

Impact of Poverty Alleviation Programmes on Social Development, Annual Income, Calorie Intake and Employment Generation of the Beneficiaries

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ABSTRACT. Evaluation of the impact of poverty alleviation programmes is an important parameter to assess the progress and to achieve better results. This study was conducted during 1994, selecting 40 respondents from each of the five important programmes *Viz.*, Antyodaya, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Lab-to-land programme (LLP) and Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), making a total sample of 200. Ex-post-facto design was employed for the study. The dependent variables considered were social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation. Students' 't' test and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were employed to analyze the data. Significant improvements were found in social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation among beneficiaries of all the five selected programmes due to implementation of the programmes. Overall significant variations in social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation were observed among beneficiaries before and after participation in Antyodaya, IRDP, JRY, LLP and TRYSEM programmes. Hence, it is recommended to continue all the programmes, as they have resulted in achieving the desired changes.

INTRODUCTION

Alleviation of rural poverty has been one of the primary objectives of planned development in India. Ever since the inception of planning (1951-52), the policies and programmes have been designed and redesigned with this aim. The main problem of rural poverty was brought into a sharper

focus during the sixth five year plan (1980-85) and seventh five year plan (1985-90). Specific poverty alleviation programmes for generation of a minimum level of income and employment are being formulated to uplift the rural poor. The major poverty alleviation programmes implemented in Karnataka (India) were: Antyodaya, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar yojana (JRY), Lab-to-Land Programme (LLP) and Training of Rural youth for self-Employment (TRYSEM).

Antyodaya programme was implemented from 1983 to 1990 with the aim of attaining an egalitarian pattern of life through self motivated actions of its members. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) launched in 1978 and continued presently produces financial assistance in the form of subsidy and credit advancement for identified rural poor families. Jawahar Rozgar yojana (JRY) commenced during 1989-90 with the primary objective of generation of additional gainful employment in rural areas is still in operation. LLP which operated from 1979 till 1991 mainly emphasized on the transfer of latest viable agricultural and allied technology to the poorest of the poor farmers' fields with financial assistance to meet the costs of critical inputs. TRYSEM which provides technical skills to rural youth to enable them to take up self employment and wage employment commenced in 1979 and is still in operation. The target groups of all these programmes were families living below the poverty line. Beneficiaries were enrolled afresh every year and the benefits were given for one year only. This study was planned to examine the extent of changes in social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation of the beneficiaries of Antyodaya, IRDP, JRY, LLP and TRYSEM programmes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was conducted during 1994 in Bangalore (Rural) district of Karnataka. Forty beneficiaries were selected under each programme (Antyodaya, IRDP, JRY, LLP and TRYSEM), choosing one taluk for each programme and 3-10 Villages with maximum number of beneficiaries making a total sample size of 200. Ex-post-facto (before and after) study design was employed. The data were collected using a structured schedule by personal interview method. The data for before and after the programme were collected simultaneously by recall and available records support. Students 't' test and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were employed to analyse the data.

Quantification of dependent Variables

Social development

A scale developed for the study by testing reliability and validity, consisting of 32 statements was administered. The responses were elicited on a four point continuum with weightages of 4,3, 2 and 1. The total score of all the statements formed the social development score of the individual respondent.

Annual Income

Annual income was quantified using the following formula which included the family income of the respondents from agriculture and allied activities, business, off-farm labour and any other sources.

$$\text{Annual Income} = \text{Income due to land assets} + \text{Livestock assets} + \text{Other assets/sources.}$$

Calorie intake

The average food materials consumed by family members during one week period before and after the programme was ascertained by recall method. The total consumption units for the family was worked out by taking the age, sex and nature of work done into account using the procedure suggested by Gopalan *et al.*, (1993). Considering the total calories generated by the food materials consumed per week and number of consumption units in the family, calorie intake per consumption unit per day was worked out.

