CHAPTER - IV

SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

I. INTRODUCTION

II. SAMPLING FRAMEWORK

III. A NOTE ON VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN KARNATAKA

IV. BACKGROUND NOTE ON SELECTED NGO'S
I. Introduction

In the last chapter we discussed about the conceptual emergence and understanding of women's movements, Non Governmental Organizations and Empowerment with regard to the present context of our study. In this chapter, we will study the sampling methods that are used to study the population through the selected sample units. Sampling plays an important role in inferring the realities of the population parameters. As per the need of the methodology of our research, we have organized the sample units. According to the design of the study, the present research needs the population of women interviewed, the districts of the state selected and above all the NGO's that are studied for the sample need to be discussed in detail.

Sampling methodology is a core part of the research process. Without dealing with the sampling methods in scientific manner, it is treated as the science without accuracy. In Karnataka, among the 27 districts, it was needed to select such districts that represent the acute inequalities in the NGO development sector; similarly the same method was adopted to select the NGO units and population units. There were also the methods that were unique to our methodology and thus new attempt to our initiative. Among the methods used were simple in nature but are used extensively by the scientific community (Batliwala et al 1998) like in-depth interview methods
and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), that were adopted to gather the information on a variety of variables that were qualitative in nature. This and the other discussions related to the sampling methods used for this research can be seen in the further sections.

II. Sampling framework

For the present research, we needed to select the two NGO's from the two different districts of Karnataka (each NGO representing each district). The same methodology is applied to other sampling units that can be seen in the following chart.

![Sampling Design (Selection of NGO's)](image)

While discussing about the sampling design, care was taken to select represent districts in such a way that they should reflect that the socio -
economic and the human development distinction. With this intention we selected such districts that they exhibited a wide inequality in human development. Dakshina Kannada, being highly developed district by the human development indicators among all the districts, while the Dharwad district was chosen since represented the middle development of districts and relatively less developed compared to the Dakshina Kannada. In the research design we have shown that there lies a link between the development process and the human development.\footnote{For this discussion, please see the chapter 1}

**Districts and NGO's**

Among the 27 districts of Karnataka, we decided to select the two districts Dakshina Kannada and Dharwad that represent the high developed and less developed districts respectively. This section needs the introduction of these two districts with regard to the development of NGO sector. Before that let's see the criteria used to select the sample districts.

**Selecting the Sample Districts**

If we see the Index of human development in Karnataka, we could come to know that there is the strong persistence of gender disparities between women and men. Since this has been discussed in the second chapter, we are not going for the in-depth discussion of the same. Among the districts, Dakshina Kannada delivers a good nature of socio-economic
development as well as human development, which has the better sex ratio and other demographic situations. While Dharwad district was chosen as it represented the medium development and relatively less developed district as compared to Dakshina Kannada.

Earlier, there were some dilemmas with respect to choosing the sample districts since the research design required the field survey methods in a unique manner. Some important aspects that were taken care while selecting the districts for the field study are:

a. The development aspect

b. The human development aspect

Let us discuss these aspects in detail:

a. The Development aspect

While selecting the districts it was thought that the scientific objective of the study is to present a comparative analysis of the two NGO's based on the criteria that one NGO should be selected from the district that shows good performance in socio-economic development and another from the less developed district so that the criteria should facilitate a comparative analysis for our study. According to this reason, we selected the Dakshina Kannada as most socio-economically well advanced district with increased status of women's position. Even though the neighboring districts such as Kodagu and Bangalore perform equal to that of Dakshina Kannada or better than the
same, but the latter has been taken as the average best developed district among all (GOK HDR 1999). If we come to the selection of less developed district, it was Dharwad, the district, which is socio-economically medium, and being selected due to some reasons for the sample study.2

b. The Human Development aspect

Human development has been an important aspect that motivated and designs the relationship with the NGO activism. The criteria emphasized on the aspect that the important goal of development process is to enhance the human choices. The factor of human development, hence, viewed as an important indicator of development, on the basis of which, the two districts were selected.

