

Executive Summary

The Government of Karnataka (GoK) has formulated various programme and schemes for the benefit of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) for the socio-economic development of these communities. Among these programmes Government of Karnataka has started a scheme with an aim to help small and marginal farmers for improving the agriculture productivity by providing better irrigation facilities for SC and ST communities through various welfare corporations like Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Development Corporation Ltd, Karnataka Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd, and D. Devraja Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Ltd.

In this regard GoK launched Ganga Kalyana Scheme to provide irrigation facility to the agricultural lands of schedule caste farmers in all districts of Karnataka. There were three sub-schemes under Ganga Kalyana Scheme:

1. Individual Irrigation Bore well
2. Community Irrigation Bore well, and
3. Lift Irrigation Scheme

Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA) and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Development Corporation through open tender has invited various agencies to take up a study on the performance evaluation of the scheme. In the process, Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE) got shortlisted to undertake the evaluation study on the performance of one of its schemes under Gangakalyana Scheme i.e., Lift Irrigation Scheme for the period 2005-06 to 2011-12.

The major objective of the study was to evaluate the performance of Lift Irrigation scheme for the period 2005-06 to 2011-2. The study aimed to do a detailed analysis on the socio-economic development of the beneficiaries of lift irrigation scheme and assessed the improvement in their standard of living. A group of beneficiaries were randomly selected across all the identified districts.

Focused group discussion was conducted with the beneficiaries, and officers at head office and at district level.

A detailed questionnaire was developed to collect information on the important issues which were detailed under various sections viz., General information of the beneficiaries, Quality of the scheme, its usefulness and the socio-economic information and the process of sanctioning of the Evaluation of the Lift Irrigation Scheme with the approval of KEA and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation.

- The study found high level of illiteracy among the beneficiaries and which was also one of the reasons behind poor awareness about the scheme as well as selection process followed for implementation of the scheme. Marginal improvement in the literacy level among the family members (i.e., 5%) was observed after availing the scheme.
- Most of the beneficiaries belonged to Madiga's and Lambani's and Adi Karnataka's sub-castes. It was found that there are many other sub-castes in SC community. If they are available in those districts it is important that they are need to be given an opportunity to avail the scheme.
- The per centage of people who are depending on agriculture has imporved in the districts of Bidar and C.R.Nagar after availing the scheme. In other districts even after availing the scheme there was no change in the percent of people depending on agriculture and non-agricultural activities.
- It was observed that most of the beneficiaries were living in semi-pucca houses. Few of them have pucca houses and were continuing in the same house after availing the scheme. Not much difference was observed in the house structure before and after availing the scheme
- It was noticed from the primary interaction with the beneficiaries that around 90% of their family members both male and female were employed i.e., they were working in Dairy farm, Poultry farm, as agricultural labour etc. The percentage of unemployed was very less in case of male family members except in the districts of Chitrdurga, Davanagiri and Kalaburgi.
- The income levels of all the beneficiaries across all the districts showed that the annual net income on an average before availing the scheme was Rs. 40,000. This has improved to Rs.60,000 after availing the scheme. The data on expenditure and consumption pattern could not be collected as the beneficiaries were unable to provide realistic figures. But it was observed in the focused group discussion that all the family members of the beneficiaries were able to take nutritious food and were above the poverty line. This was because, all the family members were engaged in their respective employment and earning an average income of around Rs.3000 per month.

They said that they spend the entire income in meeting the basic requirements and could not save a part of it.

- Regarding the selection of beneficiaries they were of the view that the selection process was satisfactory to certain extent, but some of the beneficiaries from Gadag, Davanagiri, Koppal, Yadgiri districts expressed their difficulty in filling the application and providing the necessary documents. They said that they had to attach many enclosures along with the application and were not aware of the method of filling the application. In this aspect nearly 30% of them took the help from Government representatives and friends.
- The beneficiaries were of the view that the entire implementation process took on an average one month for getting the water supply into their respective agricultural lands. However, there were very few cases reported in Bagalkote and Belagavi that the entire process took more than 3 months in the initial years of implementation of the scheme i.e., during 2006-07. The major activity that took more time was electrification. Maximum number of the beneficiaries in Mandya (100%), Mysuru (100%), Ballari (96%) and Gadag (90%), CR Nagar (66%), and Chitradurg (60%) were of the view that in almost all districts the earth work/ground work was completed within week days.
- As far as operational problems were concerned the beneficiaries said that problems like motor breakdowns, electricity connection and pumps failure were the major reasons. Few of them were having related problems like groundwork was finished but motor was not fixed, all the accessories were not received. But on the whole the beneficiaries said that the scheme was working well and they were able to get irrigation facility on time for their agricultural fields. They said that they were not carrying any guarantee card of the pumps and motors and some said that they were not aware of that.
- The irrigation facility provided by the scheme was used mainly for agriculture purpose only. It was noted from the primary interaction with the beneficiaries that the agricultural productivity per acre has increased marginally and also the quality of the produce has improved. Especially this irrigation facility helped the farmers for multiple cropping.