



CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE RESPONDENTS IN AVAILING THE BENEFITS OF DWCRA IN SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Yalla Meera¹; Dipak Kumar Bose²; Syed H.Mazhar³; Jahanara⁴

¹M.Sc.Ag (Extension and Communication), Final Semester, SHUATS (Prayagraj)

²&³ Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, SHUATS (Prayagraj)

⁴Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, SHUATS (Prayagraj)

Author's e-mail: meerakrishnayalla@gmail.com

DOI: [10.47856/ijaast.2021.v08i9.017](https://doi.org/10.47856/ijaast.2021.v08i9.017)

Abstract: Women and Children constitute 67.7 per cent of the country's total population as per the census 2001. Women exclusively accounted for million constituting 48.3 percent of the country's population. By virtue of these figures, they shall be considered as an important target group. Hence, it becomes an essentiality to empower women economically and socially for promoting national development. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) was launched as sub scheme of IRDP. It was initially started as pilot project in 50 selected districts in all states during 1982- 1983. During, the IX plan almost all state governments started implementing DWCRA activities in rural areas. The objectives of this programme are to organize women into socio-economic activity groups with the dual purpose of providing self- employment opportunities and social strength to them. Besides, providing financial support for income generating activities, DWCRA also increases women's access to basic services of health, education, children's nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation and environment. Though there are many achievements to its credit, still there is wider space to accommodate many innovative ideas elicited through the participation of women over the years for improving the programme periphery.

Introduction

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) was launched as sub scheme of IRDP. It was initially started as pilot project in 50 selected districts in all states during 1982- 1983. During, the IX plan almost all state governments started implementing DWCRA activities in rural areas. DWCRA programme was introduced with the financial assistance from UNICEF to strengthen the women's component of poverty alleviation programmes.

The objectives of DWCRA scheme are to improve economic health, education and social status of rural women by providing the required income generating activities to earn their livelihood. This can be attained through specific objectives like improving the existing economic activities of the rural women by generating employment opportunities and also improving the quality of life of rural women and their children, providing supportive services to enable the rural women to improve their economic conditions through the existing skills and locally available resources, providing suitable training in productive skills for the DWCRA beneficiaries, providing suitable marketing facilities and empowering the rural women to



take collective decisions in popularizing their finished products in the market, providing better care for the children of DWCRA groups in health, nutrition, environment and education.

The main objectives of the study were to find out the socio-economic profile of the respondents, several constraints faced by the respondents like activities related to income generation, input supply, co-operation among them, trainings received, market facilities, etc. Suggestions provided by them to overcome the constraints.

Research Methodology

The state of Andhra Pradesh was selected for the study purposively as the investigator is familiar with the local language which would help to build quick rapport and also facilitates in depth study through personal observation. More over number of DWCRA groups are more in Andhra Pradesh. Descriptive research design is adopted for the present study. Descriptive research is used to describe the characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied. No variables are under the control of researcher as the study is to report the situation as it is. It was adopted since the DWCRA programme was already implemented in the area and no other design will fit keeping in view the objectives of the study. Srikakulam was purposively selected since it is one of the district in Andhra Pradesh where the DWCRA programme is under implementation from the inception of i.e. 1983 and has highest number of DWCRA groups. Out of 38 blocks in Srikakulam, Narasannapeta block is selected through purposive sampling. In Narasanapeta block, out of 43 villages, 6 villages were purposively selected. The selected villages were Makivalasa, Devadi, Killam, Komarthy, Madapam and Gopalapenta. Ten DWCRA groups were selected purposively from each of the selected 6 villages. From each DWCRA group, two women beneficiary was selected randomly. Thus, constitutes 20 women beneficiaries from each village of ten DWCRA group and makes it to 120 women beneficiaries from 6 villages. Each DWCRA group woman was interviewed personally in local language i.e. telugu by the investigator and the responses were recorded on interview schedule immediately.