Obviously Dakshina Kannada presents a good development in demographic aspects and fared best with the sex ratio and the development of women. Human development has shown better advancement in Dakshina Kannada since it has a good social - economic and education scenario irrespective of gender. So our aim here was to try any linkages between women's development and the functioning of a bunch of NGO's in the district. The Gender Development Index (GDI) shows a comparable figure to

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2 There are other backward districts such as Bidar, Gulbarga, Bellary and Raichur that have typical characters of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (BIMARU) states in north India and suffer with an acute poverty and economic backwardness with an astonishing amount of NGO networking. Despite this, the researcher went for Dharwad district only due to the financial constraints against the field survey expenses.
all other districts with the finest status of women, who head the most of the households in the district. Even Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) also fares well revealing that the most of the women have greater public participation within and the outside the household (NCAER.2001)

Dharwad, on the other hand, displays medium human development. We expected here that a number of NGO networking has contributed for women's development and empowerment but showing very lower status compared to its many southern counterparts with respect to human and gender development. We understand that a good amount of NGO's work in Dharwad district and their contribution towards the human development as well as gender development and empowerment could be a seminal and worth comparable to the D Kannada and to see any kind of gender disparities persisting within the district. As per the requirement of the research design we expect that our hypothesis should be tested against the statement that there prevail a greater differences in the inter district performances. And the possible reasons to the persistence of the same differences.

The Distribution of Respondents

After selecting the districts, it was the NGO's that were selected as per requirement of research design, which would be discussed in the following
sections. A stratified random sampling method was used. A sample of 130 women from each NGO was intended to interview. A great care was taken while selecting the particular NGO from the respective district. Thus the Nagarika Sewa Trust, Guruvayanakere was chosen from the D Kannada and BAIF Institute of Rural Development, Karnataka was studied taking the case study of its branch in Surashettikoppa from Kalaghatagi taluk of Dharwad district.

Our objective while characterizing the respondents was to compare the respondents of SHGs and Non-SHGs to evaluate the development performance of the selected SHGs and a comparison between the inter NGO performances. Among the total 260 women respondents, 130 were considered for SHG members and 130 for the non-SHG members. In one district, the respondents were thus distributed, as out of 130 members, 65 respondents were SHG members and 65 non-SHG members. This scheme of distribution of the responds can be easily understood if we see the figure 4.2.
Chart 4.2 Distribution of Respondents

Respondents

NGO/SHG (Member) Respondents

Nagarika Sewa Trust (NST)

SHG Units

65 Members

BAIF Institute of Rural Development – (BIRD-K)

SHG Units

65 Members

Non-NGO/SHG (Member) Respondents

Belthangadi Taluk (D K)

65 Members

Kalaghatagi Taluk (Dwd)

65 Members
III. A Note on Voluntary Sector in Karnataka

Karnataka hosts a good number of NGO's. With all its regional, socio-economic and political diversities, the state is gaining much attention as the important hub for what is known as electronics and IT industries in the country. Unlike the adjoining states of Kerala and Tamilnadu, Karnataka has not seen sustained political mobilization on the basis of class or mass movements on a large scale (Kudva 2005).

The state was ruled by the congress party (dominated by Vokkaliga and lingayat cultivator Jati clusters who make up a little over fourth of the state's population but still remain dominant at the local level) till 1982, after which the Janata Party, later the Janata Dal - both parties dominated by the backward castes - and the Congress briefly was there in power and out.

Karnataka has a fairly active and heterogeneous voluntary sector with a large number of rural development oriented NGO's. The decentralized system of power relations by Panchayat Raj (PR) system offers a different relationship. With the PR sector NGO sector grew in its own way by integrating its network with the latter. Apart from rural development organizations, there are a number of urban groups and initiatives organized around various issues.

More recent examples of urban based groups that are driven by the agenda of improving governance, include the Public Affairs Center and the
Janaagraha, an organization that does not use the NGO label but seeks to promote citizen participation and participatory planning through a number of different programmes focused on service provision and infrastructure at the ward level, and demands for public agencies to publish accounts of their operations and finances. Similarly he Bangalore Agenda task Force (BATF), a consortium of public agencies gained a lot of attention.

