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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



#### FORESTRY AND SHGS IN KARNATAKA

#### **B.** Siddappa

Professor of Economics & Researcher.

#### Abstract:

#### Importance of Forest based Resources:

Credit and forest products are the strong inputs used by the productive units irrespective of the sectors such as primary, secondary and services. Among the various inputs used in the process of production the co-relation between the credit and forest based inputs occupied a decisive place not only in third world countries but also in advanced countries of the global economy. About 43 percent of the total energy (wood fuel) consumed in the third world countries by more than 2 billion people is met from biomass fuel. This is equivalent to 22 million barrels of oil per day, which saved from its consumption. In India about 80 percent of the rural people is dependent on wood fuel for cooking their food and 65 percent of the total fuel wood is collected from the total fields on free of costs and also collected from the forest and community wood lots.

#### **KEY WORDS:**

Forestry And Shgs, carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins.

#### **1.INTRODUCTION:**

Among the forest products the tree crops form a major source of food in many parts of the world. They provide healthier food and improve the nutritional quality of the present day's usual food. The fruits, nuts, berries, edible leaves etc obtained from trees are rich in carbohydrates, fats, proteins, minerals and vitamins. They satisfy the entire food needs of the rural community at the time of shortage of the food. The trees are more reliable and consistent in food production than the seasonal food crops such as cereals. If the trees are grown and managed properly food production from such a source can be found available throughout the year with little effort and minimum investment. The main trees crops which meet the consumption habits of the community are banana, pineapple, passion fruit, papaya, nuts and seeds, cashew nut, palm oil, coconut products, edible seeds, edible leaves, sap and sugar, tree for spices, medicine tree for firewood, tree for fodder, forest garden, teak, neam, spices, ginger turmeric and so on.

India is one of the mega-biodiversity regions in the world, with a rich genetic species and ecosystem diversity. This heritage system is to be conserve for future civilization.

India is though rich in genetic species and eco-system diversity but which is one of the lowest in the world in possession of per capita forest and which is being 0.1hector and this is worsen with the increase in population on the one hand and increase in using of more and more forest land for farming as well as domicile purposes on the other hand.

Title: FORESTRY AND SHGS IN KARNATAKA , Source: Review of Research [2249-894X] B. Siddappa yr:2014 | vol:3 | iss:6

#### KARNATAKA ECONOMY:

Karnataka is one of the states situated in Southern part of Indian nationality, South Indian Economy consisting of mainly four states viz, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The coverage of forests in these states are given in the following table

SI. No		Total Geographical area (sq km)	Total forest covered (sq km)		Dense forest (sq km)		Open Forest (sq km)		Mangrove forest (sq km)		Percent of forest area	
			1991	1999	1991	1999	1991	1999	1991	1999	1991	1999
1	Andra Pradesh	275068 (43)	47220	44229	25017	24190	21874	19642	399	397	17.2	16.4
2	Karnataka	191791(30)	32199	32467	24856	24832	7343	7632	-	3	16.8	16.93
3	Kerala	38863(6)	10292	10323	8421	8429	1871	1894	-	0	26.5	26.56
4	Tamil Nadu	130058(21)	17713	17078	9757	8659	7909	8398	47	21	13.6	13.13
	Total	635780(100)	107494	104097	68051	66110	38997	37566	446	421	18.5	18.20

#### Table 1.1: Coverage of forests in 4 south Indian States as per 1991 and 1999 assessments

Source: UAS, National Afforestation and Co-development Board, Banglaore, 2001 p.1.

The above table 1.1 suggests that the 4 south Indian states total geographical area was 635780 sq km, among which the Andra Pradesh share was 43 percent, Karnataka share was 30 percent, Tamil Nadu share was 21 percent and Kerala share was 6 percent, the percentage of forest area to the total area during the year 1994 the table highlights that in Andra Pradesh 16.4 percent, Karnataka 16.93 percent, Tamil Nadu 13.13 percent and Kerala 26.56 percent. Including all the four states the coverage of forests area to the total area it was 18.2 percent, which is less than one fourth area.

