

# PERCEIVED BENEFITS OF TRIBAL SUB PLAN (TSP) PROJECT ON TRIBAL BENEFICIARIES IN SELECTED DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU

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## ABSTRACT

*The study was conducted to assess the perceived impact of the Tribal Sub Plan project on the tribal beneficiaries in terms of socio-economic upliftment. Critical inputs namely sheep/goats, desi chicken, concentrate feed for sheep/goats, dewormers and vaccines, wire net for poultry housing, poultry feed and veterinary first aid kit were provided to the selected beneficiaries. With regard to the perceived direct impact, majority of the beneficiaries opined that their income had increased substantially due to the involvement in the tribal project. Enhanced income was observed through direct marketing and each farmer beneficiary was earning Rs.700-1000/ month by way of selling sheep/goat kids and desi chicken eggs. Among the indirect consequences, significant social, economic and behavioural impact was perceived by majority of the beneficiaries. With regard to social impact, there was increased outside contact followed by changes in food habit, increased organizational participation, better relation and credibility with officers and veterinarians and recognition in the society. With regard to economic impact, majority of the farmers perceived that there was substantial increase in family employment and in addition, few farmers were able to renovate their houses, purchased new land and household materials, invested in monthly savings and cleared their debts. As far as the behavioural impact, majority developed positive attitude towards livestock farming activities and there was increased awareness on the tribal schemes implemented by the Government. Further, majority of the beneficiaries have acquired newer skills namely azolla cultivation, vermicomposting, poultry chick candling and hatching due to their active involvement in the tribal project.*

**Key words:** Income generation, Livestock farming, Perceived impact, Tribal beneficiaries

Received : 06.06.2021

Revised : 04.08.2021

Accepted : 12.08.2021

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## INTRODUCTION

The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6% of the total population. Tamil Nadu has

6,51,321 tribal population which constitutes 1.02% of the total population. There are 36 tribes and sub-tribes in Tamil Nadu. Although tribes are found in all the districts, their major concentration is in the north, central and western regions of the State. Majority of the tribal population reside in hilly regions like The Nilgiris District, Shervarayan hills at Salem District, Kolli hills at Namakkal District, Kalvarayan hills in Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram Districts, Javadu hills at Vellore District, Pachaimalai at Perambalur District, Megamalai at Theni District and the discontinuous hill tracts adjoining the plains and hills. Most of the tribal communities in Tamil Nadu are cultivators, agricultural labourers or dependent on forests for their livelihood. There are six primitive tribes in Tamil Nadu. The tribal groups in Tamil Nadu have contributed significantly in the management of the forests.

Livestock and poultry production are the two important support systems for the tribals in our country, who own very little land and do not have sufficient resources to sustain merely on agriculture. In land-scarce economies, livestock provide livelihood support in terms of income and employment generation to the millions of landless and small landholder (Khan *et al.*, 2013). These two sectors have a promising future as they will help to secure nutritional security of the tribal population and will also give substantial income to the families. Livestock is a source of subsidiary income for many families in India, especially the resource poor who maintain few heads of animals (Singh *et al.*, 2020). The Tribal Sub Plan project funded by ICAR, New Delhi was implemented by

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University during 2017-2018 in the five tribal districts of Tamil Nadu. The necessary training, inputs, monitoring, supervision, and assistance for marketing the livestock and poultry products, health cover and overall guidance were provided to the beneficiaries under the project. This study was undertaken to assess the perceived impact of the Tribal Sub Plan project among the beneficiaries in terms of socio-economic upliftment.

### METHODOLOGY

Five districts (Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Salem, Namakkal and Nilgiris) with highest tribal population as identified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India were selected for the study. The community development (CD) blocks in each district were selected to ensure that atleast 50% of the tribal population in the district was covered. A total of 20 villages were selected from 5 CD blocks in five selected districts by adopting simple random sampling technique. From each of the selected villages 30 beneficiaries were selected by simple random sampling and thus the total number of beneficiaries selected for the project was 600. Skill development training on scientific management of goats/sheep, backyard poultry rearing and farm waste management and utilization were imparted to the target group. Critical inputs namely animal germplasm, low cost equipments, vaccines and feed supplements etc., were provided to the target farmers to entuse them to adopt the recommended technologies. Roger and Shoemaker (1971) conceptualized that consequences are the significant changes

that occur in the social system as a result of adoption or rejection of an innovation. Among the identified beneficiaries, bench mark survey was carried out through semi-structured schedule. In this survey, 600 households were surveyed and details on socio-economic conditions, livestock possession, social participation, knowledge on livestock farming etc. were collected. The data on the perceived impact of the project was collected from the beneficiaries during May – June 2019 (three months period) after one year of implementation based on the list of possible consequences through a well-structured and

pre-tested interview schedule. The perceived socio-economic impact of the project among the beneficiaries as a result of the adoption of animal husbandry and poultry technologies was assessed. The pictorial representation of select activities is given in Plate.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The distribution of respondents according to the component wise perceived impact of the Tribal project in terms of social, economic and behavioural categories were assessed and the results are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their perceived impact of Tribal Sub Plan (n=600)**

