

IMPACT OF ANNABHAGHYA YOJANA ON WOMEN LABOUR INTENSIVE FARMING ACTIVITIES

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Abstract: Anna Bhagya Yojana Scheme was launched by Karnataka Government, as the most ambitious revised food distribution system to supply 30 kg of rice at Rs. one to nearly one crore poor families. Purpose of Anna Bhagya Yojana was to fulfil basic needs of people Below Poverty Line (BPL). In this scheme, a single card holder in the family got 10 kg rice at a rate of Rs 1/kg. Family with 2 members got 20 Kg rice and 3 got a maximum of 30 Kg rice at same price. Apart from rice, edible oils, sugar, iodized salt, kerosene and other items were also provided at concessional rates. So this helped poor people to get at least 2 square meals a day. Thus it was felt necessary to see whether the scheme had any impact on the beneficiaries and farmers.

Keywords: Farmers, Government, Karnataka, Scheme

INTRODUCTION

After implementation of this scheme the general notion was that it created labour scarcity for agricultural operation in farms of big farmers. Hence, a study was conducted to know the socio-economic status, sources of livelihood and participation of women labourers in various agricultural activities before and after the introduction of the scheme.

Objectives

1. To study the socio-economic profile and livelihood patterns of Annabhagya Yojana beneficiaries (Women labourers).
2. To study the participation of women labourers in farming activities before and after implementation of Annabhagya Sceme(Yojane)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in seven districts of northern Karnataka coming under the jurisdiction of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad namely Dharwad, Belagavi, Uttara Kannada, Haveri, Gadag, Bijapur and Bagalgot. The districts under this jurisdiction come under Coastal, Hill, Northern

Transition and Dry zones. The crops cultivated in this area are predominantly Jowar, Wheat, Paddy, Sugarcane, Cotton, Chilli, Minor millets, Green gram, Bengal gram, Pigeon pea, and Plantation crops like fruits, Areca, Pepper and Coconut. The crops are cultivated either in rain fed condition or irrigated condition in rabi, kharif and summer seasons. The rainfall in Northern Karnataka varies from 2000 mm in hilly areas to 100 mm in Drier regions. As the Annabhagya scheme was operational in all the above districts and the beneficiaries were mostly men and women below poverty line, Thirty women farm labourers and Thirty men farmers (10 big, 10 small and 10 marginal land holders) thus comprising 210 farm women labourers and 210 farmers from seven districts form the subjects for the study. Among the farmers 70 farmers belonging to Above Poverty Line (APL) were selected for the study. The data was collected by using a self-structured, pre-tested interview schedule developed for the study purpose in consultation with experts. The data thus collected was subjected to statistical analysis using appropriate methods and tools suited for the research. Below is the interpretation of the research thus conducted?

Table 1. Socio - economic status of farm women labourers N=210

Sl. No	Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	Young (18-35 years)	90	42.85
		Middle (36-50 years)	98	46.60
		Old (>51 years)	22	10.47
2	Caste	SC	05	2.38
		ST	44	20.95
		OBC	161	76.66

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3	Education	Illiterate	115	54.76
		Primary class	42	20.00
		Middle school	38	18.09
		High school	10	4.76
		PUC	05	2.38
		Degree	-	-
4	Type of family	Nuclear	188	89.52
		Joint	22	10.47
5	Family size	Small (1-4 member)	117	55.71
		Medium (5-8 member)	84	40.00
		Large (9 & above)	08	3.76
6	Family Income	Low (up to Rs. 17,000)	162	76.14
		Semi-medium (Rs. 17,000 to Rs. 30,000)	48	22.56
		Medium Rs.30,000 to Rs. 50,000	-	-
		High (> 50,000)	-	-
7	Marital status	Married	209	99.52
		Unmarried	01	0.48
		Divorce	-	-
10	Type of house	Pacca	83	39.52
		Kaccha	127	60.48

Majority of the farm women labourers belonged to middle age (46.30 per centage) followed by young (42.30 per centage) and again majority belonged to other backward castes (75.60 per centage) with 54.00 per centage illiterates followed by primary school education 20.00 percentage. Majority of them were nuclear families (88.30%) as they got divided from

joint families due to various reasons but, the major reason was to avail Govt. facilities which are given to those who are having small land holdings. Majority of respondents annual family income was low (76.14%) with 60.47 per centage kachcha type of house. Almost all were married.

