

A Study on Constraints Accruing Lodha Women in the Micro Project Developmental Programmes

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ABSTRACT

Lodha women are hard worker and family economy mostly depends on them. Lodha Micro Project has formula ted several programmes for their upliftment in order to bring them into mainstream by leaving their antisocial activities. The study revealed that training for capacity building, exposure visit for confidence development, liasoning for easy credit facilities, close monitoring and guidance to solve the field problems immediately, priority towards poverty alleviation, cluster approach, insurance coverage, transparency in programme implementation, developing infrastructures with common agreement along with competency in use, repair and maintenance were the major deficiencies observed which are to be taken into account while formulating action plan by the Lodha Micro Project for sustainable development and empowerment of Lodha women.

Keywords: Constraints, Empowerment, Lodha micro project, Lodha women

INTRODUCTION

The Lodha tribal community stands separate from all other tribal groups because of their criminal habits and aggressiveness. The Lodha women have more responsibilities and contribution for the maintenance of the family. They also work hard and the family economy usually depends on them. Lodha Micro Project has implemented various income generating programmes feasible to Lodha women for their upliftment (Panda and Guha, 2013). Adult education, cultural and capacity building programmes are also organized for effective implementation. In spite of all efforts, significant developments on livelihood systems were not observed that may be apprehended for the inconveniencies faced by the Lodha people in general and women in particular (Ghatak, 2008). A study was therefore, designed to analyse the constraints of Lodha women in effective

implementation of the developmental programmes formulated by Lodha Micro Project.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in Suliapada and Morada blocks of Mayurbhanj district. Lodha Micro Project operated in a cluster of 12 villages i.e., 4 villages in Suliapada and 8 villages in Morada block covering 975 households. A sample of 66 Lodha women from Suliapada and 144 from Morada block were selected randomly as the respondents for the study. The variables such as planning, programme development and implementation, input supply, credit and finance, technological backstopping, management as well as infrastructure support were selected for analyzing the constraints. The data collected personally on a continuum of strongly agree, agree, somewhat agree and disagree were analysed with

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score value of 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively to reveal the results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Proper planning provides cooperative and coordinated efforts as well as facilitates sequential execution of tasks by reducing uncertainties. The data reflected in Table 1 reveals that the respondents of both Suliapada and Morada block had stated the constraints of planning not done by experienced officials and not done from the perspective of Lodha women as well as not involving them in decision making process. These constraints are very pertinent for developing feasible and realistic programme and suggested for remedial measures.

Lodha Micro Project has implemented several income generating activities like horticultural plantations, goat and poultry rearing, sabai rope making, tasar rearing, pisciculture, bee keeping along with field crops for the empowerment of Lodha women. The findings indicates that the respondents of both the blocks had not expressed the constraints towards programming not done on all farm based activities, inadequate programme for women and not based on the needs of the people. But, the constraints expressed on priorities not towards poverty alleviation, insufficient attempt for self-employment and no sustainable programme were very much genuine for the development of Lodha women and needs well planned programming. Capacity building and skill competency with

Table 1: Constraints expressed by the respondents

S.No.	Development	Mean Score			Pooled mean score	Rank
		Suliapada block (n = 66)	Morada block (n =144)	Diff. (%)		
I	Constraints of planning					
1.	Problem diagnosis not done properly	2.68	2.68	0.00	2.68	III
2.	Planning not done from their perspective	3.08	3.04	1.30	3.05	II
3.	Emphasis not given to traditional knowledge	2.53	1.75	30.83	2.00	V
4.	Poor leadership among women	2.12	2.18	2.75	2.16	IV
5.	Not organizing properly	2.12	2.18	2.75	2.16	IV
6.	Not involving in decision making	3.02	3.06	1.31	3.05	II
7.	Planning not done by experienced officials	3.23	3.01	6.81	3.08	I
II	Constraints of programme development					
1.	Not based on needs of the people	2.86	2.84	0.70	2.85	IV
2.	Insufficient attempt for self employment	3.29	3.14	4.56	3.19	II
3.	No sustainable programming	3.17	3.19	0.63	3.18	III
4.	Inadequate programme for women	2.97	2.69	9.43	2.78	VI
5.	Priorities not towards poverty alleviation	3.29	3.31	0.60	3.30	I
6.	Programming not on all farm based activities	2.94	2.77	5.78	2.82	V
III	Constraints of programme implementation					
1.	No flexibility in implementation	3.02	2.71	10.26	2.81	VI
2.	Not implemented with knowledge of the people	3.11	3.24	1.52	3.26	I
3.	Participatory approach not followed	3.29	3.22	2.13	3.24	II
4.	Systematic approach not followed	3.24	3.10	4.32	3.14	III
5.	No permanent approach to each programme	3.17	3.03	4.42	3.07	IV
6.	No arrangement of inputs and materials	2.98	2.89	3.02	2.92	V
7.	No role specification of the users	3.24	2.78	14.20	2.92	V

