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Challenges faced by NGO beneficiaries and proposed solutions

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Abstract

Agriculture is one of the primary occupations and main source of livelihood for rural population in India. One-third of the people in India live in poverty which is pegged at nearly 21.92 per cent. Non-Governmental Organizations have emerged as an important element of contemporary Indian society and acts as a link between grassroots and civil society. The present investigation was conducted in Shivamogga district during 2023-24. A total of 180 sample constitutes the Population. The data was collected through semi-structured interview schedule. The study intended to know the constraints and suggestions given by the beneficiaries in functioning of NGO. The ex-post facto Research design was used for this study. The results found that insufficient financial resources ranked first, followed by insufficient training, skill improvement and organizational strengthening within NGOs are constraints expressed by beneficiaries. The suggestions given by the beneficiaries are provide adequate loans (78.88%), followed by need based advisories from extension personal (75.00%), increase role of NGO activities in rural areas (66.11%).

Keywords: NGO beneficiaries, agriculture, rural livelihoods

Introduction

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, it remains a critical sector in supporting the livelihoods of millions of farmers and ensuring food security. India's rich agricultural heritage is evident in the diverse crops cultivated, reflecting the country's varied climatic conditions and agro-ecological zones with a total productivity of 331.50 Mt (Press Information Bureau of India-2022). It contributes significantly to the nation's GDP and employment, particularly in rural areas. In recent years, Indian agriculture has experienced remarkable strides in production and productivity, bolstering the country's position as a global agricultural powerhouse. NGOs in recent days have taken shares in promoting and implementing different development activities in social welfare services. The NGOs emerged in their areas of agriculture and development of socio-economic status of people with other services. Frequency, percentage and garrett ranking test are some statistical tools used in this study.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in Shivamogga district of Karnataka State during the year 2023-2024. The *ex-post*

facto research design was used for the study. Shri Kshetra Dharmsthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP), Chaitanya Rural Development Society and Shivamogga Multipurpose Social Service Society (SMSSS) are selected for the study as they were operating for long time and actively working in all the talukas of district and development of agriculture and rural development in district. Chi square test, frequency and percentage are some statistical tools used in this study. The data were collected from 180 beneficiaries through personal interview method by using the random sampling technique and with a well structured interview schedule. The constraints and suggestions were expressed by the beneficiaries through closed ended questions. Thus, obtained responses were summed up and expressed in terms of frequency and percentages.

Results and Discussion

The data in the Table 1 reveals that the constraints expressed by the beneficiaries using Garrett ranking technique. The constraint of insufficient financial resources was ranked first with Garrett score 55.75, followed by insufficient training, skill improvement and organizational strengthening within NGOs ranked second with Garrett

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score 53.89 and absence of strategic planning ranked third with Garrett score 53.68. Irregular monitoring (IV), lack of awareness about NGO (V), lack of efficient knowledge persons (VI) and insufficient extension personal (VII) with Garrett scores 50.26, 49.03, 47.09 and 43.29, respectively.

Table 1: Constraints perceived by beneficiaries in functioning of NGOs (n=180)

Sl. No.	Constraints	Garrett score	Rank
1.	Insufficient financial resources	55.75	I
2.	Insufficient training, skill improvement and organizational strengthening within NGOs	53.89	II
3.	Absence of strategic planning	53.68	III
4.	Irregular monitoring	50.26	IV
5.	Lack of awareness about NGO	49.03	V
6.	Lack of efficient knowledge persons	47.09	VI
7.	Insufficient extension personal	43.29	VII

From the Table 2, it was found suggestions given by the beneficiaries to address constraints expressed by the beneficiaries. The data revealed that, majority of beneficiaries suggested to provide adequate loans (78.88%), followed by need based advisories from extension personal (75.00%), increase role of NGO activities in rural areas (66.11%), proper training should be provided to the workers (57.22%), use of Information, communication and technologies (54.44%) and there must be farm graduates in NGOs for better transfer of technologies (43.33%).

Table 2: Suggestions given by beneficiaries (n=180)

Sl. No.	Statements	Frequency	Percentage
1.	The adequate loans should be provided	142	78.88
2.	Extension personal must provide need based advisories	135	75.00
3.	Increase role of NGOs activities in rural areas	119	66.11
4.	The proper training on agriculture and rural development aspects should be provided to the NGO workers	103	57.22
5.	Usage of Information, Communication and Technology tools can be enhanced to avoid knowledge gap	98	54.44
6.	There must be farm graduates in the NGOs for better ToT	78	43.33

Conclusion

In hindsight, the major constraints faced by beneficiaries' insufficient financial resources followed the insufficient training, skill improvement and organizational strengthening within NGOs. Among the suggestions majority of the beneficiaries offered adequate loans should be provided, extension personal must provide need based advisories and increase role of NGOs activities in rural areas.

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