

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background:

SCP programmes in the state were implemented from sixth five-year plan (1980-85) onwards, while the TSP program was implemented from fifth five-year plan (1975-80) onwards. However, the works implemented in the years commencing from 2013-14 to 2016-17 under SCP have been studied and are being discussed here. In addition, the works implemented under TSP from 2013-14 to 2016-17 are also the part of the same study. Under both these programmes eleven components are implemented to provide benefit to selected individuals of SC and ST communities.

- The programs are implemented with following broad objectives;
- To improve socio-economic condition of the beneficiaries.
- Bring in changes in the life style of the beneficiaries.
- To reduce the biotic pressure on forests, also to ensure that the dependency of community on forest is minimized, besides eco-restoration of areas.
- To achieve the stipulated target of tree cover outside forests (ToF)

The evaluation study was taken up with a view to assess the implementing process and impact of the same under some relevant programs for the development of SCs & STs. The evaluation study was conducted for the works implemented by KFD from 2013-14 to 2016-17 (4 years) under both the schemes SCP and TSP.

The programs implemented under both the schemes are supply of LPG, astra ole, sarala ole, (smokeless chulas) supply and installation of bio-gas plant, solar lamps, solar water heater, raising of social security plantation, fruits orchard plantation, fodder plots, supply of beehive box and supply of poles/bamboos.

Data and methodology

Under SCP for development of scheduled caste families, the KFD has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 8739.66 Lakhs for all the above said 11 components in 22420 villages falling in 14 forest circles for benefitting 177183 families from the year 2013-14 to 2016-17. Similarly, under TSP, a sum of Rs.3958.17 lakhs spent to cover 81193 beneficiaries belonging to scheduled tribes spread over 9948 villages falling under 14 circles from 2013-14 to 2016-17.

A list of all these activities carried out by KFD along with sampled beneficiary number was made available for the study. Further the sample was selected randomly across all the divisions in which the programmes were carried out under both the schemes. A sample of 2942 in SCP and 1767 in TSP covering all the eleven components, thus in total 4709 beneficiaries were interviewed under both the schemes in the entire state.

Beneficiaries were interviewed through a questionnaire using Android based App developed by the KFD for determining the performance of the programme. In addition, in depth interviews and focus

Evaluation of Forestry Works under Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for the period 2013-14 to 2016-17

group discussions were conducted. Principal Investigator and state co-ordinator for the study visited various circles to have first-hand interaction with beneficiaries and departmental officers. The app-based data was transferred to KFD website, from where it was transferred to OUTREACH for in-depth analysis. The data received from APP, the records from various division offices and the findings of focus group discussion have been analysed circle/division wise.

Major Findings;

1. LPG supply under both schemes;

- a. The overall successes indicate that 95.14% beneficiaries under SCP and 92.95% under TSP have adopted the scheme, maintained the assets and are using the same. The year wise success percentages under SCP and TSP are given below,

Scheme	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
SCP	93.81	98.23	98.44	92.32
TSP	76.14	97.65	98.18	93.75

The beneficiaries who have taken at least one refill of LPG are all included in the success.

- c. Across the region it has been found that many beneficiaries still depend upon firewood for some preparations like ragimudde, jawar roti etc.
- d. There are very strong evidences of behavioral change among the communities residing in rural areas. They are increasingly giving up cooking on firewood. Even younger ladies disobey their mother / mother in law and insist on cooking using LPG.
- e. There are families who are not able to afford the cost of LPG refill, especially when the cost of a cylinder is rising. Some agencies are charging additional amounts for transport of cylinder. In villages, the cylinders are also available in black market and the subsidy is not transferred in bank accounts in all such cases. The uneducated households are sometimes cheated by the agencies. Some families across the state have complained that subsidy amount is not transferred to bank account. KFD or even Social Welfare Department should educate the households to make them aware regarding the correct process for booking a refill and also with regard to the availability of authorized agency in the locality. They should even monitor few cases.