Table 1 contd....

S.No.	Development	Mean Score			Pooled mean score	Rank
		Suliapada block (n = 66)	Morada block (n =144)	Diff. (%)		
IV	Constraints of input supply					
1.	Not supplied in time	3.21	3.27	1.83	3.25	I
2.	Quality not ensured	2.36	2.43	2.88	2.41	V
3.	Required quantity not supplied	2.59	2.51	3.09	2.54	III
4.	Lack of skill in use of inputs	3.24	3.19	1.54	3.21	II
5.	Not liasoning with dealers for timely availablity	2.23	2.54	12.20	2.44	IV
V	Constraints of credit and finance					
1.	Not liasoning for credit facility	3.35	3.38	0.89	3.37	II
2.	Adequate credit not provided	3.24	3.17	2.16	3.19	V
3.	High rate of interest	2.35	2.62	10.31	2.54	VII
4.	No subsidy facility	2.88	2.85	10.42	2.86	VI
5.	No flexibility in mortgage	3.58	3.40	5.03	3.46	I
6.	Not fixing installments as per the capability	3.30	3.37	2.08	3.35	III
7.	No insurance coverage	3.39	3.22	5.01	3.27	IV
VI	Constraints of technological support					
1.	Inadequate training	3.41	3.38	0.88	3.39	II
2.	No clarification and understanding	3.24	2.65	18.21	2.84	V
3.	No exposure visit for confidence	3.67	3.35	8.72	3.45	I
4.	No literature for reference	2.47	2.88	14.24	2.75	VI
5.	Not liasoning with shareholders	3.18	3.23	1.55	3.21	IV
6.	Insufficient attempt to solve field problems	3.39	3.31	2.36	3.34	III
VII	Constraints of management support					
1.	Irregular monitoring and guidance	3.30	3.29	0.30	3.29	II
2.	No timely diagnosis of problems	3.33	3.31	3.60	3.32	I
3.	Insufficient attempt for conflict resolution	2.82	2.85	1.05	2.84	V
4.	Cluster approach not followed	3.33	3.26	2.10	3.28	III
5.	No sincerity and interest of the project officials	2.89	2.79	3.46	2.82	VI
6.	Field staffs not competent	2.62	3.20	18.13	3.02	IV
7.	Lack of friendly approach	2.53	2.49	1.58	2.50	VII
8.	Not encouraging harmony among people	2.42	2.53	4.35	2.50	VII
VIII	Constraints of infrastructure support					
1.	Community interest not considered	3.32	3.23	2.71	3.26	II
2.	No prior discussion with people	3.15	3.31	4.83	3.26	II
3.	Site selection not with common agreement	3.26	3.13	3.99	3.17	III
4.	No sustainable programming	3.03	3.01	0.66	3.02	V
5.	Poor quality work	2.86	2.90	1.38	2.89	VI
6.	No provision for repair and maintenance	3.12	3.10	0.64	3.11	IV
7.	Skill competency not developed for proper use	3.33	3.29	1.20	3.30	I

(Maximum Obtainable Score – 4)

managerial efficiency helps in successful implementation of the suggested programmes. But the respondents had reacted for programmes not implemented with the knowledge of the people, participatory and systematic approach not followed and no permanent approach to each programme. Unless transparency maintained and involvement of the users with proper guidance and systematic approach, the desired end results could not be achieved. The project officials therefore have to analyse all these aspects for effective implementation of all the formulated developmental programmes.

