing the income and generating the additional employment to the sample beneficiaries. The fact is that for centuries the scheduled castes, who constitute 16.2 per cent of the total population of India, because of rigid caste system that forbidden them from owning income generating assets and they are continued to depend on agriculture as wage labourers. Consequently, they are lagging behind other privileged castes continuing as poorest among the poor in India. In view of the intensive poverty among them, the Scheduled Castes Finance Corporation has been formulated and implementing various poverty alleviation schemes. The milch cattle scheme, the home based activity, is one of the priority schemes being implemented to generate regular income to the beneficiary households of Scheduled Castes. In this regard, to measure the economic impact basing on the primary data collected through canvassing a well structured questionnaire. Though there are some flaws in the selection of beneficiaries, the analysis of data revealed that the milch cattle scheme resulted in generating additional income and employment to the sample beneficiaries. More importantly, the milch cattle scheme helped the beneficiary to cross the poverty line. And it can be suggested that of all the schemes being implemented by the SC finance Corporation, milch cattle scheme is better because it is viable suitable for rural based people and it does not require any skills.

Key Words: Scheduled Castes, Milch Cattle, Pr- Loan, Post-Loan, Finance Corporation, Beneficiary, Scheme.

Introduction

Scheduled Castes are the prominent and productive that constitute 20 per cent of the total population in India. Indian society is deeply divided into numerous castes and some of the castes such as scheduled castes are excluded from the main stream of the society with result of deep rooted socio-economic inequalities among castes. The exclusion, discrimination and deprivation that resulted out of the institutionalised caste system have effected scheduled castes far more adversely than any other castes and they are lagging behind the other identical castes of Indian society with regard to access and owning the sources of income such as agricultural land, capital other assets of employment sources and social services. Consequently, livelihood of the majority of the scheduled castes is connected with agriculture which provide seasonal employment and living as agricultural labourers and remained poorest among the poor compared with other castes in Indian society. In view of the eradicating consequent intensive poverty among them, the Corporation



has been formulated and implementing the various schemes to uplift them above the poverty line. Among all those numerous scheme designed and implementing by the Corporation, animal husbandry schemes are most suitable for Scheduled castes as they do not require additional skills and they are exposed to the skills required for agricultural and agro-based dairy activities.

Review of Literature

Though there are a good number of poverty eradication programmes/ schemes evolved and designed by Finance Corporation for benefit of the Scheduled Castes to uplift them above the poverty line, the awareness about the loan facilities is lacking among them (Harsha R. Trivedi and Dr. Yogendra Mukwana (1996). And it was found that the identifying the eligible beneficiaries was not undertaken in accordance with the norms and guidelines (Kundal J.R. 2003). Hence, there are serious flaws in the selection of beneficiaries and disbursement of loans (Sudvarinder A.D. 2001). It was also found that the identification and selection of beneficiaries was found to be a very difficult practical problem (Hemalatha Rao and Devendra Babu (1994). After selection of the Due to delay in disbursing the loan amount on time, the schemes failed to generate income and additional employment. (Umesh Bhatt, 2005). The milch animals, drought animals and sheep or goat failed to generate income and employment and they hardly helped the beneficiary families to cross the poverty line (Mahadeva M. 2003). It also came to light that banks did not disburse all the sanctioned amount (Hari Charan Bohra (2003).

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the this paper are to assess and evaluate the impact of the milch cattle scheme on the beneficiary Scheduled Castes families in terms of incremental income, generation of additional employment and alleviation of beneficiaries above the poverty line.

Sample Design and Methodology

In view of the objectives of the present study, 50 sample beneficiaries were selected from among the list of beneficiaries of the Milch Cattle scheme using stratified proportionate random sampling. The list of beneficiaries selected by the Scheduled Castes Finance Corporation was divided into different strata basing on regions of the Guntur district. And from among the stratified beneficiaries all over the district, a proportional random sampling was drawn from the strata and 50 sample beneficiaries are chosen purposively.

Data Source

The study carried basing on the primary data collected from the sample beneficiaries through field survey by canvassing a well designed structured questionnaire. Also the secondary data pertaining to particulars of beneficiaries and other required were collected from the records and reports of Guntur district Scheduled Castes Development and Finance Corporation. The primary data on the income of the beneficiary, income mobility, generation of employment, other



sources of employment and the number of sample beneficiary families that crossed the poverty line is collected. The data were collected at two phases i.e., 1. Pre-Loan Period the period before grounding the Scheme and 2. Post-Loan Period, the period after grounding scheme to assess and measure the impact of the scheme in terms of employment, income mobility

The Milch Cattle Scheme

The Milch Cattle scheme is one of the priority schemes designed by Andhra Pradesh scheduled castes Finance Corporation for the benefit of rural poor among Scheduled Castes with an objective of providing a viable and regular income generating source. Women in the families of the Scheduled Castes play a significant role in earning lively-hood. Women work as agricultural labourer and equally gain the skills required for the dairy activities. So that the Milch Cattle are provided in the name of women of the beneficiary household. The Corporation set general guidelines to be followed for the selection of the beneficiaries and milch cattle to be purchased under animal husbandry programme. As per the guideline of the Corporation 1. the milch cattle has to be purchased only in the name of the women in the beneficiary household. 2. The beneficiaries of milch cattle should not be below 18 years and above 60 years of age. 3. milch cattle should be purchased and provided to the poorest of the poor who cannot acquire any other skills to take up self-employment that can be helpful to earn income 5. Under this scheme, Rs. 35,000 is provided to the beneficiary and of the total loan amount, 40 per cent of the amount is provided by the Corporation as subsidy and the remaining 60 per cent is granted by the Banks as loan which must repaid in convenient installment.