#### Credit and forest products used by SHG's of Karnataka Economy:

The credit occupied and played a big role in acquiring the forest products in particular and natural resources in general. The percentage of poor families including small marginal farmers, rural artisans receiving a very small percentage of credit in different parts of the developing world. In some of the African countries nearly one percent of total numbers of borrowers use institutional credit, in Latin America and Asia (excluding Taiwan) 15 percent of poor families only could succeed in getting institutional finance. Nearly 80 percent of the people belong to the women in particular and weaker sections in general (such as small-marginal farmers, agricultural laborers, rural artisans, retail traders and people of small means of productive assets) have not possessed institutional credit in these countries.

Rural society in these countries plagued with mass poverty illiteracy, conservative and fatalistic outlook. Small percentage of rural and urban population belongs to the weaker sections will have surplus liquid funds. They are not in a position to parting with banks easily unless the banks convinced about the safety and facility of withdrawal as and when they are in need of money. The rural and urban population belongs to this group is thus a potential market for deposits. Bankers in these areas can spread the banking habit and encourage thirsty habits to these poor. It is not possible to these groups to save first a certain amount of deposits and then undertake investment in agriculture or allied activities. It would be more realistic to help them with a loan to invest in their well versed occupation and out of the generated income the banks should recover the loans. This type of scheme of savings mobilization will have a fruitful result to the banks as well as poor families. Because increased income from the increased investment will increase in the savings capacity of the poor and consequently increase the deposit potentiality of the banks.

The main goals of the developing countries of the world economy at present are as under;

1. Most of the developing countries at global level have been pursuing the policy of inclusion of the exclusives in gainful production and employment activities

2. The exclusive groups have allowed to participate in generating the income through the NGOs or SHG's 3. The state and central governments have been encouraging the exclusive groups to bring them in inclusive

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groups through the interest subsidy, asset subsidy, fixed capital subsidy and so on by implementing various schemes

The state and central Governments have framed various income and employment generation programmers exclusively for the benefit of the weaker sections i.e. small marginal farmers, agricultural and non-agricultural laborers, rural artisans, women and the socially backward class people in Karnataka.

#### **GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR SELF-HELP GROUPS (SHGS):**

The SHGs are the voluntary organizations which have formed by the women members of upto 20 in order to produce single commodity and earn income to solve their common problems such as poverty, unemployment in a particular place. These groups have framed their own project (unit), the necessary training is being given by the Department of women and children development, from time to time. This department has been given training to the members of the SHGs about the combination of wood forests trees, soil based resources with the capital goods to be used in the process of production.

The other schemes are such as (a) Revolving fund of Rs.5000 is to be given to the each of SHG to take up income generation activities (b) The kit material cost of Rs.600 is to be given to purchase 9 registers and Zinc trunks to all the groups (c) An incentive of Rs.5000 is to be given to the each group at the time of identification of Income Generation Activities (IGA) (d). An additional incentive of Rs.15000 per group and Rs.20000 per group has been given to such groups when the group savings reaches uptoRs. 1 lakh and more than Rs.1 lakh respectively (e) Government has been given 6 percent interest subsidy to each SHG for the bank loan of Rs.25000 to Rs. 1 Lakh (f) The Government has been conducting exhibition and market mela for the products of SHGs for promoting sales (g) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been given training for skill development, in various batches consisting of 25 members and also Rs.12500 is provided for conducting this training. Besides this the department has also given training for orientation, communication skill, book keeping, credit management and social issue in 4 phases. The gender disparity is so widen with respect of employment, income and other field in ruraland urban areas of Karnataka. The Government's steps in this direction may be more helpful in providing employment and generate income through the SHG's. The total SHGS, total number of groups having bank linkages and number of groups opened Bank accounts only for keeping saved money, total savings accumulated, loan amount disbursed by the SHG's to the members, total loan amount repaid by the members to the SHGs and total repayment amount to bank has been given in the following table table (1.2) in each division of Karnataka state as on March 2011.

