Acknowledgement

The failure of earlier rural development strategies or their inability to percolate to the poor and the exacerbation of development differentials have drawn increasing attention to the subject of community participation in rural development, whereupon, community participation has emerged as a distinct priority area of policy, research and practice in rural development. The crucial questions relating to community participation are: who are the participants in development programs? why do they participate? and what are the factors that affects their participation? And how do we conceptualize these questions or terms?

As a development professional and being involved in developmental projects at different levels as one facilitating the developmental process, the concept of community participation in rural development has naturally made me go into an in-depth understanding of the subject. Accordingly, when I expressed my desire to undertake further research, my guide Dr. (Smt.) Y J Shobhadevi encouraged me to go ahead with the proposed topic. Thus, the initial interest got transformed into a research reality as I exposed myself to the field as a facilitator in the development field and also the willingness of my guide to help me in my research work.

This study intended to analyze the structure and process of participation of community in rural development with a special reference to rural water supply, sanitation and health promotional programs. More specifically, this study explores the nature and extent of awareness and involvement among community as far as the development programs are concerned. Many persons and organizations have helped me in conducting this study. I gratefully acknowledge their co-operation and contribution.
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Dharwad

(Shivappa R)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table No.</th>
<th>List of Tables</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Explaining the HDI ranking of all districts in Karnataka.</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>HDI Ranking Of Top 5 And Bottom 5 Districts Of Karnataka At The Global Level</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Distribution of Respondents</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1</td>
<td>Distribution of Respondents by Religion</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.2</td>
<td>Family Type and Caste Categories of respondents</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1</td>
<td>Ownership of House and Caste Groups of respondents</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.2</td>
<td>Housing Type and Caste category of respondents</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.1</td>
<td>Gender of Respondents</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.2</td>
<td>Distribution of Respondents by Age</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.1</td>
<td>Respondents by Educational Level and Caste Groups</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.2</td>
<td>Distribution of Respondent - III by Educational Level</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5.1</td>
<td>Respondents by Occupation and Caste Groups</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5.2</td>
<td>Land holding and Caste category of the respondents</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6.1</td>
<td>Distribution of Respondents by Income Group and Caste Groups</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7.1</td>
<td>Caste wise Distribution Of People Representative by Reasons of Being Elected:</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7.2</td>
<td>Caste wise Distribution Of People Representative by Relationship with People</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7.3</td>
<td>Caste wise Distribution Of People Representative by Frequency of Meeting people</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7.4</td>
<td>Caste wise Distribution Of People Representatives by Satisfaction level for Being Representing People</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.1</td>
<td>Awareness about the Availability of the Facilities in the Village And</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Utilization of Facilities by Respondent-I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2</td>
<td>Availability of facilities in the study villages</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3</td>
<td>Percentage of Beneficiaries aware about the Availability Of Government Programmes</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.4</td>
<td>Beneficiaries Experiences With Govt. Programs</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5</td>
<td>Benefits Received From Government</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.6</td>
<td>Types of Benefits Received From Government - DK</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.7</td>
<td>Types of Benefits Received from Government - RAICHUR</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.8</td>
<td>Perception About Difficulties Of Govt. In Implementing government Programs</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1</td>
<td>Utilization of Grama Sabha proceedings in the Planning of Current Water Supply Systems</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2</td>