Impact of the Milch Cattle Scheme

The evaluation and assessment analysis of milch cattle scheme is based on the primary data collected from the sample beneficiary household. Evaluation is carried measuring the changes in terms of incremental income, income mobility and generation of additional employment to the family of beneficiary. In this regard, the data were collected on the above variables before grounding the scheme and after grounding the scheme to measure the changes to compare and analysis. The data were collected two phases i.e., 1. The period before grounding the scheme showing and income level and employment of the beneficiary household and 2. The period after the milch cattle is provided which helps to measure the impact on income and employment generation. The actual benefit from the milch cattle is measured basing on the changes occurred to milch cattle on the total net income per beneficiary family.

Generation of Income

The income of the sample beneficiaries is the total income derived from the sources of agricultural labour, cultivation, dairy activity and other non-form activities. The data in the Table –1 show that in the pre-loan period the prime source of income of the sample beneficiary is agricultural labour with annual income of Rs. 24,800. And to some extent, other non-farm sources, on an average, the sample



beneficiary has got an amounts of Rs. 14,240. The income from both of these sources is estimated to be Rs. 39,040 an average per beneficiary household. It is pathetic to note that none of the beneficiaries has any income from the source of agricultural land.

In the post-loan period, the milch cattle is provided to the beneficiary family under the animal husbandry programme has been generated an average additional income of Rs. 50,400 per beneficiary. But the income from the agricultural labour has decreased from Rs.24,800 in the pre-loan to Rs. 18,400 in the post-loan period with resultant decrease of income of Rs. 6,400 on an average per beneficiary. This decrease in income from agricultural labour may be due to the diversion of some employment days towards milch cattle. And also the income from other non-farm activities has decreased to Rs. 10,410 from Rs. 14,240 in the pre-loan with a decrease of Rs. 3,840 on average per beneficiary household.

It is evident from the foregone empirical data analysis that the milch cattle scheme performed well in increasing both income and employment to the beneficiary families. The gross income generated by the scheme stood at Rs. 50,400 and the net income at 40,160. The gross income from all the sources worked out to be Rs.79,200, on an average per beneficiary household and it helped the beneficiaries to cross the poverty line.

Table-1: Gross Income of the Beneficiary in Pre-Loan and Post-Loan Period

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No	Source of Income	Pre- Loan Period	Post-Loan Period	Net Increase
1	Milch Cattle	-	50,400 (63.64)	50,400 (100.0)
2	Agricultural Labour	24,800 (63.52)	18,400 (23.23)	-6,400(25.80)
4	Non - Farm	14,240 (36.40)	10,410 (13.13)	-3,840 (26.97)
Total		39,040 (100.0)	79,200 (100.0)	40,160 (102.87)

Note: Figures in Bracket indicate percentage

Source: Field Survey

Generation of Employment

The data in the following Table – 2 show detail of employment generated from the milch cattle scheme. It is well known fact that the main source of employment for Scheduled Castes is agricultural labour and there are other sources of income such as dairy activities and non-farm. The table-2 show both pre-loan and post-loan employment particulars of the beneficiary households. During pre-loan period agricultural labour alone generated 280 o employment days on an average per household out the total employment days of 328. The other source non-farm activities has generated 48 employment days only.



After implementation of the milch cattle scheme, the sample beneficiaries got a significant benefit from the scheme with an additional generation of employment to the volume of 360 employment days with 100 percent increase. But the employment generation through agriculture labour, which is main source of income earlier, has come down to 225 employment days from 280 due to diversion of working days towards milch cattle. And also there is decrease in employment days in case of non-farm source. The net additional generation of employment worked out to be an average of 287 employment days which is significant contribution to the sample beneficiary households.

Table–2: Average Employment Days Generated Per in Pre-Loan and Post-Loan Periods

(In person days)				
Sl.No.	Source of Employment	Pre-Loan Period	Post-Loan Period	Net Increase
1	Dairy	-	360	360
2	Agricultural Labour	280	225	-55
4	Non-Farm	48	30	18
Total		328	615	287

Source: Field survey.

Beneficiaries Lifted Above the Poverty Line

The following Table – 3 depicts the income mobility of beneficiaries in pre-loan period and post-loan periods. The poverty line is taken as per the per capita income estimated by the state of Andhra Pradesh. Before implementation of milch cattle scheme, there are 46 sample beneficiary family found below the poverty line. Due to some flaws in the selection of beneficiaries, of the total 50 sample beneficiaries, 4 are found above the poverty line. After implementation of the milch cattle scheme, only 8 sample beneficiaries are found to be below the poverty line and 42 sample beneficiaries found lifted above the poverty line. Evidently it can be concluded that the milch cattle scheme is successful in the income mobility of the sample beneficiary households.

Table –3: Income Mobility of Beneficiary Households Below Poverty Line Rs (67,839) in Pre-Loan and Post-Loan Period

Sl. No	Particulars	Number of the Beneficiaries	Below the Poverty Line	Above the Poverty Line
1	Pre-Loan Period	50	46 (92.0)	(8.0)
2	Post-Loan Period	50	8 (16.0)	42 (84.0)

Note: Figures in Brackets indicate Percentage, Source: Field Survey



Conclusion

It can be concluded from the empirical analysis that milch cattle scheme resulted in generating additional income to the sample beneficiaries. And also, it helped the beneficiary households divert, to some extent, from the traditional agricultural labour and supplemented additional income. It also generated additional employment to the beneficiary households significantly. Moreover, the milch cattle scheme which is home based activity and it provides regular income and employment to the sample beneficiaries. .Most importantly, the scheme is successful in the income mobility of the beneficiaries and it helped them lift up above the poverty line. And it can be suggested that of all the schemes designed and being implemented by the SC finance Corporation, the milch cattle scheme is viable providing sustainable income to for those who are not having skill and rural based.

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