Chapter VII

THE IMPACT OF WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON SCHEDULED CASTE BENEFICIARIES, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS
Watershed Development Programme and path breaking rural development programme. In which there are many studies on the Impact of Watershed Development Programme, the Literature is scant with regard to the specific studies on Scheduled Caste beneficiaries. Hence the present study comes out in the contest of Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, which is a chronically drought prone and backward district.

Objectives

The following are the specific objectives of the present study:

1. To provide an understanding of the concept of watershed development and its need.
2. To examine the progress of watershed development in Anantapur district.
3. To analyze the Socio-Economic status of the watershed development programme beneficiaries.
4. To analyze the socio-economic impact on the beneficiaries.

Hypotheses

1. People's participation in watershed development programme is not up to the mark as envisaged in the guidelines.
2. The impact of watershed development on natural resources, agriculture and people is neutral.
Method of Study

The following methodology is adopted for the present study.

The Universe: The watershed development programmes implemented in the District of Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh and their beneficiaries, constitute the universe of the present study.

Study Sample and sampling process for the purpose of the present study the impact of Watershed Development is assessed at the village level. Hence, the beneficiaries of watershed development at village level are considered for the study. The criteria for the selection of the watershed are the size of the ayacut under watershed and the numbers of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries.

Similarly, for the selection of the study village, the following criterion is adopted.

- Number of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries; Distance from the Mandal/district head quarters.
- Status of the watershed development programme implemented and locale of the watershed development programme.

Based on the above, Muthuvakuntla a village of Kanaganapalli mandal, is selected. The name of watershed development programme Muthuvakuntla watershed,

Tools and Data collection: The present study relies both on secondary and primary data.
For collecting primary data an interview scheduled has been administered. In addition, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) was held to supplement data.

**Tools of Analysis:** The percentages, averages and growth rates are calculated to assess the progress of watershed development programme in all respects.

**MAJOR FINDINGS:**

All the respondents under reference belong to Scheduled Castes. It is found that 59 per cent of the respondents belong to the Madiga (SC-B) community whereas 41 per cent of the respondents belong to the Mala community.

86.7 per cent of the respondents belong to the Hindu Religion whereas only 13.3 per cent of the respondents belong to the Christianity.

The average age of the respondents was found to be 42.22 years. The average age of the Madiga respondents was found to be 39.53 years and that of Mala members was found to be 46.09 years.

Majority of the families (74.7 per cent) were found to be nuclear families. However, it was observed that Malas have more number of joint families.

The average size of the family was found to be 4.9 members. However, it was observed that Madigas have small sized families' comprising 4.6 members; and the Malas have bigger size with an average of 5.2 members.
It was found that majority of the respondents (60.2 percent) were illiterate. Only 8.4 percent were educated above high school level.

A large majority of the respondents (59.00 per cent) were found to be farm laborers; followed by farmers (31.3 percent).

The average income per annum was found to be Rs.12734.9.

It was found that observe the annual income of the head of the families in both communities in two levels; one is below Rs 1800/- and the other is between 18000 and 36000. Most of the family heads in Madiga community nearly 40, were found with less than Rs 18000/- income. Where as only 32 families were found in Mala community.

It was found that about 98.79 percentage of the respondents belong to the below poverty line. In that 13.25 per cent of the respondents belong to the Poorest of the Poor category. These respondents have the Annapurna Anna Yojana Cards, which are distributed by the Central Government.

It is found that the majority of the respondents (59 per cent) possessed the ration cards in the Madiga community where as only 41% possessed the ration cards in the Mala community.

It was found 15.7 per cent of the respondents were land less.

It was found the respondent were marginal farmers. Among the land owners the it was found that the average land holding was 3.80 acres.

It was observed that Mala members hold relatively longer holding (4.10 acres an average) than the Madiga members (3.59 acres an average).
It was observed three types of land such as irrigated, un-irrigated and fallow land were owned by the respondents.

The average area of irrigated land was found to be 0.97 acres. However, it was observed that Madiga members possessed on an average 1.17 acres of irrigated land and Mala members possessed only 0.66 acres of irrigated land.

It was found that the average area of un-irrigated land was 2.45 acres. However, it observed the Mala community members controlled on an average 3.00 acres of un-irrigated land were has the Madiga members controlled only 1.89 acres of un-irrigated land.

The study reveals that the land value of the beneficiaries underwent rapid changes due to the Watershed Development Programme.

It was found that the value of irrigated land has been increased by Rs 1339.14 per acres.