Employment generation

This variable was measured by utilizing the slightly modified procedures adopted by Kantharaju (1986) and Dixit (1992). The differential employment generated was calculated in man days (one man day = eight hours of work) per year by taking into consideration the employment status of the family before and after being selected for programme assistance. Woman days were converted into man days by equating the wages using the following formula.

$$\text{1 man day} = \frac{\text{Men wages / day}}{\text{Women wages / day}} \times \text{Woman days}$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Changes in social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation due to participation

Antyodaya

When the above mentioned four dependent variables were compared before and after participation in the Antyodaya programme a significant improvement was revealed (Table 1). This was mainly attributed to the nature of assistance provided through timely loan, subsidy and willing participation of the beneficiaries.

Integrated Rural Development Programme

The present study noted significant improvements in the levels of social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation among the beneficiaries due to participation in the IRD programme (Table 1). Adoption of recommendations given by extension personnel and better marketing facilities available were the main reasons that have led to the achievement of significant changes. The results on annual income and employment generation were in agreement with the findings of Dixit (1992).

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

The data subjected for paired 't' test on the means before and after participation in JRY programme showed significant improvement in all the four dependent variables (Table 1) due to participate in JRY. The situational factors including the participants active and good community leadership have played an important role in improving the status of beneficiaries.

Table 1. Changes in social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation due to participation in poverty alleviation programmes.

Variables development	Social income (Score)	Annual intake (Rs.)	Calorie generation (kCal)	Employment (Man days)
Programmes		Means		
Antyodaya (n = 40)				
Before (1990)	44.02	8886.37	2285.87	536.27
After (1994)	62.70	9620.12	2348.45	581.75
Difference	18.68	733.75	62.58	45.50
't' value	15.01**	4.34**	3.96**	4.69**
IRDP (n = 40)				
Before (1992)	39.62	9021.75	2327.27	584.25
After (1994)	66.69	10890.87	2467.62	669.25
Difference	27.07	1869.12	140.35	85.00
't' value	13.11**	6.24**	6.65**	7.37**
JRY (n = 40)				
Before (1992)	38.47	9531.37	2293.22	595.75
After (1994)	65.85	10247.62	2329.55	622.00
Difference	27.38	716.25	36.33	26.25
't' value	13.52**	5.14**	2.98**	4.87**
LLP (n = 40)				
Before (1991)	44.85	10212.13	2219.67	550.75
After (1994)	75.62	12119.00	2360.32	609.75
Difference	30.77	1906.87	140.65	59.00
't' value	14.68**	6.06**	6.52	6.49**
TRYSEM (n = 40)				
Before (1992)	60.97	13382.50	2443.10	611.25
After (1994)	84.30	15502.50	2617.72	745.00
Difference	23.33	2120.00	174.62	133.75
't' value	15.34**	6.50**	5.40**	7.46**

** P<0.01

Lab-to-Land Programme

The differences in the mean scores between before (1991) and after (1994) participation in LLP on social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation turned out to be 31, Rs.1907, 141 kCal and 59 Man days, respectively and were significant as supported by paired 't' test values (Table 1). The positive trend was due to adoption of recommended package of practices, proper utilization of incentives, timely supply of inputs, trustworthiness of extension workers and regular follow-up work. Similar findings have been recorded by Kantharaju (1986) on income and employment generation.

Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM)

The levels of social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation of TRYSEM beneficiaries have improved as a result of participation in the programme (Table 1). The contents of the programme enhancing skills of the respondents, creative interest and enthusiasm have contributed to the success of the programme.

The results suggest that all five programmes were successful in making significant improvements in social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation among the beneficiaries.

Variations in social development, calorie intake and employment generation among the beneficiaries of Antyodaya, IRDP, JRY, LLP and TRYSEM

Social development

There was significant variation in social development status among beneficiaries of the five programmes before and after participation (Table 2). TRYSEM beneficiaries had better social development over others before the programme, while TRYSEM and LLP beneficiaries were distinct from Antyodaya, IRDP and JRY after participation in the programmes.