Results and Demonstration

Table 1: Socio-economic profile of the respondents (N=120)

Sl.No.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age (in years)	Young (<35)	43	35.83
		Middle (36-50)	53	44.17
		Old (>50)	24	20.00
2	Education	Illiterate	14	11.67
		Functionally literate	17	14.17
		Primary school	9	7.5
		Middle school	15	12.5
		High school	30	25
		Intermediate	23	19.17
		Graduate	12	10
3	Family size	Small (1-3 members)	51	42.5
		Medium (4-6 members)	44	36.67
		Large (7-9 members)	25	20.83
4	Socio-economic status	Low	43	35.83
		Medium	51	42.5
		High	26	21.67
5	Income generation	Low	43	35.83
		Medium	59	49.17
		High	18	15



6	Training received	Yes	67	55.83
		No	53	44.17
7	Innovativeness	Low	46	38.33
		Medium	52	43.33
		High	22	18.33
8	Risk orientation	Low	27	22.50
		Medium	70	58.33
		High	23	19.17
9	Market orientation	Low	32	26.67
		Medium	65	54.17
		High	23	19.17
10	Knowledge level	Low	37	30.83
		Medium	55	45.83
		High	28	23.33

From table 1, it can be understood that majority of the women beneficiaries belong to middle age (44.17%), followed by young age (35.83%) and old age (20%). Majority of the women beneficiaries were educated upto high school (25%), 19.17 percent were educated upto intermediate, 14.17 percent upto functionally literate, 12.5 per cent upto middle school, 11.67 per cent upto illiterate, 10 percent were graduated and 7.5 per cent upto primary school. 42.5 percent of the respondents had small family (1-3 members), followed by 36.67 percent of the respondents had medium family (4-6 members) and 20.83 percent of the respondents had large sized family. 42.5 percent of the women beneficiaries had medium level of socio-economic status, followed by 35.83 percent had low socio-economic status and 21.67 percent had high socio-economic status. This might be because of that medium level of annual income, medium level of material possession, house holdings.

Nearly half of the women beneficiaries (49.17%) had medium level of annual income, 35.83 per cent had low level of annual income, 15 per cent had high level of annual income. More than



half of the respondents (55.83%) received training and the remaining 44.17 per cent of the respondents didn't receive any training. 43.33 per cent of the respondents had medium level of innovativeness, followed by 38.33 per cent of the respondents had low level of innovativeness and 18.33 per cent of women beneficiaries had high level of innovativeness. More than half of the women beneficiaries had medium level of risk orientation (58.33%), followed by low level of risk orientation (22.50%) and high level of risk orientation (19.17%). More than half of the women beneficiaries had medium level of market orientation (54.17%), followed by low level of market orientation (26.67%) and high market orientation (19.17%). Nearly half of the women beneficiaries (45.83%) had medium level of knowledge in functioning of DWCRA, followed by 30.83 per cent of low level of knowledge and 23.33 per cent had high level of knowledge.

Table 2: Constraints faced by the beneficiaries of DWCRA (N=120)

Sl.No	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Insufficient loan amount	45	37.50	V
2	Procedural delay in obtaining the loan amount	78	65.00	I
3	Repayment of loan amount	23	19.16	XV
4	Illiteracy of the group members	27	22.50	XIII
5	Lack of co-operation among the group members	14	11.66	XVII
6	Lack of supervision/ guidance by organizational officials	36	30.00	VIII
7	Inadequate training programmes related to income generating activity	38	31.66	VII
8	Lack of new skills for carrying out the activity	29	24.16	XII
9	Traditional methods to perform the income generating activity	33	27.50	IX
10	Lack of Awareness about income generating activities	30	25.00	XI
11	Inadequate supply of inputs	15	12.50	XVI
12	Non availability of inputs	24	20.00	XIV
13	High cost of inputs	62	51.66	III
14	Poor transport facilities	32	26.66	X
15	Poor marketing facilities	66	55.00	II
16	Lack of market demand for produced items	41	34.16	VI
17	Lack of remunerative price for the produce	57	47.50	IV



From table 2, it can be seen that majority of the respondents felt procedural delay in obtaining the loan amount (65.00%) secured 1st rank, followed by poor marketing facilities (55.00%), high cost of inputs (51.66%), lack of remunerative price for the produce (47.50%), insufficient loan amount (37.50%), lack of market demand for produced items (34.16%), inadequate training programmes related to income generating activity (31.66%), lack of supervision / guidance by organization officials (30%), traditional methods to perform the income generation activity (27.50%), poor transport facilities (26.66%), lack of awareness about income generating activities (25%), illiteracy of the group members (22.50%), non-availability of inputs (20%), repayment of loan amount (19.16%), inadequate supply of inputs (12.50%), lack of co-operation among the group members (11.66%) secured 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th rank respectively.

