

CONSTRAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF FARM WOMEN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

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Women's contribution to national development is crucial. The process of development would be incomplete and lopsided, unless women are fully involved in it. Emancipation of women is an essential pre-requisite for economic development and social progress of the nation. If any programme has to be implemented successfully, so that certain modifications if any needed for the improvement of the programme can be taken into consideration. Women development programmes are facing problems of traditional and cultural norms, lack of marketing and storage facility, finance, inadequate supply of inputs, lack of viable schemes, and less importance to agricultural programmes. The success or failure of any programme can be shown by assessing the reactions of the people involved in that programme. The effectiveness of different development programmes depends on the women only, how vocal are they, how effective are they in taking decisions to their favours in male dominated panchayats so that there is some reduction in the arduous task faced by poor women. This study was designed with the objective to analyse the constraints

Methodology

The study was conducted in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh during the 1999-2000. Out of 45 NGO's, 10 NGO's were selected for research randomly. One mandal to represent each NGO was selected by purposive sampling and

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one village to represent each NGO was selected by simple random sampling. From 10 villages, 130 farm women were selected by using proportionate random sampling procedure. They were interviewed personally and the results were tabulated.

Results and Discussion

The researcher identified the following constraints under different categories as personal, socio-economic, technical, organisational and managerial constraints. The responses on each constraint were elicited from the farm women tabulated, ranked and presented in tables.

Table 1: Personal constraints

S.No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Illiteracy	46	35.38	V
2.	Traditional and cultural norms	75	57.69	I
3.	Not willing to take risk	56	43.08	III
4.	Domestic responsibilities	73	56.15	II
5.	Lack of awareness about NGO programmes	52	40.00	IV

A perusal of Table-1 indicates that important constraints expressed by the farm women for their effective participation and implementation of NGO development programmes in order of their importance were traditional and cultural norms, domestic responsibilities, not willing to take risk, lack of awareness about NGO's programmes and illiteracy respectively. The reasons for these constraints might be the existing social set up of Indian villages, multiple role responsibilities of farm women, risk involvement of NGO's development programmes for four wall confined farm women, family restriction and no specialised effort on the part of NGO's to make women aware of their programmes and discriminatory approach for women education respectively. In general, Indian society is male dominated and women are not allowed to go freely for participating the farm women along with the amendments in social, cultural and psychological aspects of the society.

Table 2: Socio-economic constraints

S.No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Non availability of inputs in time	73	56.15	IV
2.	Lack of marketing and storage facilities	95	73.08	I
3.	Lack of timely and assured irrigation	79	60.76	III
4.	No timely supply of credit	72	55.38	V
5.	Inadequate credit	90	69.23	II

Table-2 clearly picturises that lack of marketing and storage facilities, inadequate credit, lack of timely and assured irrigation, non availability of inputs in time and no timely supply of credit were the socio-economic constraints reported by farm women in the order of priority for their participation and implementation of NGO's development programmes.

The above constraints might be due to non-existence of producer based marketing and storage system, insufficient major and minor irrigation sources, no seasonal input targets, complicated credit procedures and policies and outdated rules for finance and loaning respectively. To avoid the above constraints the NGO's should approach the state and central governments for facilities in their areas along with the extension activities.

Table 3: Technical/Extension constraints

S.No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Lack of proper technical guidance	88	67.69	II
2.	Lack of required field staff	76	58.46	V
3.	Inadequate supporting facilities and services	86	66.15	III
4.	Lack of follow-up activities	79	60.76	IV
5.	Inadequate supply of inputs	97	74.61	I

A critical look at Table-3 reveals that inadequate supply of inputs, lack of proper technical guidance, inadequate supporting facilities and services, lack of follow-up activities, and lack of required field staff were the technical and extension constraints respectively. The plausible reasons for these constraints might be improper and inadequate government policies, limited coordinated services, insufficient evaluation and recruitment policies of NGO's. To provide sufficient technical assistance to the farm women, NGO's should

take the assistance of state department of agriculture and other departments and educate them regarding agricultural operations in the village itself.

Table 4: Organisational constraints

S.No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Lack of viable schemes	80	61.54	I
2.	Complicated procedures	40	30.77	III
3.	Lack of team work	36	27.69	IV
4.	Lack of coordination with government	56	43.08	II
5.	Influence of political leaders in selection of beneficiaries	25	19.23	V

A glance at Table-4 further reveals that lack of viable schemes, lack of coordination with government organisations, complicated procedures, lack of team work and influence of the political leaders in selection of the beneficiaries were the organisational constraints expressed by the farm women in order of the priority for effective participation and implementation of NGO's development programmes. The reason might be due to the multiplicity of needs that have to be fulfilled, functional norms of government and voluntary organisations, complexity of the programme operation, multiplicity of people involvement and equating development with existing political system. The NGO's could freely approach the concerned state and central government and sort out the complicated policies for providing the required education to the women population in the rural areas and so many anomalies faced by them can be eliminated in due course.

Table 5: Managerial constraints

S.No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Lack of funds for meeting operational costs	53	40.76	IV
2.	Lack of co-operation	56	43.08	III
3.	Less importance to agricultural programmes	98	75.38	I
4.	Involvement of political leaders in NGO programmes	32	24.61	V
5.	Lack of required manpower	77	59.23	II

Less importance to agricultural programmes, lack of required manpower, lack co-operation, lack of funds for meeting operational costs, and involvement of political leaders in NGO programmes were the managerial constraints expressed by farm women in order of priority (Table-5). The reasons might be the government control over the agriculture with its policy norms. Most of the organisations are functioning with available task force than recruiting the qualified. Improper grant-in-aid norms, NGO's establishment and funding is going on with some political interest. This can be reduced through by changing the policy norms of agriculture.

Table 6: Suggestions given by NGO beneficiaries to overcome the constraints in developmental programmes

S.No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Conducting skill trainings in order activities during off season	98	75.38	I
2.	Provision of non-formal education to farm women	96	73.84	II
3.	Conducting more trainings and demonstrations to farm women in agriculture	92	70.76	III
4.	Enhancement of credit amount	90	69.23	IV
5.	Ensuring timely supply of inputs	88	67.69	V
6.	Provision of high yielding varieties	87	66.92	VI
7.	Encouragement from men for women to take up extension activities	85	65.38	VII
8.	Provision of marketing and storage facilities	83	63.85	VIII
9.	Provision of timely technical guidance	82	63.08	IX
10.	Avoidance of political interference	25	19.23	X

As seen from the Table-6, suggestions of highest priority made by the farm women for their effective participation and implementation of NGO programmes were conducting skill training in other activities during off season period, provision of non-formal education and conducting more trainings and demonstrations to farm women in agriculture. The other suggestions of low

priority were enhancement of credit amount, ensuring timely supply of inputs, provision of high yielding varieties, encouragement from men for women to take up extension activities, provision of technical guidance and avoidance of political interference in order of their importance. The NGO's as far as possible should try to implement to suggestions provided by the farm women through their development activities.

Conclusion

The identified major constraints of farm women such as traditional and cultural norms, lack of marketing and storage facilities, inadequate supply of inputs, lack of viable schemes and less importance to agricultural programmes have to be resolved by NGO's through the renovation and restructuring of their programmes with elicited major suggestions such as conducting of skill trainings in other activities during off season, provision of non formal education, conducting of more trainings and demonstrations in agriculture, enhancement of credit amount, ensuring timely supply of inputs, and provision of high yielding varieties.