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Knowledge level of Lambani women towards Government welfare programmes

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Abstract

The Lambanis are the largest tribal groups of India. They were historically nomadic, keeping cattle, trading salt and transporting goods. They collect various minor forest products from forest for their survival. There may be hundred million Lambani living in the world. The present study was conducted during 2017-18 to understand the livelihood status of Lambanis in Kalghatgi taluk of Dharwad district and Davangere taluk of Davangere district. Totally 120 Lambani women were selected based on the equal random sampling method. The data was collected by using pre-tested interview schedule. The results revealed that 14.00 per cent of the respondents had medium knowledge level followed by Low (31.67%) and high (28.33%). The results revealed that Relationship between independent variables and knowledge about Government programmes are none of the variables found to be significantly related with their knowledge. So, there is a need to increase the knowledge level among the rural women to get more benefited by the Government programmes.

Keywords: Knowledge, Lambani women, Government programmes

Introduction

Lambani whose colourful dresses and ornaments make them distinct cultural groups. Lambani who call themselves migrants from Rajasthan are a unique community in Karnataka. These tribal people also known as the adivasi's are the poorest in the country, who are all still dependent on hunting, agriculture and fishing. They live scattered over the state, but they are distinctly noticed by their dresses. They belong to schedule caste in Karnataka state and backward caste bin other states. The traditional occupation of Lambanis is agriculture, animal husbandry, salt trading, wage earning through construction works and selling of forest produce besides engaging in petty business. At present they are suffering socially and economically because of deforestation, strict implementation of forest protection measures and declaration of forests as reserved forests. To overcome these problems Government has implemented so many programmes. Hence, the main objective is to study the knowledge level regarding relevant Government programmes for Lambani women.

Methodology

This study was conducted during 2017-18 in Kalghatgi taluk of Dharwad district and Davangere taluk of Davangere district. The sample sizes of 120 Lambani women were selected based on the equal random sampling method. Keeping in mind the objectives of study, an interview schedule was developed. Based on the experience gained in pre-testing, the schedule was modified and the data was

collected by personal interview method. The data was analyzed and interpreted using frequency, percentage and correlation.

Results and Discussion

Knowledge of the respondents about Government programmes

Stree Shakthi programme

Table 1 depicts that, 62.50 per cent of the respondents had knowledge in facilities provided, members required for the formation of SHGs (52.50%), main objective of the scheme (46.67%), Whereas 38.33 percent of the respondents knew preference of beneficiary and 32.50 per cent of them knew where SHGs are formed. The possible reason maybe the SHGs group members and the leader will conduct group meetings (weekly/fortnightly/monthly) and group discussions to give the knowledge about the benefits of the scheme.

Indhira Gandhi National widow pension scheme and Indhira Gandhi National old age pension scheme

It can be observed from Table1 that, 68.33 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about amount given per month, 65.00 per cent of them knew about eligibility to avail benefits from the scheme, purpose of the scheme (55.00%), age criteria (37.50%) and agency responsible for payment of the amount (29.17%). The possible reasons may be due to discussions with officials of panchayat, post office, attending Gram Sabha meetings, preparation for required

documents and discussion among the beneficiaries.

Bhagyalakshmi Yojana

From the Table 1 it can be inferred that, 75.00 per cent of the respondents had knowledge regarding documents needed to avail benefits from the scheme, 67.50 per cent of them knew about objectives of the scheme, 65.00 per cent

were knowing about criteria’s considered while selecting beneficiaries, eligibility for the scheme (53.33%) and 20.83 per cent of them knowing about facilities provided. Overall knowledge index is (41.43%). This may be due to frequent visit to Anganwadi and more exposure to mass media. Lambanis are targeted people they got right guidance and information from the Anganwadi workers.

