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SV Yadav

PG Student, Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

VG Patil

Professor of Agril. Extension, Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

Shweta B Karadipatil

PG Student, Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

UD Jagdale

Assistant Professor of Agril. Extension, Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Pune, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Maharashtra, India

Corresponding Author:

SV Yadav

PG Student, Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

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Study of assessing developmental efforts of voluntary organization i.e. (Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan)

SV Yadav, VG Patil, Shweta B Karadipatil and UD Jagdale

Abstract

The study was conducted in Chiplun and Sangmeshwar tehsil of Ratnagiri district of the Konkan region in Maharashtra, where the Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan is functioning. The data were collected from 120 beneficiaries were selected for the study. The information was collected by personal interview method with the help of specially designed schedule. The Pratishthan has been implementing various developmental activities for the benefit of the villagers in its jurisdiction were under Soil and water conservation- the main advantages were it has reduced runoff and soil erosion, availability of water in summer days, increase in water holding capacity of soil and increase ground water level. Literacy campaign-most of the beneficiaries were adult and school dropouts. It increase the literacy rate, skill development was imparted within the beneficiaries, merits of family planning and hence increase in the knowledge level and attitude was changed. Gender sensitization programme - the advantages were increase in participation of women's in various sectors and leadership development as a result it was benefited to more than 376 beneficiaries. Youth empowerment programme - Participation of the youth was satisfactory it benefited in the areas of employment generation, leadership development among the rural youths. At the end of the project 857 members were benefited through this programme. Natural farming - Pratishthan speakers put merits in front of beneficiaries and suggested to adopt the concept of natural farming. The outcome of the project 210 beneficiaries adopted natural farming and had sustainability in their working. Upliftment of lower sections of the society- to overcome gap between the rich and poor Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan put efforts by implementing this programme it was increased the standard of living of the beneficiaries, employment to landless labours, BPL holders and increased the education status of beneficiaries. It has benefited to 2230 of Sangmeshwar tehsil of Ratnagiri district. Awareness camp on agriculture technology - The outcome of this activity leads to reduce production cost of the farmer, migration rate at some extent was reduced, productivity was increased and 872 farmers were benefited from this approach of the Pratishthan and input supply- With a view to support the farmers having low purchasing power of agriculture inputs and to marginalised section of the farming community under this activity of the Pratishthan and it has benefited 480 of beneficiaries.

Keywords: Assess, efforts, voluntary, organization

Introduction

Voluntary Organizations play a vital role in implementation of various development programmes in participatory mode. They mobilize people for constructive community work and often reach the most marginalized and Vulnerable sections of society and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country, with much wider outreach. Voluntarism is a long cherished tradition which has been encouraged by the Government of India since independence. The Government has launched a number of schemes to implement various developmental projects, wherein concerned departments/ministries provide grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations to carry out welfare and development activities.

After independence, the voluntary sector has been given due importance right from the beginning of five year plans. The major recognition was given in the third five year plan. The third five year plan emphasized that "the concept of public cooperation is related to the much larger sphere of voluntary action in which the initiative and organizational responsibility rest completely with the people and their leaders, and does not rely on legal sanctions or the power of the state for achieving its aims. In the fourth and fifth five year plan, voluntary sector was not given much attention. But again in the sixth five year plan, the idea of participation of people's organizations was recognized. In October 2000 during the mid-term review of the ninth five year plan some successful and sustainable projects undertaken by voluntary

Organizations were documented and problems in the performance of central and state plans were also identified. Issues related to ecological degradation, right of people over forest and common property resources, appropriate technologies, occupational health and safety, and water shed development, gender and equity, holistic development of young children, sustainable development, and environment have become their concerns. NGOs have emerged as a third sector after the public and corporate sectors addressing the community development needs. Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) have been playing a very important role in sharing the responsibility of the Government in 'Reaching the Services to the Un-reached' in far-flung inaccessible areas and in developing and experimenting alternative project models to match the needs of the local people. Non-Government Organizations are effective agents in bringing forth the most desired social change and development by virtue of their direct contact and linkages with society.

Role of NGOs remained positive in raising awareness about the Human and legal right, women empowerment, provision of services health, education, poverty alleviation, emergency, rehabilitation and human development role. The news in "THE HINDU" – New Delhi, December 6, 2010 says "Planning Commission seeks inputs from NGOs, social groups for 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017)". The role of NGOs has been very important in formulating policies, giving inputs and suggestions right from the First Five Year Plan till date. Vikas Sahayog Pratishthan (means Development Collaboration Foundation) is a collective of 15 grassroots organizations and individuals that are primarily working on the developmental issues of the poor and deprived sections of society in Maharashtra State.

