CHAPTER - V

Profile of the Respondents
Profile of the Respondents

Introduction

The following Chapters, viz., Chapter V and Chapter VI, broadly portray the general profile of the respondents and the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in economic development through selected rural development programmes in Tamilnadu and the researcher compares two different districts, namely Kancheepuram and Virudhunagar. This study is based on primary data. It includes two kinds of respondents i.e., beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents. The data are summarised into one-way, two-way and multi-way Tables and it is analysed through two-way cross tabulation and chi-square analysis.

First study highlights the differences in socio-economic status of the beneficiary respondents, awareness of Panchayati Raj Institutions and rural development programmes in these districts. Besides these, the programmes that are available in both the districts, details about the loan for self employment programmes and availability of the loan information, purpose for while loans, period needed to sanction the loan, percentage of the subsidy for the loan, details of difficulties faced by the applicants for these loans, role of middlemen and facilities available for self employment training are also discussed in this chapter. Evaluation after obtaining the loan, information regarding utilization and repayment of loan and private sources of loan are also demonstrated in detail in this chapter. Further, an attempt is made to find out whether or not there is improvement in standard of living of respondents in Kancheepuram and Virudhunagar districts are also taken into consideration.

Second study is based on non-beneficiary respondents in Kancheepuram and Virudhunagar districts and it emphasises the differences in socio-economic status of the non-beneficiary respondents, awareness of Panchayati Raj Institutions and rural
development programmes in Kancheepuram and Virudhunagar district. It also includes the reasons for not availing the wage employment programmes and self-employment programmes, information about the problems faced by non-beneficiary respondents, role of middlemen to avail the self-employment and private sources of loan are also taken in this part. The following sections briefly explain the statistical analyses carried out on the data collected from the respondents in the two districts.

Beneficiaries of Welfare Schemes

Sex Distribution of Beneficiaries

Sex distribution of respondents of the two districts is given in Table 1. It is also verified whether the sex distribution is the same in the two districts. The standard chi-square test is used to analyse the hypothesis that sex distribution is uniform in the two districts. It is evident from the analysis that the $\chi^2$ statistic does not indicate any significance for rejection of the hypothesis. Hence it is, concluded that the sex distribution is uniform in the two districts taken up for the present study.

Age Distribution

The age distribution of respondents of the two districts is given in Table 2. It is hypothesised that the age distribution is uniform in the two districts. The hypothesis has been tested using Chi-square analysis. The chi-square test indicates that there is no reason to reject the hypothesis and hence it is concluded that the age distribution is uniform in the two districts. More than 75 per cent of the respondents in two districts are in the age group of 26-50 years.
Educational Status

In Table 3, education status of respondents is presented. It is of interest to know whether the level of education is uniform in the two districts or not. It is hypothesised that the educational status of the respondents is the same in the two districts and it is tested using the Chi-square analysis.

The chi-square statistic indicates that there is no reason to reject the hypothesis. It is evident from this analysis that the educational status of respondents in the two districts is same. A close examination of the Table indicates that nearly 28 per cent of respondents in the two districts are illiterates, and about 62 per cent of respondents in each district have studied up to SSLC. Only eight per cent to eleven per cent of respondents in the two districts have studied beyond SSLC.

Occupational Status of Respondents

In Table 4, details with regard to occupation of the respondents in the two districts are given. It is assumed that the occupation of respondents is the same in the two districts and this assumption has been tested using an appropriate statistical test.

It is found from the analysis that there is significant difference between the computed value of Chi-square and the Table value and the hypothesis has been rejected. It is evident that there is no uniformity in the occupation of respondents in the two districts. Information about the number of respondents in different categories of occupations in the two districts indicate that nearly 52 per cent of the respondents in Virudhunagar district are either farmers or landless labourers, while only 25 per cent of the respondents of Kancheepuram district are landless labourers.
Marital Status

Marital status of respondents is given in Table 5. It is found from the analysis that the marital status of respondents is the same in the two districts. Nearly 96 per cent of respondents in each of the two districts are married and only three to four per cent of the respondents in the two districts are unmarried.

Community of the Respondents

In Table 6, details of community of the respondents are given. The figures in the Table and the analysis indicate that there is uniformity in the community of respondents in the two districts. Nearly 33 to 39 per cent of the respondents in the two districts belong to the Backward Community (BC) category, and about 43 to 49 per cent fall in the Scheduled caste or Scheduled Tribe category.

