Discussion
V DISCUSSION

The present investigation was an attempt to study the participation of women beneficiaries to ascertain the impact of Sujala Watershed project on Socio-economic status of women under the project area. The detailed discussion of the results of this study are presented in this chapter, under the following headings.

5.1 Participation of women beneficiaries in Sujala Watershed project in Chitradurga district.

5.2 The impact of Sujala Watershed project on Socio-Economic status of women beneficiaries.

5.3 Profile of women in Sujala Watershed Development Project.

5.4 The relationship between participation and Socio-economic status of women beneficiaries in Sujala Watershed development project.

5.1 Participation of women beneficiaries in Sujala Watershed project in Chitradurga district.

It is observed from table-5 that, great majority of respondents showed high level of participation in case of community based organisations. This might be due to the reason that different groups introduced by SWDP were functioning well under the supervision of extension workers of this NGO. Women beneficiaries were getting more opportunities to involve in trainings, tours and other informative, knowledge imparting activities. This finding is in line with the theory of Olson (1971).
Next component under which little more than half of women beneficiaries participated was medium extent in Soil and Water Conservation practices. The possible reason could be that, by adopting these measures they could get water conserved in water conservation structures like farm pond, check dams useful in water deficit conditions atleast for protective utilization and also soil erosion was minimised. Similar results were reported by Dubey *et.al.*(1982), Giriyappa (1988), Suresh (1990), Sharma and Singh (1970).

Nearly half of the respondents were seems to have medium participationin Judicious Use of Water and Natural Resources management to the extent of medium level. The reason could be that, respondents might not be aware much about the importance of these practices. This finding is inline with the findings of Shivasharanappa (1995), Veluswamy and Manoharan (1998) and contradiction to that of Shashikumar (1998) who found significant participation in different programmes implemented by NGOs in Karnataka.

Majority of respondents were falling under low category of participation in case of Income Generating Activities (IGA), this might be due to involvement in these activities require much time, a little investment and also IGA requires women beneficiaries to work in groups. It needs more co-ordination among the group members for success, which was a bit difficult to attain by the respondents. Further, it needs family support too.But in most of the rural families especially in case of women. This finding is in confirmation with the theory of Buchanan and Tullock (1965), Lupanga (1998) and The result is supported by results of Dubey *et.al.*(1982), Klinger
By looking to the table-5, we can notice that, more than half of the respondents were coming under medium category of participation followed by 28 percent actively involved and 12.5 percent were less involved. The reasons for active and moderate involvement might be the importance soil and water conservation practices as explained to the participants by department officials and also concept of SHGs. There were many Self-Help groups in the project area and through these women were involved actively. The possible reason for this could be that, less participation was noticed in JUW, NRM and IGA, since this table depicted overall participation level. These findings are in line with the findings of Sithalaxmi (1975), Chakravarthy (1976), Cernea (1977) and Radhakrishna (2005).

5.2 The impact of Sujala Watershed project on Socio-Economic status of women beneficiaries.

In case of education, as in table-6, there is not much difference between before and after because the respondents might have not continued their education since majority of them were already married. Generally in rural areas women after marriage will not continue their education. The study by Raghunandan (2004) supports this result. But, contradiction to Singh et al (1975), Indravathi et al (1992), Kumaran (1997), Prasad(1998) and Neelavani et al (2002).

The annual income of the respondents before and after the project implementation was almost same, might be because of frequent drought years in the present decade. The results are in contradiction with the findings

Social participation has increased after implementation of Sujala Watershed project when compared to earlier. This might be because the women were encouraged to participate in social organization by SHGS, area groups, Sujala Watershed sangahas and executive committees. There is a compulsion to particular percentage of women, so it was possible. This findings is inline with Srinivas Reddy (1995).

There was lot of increase in medium and high category of material possession from 5.5 to 42 percent one percent to eleven. The reason might be that now –a-days it is a trend that almost all will have TV, Cell phones and two wheelers for their easy communication and access to nearby places. These results are in confirmation to Ramanna (1999).