Sl. No.	Name of the Division	No. Of SHGS	Total No. of groups having bank linkages	No. of Groups opened account only for keep saved amount	Total No. of women of all categories in SHG's
1	Bangalore	49676(38)	44799(40)	5426(32)	711269(38)
2	Belgaum	28783(22)	23927(21)	3219(19)	440536(23)
3	Gulbarga	23509(18)	19401(17)	5697(33)	327602(17)
4	Mysore	28032(22)	24773(22)	2758(16)	417140(22)
	Total	130000(100)	112900(100)	17100(100)	1896547(100)

Table 1.2 SHG's	consolidated stat	istics on various	transactions	performed a	s on March 2011:

Source: Government of Karnataka, ministry of women and child development, Bangalore adopted and modified table, 2011 (Figures in the brackets are percentage to the total).

The above table 1.2 highlights that out of total 140000 SHGs in Karnataka 130000 SHGs have reported to the Government and involving in various activities such as dairy, readymade garments, blanket marketing, marketing of seeds and manure production and sale of papad, spices and agarbatti, production and sale of soap and detergent, various type of handicrafts etc. The representation of SHGs from Bangalore division was 38 percent, Belgaum and Mysore division it was 22 percent each Gulbarga division it was 18 percent. Out of total groups 112900 groups have a good bank linkage and the representation from the different divisions in the state was almost similar in its percentage. Among the total groups have opened Review Of Research | Volume 3 | Issue 6 | March 2014

their bank accounts only keeping saved amount, as they have not known anything about bank transaction before the SHGs membership. The total women membership of all the groups in the state was 1896547. The total women population in the state in 2011 census was 25877615 and the population 1896547 women became the members of the total SHGs as on march 2011 which accounts for 7.32 percent. Whom were almost belongs to the weaker section of the society and whom were do not having much means of livelihood before the membership of the groups.

Further the similar number of SHGs in respective divisions have been keeping savings in the savings deposit account, total loan amount taken from the banks and the entire amount was repaid, the loan amount disbursed by the SHGs to their members and the members in turn repaid to the SHGs after their functioning begins with the SHGs and so on have been depicted in the following table (1.3).

SI. No.	Divisions	SHGs	Savings accumulated ( in cro)	Loan amount taken from bank ( in cro)	Bank Loan repaid (in cro)	Loan from SHGs	Loan repayment to SHGs
1	Bangalore	49676(38)	397.74(42)	541.03(46)	774.46(56)	1328(49)	701116.96
2	Belgaum	28783(22)	189.59(20)	242.97(21)	172.13(13)	398.32(15)	314.62(79)
3	Gulbarga	23509(18)	160.37(17)	139.92(12)	130.68(10)	320.33(12)	220.63(69)
4	Mysore	28032(22)	194.60(21)	257.77(21)	296.54(21)	687.56(24)	603.45(88)
	Total	130000(100)	942.30(100)	1181.69(100)	1373.81(100)	2734.91(100)	2255.66(82)

Table 1.3 SHGs savings, bank transaction and SHGs transactions as on March 2011

Source: Government of Karnataka, ministry of women and child development, Bangalore adopted and modified table 2011 (Figures in brackets are percentage to the total).

The above table 1.3 reveals that the SHGs of the 4 divisions of Karnataka States have been consisting of 130000, which have started their production process with zero balance, The similar SHGs have been involved in producing various type of forests resources used and which have been available at their locality and have used and initiate production. By selling the products they could have earned some income, out of which saved some income after meeting the consumption needs and all their liability and they have been keeping money in savings account of the bank to the tune of Rs.942.3 crores, it is one of the achievement of SHG's. The saved amount in Bangalore division was Rs.397.74 crores which accounts for 42 percent, in Belgaum divisions it was 189.59 crores, which accounts for 20 percent in Gulbarga Division, it was Rs.160.37 crores, which accounts for 17 percent, lastly in Mysore division it was Rs.191.6 crores which accounts for 21 percent. Further the groups have borrowed loan from various banks to meet their needs to the extent of Rs.1181.69 crores. The four divisions SHGs borrowed amount was Rs.541.03 crores, Rs.242.97 crores, Rs.139.92 crores and Rs. 257.77 crores respectively, which accounts for 46, 21, 21 and 21 percent respectively. All the SHGs have repaid entire bank loan within a specified period so the repaid amount of the SHGs was Rs. 1373.81 crores(including interest part). The repaid share of the 4 divisions was Rs774.46 crores, Rs.172.13 crores, Rs.130.38 crores and Rs.296.54 crores respectively and the same was accounted for 56, 13, 10 and 21 percent respectively.

