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A Lift Irrigation Scheme of Karnataka State: A Critical Review

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Abstract

Realising the poor welfare implications of the schemes like loan waivers, subsidies there is growing support for the empowerment of the farming community. In such circumstances, Karnataka state government launched Ganga Kalyana Yojana (GKY) Scheme to uplift the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) in rural area. The scheme targeted the SMFs and subsidized the finance to lift the water by digging the bore and later supplied the electrification. Since 1996-97 the scheme has been performing, many authors and committees evaluated the programme. In this paper an attempt has been made to critically review the research done on the GKY. An overview used descriptive and analytical research method, found that SC/STs less awareness towards scheme, positive changes in SMFs lives style and cropping pattern, finally noticed several issues and suggestions of the scheme with evidence.

Key Words: Food Subsidies, Loan Waiver, SMFs, Electrification, GKY.

Introduction

Since 1973 Karnataka has been initiating, implementing and modifying several socio-economic policies to upliftment of the weaker section of the society with special focus on rural areas. Union Government of India is also supporting the state government in this endeavor in terms of financial support grant-in-aid. Nonetheless, among 30 states of India, Karnataka state is most elevated developed one with aaverage GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) improvement of 8.2 percent in the financial year 2010-2011. The slanted circulation of land possessions in Karnataka for the year 1955-56 and the year 1980-81 is very notable, the farmers' allocation with respect to land was that 30.8 percent of farmers involved 75.1 percent of the land and 19.6 percent of farmers involved 58.7 percent of the land respectively. Fundamentally, small and marginal landholders were expanded from 11.64 lakhs to 25.46 lakhs (more than twofold) and from 47.3 percent to 59.1 percent in a similar period (1955-56 to 1980-81). Likewise, the zone of Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) has expanded from 11.19 lakh hectores (10.3%) to 22.76 lakh hectores (19.4%) about twofold. Subsequently, enhancements in agronomic practices ought to be coordinated towards Small and marginal farmers.

Government should not support villagers by giving only subsidies, loan waiving and other pushing up activities, but there is a need of empowerment through self-reliance workouts(Shrinivas 2014)¹. Particularly, farming in Karnataka is strongly reliant on the southwest storm and just 26.5% of the planted territory (30,900km²) is exposed to irrigation. To give irrigation facility to the 74.6% land government has propelled numerous plans and projects. Among them, the 'Ganga Kalyana Yojana' is one of the most significant plans acquainted with the annihilation of the issues of the irrigation system arrangement of the rural region of Karnataka by 1983. The state administration of Karnataka has targeted the *Ganga Kalyana Yojana* conspire concentrated on SCs and STs just who has a place with small and marginal landholdings in an at first implementation, to overcome the social discrimination and its manifestation. "The demand of equality is not only an individual moral claim to respect as human being but also a political claim on the state of a citizen"(Barbara Harrish and Aseem Prakash, 2008)². Inevitably, it has the social duty of the legislature of Karnataka to invigorate the small and marginal farmers having a place with others in other backward classes (OBC) and minority communities. Henceforth, *here the focus on to an overview the Irrigation Scheme (GKY) for the beneficiaries prospective and an attempt has been made to critically review the researches done on the GKY.*

Ganga Kalyana Yojana is a lift irrigation Scheme which is initiated to enhance the productivity of the lands by enhancing the irrigation facility in dry lands and the lands depends on rainfall. The State Government of Karnataka was started this scheme in 1996-97, with the focus of Small and Marginal Farmers' (SMFs) particularly from only SC and STs in the initial days. Basically, scheme provided subsidised bore well to irrigate them by drilling bore and giving required pump-set and other materials, later on that has to be re-pay the loan on successful implementation. This shows it was not as a fully financial support.

It is now undertaking SC, ST, OBC, Vishwakarma and Minority Small and Marginal Farmers across the Karnataka state with full financial support to drill a bore well. There are five Government Corporations (GCs) framed by the state government and each GC focus on each community SMFs for selection and allotting bore well. The fund allots by the State Government of Karnataka to each GC on the basis of the number of applicants. However, there are common Pump-set, Accessories, Drilling agencies and Electrification boards around the state which serve through GCs.

Five Government Corporations (GCs) Are,

1. Dr. B R Ambedkar Development Corporations (SC)
2. Karnataka State Tribal Development Corporation (ST)
3. Devaraju Urs Backward Class Development Corporation (BCM)
4. Karnataka Minority Development Corporation (KMDC)
5. Karnataka Vishwakarma Community Development Corporation (KVCDC)

Criteria for Selection

Two broad categories have been considered where the farmers participate in irrigation scheme which are Individual scheme or group scheme users. Every farmer needs to meet specific criteria in order to selection. Below Table 1.1 shows the Selection criteria and service facilities.