The land value of un-irrigated land however, was found to increase sharply due to Watershed Development Programme. Activities such as land leveling contour bounding etc. The increase in land value per acres was found to be Rs 5,520.42; and this higher in the case of land owned by Mala members which was found to be Rs 6023.28.

The average increase in the land area under cultivation in the case of irrigated land was found to be 16 cents among Madiga community and 21 Cents among Mala community. Similarly, the increase in land area under cultivation in the case of un-irrigated land was found to be 29 cents among
Madiga community and 41 Cents among Mala community due to Watershed Development Programme.

Before Watershed Development Programme majority of the farmers that is 64 out of 83 were raising groundnut crop in one season. In other season 54 farmers were raising sunflower, however it is observed that raising of two crops in year is not practiced regularly. It was also found that 44 farmers were also raising red gram as an inter crop. It was found that 32 farmers were raising paddy before Watershed Development Programme.

It was found that 16 respondents were involved in the sowing and plantation programmes in and around their fields.

In the area of whether Most of the beneficiaries, 73 out of 83, felt that, Watershed Development Programmes were highly useful for them. Out of 73, 41 from Madiga, 32 from Mala community.

75 respondents agreed that the Watershed Development Programme was really a great boon for the entire village. Out of 75, 44 from Madiga and 31 Mala community.

It was found that the gross product in the case of sunflower, groundnut, redgram and paddy has increase on an average by 132.6 kgs, 152.40 kgs, 23.85 kgs ad 531.85 Kgs respectively after Watershed Development Programme. It was found that in the case of Madiga community, the gross product increase was found to be 505.5 kgs an on average; an in the case Mala community. It
was found to be 558.2 kgs increase an on averages, this large variation is due to the choice of seed selection and nature of the land under cultivation.

It was found that the gross product income in the case of sunflower has increased on an average by 4676.45 rupees after Watershed Development Programme.

It was found that the gross product income in the case of groundnut and paddy has increase on an average by 6094.25 and 6368.90 rupees after Watershed Development Programme.

The possession of livestock including Milch Animals and Draught Animals before and after Watershed Development Programme revealed interesting trends. Our study revealed that these neo-farmers under reference have given up rearing cows after Watershed Development Programme. It is because now these farmers don’t have enough time to rear cows has. Now they are busy with agricultural activities. On the other hand these farmers now prefer to rear buffalos as it is relatively easier and simple, as these animals are tougher than cows and need less attention and the Milk yield is also more.

Our examination of number of workers by Gender and Caste revealed that the Watershed Development Programme as helped in creating opportunity for work and thus an increase in the number of workers after the implementation of Watershed Development Programme. It was found that of the 49 families of Madiga community 3 Male members and 2 Female members have gained employment additionally after Watershed Development
Programme. Similarly, of the 34 Mala community families 4 Male members and 3 female members have gained employment additionally.

It was found that the Watershed Development Programme has enabled the beneficiaries to improve their wage income. It was also found that the Watershed Development Programme enabled the women to give up wage work outside their farms. Our analysis revealed that before Watershed Development Programme, there were 7 Male members and 3 female members were without any wage income. After Watershed Development Programme this number declined. Now it was found that there was only 2 Male members and 1 female member without wage income. It was observed that there were 30 male members earning between rupees 3000-6000. It was found that after implementation of Watershed Development Programme this numbers has increased to 38 male members. In other words 8 members have improved their income. Similarly there were 34 members earning more than Rs 6000 before Watershed Development Programme. This number has swelled to 38 members after Watershed Development Programme.
Conclusions

Our first conclusion is that the Scheduled Caste farmers are mostly neo-farmers and their land holding are marginal. These marginal holdings are without any land development inputs and irrigation facilities. This marginal farmers being very poor cannot invest on land for its development for better productivity. The finding of our study about the socio-economic conditions, land protection, land value and gross product value lend support for this conclusion.

Our second conclusion is that the Watershed Development Programme made a position impact on the Scheduled Caste beneficiaries our findings suggest that the impact was noticeable on such parameters as increase in the gross product of the crops, gross product value and increased land value for the notice positive changes in wage work and wage income due to watershed development programme.

Our third conclusion is that the programmes like Watershed Development Programme besides the achievement of major objectives, could facilitate the process of social inclusion in the agrarian pursuits with regard to the marginal and neo-farmers of Scheduled Caste the land development inputs and the resultant increase in the land value, gross product, wage work would not have been possible but for the Watershed Development Programme.

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