There was a decrease in low land holdings when compared to before, medium farm status was seen earlier it was only 4 percent. But, later it was 27 percent. The reason for this could be the purchase of lands. This might be possible because some small farmers might have sold out their piece of land because of difficulty in managing in recent days due to decreased labour and uncertain rain fall, increased cost of cultivation. These results are in line with findings of Madhavareddy (2001). And contrary to Susheela et al (1991), Singh et al (1993), and Vanitha Chetan (2002) reported that, most of farmers were small and marginal farmers in dryland areas of southern peninsula.

Table -7 tells about the change in Socio-economic Status before and after the implementation of Sujala Watershed project, there is an increase in
Socio-economic status. The reason might be that there is improvement in independent variables such as Social participation, material possession and land holding which in turn influenced socio-economic status. These findings have the support of Chakravarthy (1980), Chidananda (1996) and Sridhar (2002).

5.3 Profile of women in Sujala Watershed Development Project.

5.3.1 Impact of SWDP on Personal characteristics of women beneficiaries

Table-8 indicates that, age group of women beneficiaries. Age being a physical factor and nothing to do with project. So, 55 percent of respondents were reached middle age. Findings are in line with Indravathi et al (1992), Puhazhendi and Jayaraman (1999), Murugan and Dharmalingam (2000) and Padmavathi (2002) and in contradiction to Mehta et al (1990). Further, 55 per cent of women beneficiaries were above 28 years old, majority of them (82%) were married. This is supported by Manjula (1995).

5.3.2 Impact of SWDP on Situtional characteristics of women beneficiaries

From table-9 we can see there is a move to Agriculture and allied activities and also 9.5 percent of respondents were depending on other occupation after the project implementation. This might be because there was a promotion of Income Generating Activities by Sujala Watershed project. The results of Radhakrishna (2005) have the support of the present findings. On the contrary Kumaran (1997), Prasad (1998), and Jayaraman (1999) found most of farmers were agricultural labourers and cultivators.
In the same table Medium level of livestock possession has greatly increased after the project implementation. It could be because of loans provided by Sujala Watershed project for sheep rearing. The findings of Ramdas and Ghotage (1998) supports this result.

There is a slight change in family status, shift from low to medium. The reason could be that 3.5 percent of respondents have got daughter in laws and hence a new generation added to few families. That is why they stated joint family and also few have modified their homes.

The farm power status has doubled in case of medium level from 9 to 19 percent when compared to before the project implementation. This could be because of labour problem in recent days, farmers are showing interest in mechanization.

5.3.3 Impact of SWDP on Communication characteristics of women beneficiaries

As the table-10 showed increase in extension contact of respondents after implementing the Sujala Watershed project when compared to before. The possible reason for this could be concept of Raitha Samparka Kendras (RSKs) at hobli level. By this farmers made to visit extension officials for the benefit of farmers.

We can observe the improvement of extension participation after project implementation, when compared to earlier might be because of the tours, visits and trainings arranged by Sujala Watershed project for the beneficiaries. The findings are supported by Veluswamy and Manoharan (1998), Mahadevaswamy (1978), Rajashekar (1984), Prameelamma

Much change was not observed in cosmopoliteness when compared to before and after the project implementation. Further, We can observe in table-10, there is an improvement in case of high level of communication status from ‘0’ to 2.5, and low level from 64 to 90 percent. This might be because as the women gets older the rural women were involved in domestic works. Thus, not showing interest in reading papers/magazines. The study of Palaniswamy (1984), Ravindra (1987), Ingle et al.(1990) Jagadeshwara (1994), Manjula (1995), Neelavani et al (2002) and Vanitha Chetan(2002) confirms the present results. The universal phenomenon of less exposure of women to mass media sources in rural areas could be brought here to substantiate this finding.

