



Constraints Faced by Villagers in Participation of JFM Programme of Malrajura Village: A Case of Akola Forest Division, Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out at Malrajura village of Akola district and exploratory design of social research was used with a view to assess the constraints faced by the respondents for participation in JFM programme. The exploratory design of social research was used. Total Sixty respondents were selected randomly on the basis of land holding *i.e.* landless, up to 1.00 ha, 1.01 ha to 2.00 ha, 2.01 to 4.00 ha and above 4.00 ha. The data were collected by personal interview schedule, subjected to appropriate statistical analysis. The independent and dependent variables were used to find out the constraints and impact of JFM programme on livelihood of rural people. The statistical techniques namely Arithmetic mean, Standard deviation, and Z-test were used for the study. The findings of the study revealed that majority of respondents faced the problems of less price of NTFP in market. Regarding the finding of constraints analysis it was found that processing units were not available in village, lack of training, lack of knowledge to the respondents. However, the respondents differed significantly with after participation in Joint Forest Management Programme. It could be inferred that the analysis of these constraints emphasize to have concerted efforts to overcome these constraints so as to increase the livelihood of rural people.

Key Words:

Constraints, Joint Forest Management, NTFP, Respondent

INTRODUCTION

Indian forest are under pressure of meeting growing demand of increasing population. A majority of Indian population depend on forest for meeting their basic needs of fuel wood, fodder, small timber and non-timber forest products. Resource development in the villages along with

income generating activities has led to overall development of villages and socio-economic condition of people. About 400 million people living in the vicinity of forest depends on non-timber forest produce for their subsistence and earn up to 50% of their income from the sale of the produce. The involvement of local communities and individuals played an important role for

conservation, development and management of forest. Joint Forest Management is the concept of developing the partnership between fringe village communities and forest department on the basis of mutual trust and jointly defines role and responsibilities with regard to forest protection and development (Jha 2006).

Joint Forest Management Programme in India has its origin in the National Forest Policy 1988, which envisage creating massive peoples involvement for achieving the objectives and minimize the pressure on existing forest. Government of Maharashtra issued an order on Joint Forest Management on dated 16th March 1992 on the basis of past experiment, Government of Maharashtra revised the resolution on dated 25th April 2003 taking in to account various guidelines issued by the Government of India (Jha 2006). The implementation of JFM programme is not only to neutralize the negative effect of existing practices of Jhum cultivation *i.e.* soil and water erosion, loss of flora and fauna, environmental degradation etc but it will also improve economic condition of the villagers on sustained basis in the form of production of timber in large scale, generate the employment and provide the availability of raw material for wood based industries etc.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out at Malrajura village of Akola district and exploratory design of social research was used to find out the impact of Joint Forest Management Programme on livelihood of rural people. Sixty respondents were

selected randomly on the basis of land holding *i.e.* landless, up to 1.00 ha, 1.01 ha to 2.00 ha, 2.01 to 4.00 ha and above 4.00 ha. The primary data were collected through face to face contact method by contacting the randomly selected respondents. The secondary data were collected from Joint Forest Management Committee record, Grampanchayat Office record, Forest Department Record, Gazetteer, Library *etc.*

The independent variables such as age, education, land holding, livestock, family size, sources of information and attitude with the dependent variables such as annual income, employment, and availability of non-timber forest produce was used to find out the impact of JFM programme on livelihood of rural people.

The statistical techniques namely Arithmetic mean, Standard deviation, and Z-test were used to find out the impact of JFM programme on livelihood of rural people.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by the respondents in participation of Joint FM Programme

In the present study constraints refers to difficulties faced by respondents in participation of Joint Forest Management Programme. Daily data collection were listed the constraints express by the respondents. The frequency and percentage of each constraint were worked out for the interpretation.

Constraints faced by respondents in participation of Joint Forest Management Programme have been presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to constraints faced by respondents in participation of Joint Forest Management Programme

| Sr. No | Constraints | Frequency (n=60) | Percentage |
|--------|---|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Less price to NTFP's in market | 43 | 71.66 |
| 2 | Processing unit is not available in village | 29 | 48.33 |
| 3 | Lack of Governments support in terms of money. | 28 | 46.66 |
| 4 | Lack of training about collection and processing of NT FP's | 23 | 38.33 |
| 5 | Tendu trees are not planted near village | 15 | 25.00 |
| 6 | Less knowledge about concept of JFM | 15 | 25.00 |
| 7 | Villagers not follow the rules prepared by JFM committee | 09 | 15.00 |
| 8 | Political interference | 06 | 10.00 |
| 9 | Internal clashes of villagers | 05 | 08.30 |

From Table 1 it is revealed that, constraints faced by respondents while participation in the JFM activities were in the following descending order, less price to NTFP's in market (71.66%), processing unit is not available in village (48.33%), lack of governments support in terms of money (46.66%), lack of training about collection and processing of non- timber forest produce (38.33%), tendu trees are not planted near village (25.00%), less knowledge about concept of JFM (25.00%), villagers not follow the rules prepared by JFM committee(15.00%), Political interference (10.00) and internal clashes of villagers (8.3%).

The constraints with regard to participation in JFM program experienced by the respondents are also of vital importance. It could be concluded

that the analysis of these constraints emphasize to have concentrated efforts to overcome these constraints so as to increase the livelihood of rural people. Tewari (1991) and Jain (1995) found that constraints were lack of people's participation, lack of awareness, perceived adverse effect and negative perception, lack of protection and management.

The overall impact of Joint Forest Management Programme on dependent variables were determines and results on the testing the significance of the difference in the means in change in annual income, employment and availability of non-timber forest produce are presented in (Table 2).

Table 2. Testing significance of difference of means in change in annual income, employment and availability of non-timber forest produce

| Dependent variables | Before participation in JFM | After participation in JFM | Impact | Per cent Impact | Z value |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Annual income | 24258.33 | 29495.33 | 5237.33 | 21.58 | 2388** |
| Employment | 208.78 | 233.28 | 24.50 | 11.73 | 11.73** |
| Availability of NTFPs | 48.65 | 58.77 | 17.12 | 22.85 | 05.07** |

*Significant at 0.05 level of probability ; ** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

From Table 2 it is revealed that, the mean of dependent variables of the respondents after participation in Joint Forest Management Programme found higher than before participation in Joint Forest Management Programme. The respondents differed significantly in availability of non timber forest produce. It could be inferred that the respondents differed significantly with after participation in Joint Forest Management Programme. Therefore it is stated that there was definite increase in availability of non-timber forest produce as result of participating in Joint Forest Management Programme.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that independent variables are positive and highly significant with dependable variables like availability of Non-timber forest produce, Annual income and Employment. The training programme should be organized and information source should be

available for villagers to increase their participation to make programme more effective.

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