Annual income

The TRYSEM beneficiaries were significantly different from Antyodaya, IRDP, JRY and LLP beneficiaries in their annual income levels before participation in these programmes (Table 2). Similarly, variations in

Table 2. Results of Analysis of Variance for social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation before and after participation in poverty alleviation programmes.

Programme	n	Social development ¹ (Score)		Annual income ¹ (Rs.)		Calorie in-take (kCal)		Employment generation (Man days)	
		Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Antyodaya	40	6.66 ^b (44.02)	7.92 ^a (62.70)	92.29 ^a (8886.37)	96.16 ^a (9620.12)	47.75 ^{ab} (2285.87)	48.38 ^a (2348.45)	22.49 ^a (536.27)	23.37 ^a (581.75)
IRDP	40	6.31 ^{ab} (39.62)	8.16 ^a (66.69)	94.02 ^a (9021.75)	103.26 ^a (10890.87)	48.21 ^{ab} (2327.27)	49.65 ^{ab} (2467.62)	23.66 ^a (584.27)	25.56 ^{a,b} (669.25)
JRY	40	6.22 ^a (38.47)	8.10 ^a (65.85)	96.51 ^a (9531.37)	99.81 ^a (10247.62)	47.81 ^{ab} (2293.22)	48.81 ^a (2329.55)	24.12 ^a (595.75)	24.63 ^{ab} (622.00)
LLP	40	6.70 ^b (44.85)	8.69 ^b (75.62)	97.26 ^a (10212.13)	103.73 ^a (12119.00)	47.00 ^a (2219.67)	48.47 ^a (2360.32)	23.07 ^a (550.75)	24.27 ^{ab} (609.75)
TRYSEM	40	7.77 (60.97)	9.16 (84.30)	111.16 (13382.50)	120.91 (15502.50)	49.50 ^b (2443.10)	51.04 ^b (2617.72)	24.29 ^a (611.25)	26.87 ^b (745.00)
SD		0.42	0.48	13.82	13.30	1.75	1.62	2.95	
F value		31.39 ^{**}	16.02 ^{**}	4.28 ^{**}	7.49 ^{**}	4.04 ^{**}	8.04 ^{**}	1.06 ^{NS}	2.97 ^{**}

Data were analysed by square root transformation. Means with same superscript are not significantly different. NS = Non-significant. ** = P<0.01
Figures in the parentheses represent the original mean values.

¹ Comparisons were made between programmes for each variable.

levels of annual income among beneficiaries of Antyodaya, IRDP, JRY, LLP and TRYSEM after participation in these programmes differed significantly. Here again, TRYSEM beneficiaries had higher income level compared with the remaining four groups. The results suggest that there was variation in the annual income of the beneficiaries of Antyodaya, IRDP, JRY, LLP and TRYSEM before/after participation.

Calorie intake

There was an overall significant variation in calorie intake among beneficiaries of Antyodaya, IRDP, JRY, LLP and TRYSEM before and after participation in these programmes (Table 2). Lab to Land Programme beneficiaries were lower in their calorie intake before participation in the programme compared to TRYSEM beneficiaries. After participation in the programmes IRDP beneficiaries achieved greater improvement while TRYSEM beneficiaries were better than all the remaining three groups of beneficiaries.

Employment generation

There was no significant variation in employment generation among beneficiaries before participation in these five programmes. After participation in the programmes, TRYSEM beneficiaries have achieved higher employment potential compared to Antyodaya beneficiaries (Table 2). This suggested that there was variation in the employment generation among beneficiaries of Antyodaya, IRDP, JRY, LLP and TRYSEM after participation in these programmes.

IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All the five selected programmes for the study viz., Antyodaya, IRDP, JRY, LLP and TRYSEM have resulted in creating a significant positive impact in changing the social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation of the beneficiaries. Hence, it is recommended to continue all the programmes with higher outlay to benefit more number of rural poor. Significant variations were observed in social development, annual income, calorie intake and employment generation among beneficiaries of different programmes before/ after the programme. Efforts to employ positive aspects of such programmes should be given major consideration.

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