

Employment Generation through Watershed Project in Tribal Area of Southern Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken with the objective to study restoration in ecological balance in rain fed area, sustainability in bio-mass production and migration status. Study was conducted in the sub-plan region of Southern Rajasthan in four watershed areas of Banswara and Durgapur district with 30 respondents from each area, thus total 120 were selected. During implementation of NWDP programme maximum employment generation opportunities with MPS of 42.91 were generated in the area of soil and water conservation whereas regular employment was observed in agriculture sector. On the other hand regarding employment generation during & after implementation of programme it was found that marginal farmers were provided maximum employment 36.41 per cent after implementation big farmers were received maximum of 47.97 per cent Though the migration of the people do not ceased completely after implementation of watershed project. However, in long duration migration was checked to some extent.

Key words: Bio-mass production; Migration; Employment generation; NWDP;

National Watershed Development Programme (NWDP) for rained areas was launched with the objective of project was restoration of ecological balance in rain fed areas, sustainable biomass production and checks the migration. The study was conducted to assess employment opportunity provided to different categories of beneficiaries through various activities of watershed project.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in tribal sub-plan region of Southern Rajasthan having maximum tribal population lives in Banswara and Durgapur districts were selected purposively. It has further been confined to four micro watershed area were randomly selected. Thereafter a list of beneficiaries, 30 respondents was selected randomly from each of the selected watershed thus making a total of 120 respondents.

In this part of the study an attempt opportunity provided to the local people through various activities of watershed development project and also find out employment opportunity has been made to study the employment to different categories of beneficiaries.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Employment opportunity to the beneficiaries in different activities of NWDP: Table 1 indicates that during programme implementation soil and water Conservation activities have provided maximum employment opportunities to the beneficiaries with response of MPS 42.91 while agricultural production activities i.e. crop production, agro-forestry, horticulture and silvipasture, have provided maximum opportunities after implementation of programmes a regular employment to the beneficiaries with response of MPS 47.91.

This might be because considerable amount of labour was employed for implementation of soil and water conservation measures and construction of water harvesting structure during programme implementation. While after completed the programme the increased in gross cultivated area and cropping intensity has provided regular employment opportunities to the beneficiaries in agriculture sector.

Further agriculture production activities and animal husbandry production activities were provided employment opportunities during programme implement

to the farmers were assigned IInd and IIIrd rank with MPS 30.0 and 3.3 respectively. While regular employment opportunities provided to the beneficiaries in animal husbandry and soil and water conservation activities were given IInd and IIIrd rank with MPS 20.0 and 4.2 respectively.

Whereas cottage industries/agro based industries activities have not provided any employment opportunities in both the conditions i.e. during and after implementation of project to the local people of watershed area.

It could be concluded that during project implementation maximum employment production activities to the beneficiaries. Whereas after implementation of project agricultural production activities followed by animal husbandry production were provided as a regular employment

Table 1. Employment generation during and after programme implementation in different activities of NWDP (N=120)

Activities	Employment generation			
	During programme		Regular employment	
	MPS	Rank	MPS	Rank
Agriculture/ Agro-forestry/ Agro-horticulture	30.41	II	47.91	I
Animal Husbandry / poultry / dairy	03.33	III	20.00	II
Agro based industries	00.00	IV	00.00	IV
Soil & water conservation	42.91	I	04.16	III

The main problem of small and marginal farmer in the study area was that of unemployment. They remained unemployed for quite long period during the year because of their smaller size of land holding and lack of cottage and subsidiary industries in the area. Table 2 revealed that during programme implementation more employment opportunities provided to the marginal farmer i.e. 36.41 per cent followed by small farmers obtained total score 60 i.e. 32.61 per cent.

While after implementation of project more regular employment provided half of the total i.e. 48.0 percentage to the big farmers followed by small farmers i.e. 30.6 per cent.

This might be because more number of marginal and small farmers engaged in soil and water conservation activities during project implementation. Whereas big

farmers engaged in more agricultural production activities having greater size of land holding with improved water potential

Employment opportunity to different categories of respondents:

Table 2. Employment generation during and after implementation of programme in different categories of beneficiaries (N=120)

Categories of beneficiaries	Employment generation (scores)	
	During implementation	After implementation
Marginal farmers	67 (36.41)	37 (21.39)
Small farmers	60 (32.61)	53 (30.64)
Big farmers	57 (30.98)	83 (47.97)
Overall	184 (100)	173 (100)

It could be concluded that greater utilization of man days in term of employment opportunities were provided margin and small farmer during project implementation of the project

Table 3. Migration status before and after implementation of NWDP at different duration (N=120)

Migration duration	Before (1991-92)	After (1997-98)	Per cent decrease
Less than 4 months	96	62	15.42
4-8 months	49	26	46.94
More than 8 months	Nil	Nil	Nil

Response of beneficiaries towards different of migration: Table 3 reveals that the migration status obtained by the respondents according to scale given in schedule were computed before and after implementation stage of project. Table 3 reported that computed opinion score of respondents about migration of 4.8 months duration was decreased. i.e. 46.94 per cent, whereas less than 4 months of duration 35.42. In case of more than 8 months of duration no change was found in migration of beneficiaries in watershed area.

This study was in line with Antwal (1994) than migration of the families in the watershed area is stopped. It could be concluded that after implementation of the project migration status found in drastic change in 4-8 months of duration while less change was found in less than 4 months of duration of migration

Overall migration status of different categories of beneficiaries: It could be clearly indicated from the Table 4 that maximum change i.e. 64.41 per cent was found in big farmers as compare to previous situation i.e. before start the programme.

Whereas less change were found in marginal and small farmer perceived by the beneficiaries with percentage of 29.9 and 35.0 respectively. It could be concluded that after implementation of project overall migration status of big farmer have drastic change, whereas marginal and small farmers have found less changes.

Table 4. Migration status of different categories of beneficiaries in watershed areas (N=120)

Categories	Migration Status		Per cent Decrease
	Before	After	
Marginal	77	54	29.87
Small	60	39	35.00
Big	59	21	64.41
Overall	196	114	41.84

CONCLUSION

It was observed that project has provided employment opportunity to more number of people during the programme implementation in the activities related to soil & water conservation, whereas maximum regular employment was provided in the agriculture production sector. On the other hand regarding employment generation during & after implementation of programme it was found that marginal farmers were provided maximum employment followed by small & big whereas after implementation big farmers were received maximum employment followed by small & marginal farmers, Though the migration of the people do not ceased completely after implementation of watershed project. However, the long duration of migration was checked to some extent.

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