2. Astra Ole and Sarala Ole supply; Supply of LPG program is saturated after several families are covered under these schemes and also under Ujjwalascheme. In the process beneficiaries have started discarding Astra ole and Sarala ole originally supplied to them. However, there are families who cannot afford the cost of refill of LPG cylinder. Many families are still using these fuel-efficient stoves. However, the beneficiaries of these stoves, who are still partially making use of it range between 25% and 40%. KFD has also discontinued these programs. While the study is confirming the action of KFD, but if LPG prices rise, KFD may have to restart the distribution of these stoves preferably Sarala ole.

3. Installation of Biogas plants; The success of the program is 20% among SCP beneficiaries and only 14.71% in TSP beneficiaries. The year wise success percentages under SCP and TSP are given below,

Scheme	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
SCP	15.38	25.00	-	-
TSP	66.67	-	8.33	-

There are cases, where the plant is installed in the houses of the beneficiaries who do not have sufficient livestock to generate dung and to use in the plant. Further in some cases the plants have not been installed. The poor success of the program is on account of lack of monitoring by KFD.

5. Solar Lamps; The success of the program is 54.84% in SCP and 54.77% in TSP. The year wise success percentages under SCP and TSP are given below,

Scheme	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
SCP	55.10	55.76	56.67	53.84
TSP	55.56	44.69	69.70	63.18

Electricity has reached all villages covering many households under Prime Minister's Saubhagya Scheme. Soon all households would be covered. Of course, power supply in villages is for 18 to 20 hours and it would further improve. Solar lamps are useful when the power goes off. As the power reached the villages people neglected the maintenance of solar lamps. Agencies responsible for maintenance in warranty period in some divisions have done better work than those responsible in remaining divisions. Not responding to the request of the beneficiaries for maintenance has resulted in low success of the program. Wherever KFD has provided better guidance and agencies have done well in taking up free maintenance during warranty period, the success rate is better.

6. Solar Water Heater; The overall success of the program is 52% under SCP and 49.58% under TSP. The year wise success percentages under SCP and TSP are given below,

Scheme	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
SCP	62.96	46.73	44.44	49.28
TSP	57.89	48.00	40.00	45.28

The success has varied across the divisions in the state. Forest divisions have fixed agencies to supply to chosen beneficiaries. There are complaints with regard to supplying the device, but not installing it. Further there are complaints that agencies have not attended repairs and maintenance during warranty period. Even if the family is utilizing the LPG for cooking food, the heating of water for bathing is generally done using firewood. The practice is still more prevalent in Malnad region where houses are scattered and firewood is available in plenty.

8. Social Security Plantations and Fruit Orchards; The programs under both the schemes have very limited coverage. Each of the schemes under Social Security plantations is implemented in six

Evaluation of Forestry Works under Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for the period 2013-14 to 2016-17

divisions. Fruit Orchards plantations are covered in 12 divisions under SCP and 10 divisions under TSP. There is lot of variation in the success of the program across the divisions. Usually teak, sapota, mango, tamarind and some other miscellaneous species are planted. Those beneficiaries who have taken care of the asset and nurtured the plants have grown good plantations, whereas the plantations have failed in all other cases. Often SC and ST beneficiaries do not hold sufficient lands to spare a portion for plantations. In Malnad belt especially in Uttar Kannada district, SC and ST communities have occupied forest land illegally. KFD is justified in not diverting such lands for growing social security plantations and fruit orchards for beneficiaries.

9. Fodder Plots; This program has very limited coverage. Napier grass slips are planted in the land owned by the beneficiaries. The purpose of the program is to encourage beneficiaries to grow fodder for their livestock. Choosing beneficiaries without livestock is the folly of the KFD. The fodder plots have failed in cases of many beneficiaries. Remaining beneficiaries have also maintained it for few years and are said to have used fodder. Lack of interest on the part of beneficiaries is the main reason for failure. Another reason for the failure of fodder plots is the lack of irrigation facility.
10. Supply of Bee hive boxes; Five boxes have been supplied to beneficiaries. This program is also not successful for want of technical training to beneficiaries and monitoring by KFD. The success of the program under SCP is 41.13% and that under TSP is 36.25%. The year wise success percentages under SCP and TSP are given below,

Scheme	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
SCP	40.00	58.33	-	39.23
TSP	71.45	28.57	-	33.90

Even these so-called successful beneficiaries have only maintained the boxes and have not procured honey for marketing. Very few of the beneficiaries have said that they have got small quantity of honey which has been consumed by themselves and their friends.