Availability of required inputs and materials with easy access along with reasonable price and skill competency in use ensure desired production and income. The data reflects that inputs not supplied in time and lacks of skills in use of inputs were the major constraints expressed by the respondents. Since Lodha people are very resource poor, they need free supply of inputs in time with competency in use for better production and income generation. The project officials have to organize training programmes intermediary during the crop season and supply required inputs in time so that the Lodha women will apply properly and harvest good yield. Lodha people essentially need financial support to adopt recommended technologies due to their poor economic condition. The project officials need to liaison with credit institutions to facilitate credit enabling them to implement income generating activities. As revealed, the respondents had reacted for no flexibility in mortgage, not liasoning for credit facility, not fixing instalments as per capability, no insurance coverage and adequate credit not provided. It

is therefore apprehended that adequate credit support were not provided and suggested for liasoning with credit institutions for credit facilities enabling them to manage the vocational activities effectively.

The Lodha women are neither cultivators nor they have adequate lands for livelihood support. Capacity building is essentially acquired to develop their competency to increase production and income from their activities (Sonnad and Sangan, 2014). The constraints expressed by the respondents on technological support were; no exposure visit for confidence development, inadequate training, insufficient attempt to solve field problems as well as not liasoning with the related stakeholders to explore resources and facilities which are essentially required and suggested for all possible supports for proper implementation of the programmes. Lodha women have not much experience on their vocational activities, close supervision, monitoring and guidance could help them in proper management of their vocational activities. Analysis of data revealed that not diagnosing of problems timely, irregular monitoring and guidance, cluster approach not followed and field staffs not competent were the major constraints stated by the respondents which should be taken into account for proper management of their activities. Various infrastructures particularly rehabilitation centres, land reclamation and development, supply of farm implements, horticultural and, forest plantations, tassar rearing, irrigation facilities etc. have been developed for the benefit of the Lodha community. These infrastructure are to be maintained properly for sustainable use. As observed, no skill competency in proper use, no prior

Table 2: Comparative analysis of the constraints

S.No.	Constraint	Mean Score			Pooled mean score (n =210)	Rank
		Suliapada block (n = 66)	Morada block (n=144)	Diff. (%)		
1.	Planning	2.77	2.62	5.42	2.57	VIII
2.	Programme development	3.09	2.99	3.24	3.02	V
3.	Programme implementation	3.15	3.00	4.76	3.05	IV
4.	Input supply	2.93	2.79	4.78	2.77	VII
5.	Credit and finance	3.16	3.14	0.63	3.15	II
6.	Technological support	3.23	3.13	3.10	3.16	I
7.	Management support	2.91	2.97	2.02	2.95	VI
8.	Infrastructure support	3.15	3.14	0.32	3.14	III

discussion in site selection with common agreement based on community interest, no provision for repair and maintenance were the major constraints expressed by the respondents in developing infrastructures.

Comparative analysis of the constraints revealed (Table 2) that the respondents had expressed more constraints on technological support followed by credit and finance, infrastructure support, programme development and implementation in comparison to planning, input supply and management support.

CONCLUSION

The role of women in Lodha society is more crucial as they work hard and the family economy depends on them. The Lodha women had expressed more constraints on technological support, credit and finance, infrastructure support, programme development and implementation. Some of the pertinent constraints such as training for capacity building, exposure visit for confidence development, liasoning for easy credit facilities, close monitoring and guidance to solve field problems

immediately, priority towards poverty alleviation, cluster approach, insurance coverage, transparency in programme implementation, developing infrastructures with common agreement as well as competency in its use, repair and maintenance should be taken into accounting while formulating action plan for proper implementation resulting sustainable development and empowerment of the Lodha Women.

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