Support NGO's

Many NGO's work as the support NGO's and provide services to the grassroots groups in the rural areas. They help to evaluate programmes, conduct participatory appraisals, train NGO personnel, conduct workshops and facilitate the markets for the products produced by the smaller groups. One of such support organizations in the southern part of the south is SEARCH based in Bangalore.

SEARCH was started in 1975 by an ex-Oxfam Director to train people in rural development. Every year 12-15 people graduated after a 12-month course. In 1983 after an evaluation that indicated 50% of SEARCH graduates dropped out, SEARCH shifted its focus to training middle and senior level NGO staff. By 1988, SEARCH had also began to focus on gender issues, and gender training and sensitization became an important part of their work. It had also developed materials and trained women for participation in Panchayat Raj in a programme sponsored by the Department of Women and

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3 Based on Kudva (2005).
Child Welfare, Government of Karnataka. Thus, SEARCH achieves its role as a facilitator and supporter of NGO’s.

There is another smaller support NGO’s such as DEEDS in Mangalore. It was established by a priest in Madras in 1977 and moved to Mangalore in 1981. DEEDS has a total staff of ten persons, two of them concentrate solely on training programmes and workshops. It also publishes a quarterly Kannada newsletter. It is heavily funded by an international donor. It is conducting women’s legal aid programme in Dakshina Kannada for the past two years and funds one person to form women’s groups of 40-50 in each village.

Another type of support groups are donor-run workshops and training sessions for its partner NGO’s. Donors like Action Aid India, NOVIB, NORAD, CRY, HIVOS, and other church-based groups like EZE and Misserios bring partner NGO’s together to discuss issues of common interest.

IV. Background Note on Selected NGO’s

As we understood that we have selected two NGO’s from the two respective districts, it was thought that it would be quite reasonable if we put a few paragraphs for the introductory note on the selected NGO’s and their nature of working with the SHGs within the respective district. It was the nature of the working of the NGO/SHGs for the development of women with motivated to select the particular NGO. This is how we shall see the
working of BAIF institute of Rural Development, Surashettikoppa, Dharwad and the Nagarika Seva Trust (NST), Guruvayanakere, D Kannada in the following sections.

BAIF Institute of Rural Development, Karnataka (BIRD-K), Surashettikoppa, Dharwad.

Dr Manibhai Desai founded Bharatheeya Agro Industries Federation (BAIF) in 1967. Being a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, he aimed at translating Gandhi’s ideologies of rural development into programmes to be implemented across the country for bringing peace and prosperity to the rural areas. Thus, over the four decades, the BAIF has been working on the various social issues across different parts of the country.

The BAIF Institute for Rural Development (BIRD-K) is a tributary of the BAIF institute, having its head office at Tiptur in Tumkur district of Karnataka. The Society was registered in 1980 under Karnataka Society Registration Act, 1960. BIRD-K is currently active in 2200 villages spread over 21 districts of Karnataka and 7 districts of Andhra Pradesh, with 350 staff on the roll and the financial turn over of Rs. 7,70,70,000/- the scope of its activities has been fast expanding over the last 25 years4.

The year 2004-05 has been seen as the Silver Jubilee year for the BIRD-K. with the adaptation of Gandhian values and ideologies. BIRD-K has engaged with the outmost commitment and involvement in the

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transformation of rural areas into the prosperous and well-developed regions. Since BIRD-K has involved into the development of rural areas, it has looked after all types of the perspectives of the rural development. From the agricultural aspects to environmental problems, from educational issues to women’s development and empowerment, it has essentially included all the important aspects of rural development into its development agenda (BIRD-K 2005).

The thrust areas in which BIRD-K works are:

- Upgrading of local cattle for producing high quality crossbred progeny for increased milk production and cattle health management.
- Tribal rehabilitation
- Promotion of tree based farming systems to bring about sustainable agricultural development
- Promotion of Micro-enterprises in rural areas to bring in self-reliance and sufficiency in local economy.
- Developing innovative approaches for watershed treatment and promotion of rainwater harvesting.
- Community health and sanitation programmes.
- Empowerment of women and other weaker sections.