12. Supply of Poles/ Bamboo; Bamboo supply is limited to few divisions like Chickballapur, Yellapur and Sirsi. Wooden poles have been supplied to beneficiaries in other divisions. Bamboo has been used by beneficiaries in making baskets and mats. The beneficiaries have also admitted that they have marketed it, but could not specify the income received by them. Poles supplied in a number of divisions under both the schemes have been generally used by the beneficiaries for repairing and constructing the house, livestock sheds, barricading agriculture crops to prevent entry of livestock and also for making several agricultural implements. The beneficiaries have used the poles for these purposes. Some beneficiaries have said that they have received damaged poles and could not make use of it.

Recommendations and policy suggestions

1. LPG supply is picking up very fast in rural areas. However, there are still some SC & ST families who cannot afford the cost of refill. In addition to existing subsidy, KFD should provide another 25% subsidy to all SC & ST families residing within a radius of 5 km from the edge

of the forests. Further Solar cooker can be supplied in order to help conserving fossil fuel in addition to conservation of forests and nature.

2. Providing solar lamps to the beneficiaries is a very useful program. Maintenance is key for the success of the program. Agencies supplying the asset should be more responsive during the warranty period, and KFD must monitor it.
3. Supply of solar water heater to the communities can be very important intervention in bringing down their dependency on forests, which may be required to be stepped up. Some precautions are required to be taken that the house must have piped water supply and the device can be installed on the rooftop with proper vent fitted for the escape of the excess heat. The households can be educated about maintenance. The device is provided with series of tubes and even if one of them is damaged, it will not work. If maintenance is proper, there will be uninterrupted supply of hot water. KFD should ensure that the agencies supplying and installing the devices perform the task with sincerity. They should also attend the maintenance during the warranty period.
4. Fuel efficient stoves were supplied to beneficiaries in 2013-14 and 2014-15 and has been discontinued as people partly started using LPG. If LPG prices go northwards, KFD may have to reintroduce the supply of Sarala ole.
5. Social security plantations and fruit orchards have registered very good success in cases where the beneficiary has maintained and nurtured the plants. Many beneficiaries have neglected and their plantations have failed. KFD must conduct education and awareness program with the beneficiaries. Further the seedlings should be spared for such program immediately with the onset of monsoon. Traditionally KFD has been providing seedlings to beneficiaries after completion of their planting work, which should be discontinued.
6. Seedlings required for fruit orchards including grafted seedlings should be grown by KFD. Purchase of grafted varieties of seedlings from private nurseries/ horticulture department may be discontinued. However, if KFD does not have stock of fruit yielding species demanded by farmers, then it may collaborate with Horticulture Department in advance and procure the seedlings of desired species and distribute among the beneficiaries well before the planting season.
7. Fodder plots have failed and even selection of beneficiaries has been improper. Beneficiaries without livestock should not be chosen for the program. Moreover, growing of fodder in rural areas is being administered by the veterinary department of the state. Animal Husbandry, Horticulture and Agriculture departments can also be the stake holders in growing fodder for the livestock of the beneficiaries. Growing of fodder can be propagated on the bunds of agriculture crops as well as fruit orchards. The KFD should discontinue the program from both the schemes.
8. Supply of poles to the beneficiaries has been quite useful. Bamboo supply has so far poor coverage, which should be stepped up and beneficiaries be trained & encouraged to prepare mats, baskets etc., so that they can earn some revenue for additional livelihood. KFD should also ensure that the number of poles/species/class be standardized and followed in all divisions.
9. Bio gas plants are again not very successful. Communities are untrained and have not taken proper care to maintain the asset and use it. Providing and installing the plant in the house of a

Evaluation of Forestry Works under Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for the period 2013-14 to 2016-17

beneficiary without livestock is quite unjustified. KFD must select beneficiaries with adequate number of livestock (above 3) for the success of the program. The beneficiaries should also be provided training for maintenance.

10. For lack of technical support the beneficiaries provided with beehive boxes could not rear the insect and collect honey. KFD must ensure that the beneficiaries are properly chosen, trained, proper boxes and bee colonies from known source be supplied.