The study mainly aimed at drawing the profile of Pratishthan in relation to developmental dynamics. It also intended to bring forward the progress made by the Pratishthan over the years. An attempt was also made to analyse the role played by the Pratishthan in rural development. The study also envisaged obtaining the opinion of farmers about the Pratishthan. The study would be suggestive to policy makers and voluntary organisation in having introspective look about the policies of developmental dynamics and deciding the strategies for involvement of beneficiaries in the various developmental programmes in the region. Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan has been working with various support organizations and part of different networks operating at local, national and international level.

Material and methods

The present study was under taken in Chiplun and Sangmeshwar tehsil of Ratnagiri district of the Konkan region in Maharashtra. From these two tahsils 8 villages and 5 villages from each tehsil respectively. The all villages from Chiplun and Sangmeshwar tehsil of Ratnagiri district were selected for the research study. The data was collected with the structured interview schedule from randomly selected 120 farmers according to convenience and objectives of the study. The data were tabulated and processed through the primary and secondary tables. S.D., Mean, Frequency and percentage these statistical tools were used.

Result and discussion

Developmental efforts of the Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan

The Pratishthan has been implementing various developmental activities for the benefit of the villagers in its jurisdiction. The information regarding various programmes carried out by Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Details of developmental programmes of Pratishthan

Sr. No.	Programme/Activity	Year		No. of units village	No. of beneficiaries
		Start	Complete		
1	Soil and water conservation	2001	2003	11	920
2	Literacy campaign	2010	2011	11	1572
3	Gender sensitization	2015	2016	07	376
4	Youth empowerment programme	2011	2012	16	857
5	Natural farming	2009	2010	04	210
6	Input supply	2005	2006	04	480
7	Awareness camp on agriculture technology	2012	2012	8	872
8	Upliftment of lower sections of the society.	2000	2009	21	2230

Soil and water conservation

Soil and water conservation is one of the eight most significant projects that help villagers for diversification. The programme was launch in 2001 by the Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan in collaboration with cooperatives and various Non-Government Organization and private institutions till 2003. This programme is carried out on the basis of different role model villages. The project is especially aiming at recovering the vegetation coverage, reducing soil and water erosion, and improving the ecological environment. At the same time, readjusts the structure of rural industry, increases farmer income. The Rangoonwala foundation allotted 3.5 lac rupees and TATA trust funded 1.80 lakhs for this project. Under it the Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan constructed Nala plugs, Vijay bandara, Farm ponds, and other water harvesting efforts. The suggestions of different eminent research personalities had taken in the project working process. The guidelines from Sarpanch of ideal villages were taken at every

step. The main advantages were it has reduced runoff and soil erosion, availability of water in summer days, increase in water holding capacity of soil and increase ground water level.

Literacy campaign

In today's perspective, literacy does not mean about the writing and reading capabilities only. It has gained a broader meaning. It claims to guide people towards awareness and the change which is needed in order to achieve a better way of living. In 2010 the Pratishthan organized the campaign. In the beginning the response and outcome was poor but as time passed people get aware of education value for better sustain of mankind. In the year 2011 and 2012 total 11 awareness campaigns were arranged in Ratnagiri district. Most of the beneficiaries were adult and school dropouts. It increase the literacy rate, skill development was imparted within the beneficiaries, merits of family planning and hence increase in

the knowledge level and attitude was changed. The people's active participation was the key of milestone success to this programme. In feedback it was observed that more than 1572 members were benefited.

Gender sensitisation programme

It was organised in village Ganne of Chiplun tehsil to give equal opportunities to both gender in development process. Because decision making process is carried out mostly by male, in villages women's are limited to house and cooking. To empower the women it is an important step towards rural re-construction. In 2015 Vikas Sahyog Pratishtan organised programme in 7 villages of Sangmeshwar and Chiplun tehsils. It was funded by Maharashtra government and Sahil NGO from Sangmeshwar Taluka. Eight days camp was organised in one block with residential and meals arrangement. The advantages were increase in participation of women's in various sectors, leadership development. As a result it was benefited to more than 376 beneficiaries.

Youth empowerment programme

As youth ('Yuvashakti') is the real power of our nation is the outcome by which youth, as change agents, gain the skills to impact their own lives and lives of other individuals, organizations and communities. In 2011 Pratishtan started the project aims at creating nation-builders of tomorrow. As youth impact the society and have power to bring change with the right vision, life skills and sense of compassion. Especially in a nation like India where the youth are about 65% of the population, they form the country's greatest source of 'renewable energy' being the youngest and largest working force. It was organized in 16 units which include training, counselling, and other ways to empower it. Participation of the youth was satisfactory it benefited in the areas of employment generation, leadership development among the rural youths. At the end of the project 857 members were benefited through this programme.