Religion of the respondents

The respondents and their religious are given in Table 7. The hypothesis that there is uniformity in the ratio of respondents belonging to different religions in the two districts is tested using Chi-square test.

Chi-square test statistic indicates that there is no reason to reject the hypothesis and it is concluded that there is uniformity in the following of different religions in both districts. About 88 to 91 per cent of respondents in each of the two districts are Hindus, about two per cent of respondents in each, district are Muslims and about six to ten per cent of respondents in the two districts are the followers of Christianity.
Poverty Line

The number of persons falling below the poverty line or above the poverty line is given in Table 8. It is considered to be a major criterion for sanction of self-employment loans. How this is being effectively carried out could be seen from the Table. It is also assumed that the ratio of persons below or above poverty line is the same in the two districts and this hypothesis has also been tested.

The chi-square test statistic indicates that there is no reason to reject the hypothesis. It is inferred that the ratio of respondents falling below and above the Poverty Line is the same in the two districts. Almost 41 to 47 per cent of the respondents are below the below poverty line and about 53 to 59 per cent of the respondents are above the poverty line.

Income of Beneficiary Respondents

Details of income of beneficiaries are given in Table 9. The Chi-Square analysis clearly indicates that there is uniformity in the income of respondents belonging to the two districts. About seven to eleven to per cent of respondents do not have any income, while about 38 to 46 per cent of respondents in each of the two districts earn an income of less than Rs. 9000 per annum. About one fourth of the respondents earn income in the range of Rs. 9000 to Rs. 12000 per annum. About one fifth in each of the two districts earn between Rs. 12000 to Rs. 24000 per annum.

Habit of News Paper Reading

How many respondents read news papers? What is the language of news paper they read? Details regarding the newspaper reading habit are given in Table
10. Do the habits remain the same among respondents in the two districts? This again has been tested using Chi-square test.

It is evident from the analysis that the habit of newspaper reading among respondents of the two districts is same. Nearly 56 to 59 per cent of respondents in each of the two districts read only Tamil newspaper. Little more than 40 per cent (41 per cent) of respondents in both the districts do not read any newspaper at all. In the study area, very significant number of respondents read both Tamil and English newspaper.

Type of family

The beneficiaries and their type of family are given in Table 11. It is tested whether or the type of family is the same in the two district. The standard Chi-square test statistic use test the hypothesis that the type of family is uniform in both the district.

The \( \chi^2 \) statistic shows that there is no reason to reject the assumption and hence it has been inferred that the type of family is the same in the two districts. Nearly 37 to 40 per cent of beneficiaries are living in joint family system and more than 60 per cent of the beneficiaries belong to nuclear family system.

Total Family Members

In Table 12, information regarding the size of the family in the two districts is given. Whether the beneficiaries' family size is uniform, or not in the two districts is tested using \( \chi^2 \) statistic. It is assumed that size of the family is the same in the two districts.
The $\chi^2$ analysis indicates that there is no reason to reject the assumption. A close examination of the Table shows that two-fifth of the respondents have four dependants. About 27 per cent of respondents in each district have five dependants per family. Only about six per cent of respondents have more than seven dependants.

**Total Family Income**

The total family income in the two districts is presented in Table 13. It is also examined whether the gross family earnings is uniform or not in the two districts. The Chi-square statistic is used to analyse the assumption that total family income is the same in both the districts.

The standard Chi-square statistic exhibits the rejection of our assumption. It is evident from this analysis that about 38 per cent of the families of beneficiaries in Kancheepuram earn Rs. 12001-24000 per annum whereas nearly 15 per cent of them families in Virudhunagar are earning from Rs. 24001-36000 per annum.

**Type of Houses**

Are the types of house in the two districts the same? Beneficiaries and their type of house are presented in Table 14. The Chi-square analysis has been used to examine the assumption that types of houses in the two districts are the same.

The Pearson Chi-square statistic does not support the present hypothesis. Details about various types of houses in the areas of study point out that 42 per cent of the recipients in Virudhunagar district are living in single or multi-story house buy in Kancheepuram district. two-fifth of respondents are living in title houses.
Beneficiaries' Household Facilities

Availability of household facilities in the two districts is shown in the above Table 15. More than 80 per cent of the houses in these districts have the electricity facility. Out of 350 respondents, 269 respondents said that they are using firewood for cooking purpose i.e., 120 and 149 respondents in Kancheepuram and Virudhunagar district respectively. Less than 20 per cent of respondents in the two districts have colour T.V. and Motorised two-wheelers and these families use Kerosene stove.