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5 Information sought through the personal contact to the BIRD-K, Dharwad by researcher.
Promotion of People’s organizations for sustainable transformations of rural areas.

Applied research and training for rural development and

Human resource development.

As far as empowerment of women is concerned, BIRD-K has promoted nearly 1555 SHGs by the year 2004-05. It has its own approach of involving women in more participatory approaches that include the SHG based activities. The important quantitative information on the BIRD-K’s promotion of SHG formation by the year 2004-05 can be seen in the table 4.1.

Table 4.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIRD-K promoted SHGs at a Glance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Particulars</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of SHGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Loan Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Of Borrowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Linkages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


As far as women’s development is concerned, BAIF has considered the family as a unit and women as equal partners with men in the family. In this process, it has been realized that women have the following strengths in the process of development and Nation building (Ghorpade 1998).
Priority and perception of development is different for women and men.

Women’s livelihood tends to be more resource-based than money.

Women have leadership qualities and risk-taking capacity to participate in development activities.

Women can shoulder equal responsibility with men outside their houses.

Women have indigenous knowledge of agricultural practices and herbal medicines.

Unfortunately, neither have women received their due share in the development, nor has the community successfully tapped their capabilities.

The major shortfalls of our development programmes are:

- Their contribution towards the development of the family is not duly recognized.

- They do not have any right over the land or other immovable property.

- They are not given marketing and credit responsibilities, as they are not considered competent to handle such tasks.

- They are also not given equal status during the planning and implementation of development programmes.
In rural areas where the natural resources are degraded and income generation is not assured, women have the responsibility of meeting the basic needs. They have to spend at least 4 to 5 hours a day in fetching water and collecting fuel and fodder. The hazards such as early marriage and repeated pregnancies are prevalent among all the castes. They are also suffering from anemia. Thus they are out of decision-making process, as their contribution is not recognized.

**BAIF’s Approach on Development and Empowerment of Women**

Realising women’s need to empower them and develop their confidence, BIAF has identified certain interventions through the self-employment opportunities and access to credit facilities. Programmes for improving functional literacy have also been promoted in many of the operational areas. BAIF has also tried to reduce the drudgery of women so that they can participate in community development activities and hence control their lives, set their own agenda of development, increase their technical skills and knowledge and develop self confidence.

**Interventional Strategies**

The activities undertaken by BAIF for economic and social empowerment of women are presented as follows:

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6 Op cit, p. 76.
Economic Empowerment:

- Land based income generation activities for small landholders like nursery rising, grafting, vegetable cultivation.
- Off-farm and non-farm activities for landless such as preparation of leaf cups, bandhni, handicraft and tailoring, mushroom cultivation, detergents, preparation, processing and packaging of pickles.
- Trades and business such as grocery shops, selling bangles, vegetables and dry fish.
- Equal wages support to men and women for horticulture activities.
- Operating a joint savings bank account for the husband and wife for horticulture programme.
- Operating separate Bank accounts for women SHGs and DWCRA groups as well as individual accounts for women.
- Encouraging the women to take decisions for availing and repaying loans.
- Reduction in the time and energy spent in domestic chores such as fetching water, fuel and fodder collection and childcare.
- Establishing resources at their doorstep.
- Developing special programmes for small or large purchases independently by SHGs.
Social Empowerment

BAIF believed that the social empowerment of women could be attained through developing:

- Local SHG members, members of village watershed committee and members of Gram Panchayat, Lok Adalat and Samaj Suraksha Kaksha
- Trainers for technical skills, trades, business, health care and personality development
- Investigators to monitor and evaluate the programme
- Increase their mobility at taluk, district, state and inter-state levels.

To improve the sanitation in the villages, the SHGs have taken up construction of soak pits, latrines and drainage, installation of community biogas plants, production of NADEP compost and use of sewage water for kitchen gardens. The use of smokeless chulhas and pressure cookers.