Table 1.1: Ganga Kalyana Yojana Selection Criteria and Service Facility

Type of Scheme	Required Land Size	Income per year of SMF (In Rs.)	No. of Beneficiary	Allotted Borewells
Individual Bore well Scheme	Minimum 2 hectares in a geographical area	Applicant must have below Rs. 22, 000	1	1
Community Bore well Scheme	Minimum 8 to 15 acres in a geographical area	Applicant must have below Rs. 22, 000	3	2
	Minimum 15 to 20 acres in a geographical area	Applicant must have below Rs. 22, 000	5	3

The Irrigation scheme (GKY) has two main approvals on selection process, they are namely (1) Government Corporation(District Level) and (2)Member of Legislative Assembly(Taluk level). An appropriate document has to be submitted by each farmer which satisfies the eligibility criteria such as minimum landholding, category certificate and annual income. Usually from May to July application may invites, later the first verification has done by the district office then it will send to taluk level committee which has 149 members and headed by the MLA. After that the committee scrutinise the application and finalise the selection list for individual and community bore well scheme-wise with respect to categories such as SC,

ST, OBC, Vishwakarma and Minority. Later on, it will suggest to geologists to point the bore well point and followed by to serve the required materials with proper electrification.

Methodology

The study was used descriptive and analytical research methods to analyse the taken objective. To understand the role of Ganga Kalyana Yojana scheme towards beneficiaries lives style, it has used telephone survey to gather the opinion from few beneficiaries. Majorly secondary data source too used by the work of many researchers who have done their research on the same issue. Some of the government statistical reports, websites, journals and books have referred for the better perception about the scheme performance towards beneficiaries' socio-economic conditions.

Historical Background of Lift Irrigation in Karnataka

The role of irrigation in developing countries is much indeed and some institutional sources such as aid, financing and technical agencies are the major pillars for the Irrigation (Kirpich, et, al., 1996)³. The establishment of lift irrigation schemes began in the 1960s, on the motive of 'grow more food'. Hence, State Government of Karnataka established first lift irrigation programme in the Northern regions in 1960 and that operates by the Minor Irrigation Department of the Karnataka Government. Most of the schemes (80%) were established between 1971 and 1990. The decade of 1971-80 was more vibrant, because large number (45.6%) of the schemes were introduced than previous and latter periods. As many of the schemes have become discontinued today, it was difficult to find the exact number of beneficiaries under the scheme which were introduced up to 1990s (Kulkarni et al., September 26, 2003)⁴.

Public Schemes Awareness among different Categories

Basically, the scheme has some certain criteria for selection and implementing strategies. The process when choose the beneficiaries with respect to categories, there is higher proportionate SC and STs comparatively other communities. Why? Because, due to high population, poor farmers and SMFs we can see in such categories. Although an author gave a paradox to this scenario and strongly noticed that, the beneficiaries who come under Dr. B R Ambedkar Development Corporation (SC/STs) they are very less aware towards schemes. For example, among 120 respondents only 4 family utilized the GKY scheme and rest of the others do not aware (Devarajappa, Feb 2018)⁵.

The awareness among SC/STs categories is very less relatively others and more over there are some other constraints which are not allowed them to avail the benefit easily such as political dominance, GCs administration ignorance, some kinds of mis managements in the field. For example, the study talked about the dynamic and static water sources to install a pump and noticed that there is a scientific basis to that person who points out the water resources on our land through his power of resistance (Sirahatti, May 2019)⁶.

Growth Rate of Ganga Kalyana Yojana Borewells

A study revealed the relationship of subsidies for irrigation and electrification, still many governments have been failing to manage these two factors of pricing rather than the private financial institutions (Sangal, Sept 2016)⁷. There are many research studies have done on public schemes that to only few studies conducted particularly on the performance of Ganga Kalyana Yojana in certain districts not in entire Karnataka. They revealed the information and evidence with several aspects such as, the growth of borewells in the study period, changes in the cropping pattern of the SMFs at pre-implementation and post-implementation period, the scheme efficiency and outcome, socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries, assets and livestock generation among the beneficiaries, etc. here there are some results which are reviewed by the GKY studies.