Land Possession

The land ownership of the respondents is given in Table 16. It can be inferred from the analysis that the land possession of the respondents is not uniform in the study area. About 25 per cent and more than 50 per cent of the respondents in Kancheepuram and Virudhunagar districts respectively are owning cultivable lands.

Type of Land Possession

Details about various categories of land possession in the two districts are show in Table 17. Out of 135 respondents, who have land ownership in this study area, almost all the respondents (who cultivate land) in Virudhunagar district (90 persons) have own land while only 37 persons in Kancheepuram district own the land.
Area of Cultivable land

Particulars about the area of farmland are provided in Table 18. It is also examined whether the area of the cultivable land is uniform in the two districts or not. The Pearson Chi-square analysis is used to verify that area of the cultivable land is uniform in these districts.

The Chi-square analysis indicates the rejection of the hypothesis and hence it is concluded that the distribution of area of cultivable land is not the same in the two districts. About half of respondents in Virudhunagar have one-two acres of land whereas one-tenth of beneficiaries are owning more than three acres of land in the district of Kancheepuram.

Number of Times Crops Cultivated in a Year

Details regarding number of times, the land are cultivated per year are given in Table 19. There are 36 and 74 respondents in Kancheepuram district and Virudhunagar district respectively cultivate their land utmost twice a year. In Virudhunagar district, nearly 16 per cent of respondents are not all cultivating their land.

Non Beneficiaries

Sex Distribution of Non-beneficiaries

Sex of the respondents is given in Table 81. It is inferred from the analysis that sex of the respondents is uniform in the two districts. About 76 per cent of respondents are male in Kancheepuram district whereas in Virudhunagar district, and nearly 70 per cent of respondents are of the same category.
Age Distribution

In Table 82, age distribution of respondents of the two districts is presented. In both the districts, a majority of non-beneficiaries belong to the same age group. Seventy eight per cent from Kancheepuram district, and 54 per cent from Virudhunagar district belong to the age group of 26-50 years.

Educational Status

Educational Status of the non-beneficiary respondents is presented in Table 83. It shows the existence of similar Educational Status of the non-beneficiary respondents in both the districts. About 24 per cent to 32 per cent of respondents in each of the two districts are educated up to primary level (5th Standard). In both the study areas 19 per cent of respondents have studied upto the secondary level (6th – 10th Standard).

Occupation Status

The employment pattern of respondents in the two districts is depicted in Table 84. A close examination of this primary data shows that almost 25 per cent of respondents in the two districts are in farming and its allied activities. Little less than one-fifth (18) to one-fourth (24) of respondents is engaged in other types of occupation.

Marital Status

The marital status of respondents is presented in the Table 85. It is assumed that the marital status of respondents is the same in both the districts and it has been verified using an appropriate statistic. Pearson Chi-square analysis exhibits that this assumption is accepted and hence it is confirmed that the marital status of the respondents is similar in the two districts.
Community

The community of respondents is shown in Table 86. Majority of non-beneficiary respondents (62 to 86 per cent) belong to BC or MBC class in both the districts. About 14 to 36 per cent of respondents come under SC/ST group in these districts.

Religion

Religion of non-beneficiary respondents is specified in Table 87. In the two districts, most of the respondents belong to Hindu religion. Respondents belonging to Christianity and Islam are negligible.

Below Poverty Line (BPL)

The number of respondent in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and the and above poverty line (APL) list in the two districts is given Table 88. It is hypothesised that the distribution of the respondents living BPL or APL categories are the same in the two districts. It has been verified using the Pearson Chi-square analysis. Chi-square statistic proves that the assumption is right. Nearly 74 per cent and 62 per cent of respondents in Virudhunagar district and Kancheepuram district respectively are living above poverty line, while about 26 to 38 per cent of respondents live below the poverty line in these districts.

Annual Income of the Respondents

In Table 89, information about annual income of respondents is given. Majority of non-beneficiary respondents (60 per cent) is earning around Rs.9001-Rs.24000 in Kancheepuram district while comparatively less respondents in Virudhunagar district (44 per cent) earn the same level of income. There are 10 per
cent of the respondents in Kancheepuram district and 26 per cent in Virudhunagar district earn more than Rs. 24000 per year.

Habit of Newspaper Reading

The respondents and their habit of newspaper reading in the study area are given in Table 90. Seventy-five per cent of respondents are reading only Tamil newspaper in each of two districts. However, about four per cent of them read both Tamil and English newspapers.