A school-based programme for health promotion and to improve the nutritional status has also been undertaken in tribal areas. Reduction of gender differences by enhancing the income generating activities. A participatory monitoring and evaluation system has been developed for women's Self Help Groups (SHGs).
Micro-Credit Approach

Unless like any other strategies, BAIF's approach to the rural problems is quite different. Hegde and Ghorpade (1998) present the micro-credit approach to poverty alleviation. According to them a majority of the population in the developing countries suffer from the 'dependency syndrome' and continue to live in acute poverty. This is a vicious circle of population growth, resource scarcity, unemployment, poverty, charity and dependency – lack of confidence and initiative that results in chronic poverty. This can be understood from the figure 4.3.

The authors observe that in spite of their significant role in supporting the family and building up the future generation, women in many regions have no status in the society. Many of them are deprived of their basic education, health and nutrition. The BAIF thus realized the main roots of poverty and deprivation and initiated many income-generating approaches in different villages. Women in various villages have under taken several income generating activities and saved money and even provided loan to other farmers. Initially the SHGs attracted single women who had undergone various Socio-economic problems. Moreover they did not have to seek permission from their husbands. Apart from availing the credit facilities, the members realized the opportunities of communicating effectively among themselves about socio-economic development issues.
Figure 4.3

Vicious Cycle of Population and Poverty and Micro Credit Intervention

- Poverty
  - Unemployment
  - Exploitation of Natural Resources
    - Resource scarcity
    - Lack of Initiative
    - Dependency on External Assistance
  - Environmental Pollution
    - Population Growth
    - Low Productivity
  - Poor Quality of Life

After Micro Credit Intervention

- Self Help Groups
  - Motivation and Training
  - Information Service Networking
  - Marketing
  - Rise in Employment and Income
    - Community Leadership
  - Better Quality of Life
This is how BAIF uses the micro-credit approach for the community development. Micro-credit certainly has the empowering quality, but the concept being used by the BAIF organization is to alleviate poverty [that is being conceptualized as a result of over (miss) use of natural resources, hence resulting in environmental imbalances, which in turn causes for rural poverty] and enhance the community welfare. It the SHGs that contribute much for the individual development and empowerment of women. It has been practiced in the various villages of BAIF activism.

**Nagarika Seva Trust (NST), Guruvayanakere, Dakshina Kannada**

Nagarika Seva Trust, which is much known as NST was born in 1976 with the efforts of a few committed and dedicated individuals in Guruvayanakere of Belthangadi taluka of Dakshina Kannada district. It grew to an institution scale and Mass Movements for the cause of the poor and marginalized in the coastal districts, namely, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi in Karnatala, India.

The area of undivided Dakshina Kannada District is 8441 sq.km, constituting 4.4% of the total area of the state. Majority of the population depend on Agriculture, Fishery and household industries, mainly beedi rolling, Trade and other occupations. Poor and marginalized farmers and landless agricultural labourers, the socially oppressed and economically

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7 Based on the information rendered to the researcher by the personal contact to the head office of NST, Guruvanakere, Belthangadi Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District. The following sections are based on this information.
dalits and tribals, the marginalized women belonging to above referred poor including Muslim minority are all the communities that are focused by the NST. Over 4,00,000 beedi rollers with 97% of the women face grave crisis due to flight of industry.

The NST Approach:

Since its inception, NST has pioneered the numerous novel approaches in the areas of social mobilization, rural development, environment, health, non-formal and formal education, co-operative movement, consumer rights, dalit and tribal welfare and women's development and empowerment. Raising local resources- both human and financial to ensure the sustainability of the activities, as well as engaging in the advocacy at the macro level through its wing Development Support Group (DSG) in Bangalore that enables NST to position strategically. The transformative Process based on experiential learning in the context of changing in the context of changing external environment and ground realities enabled NST to face many challenges and make strong at policy and grass roots level.