Besides the bank loan, the SHGs have borrowed finance from the various public and private sector banks and advanced loans to their women members to the tune of Rs2734.71 crores, which sharing the 4 divisions to the extent of Rs.1328.7 crores, Rs.398.32 crores, Rs.320.33 crores and rs.687.56 crores respectively to the Bangalore, Belgaum, Gulbarga and Mysore Division and which accounts for 49, 15, 12 and 24 percent respectively.

The members of the SHGs have also repaid their groups loan to the extent Rs.2255.66 crores as on March 2011. The repaid performance was 82 percent in general. The repaid amount of the respective 4 divisions was Rs.116.26 crores, Rs.314.62 crores, Rs.220.63 crores and Rs.603.45 crores, which accounts for 84,79,69 and 88 percent respectively. The repayment performance of the Gulbarga (69 percent) and Belgaum was (79 percent) very low compared to the counterpart divisions.

#### FORESTS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION:

Social transformation means change in the social status of the households in the society, economic transformation means a change in the consumption habits and which leads to better standard of living of households in the Karnataka State. Because the governments have been encouraging to the Non-government organizations, self-help groups and the service institutions since a decade. The forests played a Review Of Research | Volume 3 | Issue 6 | March 2014

vital role in building the production structure of the SHGs by contributing various forest resources to them. In Karnataka State leading 1.3 laks SHGs are functioning and mainly stands the various forest based resources. Among them many of the SHGs (0.4 lakhs) depends upon dairy, the cattle required fodder is provided by the forests, the some of the SHGs (0.2 lakshs) depends upon Agarbatti, the sandal and other required wood for sticks provided by the forests, some of the SHGs (0.2 lakshs) depends upon Agarbatti, the sandal and other required wood for sticks provided by the forests, some of the SHGs (0.3 lakhs) depends upon the wooden handicrafts such as dolls, carpentry, statues, furniture's, interior decorators and so on. The some of the SHGs (0.2 lakhs) engaged in various type of handmade embroidery, tailoring, basket, mat making, panipuri, self-help serviced hotels, petty business, plantation of anthorium, flower trading, fruit trading etc and for all these activities forests is the main source of production. The some of the SHGs (0.2 lakhs) have been involving in processing small industries, poultry farming, piggery, sericulture, coconut product, yarehulu manure making, khadi products, weaving spinning activities, soil based pots and household cooking products have produced by the SHGs of Karnataka.

The women members of the (20 lakhs) SHGs have been leading below subsistence level before the membership of the SHGs, because of their contribution to their households was almost nil. That means zero savings.whereas after becoming the membership of the SHGs each women members average savings per annum was Rs.6800. It is one of the outstanding achievements of the women member. Their strength and their household contribution is still improving and contributing much towards the socio-economic transformation of the households of either in rural or in urban areas of the state.

#### **Implementing Agencies of the SHGs Schemes:**

The SHGs various programs have authorized by the State Government to the Director, Women and Children Development, Government of Karnataka throughout the state. At district level the Deputy Director of the same department, at gross route level Child Development Project Officers, Assistant Child Development Project Officers, Supervisors and Aganwadi Workers are implementing the programs and they are also monitoring the programms.

The women who belongs to the below poverty line and residing in the village and not the members of any other group in the village are the beneficiaries of the schemes. The target groups of the beneficiaries are including the sexually abused, widows, and women belonging to scheduled caste/tribe, minorities and others.