Table 2. Wages received by farm women before and after implementation of the project

N=210

SI. No	Per day wage (Rs.)	Before implementation of the project		After implementation of the project	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Rs. 80 – 100	210	100.0	-	-
2	Rs. 100 – 120	-	-	110	52.38
3	Rs. 120 – 150	-	-	50	23.80

* Multiple responses are possible

It is clear from the above table that there is an increase in the amount received by the women for their labour activities as compared to the amount they have received before implementation of the project. It

may be due to increase in the cost of all essential consumption materials that are required to meet the basic needs of the families.

Table 3. Women involvement in different activities to earn livelihood

N=210

SI. No	Activities	Frequency	Percentage
1	Farm labour activities	125	59.52

2	Agricultural allied activities (Dairy, sheep/goat/poultry rearing)	120	54.14
3	Industrial work and other petty jobs nearby peri-urban areas.	72	34.28

* Multiple responses are possible

Women involvement in other allied activities apart from farm labour activites such as dairy (as government has increased subsidy on milk), sheep, goat and poultry birds rearing in their back yard has increased as indicated in table No 2. It may be due to the Government's increased effort and implementation of Integrated farming system

activities across all the villages. This might have motivated women to involve in allied activities to meet out their family expenditures. Drought is another reason which is repeatedly affecting the study area which also might have declined involvement women labour in agricultural labour activites.

Table 4. Participation of farm women in different farming operations before and after implementation Annabhagya Yojana

N=210

Sl. No	Farm activities	Before(2012-2015)		After(mid of 2015)	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Cleaning of field	170	80.95	87	41.42
2	Levelling of field	20	9.52	08	3.80
3	Raising nursery beds	110	52.38	52	24.76
4	Sowing	182	86.66	120	57.14
5	Transplanting	40	19.04	28	13.33
6	Fertilizer application	128	60.95	92	43.80
7	Weeding	153	72.85	110	52.38
8	Gap filling	68	32.38	34	16.19
9	Irrigation	52	24.76	48	22.85
10	Cutting of crops	42	20.00	30	14.28
11	Picking	160	76.19	104	49.52
12	Bundle making	70	33.33	56	26.66
13	Threshing	100	50.00	61	29.04
14	Winnowing	190	90.47	63	30.00
15	Drying of grains	210	100.00	110	52.38
16	Cleaning of grains	210	100.00	125	59.52
17	Sorting/Grading	210	100.00	115	54.76
18	Processing	180	85.71	92	43.80
19	Storage	200	95.23	117	55.71

* Multiple responses are possible

Participation of Annabhagya yojana beneficiaries in various farm activities before (2012-2015) and after (2015 onwards) indicated that after implementation of Annabhagya yojane, there is a decline in participation of women labourers in various important farm operations and post harvest activities such as Cleaning of field Sowing, Transplanting, Fertilizer application, Weeding, Winnowing, Storage, Cleaning of grains, Sorting/Grading, Processing, Drying of grains and other activities.

Participation index shows that the decline is from 63 per cent to 37 per cent. The decline is almost 50 per cent. The close observation and discussion with the women labourer respondents was done to know the real reasons for decline as agriculture labour as source of livelihood.



The decline of participation of women labour in farm activities as expressed by the women respondents cannot be attributed to Annabhagya Yojane alone. Other factors contributing could be employment in small industries, construction work nearby their

villages. Petty jobs in cities which are less labour intensive than agriculture and attracted the women labourers as these jobs offered attractive remuneration

Table 5. Opinion of women labourers about Annabhagya Yojane

N=210

SI. No	Statements	Response	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Ration is sufficient	Yes	49	23.10
		No	161	75.90
2.	Annabhagya scheme is useful	Yes	194	92.38
		No	16	7.62
3.	Scheme should be continued.	Yes	195	92.85
		No	15	7.14
4.	Quality of the grain is good	Yes	165	77.80
		No	45	21.42
5.	If quality is not good, do you sell the ration?	Yes	202	95.30
		No	08	3.80

The above table shows that majority of the beneficiaries are demanding more food grains. The scheme is very useful because it is the only source to meet the food requirement of the family when there is no other source of livelihood. Especially during severe drought, there are no farm activities; this scheme is helping especially the poorest of the poor. Hence, they requested for continuation of the scheme with more food grains. During the study period the quantity of food grains was almost reduced to 3 kg/person as given in the beginning of the scheme i.e., 10 KG/person. Hence 2/3rd of the respondents expressed the quantity of food grains should be increased.

RESULTS

All the farm women labours have favourable opinion about the scheme as it is the only source of food when there is no alternate source of livelihood especially

during severe drought. Almost all were using the food grains for family consumption. The dietary pattern changed especially morning breakfast was dominated by rice based dishes as compared to pulse dominated dishes prior to implementation of the scheme.

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