The changes that accompanied the growth path of NST have been:

- Service delivery to right based approach
- Project to beyond project boundary
- NGO to Non-NGO's approach
- Promoter to evidential outsider support
• Growing with learning and doing
• Stereotyping to internal transformation
• Centralisation to decentralisation
• Women in development to gender and development
• Sectoral integrated development approach
• Separate sectoral and Thematic Focus to Diversity and Solidarity
• Experimentation to spread effect
• Serving to influencing the political processes
• Preaching to practice and internalisation

The Growth of NST

During the past three decades, the NST has grown in size, scale of operation, outreach, structure, visibility and own identity, public credibility and legitimacy together with the vast experience of working with the poor and marginalized in the erstwhile D.K. District out of which a new Udupi district was created in the year 1997. Now NST is operating in all the 8 taluks of the both districts. Among the many peoples’ organizations, Parisarasktha Krishikara Vedike (PKVK) is active in all 8 taluks.

The Karavali Mahila Vedike (KMV) that is operative in the Belthangadi taluk with 127 Mahila Jagruthi Samithis is still progressing in the process of expanding to other taluks. The Dakshina Kannada Parisarasakthara Okkota (DKPO), the champion of save Dakshina Kannada campaign, a platform for
the preservation of environment. Promotion of 1602 SHGs (women SHGs 933, Men SHGs 287 and mixed SHGs 382 (as on 31st June 2004) with overall cumulative savings of 2,80,16,900.00 and lending 4,02,03,000.00 is an ample proof of NST's conviction that the development of the poor and marginalized has to self fuelled and local resource based. Apart from women development and empowerment activities, NST has fully involved itself in the promotion of sustainable agriculture and the preservation of the biodiversity.

**Long term Objectives**

With it's mission statement, which reads as following, the NST has set its long term goals that can be seen as below.

**NST Mission Statement**

*Organizing and empowering the poor, marginalized and backward people towards self-determination. Facilitating the people to influence the policy and political process to secure social, cultural, political, economic justice human dignity.*

The Long term Objectives are:

- Emphasis on ecology and environment protection, rural development with the focus on the basic needs and problems of poor people, facilitating and the development of poor farmers, empowerment and development of women etc. Services, Micro finances Programmes (SHG Promotions and Bank credit linkage);
To engage in policy advocacy in association with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for good governance, effective participation of the poor in policy and decision making processes;

To become a resource institution to address the information and capacity building needs of different stakeholders such as like minded organizations including the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs);

Facilitate formalisation and independent of people’s organizations (POs), which will respond to the needs and interests of the marginalized communities, which they represent;

To transform itself into a support service provider which will indeed provide constant support and guidance to these POs and likeminded organizations to achieve their goals;

To facilitate the evolution of similar thinking NGO networks and much wider platform of the poor and marginalized by linking up peoples’ grassroots organizations to make the voice of the poor and marginalized consistently heard at different levels.

Thus, NST has been building peoples organizations, capacity building to enable them to self-manage and self sustain tern would enable NST to transform its present role promotion and facilitation to that of external supporter. At the grassroots level, strengthening the self help development processes through SHGs Mahila Jagruthi Samithis and mainstreaming Gender in the different parts of the NST activist areas.
Table 4.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Taluka</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>No. Of Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belhangady</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>932</td>
<td>2565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sullia</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putturu</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bantwala</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangalore</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>295</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karkala</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Udupi</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kundapura</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>1149</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>2151</td>
<td>6170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: through the personal contact by researcher.

Though the NST has been working on the different issues of social service, its contribution towards the development and empowerment of women is quite imitative. This can be seen through the table 4.2. The figures for the progress of women’s SHG formation reveal that women SHGs outnumber that of men’s. The SHG membership of women is highest if we see it with the comparative perspective than that of men. Among the talukas, Belthangadi has the highest of 488 women SHGs, while Sullia takes the second place with the 127 SHGs followed Udupi that contributes 113 women self help groups. This can be observed through the figure 4.4.
Figure 4.4
Talukawise Details of SHGs

[Graph showing the number of SHGs by taluk and gender.]

- Male
- Female
- Mixed
The figure itself is self-explanatory. With the decentralized structure and right to decision making process has put the NST one of the successful Voluntary organizations in D Kannada district. From gender mainstreaming to sustainable agriculture, from activating on the issues of biodiversity to addressing the problems of tribal and other oppressed communities, NST has grown to a greater service provider and facilitator for the more needed and the required.