5.3.4 Impact of SWDP on Psychological characteristics of women beneficiaries

From the table-11 it is clear that, majority of the respondents 80.5 percent were having high level of credit orientation followed by low (10%) and medium (9.5%) after the watershed project. Before the project respondents spread over 45 percent under medium, 30.5 percent high and 26.5 percent under low credit orientation. The possible reason for drastic change in high level might be the respondents got easy access to get loans and also could contact banks frequently due to set up of self-help groups, area groups. Thus, they felt they have got much knowledge on credit facilities. The result is inline with the findings of Radhakrishna (2005).
From the same table we can see the shift in high level of risk orientation from 46% to 84.5 percent after project implementation. Before it was 40 percent in medium and 14 percent in low category. After the project there were only 4 percent under low and 11.5 percent under medium categories. The reason for great improvement in high level of risk orientation after the project implementation might be that women are exposed to share their views among themselves by following different types of groups under Sujala Watershed project and thus self-confidence might have built in them. The results of this table are in conformity with the findings of Kantharaju (1986), Raghupathi (1994), Palaniswamy (1984), Supe et al (1990) and in contradiction with Jagadewshara (1994), Raghupathi (1994).

When we compared the data before and after implementation of Sujala Watershed project, there is a drastic rise in high level of leadership ability from 35 to 80 percent. In case of medium and low category there was a reduction from 27.5 to 18.5 percent and from 37.5 to 1.5 percent. This can be observed in Table 11. The possible reason could be that women were allowed to lead groups by way of rotation. Thus, the respondents might have developed leadership ability. This finding is in contradiction to Food and Agricultural Organisation (1993) report.
5.4 The relationship between participation and Socio-economic status of women beneficiaries in Sujala Watershed development project.

5.4.1 Relationship between Participation and Socio-economic status of women beneficiaries in SWDP

Table-12 indicated that, land holding and material possession were significantly related with participation of women beneficiaries in SWDP and education, annual income and Social participation were found to be non-significant. The possible reason might be that, when there was increase in material possession and land holding, obviously they will get interest to participate more in watershed activities to improve their production and livelihood. This is in confirmation with the findings of Kantharaju (1986).

5.4.2 Relationship between Socio-economic status and independent variables

It could be observed from the table-13 that, there was a significant relationship between socio-economic status and independent variables such as occupation, cosmopoliteness, livestock possession, family status and farm power status. Whereas, other variables extension contact, extension participation, credit orientation, risk orientation, deferred gratification, scientific orientation, leadership ability and communication status were found to be non-significantly related. The possible reason for this might be that, in our society usually people with good occupation, more cosmopolite, having assets like improved machineries,livestock were given more value. It might be because they help rural poor by providing their bullocks, tractors Gowda (1986), Phadtare et. al. (1990), Singh (1997) and Usharani (1999) supports this finding.
5.4.3 Relationship between participation and independent variables

There was a significant relationship with participation and independent variables viz., extension contact, extension participation, risk orientation, livestock possession, leadership ability. Other variables: occupation, Cosmopolitaness, credit orientation, deferred gratification, scientific orientation, innovative proneness, family status and farm power status and communication status were found to be non-significant. This might be due to improved extension contact, extension participation. More exposure to training, visits might have motivated women to participate more in SWDP. The people with high risk taking ability obviously try any new things, therefore risk orientation has significant relationship with participation. This is in confirmation with findings of Kantharaju (1986), Raghupathi (1994), Palaniswamy (1984), Supe et al (1990) and in contradiction with Jagadeshwara (1994), Raghupathi (1994).

5.4.4 Regression analysis of participation and independent variables

The beta co-efficients in table-12 indicated contribution of independent variables for variation in extent of participation. Beta value is 0.61 which means these variables are causing 61 percent of variation in extent of participation.

5.5 Constraints faced by women beneficiaries in relation to participation in SWDP

The major constraints faced by women participants were compulsion of domestic works, Non availability of resources, Lack of knowledge, Lack of co-ordination to work in groups and Need of supervision. Women were to be engaged in house hold works and family responsibility. They get very
less time and less support from the family to perform any developmental works. Here it was one of the constraints as mentioned by them. To involve in IGA also, women beneficiaries required co-ordination to work in groups. For consistent functioning of groups there was a need of supervision and followup by officials or other extension workers. Otherwise group members were simply conducting weekly meetings on saving money. This is the opinion of Lupanga (1988). These results are supported by studies conducted by Narayanaswamy (2005), Chethana (2005) and Radhakrishna (2005).

From the above discussion we can understand that now-a-days women have got much exposure to developmental programmes. But, still we can observe obligation to household responsibilities like child care, domestic works by women. This need to be reduced by sharing these duties by men too in order to give equal recognition to women in the society and for mutual help.