As per the study, the number of borewell sizes under the GKY scheme has increased at 10.59 percent and 25.59 percent during (2000-2014) in the entire state and (2000-2013) in Vijayapura district respectively and to understand the efficiency and outcome and suggest the scope for improvements of GKY scheme. The study had evaluated in three stages of scheme (Pre-implementation, implementation and post-implementation). As a result, 7 borewells in HD kote and 11 borewells in Nanjanagudu had failed out of 38 and 42 respectively in 2010. Most of the beneficiaries from 3A and 3B under scheme and C-I and 2A under individual Scheme and only 12% of the beneficiaries are belonging to women and 1% belongs to physically challenged (Lakshmi k, June 2015 and Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development, 2010)^{8,9}. There are many factors which determines the performance of the scheme, such as negligence of participants, beneficiary's selection, contributions from the beneficiaries, absence of farmers to run the schemes, etc. (Kulkarni et al., September 26, 2003)⁴.

Socio-Economic Profile of GKY Beneficiaries

A government programme should have optimistic assumption that exceeds the farmers' income than the programme cost to improve their standard of living (Binswanger and Khandekar, Nov, 2007)¹⁰. To assess the socio-economic status of the scheme beneficiaries, there were two major schemes taken up by the government they are namely, Margin-Money-Subsidy sum Loan Scheme and Individual irrigation Borewell Scheme (Rao Hemalata, 1990)¹¹. Distinguish between socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries of the GKY scheme and resulted that, during 2009-10, 55% and 60% of households of HD kote and Nanjanagudu reported net income is greater than RS. 20,000 and 2.3% and 4.3% of the respondents of HD kote and Nanjanagudu earned greater than RS. 50,000 net incomes. Around 83% and 91% of respondents are strongly agree about their increased crop in HD kote and Nanjanagudu respectively. They also notice diversified crop after implementation of scheme into their land(Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development, 2010)⁹.

Cropping Patterns Followed by GKY Beneficiaries

As a result of the GKY scheme, there are drastic changes in seasonal crops to commercial crops, non-institutional to institutional sources for credit and there has been a positive development in asset and livestock generation, the market system is transformed into an organized one. The study which chosen the stratified random sampling to analyse the cropping pattern of the GKY scheme among Minorities of Chikmagalur district resulted that, 76% of the selected farmers were started to grow more than 2 crops of dissimilar which has improved their economic condition of life(Lakshmi k, June 2015 and Nijamuddin, Jan 2014)^{8,12}.

It found a drawback in an unscientific casing of bore wells and suggested post follow up about usage of water through some modern and scientific irrigation types(Lakshmi k, June 2015)⁸.

Finally, study recommended short-term and long-term activities, reservation for women and PH candidates, training resourced, 3-6 months follow-up after borewell implementation. Under short-term and collaboration of corporation and other line departments, follow up after 6 months are under long term(Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development, 2010)⁹.

Summarisation

There is less awareness of SC/STs SMFs towards Government Schemes. As of the study evident that among 120 respondents who can directly have benefit from BRADC, only 4 family utilized the GKY scheme and rest of the others do not aware. The number of borewell sizes under the GKY scheme has increased at only 10.59 percent during 2000-2014 in the entire state. The failure of borewells sizes were on an average 20 percent in a district of Mysore only in 2010. A study revealed the sub categories ignorance by founding most of the beneficiaries from 3A and 3B under scheme and C-I and 2A under individual Scheme and only 12% of the beneficiaries are belonging to women and 1% belongs to physically challenged. There is a drawback till going in borewell casing. There are drastic changes in the diversified crops and commercial crops. Around 76% of the selected farmers were started to grow more than 2 crops of dissimilar which has improved their economic condition of life.

Suggestions to improve the Scheme Mechanism

1. Karnataka State government should frame a design to aware the SMFs farmers that too focus SC/STs particularly.
2. The size of increasing rate of failure borewells have to be decrease.
3. The selection process should be transparent and proportionately equalize to all the categories.
4. The borewell casing system should get scientific measure.
5. The studies should consider all the categories to economically analysis and with non-beneficiaries as well.

Conclusion

There are many government schemes which are initiated to overcome the issues of farmers. The Ganga Kalyana Yojana is one which focuses SMFs of Karnataka with mentioned features and criteria. Few studies analysed the performance of GKY, revealed that the growth rate of borewells and changing patterns in the agronomic practices. There are positive changes in the borewell sizes decade wise but not much greater to SMFs population with respect to categories. There have been drastic changes in the cropping pattern and commercial crops from traditional crops. Nonetheless, government should initiate many redesigns of the scheme with respect sub categories allocation, scientific casing issues, etc.

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