Natural farming

It is an old concept of farming; it is also known as sustainable farming. The Pratishtan touched the idea because day by day the farmers affect due to uncertainty of nature, production, prices, increasing in cost of cultivation of the farm. In 2009 Pratishtan launch the programme in 4 blocks of Chiplun tehsil in keeping the aim of reducing the production cost and quality of the produce. The long lasting results will be occupied from use of the organic materials. Pratishtan speakers put merits in front of beneficiaries and suggested to adopt the concept of natural farming. Further waste material can be used as a fertilizer which will cost zero rupees. Hence it is also called as '*zero budget farming*' various pioneering personalities were called to deliver the guidance to beneficiaries. The outcome of the project 210 beneficiaries adopted natural farming and had sustainability in their working.

Input supply

This campaign was arranged in the year 2005 and 2006. With a view to support the farmers having low purchasing power of agriculture inputs and to marginalised section of the farming community. It was arranged in 4 blocks of Chiplun. Due to it, easy availability of seeds and planting material was there, available at cheaper rate than outside market, timely supply of required inputs to the beneficiaries was done under this

activity of the Pratishtan. It has benefited 480 of beneficiaries.

Awareness camp on agriculture technology

As the agriculture is known as backbone of Indian economy, it is fact because our country is agriculture oriented. The new innovations in agriculture sector should be transferred to farming community to enhance the production and improve the economic condition of the rural masses. The agricultural university, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, state agriculture department and non-government organizations (voluntary organizations) occupy the main responsibility on their shoulders for transfer of technology to door step of farmers. In 2012 the Vikas Sahyog Pratishtan conducted camps to transfer the agriculture technology. It was organised in 8 villages of Chiplun tehsil, the people's participation played an important role in making programme successful. The outcome of this activity leads to reduce production cost of the farmer, migration rate at some extent was reduced, productivity was increased and 872 farmers were benefited from this approach of the Pratishtan.

Upliftment of lower sections of the society

From independence to up till now the gap between the rich and poor has been maintained purposefully. Many schemes from government are announced regularly to improve the conditions of weaker sections in the society but due to long chain the benefits are distorted and it does not reach up to the final beneficiaries. To overcome this gap the Vikas Sahyog Pratishtan put efforts by implementing this programme in 2000 in 16 units of Sangmeshwar tehsil. Livelihood and dignity are the basic concern of deprived communities thus Vikas Sahyog Pratishtan and its members are working with a long term perspective to qualitatively expand and deepen the political and socio-economic space for the marginalized communities. The constituent members are working with different communities from Tribal, Dalit, Nomads, De-notified tribes, landless farmers, marginal landholders, agricultural labourers and other such group. It increased the standard of living of the beneficiaries, employment to landless labours, BPL holders and increased the education status of beneficiaries. It has benefited to 2230 of Sangmeshwar tehsil of Ratnagiri district.

The study was conducted in Chiplun and Sangmeshwar tehsil of Ratnagiri district of the Konkan region in Maharashtra, where the Vikas Sahyog Pratishtan is functioning. The Pratishtan has been implementing various developmental activities for the benefit of the villagers in its jurisdiction were under. Soil and water conservation - the main advantages were it has reduced runoff and soil erosion, availability of water in summer days, increase in water holding capacity of soil and increase ground water level. Literacy campaign - it increase the literacy rate, skill development was imparted within the beneficiaries, merits of family planning and hence increase in the knowledge level and attitude was changed. Gender sensitization programme - the advantages were increase in participation of women's in various sectors and leadership development. Youth empowerment programme - participation of the youth was satisfactory it benefited in the areas of employment generation, leadership development among the rural youths. Natural farming- Pratishtan speakers put merits in front of beneficiaries and suggested to adopt the concept of natural farming. Upliftment of lower sections of the society- to overcome gap between the rich and poor Vikas Sahyog Pratishtan put efforts by implementing this

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Conclusion

In this research concluded that, the Pratishtan has commendable work in soil and water conservation in Gaane village of Ratnagiri districts. This suggest that the others NGOs should also take up similar activity on their agenda. The government also should encourage such efforts of the NGOs, so that the area under cropping will increasing and it can offer helping had for poverty eradication. The government should incorporate the 'Water Literacy' concept of educating rural people socially, economically and culturally through useful programme.

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