#### The scheme pattern of Assistance and Financial norms:

i)In order to help SHGs to take up income generating activities. The W.C.D. has given Rs. 5000/- as revolving fund to each SHGs.

ii)Further, each group is given kit materials worth of Rs. 600/- consisting of 9 registers and Zink trunks to 1.4 lakh groups.

iii)The groups are encourages to take up income generation activities (1GA). The already involved in 1GA are identified by the C.D.P.O. and an incentive of Rs. 5000/- is given to each group.

iv)In order to encourage women groups to involve in savings activities an additional incentives are provided to the SHGs who have saved uptoRs. 1.00 lakh are given incentives of Rs. 15000/-, and saved amount exceeds Rs. 1.00 lakh are given incentives of Rs. 20000/-.

v)The SHGs are provided 6 percent interest subsidy those who have availed loans uptoRs. 25000/- to Rs. 1.00 lakh.

vi)The W.C.D. departmental organizes exhibition and marketing mela in each district at least once in a year and providing an opportunity for the sale of products. An amount of Rs. 75000/- is provided to each district for conducting this mela.

vii)Further, taluk block societies have been formed and registered under society's registration act 1960 in all the 175 blocks of Karnataka State. To strengthen block societies an amount of Rs. 30000/- is provided to establish office, and to conduct awareness and publicity of SHGs importance.

viii)The skill development training is given in batches consisting of 25 members, 2 members from each SHGs is trained in these batches for 5 days. For this purpose Rs. 12500/- is provided to conduct the training program.

ix)As the SHGs are facing so much of difficulty in marketing of their products and unable to compet with big entrepreneurs, the department stepped to hold their hands. As a result district marketing complexes were constructed in 29 district headquarters. Each complex was provided financial assistance as per their requirements ranging from Rs. 5.00 lakhs to Rs. 15.00 lakhs.

x)Since most of the SHGs have been taken up IGA, it is proposed to construct taluk level Stree Shakti Bhavan in all the 175 taluks. Each unit was provided Rs. 15.00 lakhs during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09.

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The unit cost of Rs. 10.00 lakhs is provided from the year 2010-1

xi)In the first phase during the month of November-2005, 17500 women members from 175 taluks have been given training in bank linkage, 1GA marketing at Mysore (Satellite Institute of Rural Development-SIRD). During the 2nd phase awareness programme was given with regarding to health, education, social issue, 1GA activities. In 3rd phase training was given DSERT training institute in Bangalore. Capacity Building Training was given with coordination of NABARD. Total 1571 supervisors are trained for 3 days. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 6.00 lakhs 50 percent expenditure was borne by the NABARD and remaining 50 percent by the W.C.D. department. In 114 backward talukas provided skill development training for SHG members, who belongs to rural poor women and girls. During 2010-11 Rs. 2 acres has been spent for long term skill development training up to end of March 2011 in 27 districts. Further an amount of Rs. 3.3 crores has been spent for empowerment of clusters/block societies during the year 2010-11 for giving training. During the same year an amount of Rs. 3.00 crores has been spent for construction of training center at 2 divisional levels (Bangalore and Gulbarga).

xii)Credit linkage programme was launched by covering all SHGS across the state. So far (2010-11).112969 groups have been credit linked and given financial assistance of Rs. 1145.86 crores by the commercial banks.

Further 60000 new SHGs are formed through taluk level stree Shakti block societies (2010-11), for this purpose Rs. 2.00 crores has been provided. The Government of Karnataka encouraged different activities and SHGs have taken up the activities viz. dairy, production and sale of readymade garments, blanket marketing, marketing of seeds and manure, production and sale of papad, sambar powder and agarbatti, compost manure, soap and detergent and handicrafts. In order to encourage 1GA an amount of Rs. 5000/- to each SHGs is given as incentives in addition to the revolving fund of Rs 5000.15. So far 15460 groups have been provided these incentives.

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