Table 3. Suggestions given by the beneficiaries to overcome the constraints experienced by them (N=120)

Sl.No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Provision of sufficient loan Amount	54	45.00	IV
2	Timely provision of loan amount	83	69.16	I
3	Promoting co-operation among the group members	7	5.83	XV
4	Provision of supervision/ guidance by organizational officials	52	43.33	V
5	Conduct of training programmes related to income generating activity	27	22.50	VIII
6	Imparting new skills to carry out the activity	25	20.83	IX
7	Adoption of modern methods to perform the activity	18	15.00	XIV
8	Creating Awareness about income generating activities	30	25.00	VII
9	Adequate supply of inputs	19	15.83	XIII
10	Timely provision of inputs	23	19.16	X



11	Reduction of cost of inputs	22	18.33	XI
12	Provision of better transport Facilities	20	16.66	XII
13	Provision of better marketing Facilities	72	60.00	II
14	Creation of market demand to produced items	44	36.66	VI
15	Provision of remunerative price to the produce	65	55.00	III

From table 3, it can be understood that among the various suggestions offered by the women beneficiaries, timely provision of loan amount (63.16) secured 1st rank, followed by provision of better marketing facilities (60%), provision of remunerative price to the produce (55%), provision of sufficient loan amount (45%), provision of supervision/ guidance by organizational officials (43.33%), creation of market demand to produced items (36.66%), creating awareness about income generating activities (25%), conduct of training programmes related to income generating activity (22.50%), imparting new skills to carryout the activity (20.83%), timely provision of inputs (19.16%), reduction of cost of inputs (18.33%), provision of better transport facilities (16.66%),adequate supply of inputs (15.83%), adoption of modern methods to perform the activity (15%), promoting co-operation among the group members (5.83%) secured 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th respectively.

Conclusion

From the study, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents were middle aged(44.17%), high school education(25%), small family size(42.5%), medium socio-economic status(42.5%), medium income generation(49.17%), medium innovativeness(43.33%), medium risk orientation(58.33%), medium market orientation(54.17%), medium knowledge level(45.83%). Most of them had received training(55.83%) .

Majority of the respondents felt procedural delay in obtaining the loan amount (65.00%) secured 1st rank, followed by poor marketing facilities (55.00%), high cost of inputs (51.66%), lack of remunerative price for the produce (47.50%), insufficient loan amount (37.50%), lack of market demand for produced items (34.16%), inadequate training programmes related to income generating activity (31.66%), lack of supervision / guidance by organization officials (30%), traditional methods to perform the income generation activity (27.50%), poor transport facilities (26.66%), lack of awareness about income generating activities (25%), illiteracy of the group members (22.50%), non-availability of inputs (20%), repayment of loan amount (19.16%), inadequate supply of inputs



(12.50%), lack of co-operation among the group members (11.66%) secured 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th rank respectively.

Among the various suggestions offered by the women beneficiaries, timely provision of loan amount (63.16) secured 1st rank, followed by provision of better marketing facilities (60%), provision of remunerative price to the produce (55%), provision of sufficient loan amount (45%), provision of supervision/ guidance by organizational officials (43.33%), creation of market demand to produced items (36.66%), creating awareness about income generating activities (25%), conduct of training programmes related to income generating activity (22.50%), imparting new skills to carryout the activity (200.83%), timely provision of inputs (19.16%), reduction of cost of inputs (18.33%), provision of better transport facilities (16.66%), adequate supply of inputs (15.83%), adoption of modern methods to perform the activity (15%), promoting co-operation among the group members (5.83%) secured 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th respectively.

References

- [1]. Bindu Sharma (2001) Participation of tribal women in income generating activities in Ranchi district of Bihar. M.Sc(Ag).Thesis, Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
- [2]. Mahajan, S. (2013). Women entrepreneurship in india. *Global Journal of Management and Business Studies*, 3(10), 1143-1148.
- [3]. Pallavi I 2006 A study on empowerment of tribal women in Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh. M.Sc(Ag). Thesis, Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
- [4]. Rojarani B 2000 Employment generation, income and expenditure pattern of DWCRA beneficiary families in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh. M.Sc(Ag). Thesis, Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
- [5]. Sharma D D and Sharma Anju 2000 DWCRA in Solan (H.P) Performance, problems and suggestions. *Rural India* 63(2): 56-60.
- [6]. Suneetha B (2004) Preference knowledge and opinion of young rural women about self-employment in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. M.Sc(Ag). Thesis, Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.