<td>Beneficiaries by No. Of Meetings Conducted for the Planning of Existing Water Supply System</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.3</td>
<td>Planning of Existing Water Supply System</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.1</td>
<td>Beneficiaries having Household Latrines</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3.2 Beneficiaries using HHLs 128
5.3.3 Beneficiaries having HHLs by Construction Agency 129
5.3.4 Beneficiaries having HHLs by Type of Latrines 130
5.3.5 Beneficiaries by Type of Sharing of the Cost of Construction of HHL 130
5.3.6 Beneficiaries by Need of HHL 131
5.3.7 Beneficiaries by Type of Liquid waste Disposal Facility 132
5.3.8 Beneficiaries by Opinions about stagnant water points 133
5.3.9 Beneficiaries by Type of Solid waste Disposal Facility 134
5.3.10 Beneficiaries having drainage facility in the house 135
5.4.1 Beneficiaries by Incidence of Disease 137
5.4.2 Beneficiaries by Preference of Doctors 137
5.4.3 Beneficiaries by Distance Traveled To PHU / PHC 138
5.4.4 Beneficiaries by Perception On The Health Services Rendered 139
5.4.5 Beneficiaries by Knowledge About Immunization 139
5.4.6 Beneficiaries by Administration Of Immunization 140
5.5.1 Awareness about The Conduct of Grama Sabha 141
5.5.2 Perceptions of Beneficiaries on quality of Grama Sabha 142
5.5.3 Perception of Beneficiaries on assessment of Grama Sabha 143
5.5.4 People Representative by Perception On Functionality Of Grama Sabha 143
5.5.5 People Representative by Perception on impact of Decisions Of The Grama Sabha On Programs 144
5.5.6 People Representative by Perception About The Conduct Of The Grama Sabha 145
5.5.7 People Representative by Attendance In The Grama Sabha 145
5.5.8 PRs Perception on Attendance of Women In The Grama Sabha 146
5.5.9 PRs by Problems In The Conduct Of Gram Sabha 147
5.5.10 PRs by Suggestions To Overcome The Problems In Gram Sabha 148
5.6.1 Beneficiaries Participation in the Govt. Programs and Grama Sabha 151
5.6.2 Beneficiaries on the subjects Discussed In the Grama Sabha 152
5.6.3 Beneficiaries by Levels Of Participation in Developmental Activities 153
5.7.1 Significance on Awareness about availability of different organizations in the village. 154
5.7.2 Caste wise Mode of Awareness of Government Programs 155
5.7.3 Caste wise Awareness About Conducting of Gram Sabha 155
5.7.4 Caste wise Participation in Grama Sabha 155
5.7.5 Caste wise Type of Participation in Developmental Activities 156
5.8.1 Education wise Awareness of Government Programs 158
5.8.2 Education wise type of Participation in Developmental Activities 158
5.8.3 Education wise Perception about O & M Concept 159
5.8.4 Education wise Awareness about Maintenance of Current Water Supply Scheme 159
5.9.1 Beneficiaries by Awareness about the Overall Cost of Current Water 159
5.9.2 Beneficiaries on Initiatives in the Current Water Supply Systems 160
5.9.3 Beneficiaries On Consultation & Decision During Planning Of The Current Water Supply 161
5.9.4 Inputs provided for Planning of the Current Water Supply 162
5.9.5 Caste wise Participation of PRs during Implementation Of Water Supply Schemes 163
5.9.6 Caste wise Perception about Planning of Current Water Supply Scheme 164
5.9.7 Caste wise Consultation during Planning of Current Water Supply Scheme 164
5.9.8 Caste wise Use of Drinking Water Sources 165
5.9.9 Caste wise Preference of Drinking Water Sources 165
5.9.10 Caste wise Purification of Drinking Water at Household Level 166
5.9.11 Utilization of Inputs in Planning of the Current Water Supply 167
5.9.12 Awareness about the Current O & M Responsibility of Water Supply Systems 168
5.9.13 Awareness about the Original O & M Responsibility of Water Supply Systems 169
5.9.14 Awareness on Understanding of O & M for Water Supply Systems 170
5.9.15 Awareness about the O & M Cost of Water Supply Systems 170
5.9.16 Awareness about the Current O & M Cost Payment of Current Water Supply Systems 171
5.9.17 Beneficiaries by Water Tariff Payment 172
5.9.18 Beneficiaries by Frequency of Tariff Payment 173
5.9.19 Beneficiaries by Mode of Contribution 174
5.9.20 Beneficiaries by Reasons For Non Payment 175
5.10.1 PRs by Perception about Community Participation 176
5.10.2 PRs by Decisions Taken On Development Programs 177
5.10.3 PRs by Problems In The Involvement Of Community In Development Programs 178
5.10.4 PRs by Overcoming the Problems of Involvement of Community in Development Programs 179
5.11.1 Reasons for preference of GO and NGO 180
5.11.2 Perception of PRs On NGO's Involvement in Rural Development Program 181
5.11.3 Perception of GOs & NGOs on Peoples Role In Rural Development Program 182
5.11.4 Perception of GOs & NGOs on the Role in Implementing the Rural Development Program 183
5.11.5 GOs & NGOs by Type of Decisions Made about the Rural development Program 184
5.11.6 Govt. & NGO Respondents by Nature of Work 185
5.11.7 Govt. & NGO Respondents by Type of Communication With People 186
Govt. & NGO of Respondents by Reasons for Involving

5.11.8 People Caste wise Perception about their experiences with Government 189

5.11.9 Government Education wise Perception about experiences with Government 190

5.11.10 Education wise Preferences of GO and NGO 191

5.11.11 Education wise Reasons for Preferences of GO and NGO 191