Table 1: Knowledge of the respondents about Government programmes, n=120

Sl. No.	Programmes	Statements	Yes	No
1	Stree Shakthi programme	Objectives of the scheme	56 (46.67)	54(45.00)
		Eligibility of beneficiary	46 (38.33)	64(53.33)
		Facilities provided	75 (62.50)	45(37.50)
		Members required for the formation of SHGs	63 (52.50)	57(47.50)
		SHGsformation	39 (32.50)	81(67.50)
2	Indhira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)	Eligibility to avail benefits	78 (65.00)	42 (35.00)
		Age criteria	45 (37.50)	75 (62.50)
		Pension amount	82 (68.33)	38 (31.67)
		Agency responsible for payment of amount	35 (29.17)	85 (70.83)
3	Indhira Gandhi National Old age Pension Scheme (IGNOPS)	Purpose of the scheme	66 (55.00)	44 (36.70)
4	Bhagayalakshmi Yojana	Objective of the scheme	81 (67.50)	39 (32.50)
		Facilities provided	25 (20.83)	95 (79.17)
		Eligibility for the scheme	64 (53.33)	56 (38.33)
		Criteria’s considered while selecting beneficiaries	78 (65.00)	42 (35.00)
		Documents to be submitted	90 (75.00)	30 (25.00)
Overall index			41.43%	

From the Fig 1 clearly revealed that, 14.00 per cent of the respondents had medium knowledge level followed by Low (31.67%) and high (28.33%). The reason behind this may be low illiteracy and lack of guidance from the local leaders and extension workers.

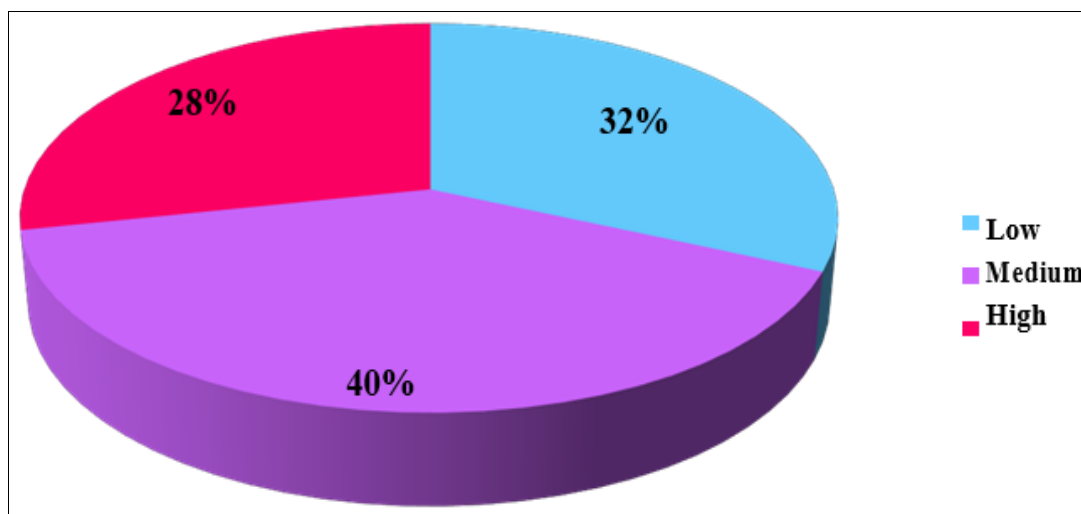


Fig 1: Overall knowledge level of the respondents about Government programmes

From the Table 2 none of the variables found to be significantly related with their knowledge.

Table 2: Relationship between independent variables and knowledge about Government programmes, n=120

Sl. No.	Independent variables	Co-relation Coefficient 'r' Value
1.	Age	0.084 ^{NS}
2.	Education	0.126 ^{NS}
3.	Occupation	-0.40 ^{NS}
4.	Land holding	0.153 ^{NS}
5.	Annual Income	0.017 ^{NS}
6.	Mass media participation	0.085 ^{NS}
7.	Urban contact	0.115 ^{NS}
8.	Size of the family	0.118 ^{NS}
9.	Livestock possession	0.127 ^{NS}
10.	Family education	0.023 ^{NS}

** - significant at 1 per cent

* - significant at 5 per cent

NS - Non significant

Conclusion

Women empowerment programmes and schemes are implemented to provide better standard of living by creating livelihood opportunities for Lambani women and they can be achieved through micro credit and self-help groups which are considered as better source to bring change and improvement in their life style. The findings of the study resulted that majority of the respondents were having medium level of knowledge about Government programmes because of illiteracy, lack of guidance, lack of communication skills and corruptions. there is a need to increase the knowledge level among the rural women to get more benefited by the Government programmes.

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