Type of Family

It is of interest to know whether the percentage of non-beneficiary respondents' type of family is uniform in the two districts. In the Table 91, the type of family of respondents is presented. The standard $\chi^2$ analysis is used to verify the assumption that ratio of respondents' type of family (Nucleus or Joint) is uniform in both the districts studied. It is clear from Chi-square statistic test that the hypothesis holds well and the type of family is uniform in the two districts. It is inferred from this test that almost 60 per cent of respondents come under nuclear family system in the study locale.

Family Size

The family size of the non-beneficiary respondents in both the districts is shown in Table 92. About one-third of respondents in Kancheepuram district and one-fourth of respondents in Virudhunagar have 4 to 6 members in their family. The data shows that 23 out of 100 respondents in both the districts have more than six dependants.
Annual Household Income

The annual household income of the non-beneficiary respondents is given in Table 93. Majority of respondents (62 per cent) in Kancheepuram district fall under the family income category of Rs. 12001-36000 while comparatively less respondents in Virudhunagar (46 per cent) belong to the same category. Only 21 respondents’ family income (9 persons and 12 persons in Kancheepuram and Virudhunagar district respectively) fall under the category of more than Rs. 48000 per annum.

Type of House

Information on type of houses wherein the respondents live in both the districts is presented in Table 94. In Kancheepuram district 34 per cent of the respondents and 24 per cent of the respondents Virudhunagar district. It is also observed that majority of the respondents (56 per cent) in Virudhunagar district and little more than 25 per cent (26 per cent) to 50 per cent own either single story or multi-storied house in their places.

Household Facilities

In Table 95, availability of household facilities in the districts is shown. Data shows that 29 out of 50 respondents in Virudhunagar district and 20 out of 50 respondents in Kancheepuram district own bi-cycles. About 46 to 58 per cent of respondents are using firewood for cooking purpose in this study area. About 80 per cent of respondents are having electricity facilities in both the districts. Seventy persons own either a colour or block and white television.
Possession of Land

The possession of land by Non-beneficiary respondents is given in Table 96. It is assumed that the land possession is same in the two areas investigated and it is analysed using Chi-square statistic. From this analysis, it is found that there is significant difference between computed values of standard $\chi^2$ and Table value and hence the hypothesis has been ruled out. Analysis points out that there is no uniformity in land possession between the districts. In the district of Virudhunagar, nearly 60 per cent of respondents have possession of land but it is comparatively less in Kancheepuram district (30 per cent).

Type of Land Possession

The kind of land ownership by Non-beneficiary respondents is presented in the following Table 97. Most of the non-beneficiary respondents (56 persons) do not own any type of farmland in their villages. Forty-two respondents (29 and 13 persons in Virudhunagar and Kancheepuram respectively) are having their own farmlands and two respondents have lease lands.

Area of Farmland

Size of the cultivable land in the two districts is given in Table 98. About one-fifth of respondents in Virudhunagar district and little more than one-tenth of respondents in Kancheepuram district reported that they are having 1 to 5 acres of land. Very few respondents in both the districts own more than five acres of land.

Cultivation of Land

Details regarding number of times the lands used for cultivation in a year in each of the two districts are given in Table 99. Out of 44 land owning respondents, two respondents from Kancheepuram district and twenty-three respondents from Virudhunagar are cultivating their land once in a year. Only two respondents in Virudhunagar district are cultivating for more than two times in a year.
Impact of Welfare Schemes

This chapter deals with impact of Welfare Schemes in the two districts. Topics included in the chapter include visit of the respondents to various PRIs, functioning of PRIs, welfare schemes and their benefits etc. The study covered both the beneficiaries and non beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries

Visiting to Panchayati Raj Institutions

Information about people's participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions is given in Table 20. In the two districts, a vast majority of the respondents about 82 per cent in Kancheepuram district, and about 77.1 per cent in Virudhunagar district) have visited Village Panchayats. Nearly 60 to 70 per cent of beneficiaries have attended Gram Sabha meeting. Primary data show that about 27 to 55 per cent of respondents have visited Panchayat Union and District Rural Development Agency.

Effectiveness of Gram Sabha

Are the gram sabha functioning similarly in the two districts? The opinion on functioning of Gram Sabha meetings is given in Table 21. It is assumed that the Gram Sabha is functioning effectively in the area investigated and it is tested using the standard $\chi^2$ test.

The Pearson Chi-square test shows the acceptance of the hypothesis. It is inferred from this analysis that 55 to 58 per cent of the respondents have accepted that the Gram Sabhas function effectively in their places.