S. No	Perceived impact	No of farmers	Percent
<b>I</b>	<b>Direct Impact</b>		
1	Increased income from sheep/goat and poultry rearing	246	41.00
<b>II</b>	<b>Indirect Impact</b>		
	<b>A. Social Impact</b>		
1	Increased outside contact	564	94.00
2	Changes in food habit	252	42.00
3	Increased organizational participation	156	26.00
4	Better relation and credibility with officers	144	24.00
5	Better relation and credibility with Veterinarians	108	18.00
6	Recognition in the society	270	45.00
	<b>B. Economic impact</b>		
1	Renovated houses	18	3.00
2	Purchased lands	2	0.3
3	Increased material possession	12	2.0
4	Increased savings	45	7.50
5	Cleared old debts	30	5.00
6	Increased employment in family	372	62.00
	<b>C. Behavioral impact</b>		
1	Increased awareness on Tribal schemes	306	51.00
2	Acquired new skill on sheep/goat and poultry technologies	378	63.00
3	Developed positive attitude towards livestock farming	528	88.00

## **I. Direct impact**

Increased income was the directly perceived impact of the Tribal Sub Plan project implemented in the selected five districts of Tamil Nadu. Just above two-fifth of the respondents (41.00 per cent) opined that their income had increased due to the involvement in the tribal project by way of selling sheep/goat kids, chicken eggs and manure. Enhanced income was observed through direct marketing and the farmer beneficiaries were earning up to a maximum of Rs.700 to 1000/ month by way of selling sheep/goat kids and desi chicken eggs. Further, it could be observed that the average annual income of family was Rs. 67,393; out of which, the average income from desi chicken and sheep/goat enterprise per annum was Rs. 13,060/-. The share of desi chicken and sheep/goat enterprise accounts to 20% of total family income. Similar findings were reported by Khan *et al.* (2013) who stated that the impact of livestock rearing is quite evident from the increased income obtained by the beneficiaries.

## **II. Indirect impact**

### **A. Social impact**

It could be observed from Table 1 that there was substantial increase in social participation/outside contact for a very high majority of the respondents (91.00 per cent) like attending to meetings organized by various line departments and NGOs and involving in exposure visits and fairs. The other perceived social impact factors by the tribal respondents were changes in food habit (42.00 per cent)

by way of consuming more protein rich food like eggs, poultry meat, pork etc, increased organizational participation (26.00 per cent), better relation and credibility with Officers of line departments (24.00 per cent), better relation and credibility with Veterinarians (18.00 per cent) and recognition in the society (45.00 per cent) as compared to those who had not participated in the project.

### **B. Economic impact**

It is clearly evident from the Table 1 that majority of the respondents (62.00 per cent) has expressed that there was substantial increase in employment among family members due to participation and involvement in livestock and poultry rearing activities. Similar findings were reported by Eswarappa and Shivamurthy (1995), Kalivaradhan (1990), who reported that two-third of the IRDP beneficiaries were able to get increased employment due to the project. In addition, few of the farmers were able to renovate their houses (3.00 per cent) due to their increased income in livestock and poultry farming activities. Further it was observed that 0.3 per cent and 12 per cent of the respondents have purchased new lands and increased their household material possession like television, two wheelers etc. About 7.5 per cent and 5.00 per cent of the tribal beneficiaries have invested their income in savings and cleared their debts respectively. This is in line with the findings of Sankaran (1997) who revealed that the respondents perceived that their income has increased as a result of integrated watershed development project.

### C. Behavioural impact

It was clearly evident from the Table 1 that just above one-half of the respondents (51.00 per cent) had increased awareness on the tribal schemes implemented by Government agencies for the welfare of tribal farmers. Majority of the respondents (63.00 per cent) have acquired newer skills namely Azolla cultivation, vermicomposting, scientific feeding, hatching of poultry chicks etc. This is in conformity with the findings of Lata *et al.* (1989), who revealed that there was a moderate increase in the use of inputs coupled with new technologies of carrying out operations and a significant increase in productivity was observed even after withdrawal of the LLP in Shivalik foot hill villages. A substantial number of tribal beneficiaries (88.00 per cent) have developed positive attitude towards livestock farming activities due to their active involvement in the tribal project. Majority of the respondents acknowledged about the increase in knowledge and adoption in animal husbandry practices, income, savings, debt clearance, investment in animal husbandry and allied enterprises, outside contact, social recognition, spending capacity and organizational participation after becoming beneficiaries (Manivannan *et al.*, 2010, Narayanagowda and Jayaramaiah, 1996). It is clearly evident that indirect consequences namely social, economic and behavior impact was significantly perceived by the beneficiaries of the Tribal Sub Plan project in the selected districts of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, (Sankaran, 1997) revealed that among the indirect consequences, impact of land was perceived

the most by the beneficiaries followed by personal impact, economic impact and social impact.

### CONCLUSION

Majority of the tribal beneficiaries involved in the project perceived that their income had increased substantially through the Tribal sub Plan project. With regard to the indirect consequences, increased social participation was mostly perceived by the tribal beneficiaries followed by recognition in the society, increased family employment, acquirement of new skills and positive attitude. The Government need to implement new innovative livestock oriented tribal projects which will significantly improve the basic economic needs of the tribes as well as the nutritional security (Basavarajaiah, 2014). It was observed that the project has instilled self- confidence among 30% of tribal women with regard to socialization and few of the beneficiary farmers acted as key informants in sharing of technologies related to livestock and poultry farming among the tribal community and rendering first aid to sheep/goat and poultry with minor ailments.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors wish to express their sincere thanks to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for funding the project under the Tribal sub plan (TSP) and Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University for granting permission to implement the project in selected districts of Tamil Nadu.

**Plate. Selected action photographs in tribal sub plan project**



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